

SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHESS LEAGUE

Volume III, Issue 5

5425 8th Ave., Sacramento

May 24, 1952

"" NORTH 38½ SOUTH 19½ ""

Almost 11 months ago, on June 15th to be exact (Vol. II, Issue 6) the above headline appeared, being the result of the annual North-South Chess Match at San Luis Obispo over Labor Day. In the 1951 match, Sacramento was represented by six players, who won 4 match games and lost 2. Two of these wins were on Board 9 (Gee) and Board 13 (Czapski); out of the first 13 boards the North won 8 games, drew 2, and lost only 3! Sacramento's two losses were Meyer on 17th, and Kozen on 40th; Austin won on 27th board, as did Stagg on 49th. This year Meyer, Austin and Gee are going, possibly others as well. And we surely hope to return with a plus score!

The North-South Match is always held on the weekend closest to Memorial Day, and aside from the chess involved and the keen rivalry in the match itself, there is always the added fun of renewing old acquaintances and talking over previous matches. To many of us, it remains "The Chess Event of The Year"! And how!

After reading the fine comments as put out by Flynn, the fine tournament system report by Russell, Austin's report on East Bay vs San Francisco, and Woolfe's report on exhibitions and scores, it really seems a waste of space to fill up the front page with more-nothing ramblings of Ye Editor. But, as long as I have the fun of doing the dirty work - here goes!

Major Ed Czapski, former Club Member, has been visiting here the past two weeks. Ed is a strong player and an excellent rapid player - it was too bad he was transferred to New Mexico but we hope to have him back someday. He spent a couple chess evenings tussling with Gee and Meyer. Ed played one of his best chess games in last year's North-South match - but can't possibly attend this year.

The new perpetual tournament lined up by Russell is off to a good start. All one can see is chess clocks in motion. This is a good thing for the club's playing strength, as a serious game at least every two weeks is necessary to keep in good fighting shape - better yet, play one each week.

The first playoff game for the City Championship by Meyers and Richards wound up a locked-up-position - drawn. With so important a prize in the offing, each man played very cautiously. Unless one of them "opens up", or a mistake is made, this could go on for quite some time!

The new meeting place for the Club continues to prove most satisfactory. Our rent continues to be covered weekly by the "kitty collection". Club finances are in good shape. Plenty of competition is available also - why not come down and get on the challenge ladder and try a few games? Might even win one.

BOOK REVIEW: A fine beginner's book has come to our attention recently. It is "First Book of Chess" by I. A. Horowitz and Fred Reinfeld. Published by the Sterling Publishing Co., 122 East 25th Street, New York 16, \$2.00. The book is in the writers' usually easy and clear-cut style of writing, with the novelty that each page is complete in itself. 328 diagrams, altho the book has only 126 pages. It is very much to the point, and one of the best "first" books on chess seen. The final 20 pages give a good synopsis of openings for beginners. A very good book.

We note in the last issue of the Calif. Chess Reporter a note that Gligoric took a little over 3 hours in his Sacramento exhibition. He certainly did - it was almost a good 4 hours in fact. Our only claim to fame is we made him work for it; that point will not be conceded without a fight - Chess Reporter or no!

The Chess Reporter has now finished its first year of publishing, and the loss in operations necessitates a rise in price to \$1.50 a year. This of course was anticipated - it still is an excellent bargain in chess publications. If you are not now a subscriber - send a buck fifty to H. J. Ralston, 184 Edgewood Ave., San Francisco 17. We want to see the Chess Reporter financially independent, and your subscription is needed to accomplish this.

OFF THE CHESS

By George W. Flynn

Congratulations to Winston Strong on winning the Fresno Chess Club championship. Our old buddy, Ralph Stagg, used to tell us how good a player Strong was--now we know why. The improvement of young Mike Hailparn (who tied for second with former State Open Champion Phil Smith) is phenomenal. Two or three years ago, Mike was just fair. Now, he's right up there. And, in another year or two????????

I note in the California Chess Reporter that Jerry Slavich of San Jose doubts the wisdom of setting up a California State Correspondence Chess League, since the Courier Chess League already handles mail chess in this area. I believe Herb Betker of Modesto is active in the Courier group also. Tell you what. Why not make the Courier group the official State Correspondence League? They have the experience and a good membership already. And I rather doubt that anyone wants to set up a rival organization--principally because it's too darn much work. A good time to settle this matter would be at the organization meeting of the California State Chess Federation to be held in San Luis Obispo over Memorial Day week-end.

