

Palo Alto Chess Club Wins Class B Title

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

The Palo Alto Chess Club won the Class B division of the San Francisco Bay Area Chess League, nosing out Golden Gate by one-half point.

The deciding match between the two clubs was played last Saturday evening. Golden Gate started out with a rush, scoring three wins before Palo Alto had won a point. But Palo Alto slowly overcame the deficit, the match ending in a 3½-3½ tie.

Assured First Place

Palo Alto had entered the final round leading the field by one-half point, so the draw with Golden Gate assured Palo Alto of first place.

Meanwhile, the Whiz Kids of the Kings team were losing to Alameda by the resounding thumping of 5-2. This defeat dropped the boys from third place to fourth in the final standings.

The Whiz Kids evidently were a bit over-confident, losing to a team which had not previously won a match.

Oakland scored a rather surprising win over the Russians, 4-3.

Final Standings

The final standings in the B division were: Palo Alto 5½-½, Golden Gate 5-1, Mechanics' Institute 3½-2½, Kings 3-3, Oakland 2-4, Alameda and Russians 1-5.

Last year the Russians won both the A and B divisions. This year Golden Gate won in Class A and Palo Alto in Class B.

In a 14-board match played at the Palo Alto Community Center March 29, the Palo Alto chess team showed great strength in defeating San Jose 12-2.

The San Jose Chess Club won the championship of the Central California Chess League this year, so Palo Alto's achievement is a noteworthy one.

Special Tournament

The Correspondence Chess League of America will hold a special tournament this year. Assignments will be made as entries are received until July 31.

The tournament is open to any resident of the North American continent or island contiguous thereto.

The entry fee is \$1.50 per section. Send remittance to Dick

TASK No. 40—By H. Weenink



White mates in two moves
(Value four points)
Answer to Task No. 39: Q-Kt6

Rees, CCLA secretary, 2826 Correctionville-rd, Sioux City 5, Ia.

The 24-game match for the chess championship of the world is now in progress in Moscow.

Won in 1948

The present champion, Mikhail Botvinnik, who won the title in 1948, is defending his title against challenger Vassily Smyslov, who won the recent Candidates' Tournament in Switzerland.

The games are being played in the Tschaikowsky Concert Hall, where some 2000 spectators look on.

The first game was played March 16, Smyslov having the white pieces, and opening with P-K4. Botvinnik defended with his favorite Winawer variation of the French Defense, scoring the point after 58 moves.

The champion played a new tenth move, which seemingly unsettled the young challenger. Smyslov's play thereafter was unduly passive in character, and Botvinnik was able to seize and maintain the initiative.

The play in the second half of the game is worth much study. The champion's end-game technique is superb.

No. 1—FRENCH DEFENSE

White—Smyslov

Black—Botvinnik

1 P-K4	P-K3	15 KfxB	Q-Kt3
2 P-Q4	P-Q4	16 K-R1	B-Q2
3 Kt-QB3	B-Kt5	17 P-B3	R-QB1
4 P-K5	P-QB4	18 Q-K1	P-KR3
5 P-QR3	B-R4	19 P-QR4	P-QR4
6 P-QKt4	PxQP	20 Kt-Kt3	Q-B2
7 Kt-Kt5	B-B2	21 Kt-B5	B-B3
8 P-KB4	Kt-K2	22 Q-B2	Castles
9 Kt-KB3	QKt-B3	23 Kt-Kt3	B-Q2
10 B-Q3	B-Kt1!	24 Q-B5?	QxQ
11 QKt-QP	P-QR3	25 KfxQ	R-B2
12 B-K3	B-R2	26 KfxB	RxKt
13 Castles	KfxKt	27 PxP	R-R1
14 BxKt	BxBch	28 P-R6	PxP

29 P-B4	PxP	45 B-R5	Kt-Kt3
30 BxP	R-Q5	46 R-KKt4	R-K6
31 P-Kt3	Kt-Q4	47 BxKt	KxB
32 P-Kt3	Kt-B6	48 R-B2	R-KB4!
33 B-B3	R-Kt1	49 RxR	PxR
34 R-R3	Kt-KtB!	50 R-QB4	R-K5
35 R-R2	Kt-Q7	51 R-B7	RxP
36 R-KB2	Kt-B5	52 R-R7	R-R6
37 P-R4	P-Kt4!	53 K-K3	P-B5
38 RfxP	PxP	54 R-R4	PxP
39 PxP	KfxP	55 R-R6ch	K-B4!
40 B-K2	R-Kt8ch	56 R-B6ch	K-K5
41 K-Kt2	P-R4	57 K-R3	R-KB6
42 R-B2	R-Kt6!	58 R-QR6	R-B4
43 R-KB4	R-Q4		Resigns
44 R-K4	K-Kt2		

Last week we noted that after six games, Botvinnik had a lead of three points, but that the worm might turn.

Well, the worm has turned! Latest reports give the score as 5-5, Smyslov having won three of the last four games!

Charles Svalberg won the weekly rapid tournament at Mechanics' Institute, scoring 9½-1½ in a field of 12 players.

William Addison was second with 9-2, and Robert Currie and James Schmitt finished in a tie for third with 8-3.