

# SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

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Sept. 24, 1950

The Calif. State Championship, held at San Francisco over Labor Day, wound up with Ray Martin adding the State Champion title to that of Los Angeles County Champion, with a score of 6-1. V. Pafnutieff of SF and George Croy of LA were tied for second with 4-3, P. D. Smith of Bakersfield had  $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ , Charles Bagby and Sven Almgren, 3-4, Wm. Steckel,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$  and Leslie Boyette 2-5. We understand there were "chances" in games being tossed away everywhere, but that does happen in a championship tournament where the pressure is sort of intense. Paul Quillen of LA won the State Open at Santa Barbara over the same weekend, defeating Carroll Capps in the last round.

## TREASURER'S REPORT 9/24/50

Balance on Hand 9/10/50	\$57.59
Dues collected	<u>10.75</u>
	68.34

### EXPENSES:

League dues 1951	2.50	
Mileage to Oakdale	6.40	
Cost of 12th Chess News	<u>4.79</u>	<u>13.69</u>
BALANCE 9/24/50 . . . . .		\$54.65

## THE CHESS DIAGRAM

Solution to #10 (in last issue) ... Capablanca played 1. B-Q3 and I can imagine Rossolimo's reaction. No matter what he does, he loses at least a piece. *ai, yi, yi, what a spot to be in!*

#11 (in this issue) is another opening trap and, therefore, not diagrammed. The pin is mightier than the sword, all right, but not this pin. The position arises in the main line of the Queen's Gambit Declined. 1. P-Q4, P-Q4 2. P-QB4 P-K3, 3. N-QB3 N-KB3, 4. B-N5 QN-Q2 5. PXP PXP 6. NXP and to all appearances White has won a pawn, since Black's Knight on KB3 is pinned by the Bishop. But is it? Actually, with a smashing combination Black now wins a piece. How does he do it? Figure this one out for sure. Maybe you can use it on Pittsburg.

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No apologies to any of our club members, but we saw just (and hasty) retribution come upon a kibitzer a few days ago. Seems as though your editor was playing a bit of skittles with another member, and none of our moves seemed to please the kibitzer. Finally he said "let me play him-let me smash him." A rather unusual request, we admit, but we got up and let him take our place. We know that he lost the first two games and that prompted us to loudly proclaim that some people talk a better game than they play!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

(We have articles on hand by Russell and Trousdale, and some game scores. These will appear in later issues as we are short of space again in this one)

## COMMENTS

by Flynn

"Rah, rah, rah. Sacramento Forty-Niners. Rah, rah, rah."

Here we go, folks. It's come at last. The opening day of the 1950 season... October 8th, Sacramento Forty-Niners vs. The Pittsburg Dons, played at Sacramento. Sacramento is fielding a big, powerful team. The Dons are smaller but very, very tricky. Who will win? Sacramento, of course. All Sacramento fans add in a whisper "We hope."

We get a break in getting our season started with a home match. It looks to me like Milt Meyer, our Team Captain, is loaded with good candidates. His chief trouble is going to be picking his team. I hope Pittsburg brings up a big enof bunch so more of us can get a game.

Pittsburg is a new addition to the growing Valley League and adds considerable interest to the annual struggle for the team championship. The Dons have several very fine players. Notably Loera and Olvera. Olvera has been running chess classes for younger Pittsburg players for some time and may have some big surprises among his students. Loera was one of the heroes of the North-South match last Memorial Day. He beat R. W. Banner of the Southland to pick up one of those precious points.

And Loera is even better than that! Only two players who have competed in the North-South matches more than five times have a batting average of .800. One is Herman Steiner, U. S. Champion. The other is Al Loera. Loera plays a very colorful brand of chess, somewhat in the style of Boyette...leaves pieces in take, tries anything and makes it work.

I imagine his style of play will influence the entire Pittsburg team. It is a style which I would call truly Latin...one in which surprise is the chief element. Right here I want to disagree a little with Bob Burger, Bob did a fine job in his first Alekhine article and I am anxiously awaiting more. But I can't quite go along with his distinctions between Alekhine and Capablanca. Capablanca was as much a man of the world as Alekhine and just as widely travelled. And although no one questions his Latin racial origin, I think his style of play was not Latin at all. It was more in the solid, positional Slav style. There are two kinds of chess fans... Alekhine backers and Capablanca backers. I'm a Capablanca man myself. But back to Pittsburg!

...Which has a team of predominately Spanish racial origin, so the above remarks do have some bearing on the coming contest. Look out for that Latin style! If a Pittsburg players makes a move that looks silly, be very, very sure that there is nothing deeper behind it. I can almost guarantee there will be. And if you can't see it too, boom! That's all brother. Another Sacramento player will bite the dust.

So be cautious with them, but not too cautious. That tricky, Latin style has its weaknesses too. If one of those off-brand moves goes over, it wins. But if it is carefully refuted, it loses. Board for board, we should be stronger, so there's no point in getting so scared we tie up and get muscle bound. So let's all take a lot of time on our moves, especially in the opening, and we should win the match. We'll lose some games all right, but we should win the match.

Whether you get to play a board or not, be on hand for the fun.

Let's give these Pittsburg players a real Sacramento welcome for their first venture in our League. We're glad to have them in the League. Let's let them know it. And then after the handshakes and hearty greetings are over, let's beat the stuffing out of them at chess.

"Yea, team. Sacramento Forty Niners. Rah, Rah, Rah!"