Congratulations to Jim Hastings, Sacramento County Auditor, on winning the Team Reserve Tournament. Jim won all six games--closely followed by Jim Hardy, who lost only one. Jim Hardy has shown great improvement in the last two years, principally due, I think, to the enthusiasm of the Auburn chess gang (Hardy and Russell and Horton).

It will probably surprise and please Jim Hastings to learn that even several years ago I heard our top players describe him as the best natural player in Sacramento. Hastings doesn't even look at book lines--he just plays chess. And he plays very well, indeed.

Congratulations, also, to Milt Meyer and Ray Richards for topping the field in the City Championship. I don't know yet who won the play-off, but either Milt or Ray would be a fine champion. Milt Meyer, by the way, hopes to play in both the Colorado and California State Open Championships. That's just what we like to see -- a wider participation by valley league players in outside events. Last year's California Open saw more of our valley players than any previous one. Bill Adams of San Jose took third in that tournament.

And while we're congratulating the boys, how about Bill Adams--who just plain won the Nevada Open, over a strong field from California, Utah, Nevada, and Idaho. Why doesn't Francis Crofut, our amiable scribe from San Jose, give us an interview with Adams? I'd sure like to know more about him, and the rest of us would also.

In the East Bay vs. San Francisco match, our league furnished almost half the players for the East Bay team, which surprised itself by losing by only a one-point margin. Milt Meyer drew with Henry Gross on Board One.

I note also that Bob Burger continues his winning ways. To my knowledge, Bob has played six games of tournament chess. His score??? Six wins. Sure, he'll probably lose one now and then, but if Bob could get the right kind of competition he wouldn't be far off the pace for first place in any California Tournament. Bob lives in Lafayette and is sort of a protege of the Sacramento Club. He may play for Pittsburg next year, however, since Pittsburg is closer to Lafayette. If he does, we may be sorry we helped him along. (Just kidding, Bob. If you beat any of the Sacramento boys, we kin take it.)

Montgomery Major, Editor of Chess Life, got kinda mad at me once because I made a few careless remarks. Well, sir, I didn't even know you could make an editor angry--not that easy, anyway. I was almost tempted to needle him some more, just for the fun of it. You see, I usually get the rough treatment from editors -- now here was my chance to get back at them.

But I heally haven't got any quarrel with Montgomery Major, so it would be childish to irritate him just for laughs. Besides, I think he does a swell job with Chess Life and he's on the same side I am-- the side of chess.

Recently, Editor Major ran quite an editorial on racial discrimination in chess. Seems there was an instance of it in Chicago. It was sort of a mixed-up affair and I'm not going to pass judgment on it (Put down that horse-whip, Monty, old boy).

But I know Editor Major will be happy to learn that we don't seem to have any such problem in our league. Frankly, I don't even think of race or nationality in chess--and that seems to be the attitude of all of us.

I can prove this by my own example. Betcha Monty doesn't even know what race or color I am. Well, it's this way, Monty. In Sacramento, they are so darn liberal they even let an Irishman play chess.

How about that?

TOURNAMENTS

R. E. Russell

The new Marathon Tournament, due to run until November 1st, has gotten under way and goodly interest has been expressed both in the tournament and in the Club Ladder and ratings which operate in conjunction with tourney play. The informal nature of the tournament has drawn praise. There are no iron clad rules or deadlines. All conditions of play - time, place, speed, etc. - are determined by mutual agreement.

Any two club members may play their two game match at any convenient time. And while no member may be able to play all other members before Nov. 1st, it is hoped that each will play most of the members holding ratings within two hundred points of his own.

The ratings were assigned on a Basis of recent tournament results and past performance in general. They will be adjusted, with play, in similar manner to that used by the Chess Review Postal Chess Dept. Meyer, Richards and Gee hold the top three rungs on the ladder with ratings of 1,000. O. J. Celle, Austin, Russell and J. A. Celle follow with 950. George Flynn, Prexy Sam Johnson, and Dr. Janushkowsky comprise the next group, at 900. And so on down the ladder. Newcomers are rated as quickly as they demonstrate form. The ratings will fluctuate quite rapidly with play and will soon shake up into true indications of relative ability. Tem Captain Austin hopes to make use of the ratings in choosing his team lineup next fall. And the more or less steady diet of tournament play thru the summer will do nothing to injure the prospects of what we hope is to be a Big season for our team next winter.

