

# Interest Rises in California's North-South Chess Play

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

Editor, The California Chess Reporter

The big event of the chess year in California is the traditional team match between Northern and Southern California. The first of these matches occurred in 1926, and the twentieth last May 31. Over the years, the number of players participating in the matches has shown a steady increase, the latest one being the largest ever held, with 122 players meeting at 61 boards.

Most of the matches have been played in San Luis Obispo, a few in Atascadero. Since many of the participants bring their families with them, the chess players rather take over the town during their two or three days' stay, and since they bring the town a good deal of business, the matches are sponsored by the local chamber of commerce.

## New Players

Two of the players from the North, Mr. William P. Barlow of Piedmont and Mr. Fred N. Christensen of Oakland, have played in all the matches thus far held. A number of other players, both from North and South, have played in the majority of the matches. Each year, however, some new young

players appear, keeping the match fresh and vigorous. Of recent years, the number of feminine players has gradually increased. Last May, no less than five women participated, contributing beauty as well as chess.

One of the veteran players from the North is Henry Gross of San Francisco, who has played 10 times. Mr. Gross is present chess co-champion of California. His opponent last May was Mr. Sven Almgren of Los Angeles, present chess Open Champion of California. Their game was a hard fought one, ending in a draw mainly because of the fact that it was clear that the North was going to win by a comfortable margin (final score North 34, South 27), so Mr. Gross simply forced a draw by perpetual check. The score of the game follows:

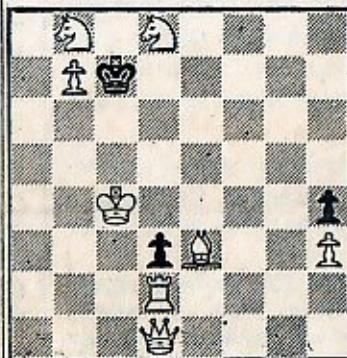
## RUY LOPEZ

White—H. Gross

Black—S. Almgren

1 P-K4	P-K4
2 Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3
3 B-Kt5	P-QR3
4 B-R4	Kt-B3
5 Castles	B-K2
6 R-K1	P-QKt4
7 B-Kt3	Castles
8 P-KR3	P-Q3

## Task No. 2—By B. S. Wash



White Mates in Two Moves  
(Value 4 points)

Answer to Task No. 1: R-Kt2.

9 P-B3	Kt-QR4
10 B-B2	P-B4
11 P-Q4	Q-B2
12 QKt-Q2	BPxP
13 PxP	Kt-B3
14 Kt-B1?	KtxQP
15 KtxKt	PxKt
16 B-Kt5	Q-B4
17 B-KR4	B-Kt2?
18 Kt-Kt3	Kt-Q4
19 PxB	BxB
20 R-QB1	Q-Kt5
25 P-R3	QxKtP

22 Q-R5  
23 QxB  
24 Kt-B5  
25 R-Kt1  
26 Kt-K7ch  
27 Kt-B5ch  
28 Kt-K7ch  
29 Kt-B5ch  
30 Q-Kt5ch  
31 Q-B6ch  
32 Q-Kt5ch

P-Kt3  
QR-B1  
P-Q6  
QxB  
K-Kt2  
K-Kt1  
K-Kt2  
PxKt  
K-R1  
K-Kt1  
K-R1

And the game was drawn by perpetual check.

Of chess books there is no end. (It is said that the literature of chess is comparable with that of medicine.) Some chess books are good, some are bad, as in any other subject. We have recently received for review a book which is very much out of the ordinary, and which we heartily recommend to our readers. It is by two former champions of France, Georges Renaud and Victor Kahn, and is entitled "The Art of the Checkmate," translated from the French by W. J. Taylor, and published by Simon & Schuster, New York, 1953. Price \$3.50.

## Lesson Taught

What this book attempts is to teach the inexperienced player how to recognize mating situa-

tions. (We refer, of course, to the chess type of mating, not the biological.) Since it is the basic purpose of chess to mate the opposing king, it is important that the beginner become thoroughly familiar with the mating possibilities in any position. The choice of games in the book is first-class, and the diagrams and general format equally excellent.

Victor Kahn has authored, or co-authored, a number of other books which deserve to be translated into English. Among these are a manual of chess, a treatise on the Ruy Lopez opening, and a book on the modern treatment of chess openings. There are few chess masters, indeed, who are capable of such interesting and informative writing.

## Chess Fans:

The San Francisco Chapter of the Red Cross is hoping to find a chess player who will volunteer one afternoon a week to teach patients at Letterman Army Hospital. Anyone interested and available is asked to contact the Red Cross Entertainment Service, 1625 Van Ness-av, PProspect 6-1500.