

# SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

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The Tournament to decide the representative of the CCCL in the State Championship at San Francisco next weekend was played Aug. 16-17 at Modesto, and won by Bob Burger of Pittsburg. Second place went to Milt Meyer of Sacramento. It was an interesting tournament, and well-organized and conducted by Austin. Prize money was \$50 for the first four places, with the winner also going into the State Finals. Congratulations to Burger on his fine showing, and we hope he does even better in SF.

The tournament had its ups and downs, there were a few oversights, a couple of humorous incidents, but no real difficulties (except two games had to be adjudicated at the end of Round 3). In Rd. 3, Richards-Woolfo was adjudicated a draw, and we shall hear from Richards for some time about this. He claims a win. We suspect that TD Austin will have trouble living this down.

As there is a report in this News by Austin on the Tournament, we shall leave off further comments with but one final observation: Why not have two or three similar tournaments during the year; say one at Modesto and one at Sacramento?

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We wish to extend our appreciation to Milt Meyer for his fine report on the Colorado Open (also in this issue). Milt played in that tourney, and finished with a most creditable score of 4-2, garnishing 9th place out of some 50 players. Milt is playing some of his best chess right now, and his showing boosts Calif. chess.

The local summer tournament is not progressing too well. Seems to be too difficult to interest players in clock-games during our warm weather. But Sept. 21st sees the Executive Meeting of the League, with the first match scheduled Oct. 5th, so a little serious practice would do all chessplayers good. With matches limited to 8 or 10 players, it is not out of reason to believe that several spots on the Team will have to be fought over by our players. If we have an average attendance of 25-30 during the winter season, a place on the Team will be coveted. So you'd best sharpen up your wits and get in some serious practice.

At the present moment there is no copy from Mr. Flynn, whose "Off The Chess" is one of our best features - if not the best. Could it be that the recent nuptial ceremony has in some small way dimmed the chessic interest of one Geo. Flynn? Tsk.

Always wonder why so many good chessplayers are seen occasionally around town but never at chess club??? What a powerhouse if we could get Chapman, Carmany, Hubert, Kozen, Thornton, Guinasso, Kiodasch, Applegate, Janushkowsky, (to mention a few) out to the Club. And we hope the Auburn players come back soon also.

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The State Open Championship will be held next weekend in Santa Barbara, and if you wish to attend, please contact McClain at 544 Market St., SF. Entry fee is \$5. Best to plan on being there Friday evening to check in, as 3 games are scheduled for Saturday. What a day that will be! Several members of the CCCL have planned on attending this event. We wish them luck, and perhaps a member of our League will win the Open Championship!

Attention all CCCL Clubs: the preliminary season meeting will be held in Modesto on Sunday, Sept. 21. Be sure your authorized representatives plan to attend. The more that come the better; undoubtedly there will be an impromptu match of some sort hold. But above all, let's keep our support of the League meetings going full blast. The CCCL has been a thumping success to date, let's keep it that way.

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This page was started Friday night - it is now Saturday afternoon and we have copy on hand for Flynn's column. Had a nice visit last night from George, and while he is "busy" (who isn't) his chessic interest has definitely not waned.

## OFF THE CHESS

By George W. Flynn

Bob Burger of Pittsburg, Lafayette, and Sacramento won the Valley League title, as reported elsewhere in this issue. How come so many homes for Bob? Well sir, he lives in Lafayette, plays now for Pittsburg and used to play for Sacramento.

But the whole darn Central California Chess League can take pride in his development, which was predicted in this magazine over two years ago. Bob has really got it--a steady and thoughtful player, he also has that little extra quality called "luck". Let's all hope he keeps on being lucky.

Bob's victory entitles him to play in the State Championship. Offhand, I would say he will not win there. The experience and ability of his opponents are frightening in their sum total. Yet, who knows? There is no better time than the present to gain experience in play of that calibre, and I am sure that Bob's opponents will have to play very good chess to beat him. And he should win his share of the games. And Bob is an improving player.