Any active (dues paying) member not rated or entered on the ladder has but to come to a regular meeting to have the lack remedied. Some half dozen of our staunch dues-payers are in very infrequent attendance. We would be delighted to see them at any time. Jim Marianos, Arbee Young, Col. Carey, Doc Yuke, Iverson and Chapman -- come on out! Attendance so often as but once a month would enable anyone to take part in the tournament. There is no required aggregate number of games to play.

While on the subject of active membership--a full half dozen now entered on the ladder and in the tournament have become inactive insofar as dues are concerned. Please correct this oversight and pay up, Guys, for though the City Championship Tourney could not in justice be restricted to Club members, it is sure that the Club Ladder and Intra-Club events should be open only to active members. Get your dues paid up this month, huh?

For while we always welcome visitors, we do have a fine clubroom which we intend to keep, and we need both the dues and attendance of all members to keep going at our present successful rate.

Progress of the tournament and ratings will be reported in the news periodically. But -- better than awaiting a bulletin -- come on out and take part.

Incidentally, our contributing commentator, George "E Pluribus Unum" Flynn, is becoming quite an author. It might be wise to hang onto his articles in Chess News -- someday you can say you knew Flynn back when he gotted himself started!

EAST BAY - S. F. MATCH
by Austin

Nine Central California Chess League players competed for the East Bay Team which was barely nosed out 11-10 by San Francisco on May 10th, Sacramento was represented by Meyer, Austin, O. Celle and Richards; Pittsburg by Burger and Olvera; Modesto by Kerfoot and Jeffers, and Stockton by Woolfe.

The match was in doubt until the last board finished, where Les Kerfoot became careless after 4½ hours of play and lost a won position.

The absence of several strong East Bay players made it necessary to play several CCCL players at very high boards. Milt Meyer conjured up a neat drawing line against the redoubtable Henry Gross at 1st Board. Austin and Lloyd Woolfe, Playing Fink and Poliakoff at 2nd and 4th boards, put up valiant struggles, but finally lost. Bob Burger and Ojars Celle justified all the nice things we have been saying about them by defeating Maxwell and Prokoodin. Ray Richards and Frank Olvera also achieved wins.

<u>East Bay</u>		<u>San Francisco</u>		<u>A.J.Fink</u>		<u>Austin</u>	
1	M O Meyer	½	H. Gross	½	1 P K4	P QB4	18 R K Q B4
2	N T Austin	0	A J Fink	1	2 N KB3	N QB3	19 B B3 N N
3	C J Bergman	0	C Bagby	1	3 N QB3	P KN3	20 R N3 QR B
4	L C Woolfe	0	D. Poliakoff	1	4 P Q4	PxP	21 RxNP QxEP
5	W Hendricks	0	R Currie	1	5 NxP	P Q3	22 Q Q4ch K B
6	S Bean	1	R Wilson	0	6 B QB4	B N2	23 Q R8 Q Q7
7	C Sedlack	1	O Wreden	0	7 B K3	N B3	24 R KB R B8
8	F Christensen	0	C Svalberg	1	8 P KR3	O O	25 P KN3 RxR
9	R Freemon	0	E Pruner	1	9 O O	Q B2	26 KxR P KR4
10	B Burger	1	R Maxwell	0	10 B K2	NxN	27 P QN4 R B
11	R Trenberth	1	A Johnson	0	11 BxN	B K3	28 K N2 Q B7
12	E Ladner	½	H Rosenbaum	½	12 N Q5	BxN	29 P R5 Q B5
13	J Fredgren	1	R Mathews	0	13 PxP	P QR3	30 P N5 Q N5
14	O J Celle	1	P Prokoodin	0	14 P QR4	N Q2	31 PxP QxP
15	R Cuneo	½	W Leeds	½	15 BxB	KxB	32 P R7 Q Q
16	R Richards	1	D Shishkin	0	16 R R3	N B3	33 Q N2 Resigns
17	N Hultgren	½	J Schmitt	v ½	17 R K3	KR K	
18	L. Kerfoot	0	A Palmin	1			
19	E A Yaeger	0	C Huneke	1			
20	E L Jeffers	0	H S King	1			
21	F Olvera	1	S Hill	0			
		<u>10</u>		<u>11</u>			

