

Chess Underway

By Bob Ghiselli

San Leandro High's chess team opened the season on a four note by being edged four games to three in favor of Berkeley. The team, traveling away for the opener, found Berkeley in good shape as always though under a new coach. The first board went to Berkeley as Goodwin battled for a stalemate in the end but lost despite the effort. Second board Sugiyama defeated his opponent while Matthews ran into some difficulties on third board. After an hour and a half, Matthews was defeated. Norris, fourth board, and Ghiselli, fifth board, found their opponents' weak spots and grabbed their games quickly and easily. Endo played a see-saw game which ended in favor of Berkeley. First year man Hutchinson played his first league match but was disappointed as Berkeley's man came on in for the win.

San Leandro's second match was to be against Alameda, but the rivals postponed the match until a later date, hoping to put more pressure on it. They did this last year, putting the match off until the final day which added even more pressure. It seemed to pay off last year since Alameda ended up winning the match but had lost the championship a week later.

The team once again traveled away for the second time. They went to Oakland Tech which always proved to be a hard match. San Leandro was to play their hardest opponents in the first three matches which they did as they came up against Berkeley, Alameda, and now Oakland Tech. On first board, Goodwin ran into trouble once

again and was defeated. Sugiyama made it two-in-a-row by making his opponent bow in defeat. Norris moving up to third board found it rough going and was defeated. Matthews on the other hand, dropping to fourth board found it easier and breezed by victorious. Moving to fifth board because of Ghiselli's absence, Hutchinson drew his game after battling it out over two hours. Endo, on sixth board, won and sophomore Spohn played his first league match but was defeated in his debut opening.

San Leandro ended up in a draw with Oakland Tech as both teams won 3 1/2 games out of seven. That gives San Leandro no wins, one loss, one tie, for a record so far.

San Leandro is still in contention for first place since there are many more matches to be played. The team feels that they can overcome this slow start and put back together the winning combination that they had last year. It is hard to say who will take the lead in the early race for the championship, but the four teams that battled for it last year will be at it again, Alameda, Berkeley, Oakland Tech, and San Leandro.



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