Logically, Bob should need at least two more years of seasoning to tackle the State championship. Yet, what is logic? If he holds onto his steady play and his share of that magical quality called "luck", he will make a good showing. And he will be that much closer to realizing his potentialities, which are indeed great.

Another young player, who is also improving, who deserves a great deal of credit for his showing at Modesto is Mike Hailparn of Fresno. Mike, like Bob Burger just keeps getting better all the time. And we all like to see that. In a way, it justifies the value of our League, since surely the development of outstanding young players is one of the best signs of a healthy chess group.

Anybody want a free ad? I was just thinking about the occupations of various chessplayers. Seems to me that maybe some of us might be interested. Now, take Francis Crofut of San Jose. He's a jeweler and watchmaker and has just contrived a super-duper ten-second chess clock. So if you want something extra-special in the jewelry or watch line, why he's the man to see.

Any stamp collectors in our gang? Well, Bill Adams, that terrific chessplayer from San Jose, is a dealer in rare stamps. And I guess he could get you about any kind of stamps you want, rare or not. How about a chessplayer's discount on regular 3¢ stamps, Bill--think you could talk the government down a little?

J. B. Gee, ye editor of ye magazine, is also one top-drawer public accountant. He has all the business he wants, I know, but if a poor old chessplayer came to him with tears in his eyes and said "Ja, ole boy, I'm in trouble with Uncle Sammy, yet. A small matter of being unable to figure out my income tax. Help me!" Why, I betcha Ja would squeeze you in somehow.

Ole friend Harold Soligan distributes that Roma Wine. He even furnished champagne for ye Flynn wedding. (Ah, these idle rich. It gives champagne and caviar. And stromberries mit cream.) And boy was that Roma champagne good? I'm telling you--there haint none better.

Lemme see, who else? Hasn't Herb Betker got a restaurant down in Modesto? Why can't we gather there fore the matches and eat some of Herb's Fried Pawns?

Now, myself, I'm in this here railroad racket and if you've got a load of something or other you want to go from here to there, why just toss a couple of boxcars my way. Of course, we'll charge you too much, but it'll get there. (Discounts quoted freely on 74 car trains.)

Yes, and I saw our good friend, Jim Marianos, the other day. Jim is an electrician and, like Gee, he's up to his ears in work. But, still, I betcha if you were hanging onto a live wire (Eeeek!) Jim would rescue a fellow chessplayer. So if your wiring gets too much for you, get hold of Jim. He understands this here electricity--which is more than most of us do.

Anybody else in business? Speak right up, chessplayers--we're all interested--maybe you're just the fellow to help us out. Seems like doing business with a chessplayer would be a "good move".

## The 1952 Colorado Open Championship

by M. O. Meyer

The above tournament, held in Denver on August 1-3, attracted 50 players from 16 states as compared with 23 participants in the 1951 event. First prize of \$100 went to Dr. Bela Rozsa of Tulsa, who scored  $5\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ , and second prize was won by Blake Stevens of San Antonio with a score of 5-1. Third to sixth prizes were shared by P. D. Smith (Fresno) John Ragan (St. Louis), Eugene Shapiro (New York City) and Mark Eucher (Los Angeles) each with  $4\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ , but placed in the order indicated on the basis of Solkoff points. No less than 8 players scored 4-2; seventh place going to Arthur Spiller of Los Angeles, eighth to Jack Hursch of Denver, who as top Colorado player won the State championship, and ninth to the writer. A complete summary of the tournament will appear in an early issue of "Chess Life" and inasmuch as the foregoing covers the standings of the four California players who participated it appears unnecessary to continue the tabulation.

Insofar as determining first and second prizes were concerned the decisive final round games were Rozsa-Ragan, which the former won in 76 moves, and Stevens-Spiller, won by the Texan after a protracted struggle. Other sixth round battles between players mentioned in the first paragraph were Smith-Eucher, which ended peacefully when the former won a P but was unable to avoid a stalemate, and Hursch-Meyer, in which each at one stage appeared to have the advantage but neither was able to work out a win.