<u>Poliakoff</u>		<u>Woolfe</u>	
1	P K4	P K3	14 B B2 B Q2 Hoping to 0-0-0
2	P Q4	P Q4	15 P Q5 N K4 0-0-0 had a fight.
3	N QB3	B N5	16 Q K2 N N3
4	KN K2	PxP	17 Q B4 O O?? loses exchange, but no hope anyway. Also, only 2 minutes for 3 moves.
5	P QR3	BxN	
6	NxN	P KB4	
7	P KB3	PxP	18 B B5 Q B2
8	QxP	N KB3	19 BxR NxR
9	B K3	N QB3	20 P KR4 PxQP
10	O O O O	Q k2	21 NxP B K3
11	B KN5	P KR3	22 NxNch QxN
12	B R4	P B5	23 Q Q4 QxQ Why keep playing? Extra pawn on the K-side.
13	B N3	P B5	
			24 RXQ N N3
			25 PxP Resigns Only hope is a blunder, I hear he makes none.

POMAR EXHIBITION
by Woolfe

With George Koltanowski as MC, the Hakoah Chess Club sponsored Arturo Pomar, who had just finished second to Gligoric in a tournament in LA. Pomar is well written up in Fines "The World's Great Chess Games". A former child prodigy, and pupil of Alekhine's, he is now twenty. He's very likeable, signed several autographs for people at the club, including some lovely Latin guests, and everybody enjoyed playing him, win or lose, even me. The exhibition lasted until 12:30, having started at 8:30 (a true Latin, Pomar was a half hour late). He also took a half hour out at 10:30 for a snack. In three and one-half hours, he won twenty, drew eleven, and lost four. Gligoric went seven hours for 24-0-4, but with tougher competition. Winners against Pomar were Currie, Golden Gate, who won sensation-ally and very early, Fred Arvidson, Mechanics, who also beat Gligoric, and Loewy and Rosenbaum of the Hakoah Club.

The game recorded here is one of these "fish I almost caught" deals, in which I failed to see the correct sacrificial continuation, made the wrong one, checked him for nine consecutive moves, drove his king across the board to a safe haven, and a rook down, resigned -- but it was fun.

According to PCO, the following defense has not been refuted:

(score reads across the page instead of in columns)

1. P K4	P K3	2. P Q4	P Q4	3. N Q2	P KB4
				(see PCO, col. 56)	
4. PxBP	PxP	5. QN B3	N KB3	6. N K5	QN Q2
7. KN B3	B Q3	8. B KN5	P KR3	9. B Q2	N K5
(Had intended 9...Q K2, looked up, saw him waiting, got flustered, forgot plan)					
10. N N6	KR N	11 N/3-K5	NxB	12. QxB	Q B3
13 O O O	BxN	14 NxN	N N3	15 R K	B K3?
16 B N5ch	P B3? (KQ)	17 NxP	PxP	18 BxP?? (RxB!)	K B2
19 BxR	RxB	20 Q B4	R QB	21 R K2	N B5
22 KR K	P N4	23 Q B3	QxP!	24 Q R5ch	K N2
25 RxB??(P-QB3??) QxNPch????? --Q-Q7ch, 27. K N, N R6ch!! wins. The big one that got away!					
		26. K Q	N K6ch (the wrong sacrifice)		
27 R/1 xN	Q N8ch	28. K K2	RxPch	29. K B3	Q Q8ch
30. R K2	R B6ch	31. R K3	RxRch	32. PxR	Q B8ch
33. K N3	P B5ch	34. K R3	Resigns		

Well, that is all the game scores available right now. Ye Ed has an aversion to publishing his own games - even tho he won a game last week for a change! And at the calculated risk of boring you with an oft-repeated remark, we say: PLEASE check all game scores carefully before sending in for publication. Truly there is not one chessplayer in a hundred who can keep an accurate score. We like to publish your games, but of course each game has to be checked over, and many fall by the wastebasket because they just don't work out.

Next weekend Most of us will be in San Luis Obispo, playing for the North. On June 14th the Editor takes a vacation until July 1st. There will be a chess News put out as soon as possible after vacation - sp please be patient. However, during the summer months the news available is scarce. Next issue probably will contain results and news on the North-South match to a large degree.

Here's a suggestion that recently came in: If you have sufficient news or game scores to make up a page of material - why not get up a stencil of it and mail that in to the Chess News. That would be welcome indeed, and cut down on amount of work to be done here. But be sure to keep on sending in material!