

# THE CHESS PLAYER

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

## TASK No. 32

By D. A. Smedley, Derby, England  
(Original to THE ARGONAUT)



WHITE MATES IN TWO MOVES  
(Value 4 points)

Answer to Task No. 30: Q-R1

Answer to Task No. 32 should be post-marked not later than September 25. It is required only that White's first move be given.

**A** LOT of exciting things have happened while we have been on vacation!

First and foremost, the eight-man round robin for the California State Championship, played at the Mechanics' Institute over the Labor Day week-end, ended in a tie for first and second between Henry Gross of San Francisco and Irving Rivise of Los Angeles. Gross and Rivise are therefore co-champions for the year 1952-1953.

Gross went into the fatal seventh leading Rivise by a full point, but then succumbed to Eugene Levin of Los Angeles. At the same time Rivise was winning from D. Poliakoff of San Francisco. Final scores: Gross and Rivise, 5½-1½; E. Levin, 4½-2½; N. E. Falconer, 3½-3½; Ray Martin, 3½-3½; D. Poliakoff, 3-4; R. E. Burger, 1½-5½; A. Spiller, 1-6.

The severity of the struggle is witnessed by the fact that Arthur Spiller of Culver City, 1951-52 champion, could only score two draws! This was undoubtedly one of the hardest tournaments in many years.

Meanwhile, Sven Almgren of Los Angeles was winning the California Open Championship, played at Santa Barbara. Almgren scored a fairly easy victory, in a field of 40 players. Pete Velliotes of Santa Barbara was second, and Phil D. Smith of Fresno third.

Kurt Lowenstein of Santa Barbara is to be congratulated on his fine management of arrangements for the open tournament. We are informed that chess in Santa Barbara, dormant for several years, has sprung back to life. Guthrie McClain of Berkeley, who directed the tournament, also deserves important mention. McClain is rapidly assuming the role of leading tournament director on the Pacific Coast.

Robert Currie, 16-year-old San Francisco player, finished in fourth place in the National Junior Championship tournament, played in Omaha in August. This was Currie's first "big league" experience, and his score was a real achievement. The tournament was won by Curt Brasket of Tracy, Minnesota, with Ross Siemms of Toronto, Canada, second, and D. Burdick of Huntington, West Virginia, third.

Currie continued his fine performance by finishing in a tie for first and second with Brasket for the National Junior Rapid Transit Championship. There was no play-off, so Currie is co-champion for the year.

Currie was especially impressed by the play of Burdick, who, Currie says, "has the makings of a terrific player." Currie describes Brasket as a solid, determined player, very hard to beat.

California regional champions for the year are D. Poliakoff of San Francisco and Irving Rivise of Los Angeles. Poliakoff scored 8-1 to lead Henry Gross by one point in the Northern California Championship at Mechanics' Institute. Rivise won the Southern qualifying tournament, played in Los Angeles. R. E. Burger of Lafayette may be considered the unofficial Central Valley champion, since he led the field in the qualifying tournament played in Modesto, which won him the right to represent the Central California Chess League in the State Championship tournament.

In the international arena, the Soviet Union won the Team Tournament played in Helsinki. The United States team was fifth. The scores: Russia 21-11; Argentina 19½-12½; Yugoslavia 19-13; Czechoslovakia 18-14; United States 17-15; Hungary 16-16; Sweden 13-19; West Germany 10½-21½; Finland 10-22.

Herman Steiner of Los Angeles and Arthur Bisguier of New York will represent the United States in the International Tournament at Saltsjobaden, Sweden. This tournament will qualify five players for the Candidates' Tournament, to be played next spring, which will decide the challenger for a World Champion match against present Champion M. Botvinnik.

#### SOLVERS' LADDER

Henry Gross of San Francisco, new California State Chess Co-Champion, is the second winner on our ladder. He receives as prize a two-year subscription to the British Chess Magazine.

In accordance with our usual custom, we now add 50 points to the top man's score. The next prize will be given to the solver who first gains 161 points.

The present list includes standings through Task No. 28.

- 111 points—Guthrie McClain, Berkeley.
- 82 points—Lue Huang, Oakland.
- 79 points—Hubert G. Webb, Pasadena.
- 65 points—Dr. Mark Eudey, Berkeley.
- 58 points—Eric S. Bergstrom, San Jose.
- 45 points—Guy L. Conklin, Welser, Idaho.
- 54 points—Neil T. Austin, Sacramento.
- 31 points—Mission High School Chess Club, San Francisco.
- 14 points—W. C. de Jung, San Francisco; Lee Kerfoot, Modesto.
- 12 points—Henry Gross, San Francisco.
- 10 points—Kenton Chambers, Stanford; George B. Oakes, Salinas.
- 9 points—M. O. Meyer, Sacramento.
- 7 points—Peter Dahl, San Francisco; Lawrence Davis, Merced; Dr. Sherwin Maeser, Logan, Utah; Donald C. McDaniel, Los Angeles.
- 5 points—B. R. Berglund, Seattle.
- 4 points—Ed Brand, Phoenix, Arizona; Jerard Slavich, San Jose; Fred Stoppel, Cicero, Illinois; Edward Yaeger, Berkeley.
- 3 points—Anne Gleason, Berkeley; Paul Traum, Berkeley.
- 2 points—Robert Currie, San Francisco; A. L. Ritz, Eureka.
- 1 point—Alan Chappell, Gilroy; Scott Runyan, Berkeley.