Participation in the tourney was the more pleasant by reason of the splendid manner in which the event was directed by Merl Reese of Denver and handled by the other hard working members of the Tournament Committee. The writer is not aware of any serious dispute which arose in the course of the 150 games contested and this should be some kind of a record. The "Queen" of the Denver Chess Club was present, attired in snappy cowgirl regalia, and although her first task was to collect the entry fees this was soon forgotten when she presided at a table pouring cold drinks made available by courtesy of the Director and handing out to the players packages of cigarettes furnished by the Club.

Central California players particularly will be interested to learn that the only game in which the first prize winner was held to a draw was his encounter with Phil Smith, who made an impressive showing when he played top board for Fresno in the 1951-52 League matches. His accomplishment in gaining third place in the recent Colorado event with a score consisting of three wins and three draws, coupled with that of Bill Adams winning the Nevada Open Championship held in Reno last April, is a clear indication that the strength of play in our League is of higher calibre than is generally recognized. The writer, who had not previously played in an out-of-state tournament, entered with the idea that he would be content with an even score; that he finished with a record of two wins and four draws was a pleasant surprise to him.

The following game, played in the first round against the 1950 Colorado State Champion, is of interest chiefly because of the ending. On his 37th move White, by returning a Knight to a square it had vacated only two moves earlier, sets up three mating threats, only two of which may be avoided by any move at Black's disposal. This game cannot be regarded as indicative of the loser's play because after his loss in the initial round he won his next three games.

M.O.Meyer	M. Katz	10 NxP	NxN	20 K R	B K2	30 R K3	N K2
1 N KB3	N KB3	11 QxN	B K2	21 N N4	N N3	31 B R3	N Q4
2 P B4	P B3	12 P N3	B B3	22 N B2	P N3	32 R K5	P N3
3 P KN3	P K3	13 B N2	P QR4	23 QR K	B QN5	33 Q Q2	K N2
4 P Q4	P Q4	14 QR Q	Q N3	24 B QB3	BxB	34 P B5	KPxP
5 QN Q2	QN Q2	15 Q B2	Q B2	25 QxB	R K2	35 NxPch	K B3
6 B N2	B Q3	16 KR K	N B	26 P QB5	P N4	36 Q R6	R KN
7 Q B2	O O	17 R K2	B Q2	27 N K4	P N5	37 N Q6	Resigns
8 O O	R K	18 N K5	QR Q	28 Q N2	KR Q2		
9 P K4	PxKP	19 P B4	B B	29 N Q6	B R3		

CCCL QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT

Neil Austin

The first assembled tournament to be sponsored by the CCCL was held in Modesto Aug. 16 and 17, for the purpose of qualifying one man for the State Championship Tournament in San Francisco.

The event was a 4 round Swiss with 12 entries. The time limit was 40 moves in 2 hours. Rounds were scheduled for 1:30 pm and 7 pm Aug. 16 and 9 AM and 2 pm Aug. 17.

As this was our first attempt, it was expected that we would encounter many difficulties. Luckily, the only one encountered was one that was expected. Not enough time was allotted for the 3rd Round and two games had to be adjudicated, one of which being very complicated.

The first round was highlighted by a hard fought draw between Meyer and Jeffers in which the latter refused to go wrong. Burger, Richards, Crofut and Davis led with 1-0.

Burger was out alone after 2 rounds with 2-0, followed by Meyer, Gee, Richards and Davis with  $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ .

In the 3rd Round Gee blundered in a good position against Burger. Meyer won a nice game from Davis, while Richards had an adjudicated draw with Woolfe. Burger and Meyer were 1st and 2nd with 3-0 and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ .

In the 4th round, Burger held off Meyer in the deciding game, while Hailparn Davis, and Mattingly finished strongly to tie for 3rd and 4th prizes. Bob Burger had a couple of shakey games but came thru in the clutches. Milt Meyer did not recover from his 1st round draw with Jeffers and had to meet Burger with the Black pieces in the final round. Mike Hailparn finished strongly after blundering against Meyer in the 2nd Round. Larry Davis was in the running throughout. M. E. Mattingly recovered from a quick 1st round loss to Richards and scored  $2\frac{1}{2}$  out of the last three. J. B. Gee was in contention until he overlooked Burger's check. Ray Richards played well until his loss to Hailparn in the last round. Francis Crofut was in and out. Lloyd Woolfe was out of form, but figured in several of the most interesting games. E. L. Jeffers played tough ones all the way and played better than his score indicates. Tom Fries let some good positions get away from him. Added experience will make him dangerous next year. Leonard Krogness found the going tough, having entered at the last minute to provide an even number.

