

# Berkeleyan chess king

Craig Barnes, a 14-year-old Berkeley youth, took first place in the C Division of the 1969 U.S. Chess Federation tournament in Sunnyvale on Saturday and Sunday, beating out both adult and youth contenders from all over the Northern California district.

The tournament featured the Five Round Swiss match, which limits a player to 45 moves in 90 minutes then 15 moves in the next 30 minutes.

Since January, the Berkeley High sophomore has played in 15 official tournaments. He is a member of the USCF, Berkeley High Chess Club, Central California Chess Association, Oakland Chess Club and Berkeley YMCA Chess Club. His ratings in tournaments are: six first-places, three second-places, three third-places, one tenth-place and "once I was 26th out of 45," he said.

All of this gains significance when Craig reveals that he has been playing the game of chess for less than two years. "I became interested in chess when I was looking for something to do and decided to join the school's chess club," he said. "Since that time, almost every minute of my spare time has been devoted to it."

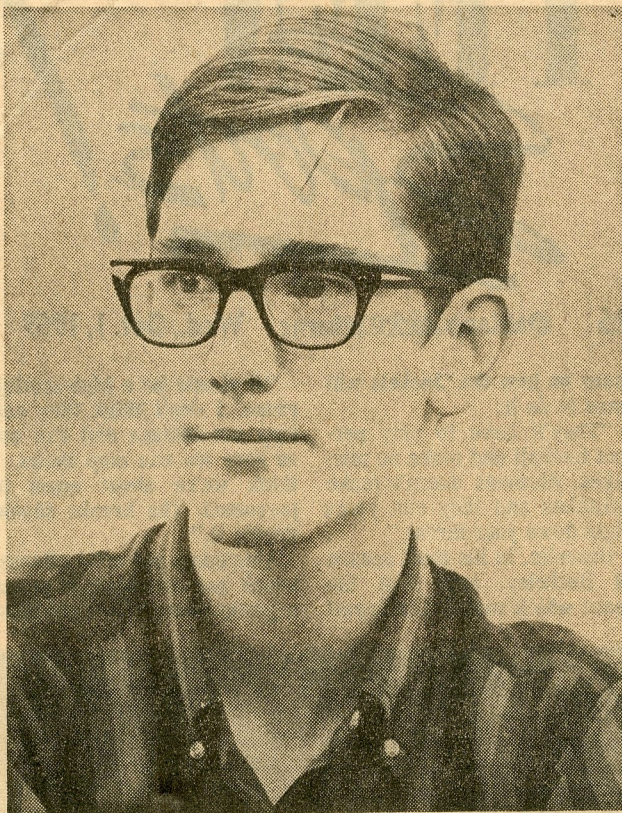
In addition to playing several nights each week when the various chess clubs meet, Craig also pores over chess magazines and plays out games on his own at home.

"I play over games where I made errors and I also play out published games in magazines and newspapers," he said.

Craig said he has not noticed any marked improvement in his school work as a result of his addiction to chess. "First of all, I find chess fun," he said. "It is also intellectually stimulating and is a master teacher of the art of concentration. And in Rapid Transit chess (where a

★ TEEN ★  
Age!  
★

Oakland ~~Star~~ Tribune Wed., Oct. 1, 1969 25



Tribune photo by Jim Edelen

## Northern Calif. chess champ Craig Barnes of Berkeley

player is allowed only 10 seconds per move), you learn to think and make decisions quickly.

"I think I do better in the regular game," Craig said.

Craig said his interest is strictly in "playing the game of chess" and does not extend to the particulars of the shape, size and style of chessmen and boards that general-

ly goes along with the stereotype tournament player.

"I play with stock board and pieces. Sometimes the Mandarin chessmen with their exotic shapes present the problem of distinguishing among them," he said. "Just as in any sport or game, a chess player grows accustomed to the pieces he plays with."

Explaining the various divisions in USCF district play, Craig said, "Division C is for beginning and average players who have acquired less than 1600 official tournament points. With this tournament over the weekend, I have now more than 1600 points and will play in Division B, the next highest class, in future official matches and tournaments." Division A is the highest class in the Northern California district.

Craig said he is interested in playing all the way up through the international grand matches. "I would like to make a 'career' of chess," he said.

As a hobby, Craig develops word-puzzle games related to chess terms, combining his knowledge of mathematics and his chess interest.

In school his favorite subjects are math, biology and related subjects. He classes himself as a "good student, around an overall B-plus average scholastically," he said, but admits that he does not find school work challenging.

Craig's earlier interests were coin and stamp collecting. "I guess you could say I am currently inactive in both. Neither is as interesting, as exciting as chess," he said.

Craig is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Barnes of 1717 Francisco St., Berkeley. He has an older and younger brother and a younger sister. "None of whom play chess," he said.

"For young people in this area who are interested, the Oakland Chess Club meets every Friday evening from 7 to 11:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Elementary School on Lincoln Avenue," Craig added. "Anyone is welcome to come and join us."—Peggy King