## II. Alekhine: His Power of Innovation

By Bob Burger

Richard Reti has said that Alekhine's strength rested on his ability to introduce new ideas into the opening and early middle-game. Whether or not the ideas were better than the conventional lines, they made an opponent stop and think. What was Alekhine up to? Was this another trap? And the opponent was on the spot to find the best reply over-the-board, not to mention the resulting time troubles. Of course very seldom did Alekhine or anyone else evolve these new twists right at the tournament table. An innovation is usually the result of long and diligent study. Then, you may ask, why wasn't any other Chess master able to do the same as Alekhine and come up with as many innovations? Why? Simply because Alekhine alone devoted his every thinking hour to the progress of his Chess. A biography of the former Champion will seldom tell of the long hours he spent alone with a chessboard and pieces, possible because there was so much more to tell of his exciting life. Reuben Fine comments on Alekhine's pre-occupation with the game, and other writers have stated it a failing, and a bad one for his social life, one that made him appear shy and disinterested. In any case, with all the analysis Alekhine carried into a game with him he had a terrific advantage in resources, time, and, as a result, psychology.

A distinction must be made between a prepared line and an innovation. A prepared line is used against one certain player, who is known to drift into mediocre variations, or who is known to have made a mistake in a previous game that was not punished by his opponent at the time. The player does not have to find new moves in his prepared line: all he has to do is acquaint himself with the whole trend of the variations so that the time that he would have spent in running down side variations with his clock ticking away, he has used that time before the game began. Although of course an innovation is not absolutely different from a prepared line, it does have a very different effect, and incidentally, a much finer and more satisfying effect that betrays one of the real appeals Chess has on the mind. For an innovation is new territory staked out for Chess, a further broadening of the field that many had claimed was long since bounded. And here is another misconception: We'll leave that to Alekhine and his buddies, all we want to do is play a little Chess without all that fuss. That's what we say, but have we ever tried to turn up something new in a "dead" variation? Have we ever seen the stock phrase "...and White has the better game", and then look for ourselves and see if Black doesn't have some hidden reply just waiting for someone to uncover and convert into a big point against a less critical opponent?

Of course, only a few games are won in such a way, we will say. The truth is, that when you get right down to it, games are won or lost only on innovations, except for such cases as well-known opening traps, etc. The thing is, any winning method is an innovation in this loose sense, in the same way that almost every game is an individual entity, but the term innovation has been restricted to those moves that will some day make MCO.

On this subject Alekhine and Capablanca can be easily compared. The Cuban, even though he has been looked on too much as some kind of a mystic who played good Chess without half trying, was, in the words of Alekhine himself, a player with such natural skill that he did not find Chess a struggle, like the struggle Lasker found it. Without every re-analyzing known variations he produced many innovations simply by making the best move he could find: for often the best move he found was better than had been found previously. On the other hand, Alekhine built himself up from blunders to losses and finally to wins, the way of every chessplayer, and he knew that the results produced were proportional to the effort expended. And if his strength lay in that power of innovation, who are we to aspire to his goal and neglect the source of his strength?

## Central California Chess League

Neil T. Austin

Representatives of the member clubs of the League held a very successful meeting at Oakdale, Sunday, Sept. 17. After lunch at the Live Oak Cafe, the meeting was held in the basement of the new Episcopal Church in Oakdale.

The League's Executive Committee met to discuss the schedule for the coming season, elected officers, etc. The new officers are C. J. Smith, Oakdale, President; N. T. Austin, Sacramento, Vice-President; and H. E. Mattingly, Stockton, Secretary-Treasurer. Other members of the Committee are Kyle Forrest, Fresno; Frank Olvera, Pittsburg; Frank Saylor, Modesto; George Van Hooser, San Jose.

There was considerable discussion as to the size of teams, etc. but no significant changes were made from last year's rules. It was decided to declare the player scoring the most points at first board Central California Champion.

The Committee also went on record as favoring the subsidy of U. S. masters by the donation of 25¢ or 50¢ a year from every member of an organized club in the U.S. Mr. J. B. Gee was instructed to inform the USCF of this action.

After the meeting, a match was played between two teams captained by J. B. Gee and Lee Kerfoot of Modesto. Results and the schedule for next season are shown elsewhere.

Attending from Sacramento were N. T. Austin, J. B. Gee, Jim Marinos, and Ralph Stagg.

### CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHESS LEAGUE 1950 - 1951 Schedule

1st Round - October 8	Modesto at <u>San Jose</u> Oakdale at <u>Fresno</u> Pittsburg at <u>Sacramento</u> Stockton - Bye
2nd Round - October 29	Modesto at <u>Fresno</u> Oakdale at <u>Pittsburg</u> Stockton at <u>San Jose</u> Sacramento - bye
3rd Round - November 19	Sacramento at <u>Modesto</u> Pittsburg at <u>Stockton</u> Fresno vs San Jose at Modesto Oakdale - Bye
4th Round - December 10	Stockton at <u>Modesto</u> Fresno vs Sacramento at Modesto Oakdale vs San Jose at Modesto Pittsburg - Bye
5th Round - January 14	Modesto at <u>Oakdale</u> San Jose at <u>Pittsburg</u> Sacramento at <u>Stockton</u> Fresno - Bye
6th Round - February 18	Oakdale at <u>Sacramento</u> Pittsburg at <u>Modesto</u> Stockton vs Fresno at Modesto San Jose - Bye
7th Round - March 18	<u>Final Meeting at Modesto</u> Fresno vs Pittsburg Oakdale vs Stockton San Jose vs Sacramento Modesto - Bye