The field was weakened somewhat by the absence of Phil Smith and Bill Adams both of whom decided to play in the Open at Santa Barbara.

The Tournament was directed by N. T. Austin, with the able assistance of Herb Paul and Lee Kerfoot.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Solkoff</u>
1	Burger R	W9	W8	W6	D2	3	1	0	$3\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	8.5
2	Meyer, M O	D10	W3	W4	D1	2	2	0	3 - 1	9.5
3	Hailparn, M	D6	L2	W10	W7	2	1	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$	8.0
4	Davis, L E	W11	D7	L2	W9	2	1	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$	7.5
5	Mattingly, M E	L7	W11	W8	D6	2	1	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$	7.0
6	Gee, J B	D3	W10	L1	D5	1	2	1	2 - 2	9.5
7	Richards, R L	W5	D4	D9	L3	1	2	1	2 - 2	9.0
8	Crofut, F	W12	L1	L5	W11	2	0	2	2 - 2	7.5
9	Woolfe, L E	L1	W12	D7	L4	1	1	2	$1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$	8.5
10	Jeffers, E L	D2	L6	L3	D12	0	2	2	1 - 3	8.5
11	Fries, T	L4	L5	W12	L8	1	0	3	1 - 3	7.5
12	Krogness, L	L8	L9	L11	D10	0	1	3	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$	5.5

(Our thanks to Herb Betker for a free meal "on the house" at his restaurant for all in the tournament. Everyone appreciated it very much.)

Games from CCCL Tournament

Burger	Meyer							
1 P K4	P K3	35 K R2	QxR	9 B N5	Q Q3	10 P N3	B B4	
2 P Q4	P Q4	36 QxQ	PxQ	10 BxB	NxB	11 N B2	P K4	
3 N QB3	N KB3	37 RxP	R B	11 QN Q2	B K3	12 B N5	B K2	
4 B N5	PxP	38 B R3??	RxP	12 Q K2	Q 0	13 R B	P Q3	
5 NxP	B K2	39 BxP	RxP	13 NxBP	Q R3	14 BxN	BxB	
6 NxNch	BxN	40 R R8ch	K N2	14 NxP	QxN	15 N Q5	Q Q	
7 BxB	QxB	41 RxR	KxR	15 QxQ	BxQ	16 P B4	P KN3	
8 B Q3	N Q2	42 B K4	R B5	16 RxN	P QB4	17 NxBch	QxN	
9 N B3	O O	43 B Q5	K N2	17 N B5	P QN3	18 K R	R Q	
10 O O	P B4	44 B B6	RxP	18 N K3	B K3	19 N K3	N Q5	
11 P B3	PxP	45 P R4	R Q6	19 P QR4	KR Q	20 N Q5	Q N2	
12 PxP	N N3	46 K N2	K B3	20 P R5	P N4	21 q Q3	B K3	
13 Q Q2	R Q	47 B N5	R QR6	21 P R6	R Q2	22 P B5	BxN	
14 QR B	N Q4	48 B Q7	K K4	22 RxR	BxR	23 BPxB	QR B	
15 N K5	B Q2	49 B K8	P B4	23 R Q	B K3	24 R B4	Q R3	
16 P B4	Q K2	50 B Q7	P B5	24 N Q5	R N	25 PxP	RPxP	
17 P QR3	QR B			25 N B7	K B	26 Q QB3	RxR	
18 RxR	RxR		& wins	26 NxBch	PxN	27 QxR	Q B	
19 NxB	QxN	Woolfe	Burger	27 R Q7	R R	28 Q B7	R QN	
20 P B5		1 P K4	P K3	28 K B	P KR3	29 B R3	P QN4	
Draw agreed		2 P Q4	P Q4	29 K K2	P KN3	30 B K6	NxB	
		3 N QB3	B N5	30 R QN7	P N5	31 PxN	R B	
		4 B Q2	P QB4	31 R B7	R N	32 Q N7	P B4	
Gee	Burger	5 P QR3	BxN	32 RxRP	R N3	33 PxP	R K	
1 P K4	P K4	6 BxB	P B5	33 R R8ch	K K2	34 P KN4	RxP	
2 N KB3	P Q4	7 Q N4	N KB3	34 P R7	R R3	35 Q Q5	PxP	
3 NxP	B Q3	8 QxNP	R KN	35 R R8	Resigns	36 QxRch	K N2	
4 P Q4	PxP	9 Q R6	R N3	Hailparn	Meyer	37 QxBP	QxQ	
5 B KB4	Q B3	10 Q K3	NxP	1 P Q4	N KB3	38 RxQ	K N3	
6 B N3	QN Q2	11 P QN3	PxP	2 P QB4	P K3	39 K N2	Resigns	
7 N QB3	NxN	12 PxP	N QB3	3 N QB3	B N5	Mattingly	Richards	
8 NxP	B QN5ch	13 N KB3	P KB4	4 Q B2	P Q4	1 P Q4	P Q4	
9 P QB3	Q B3	14 N K5	NxN	5 PxP	QxP	2 N KB3	N KB3	
10 N Q2	B N5	15 PxN	B Q2	6 N B3	O O	3 P K3	P QB3	
11 P B3	NxPch	16 B K2	Q R5	7 B Q2	BxN	4 N K5	B B4	
12 PxN	B K2	17 P KN3	P B5?	8 BxB	P B4	5 P QB4	P K3	
13 B N2	B KB4	18 Q B3??	Q R3	9 PxP	QxBP	6 N B3	QN Q2	
14 O O	P KR4	19 B Q3	NxB	10 R B	QN Q2	7 B Q3	NxN	
15 P KR4	Q KN3	20 BxRch	QxB	11 P K3	P QN3	8 PxN	BxB	
16 K R2	B Q3	21 QxN	Q K5ch	12 B K2	B N2	9 QxB	N Q2	
17 R Kch	K B	22 K Q2	R QB	13 O O	QR B	10 P KB4	N B4	
18 BxBch	QxBch	23 Q Q3	QxP	14 Q R4	P QR4	11 Q Q4	PxP	
19 K N	Q N6	24 R R2	P Q5	15 BxN	QxR	12 QxP	P QN4	
20 Q N3	N B3	25 R K?	Q KN4	16 B B3	RxB	13 Q Q4	Q R5ch	
21 QxNP	R Q	26 PxP	QxPch	17 PxR	N B4	14 P N3	Q R6	
22 N B	QxRP	27 K K2	R B6	18 QxP??	QxRch	15 Q Q	Q N7	
23 QxBP	N Q4	28 Q Q2	Q B6ch	Resigns		16 R B	R Q	
24 Q N3	Q B3	29 K B	B N4ch	Meyer	Davis	17 QxRch	KxQ	
25 Q K5	Q N3	30 R K2	Q R8 Mate	1 N KB3	P QB4	18 Resigns		
26 Q N3	Q N3	Burger	Crofut	2 P B4	N QB3			
27 N K3	NxN	1 P K4	P K4	3 P Q4	PxP			
28 RxN	QxNP	2 N KB3	N QB3	4 NxP	P K3			
29 QR K	P N3	3 P Q4	PxP	5 N QB3	P QR3			
30 Q K5	K N	4 B B4	N KB3	6 P KN3	N B3			
31 Q B6	Q N	5 P K5	P Q4	7 B N2	B K2			
32 R K7	R KB	6 PxN	PxB	8 O O	O O			
33 R/1 K5	P R5	7 O O	QxP	9 P K4	Q B2			
34 RxB??	Q N8ch	8 R Kch	B K2					