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MASTER THREESOME TOPS CALIFORNIA OPEN

The hushed excitement enveloped the entire Arcade Room of the Hacienda at Fresno during the seventh and last round, as Tibor WEINBERGER, entering the round with a perfect 6-0, fought to overcome a disadvantageous position against John BLACKSTONE. Tibor needed only a draw to secure clear first and the Cal Open title - - but there was a knave in the cards as BLACKSTONE played carefully, pressing a pawn plus to a hard-fought win. This raised him to a tie with WEINBERGER at the 6-1 mark (he lost earlier to Ira POHL), where the two were joined by ex-State Champion Gil RAMIREZ, whose only loss was to V. RADAIKIN in round 3. The three shared \$340 in 1-2-3 prizes, and gain qualification into the State Championship to be held at the end of the year in San Francisco. (To be confirmed.)

Upsets were abundant once again - this seems to be the year for them - and three other masters did not fare well. Honorable mention for toppling the toppers goes to Jim McILRATH (1860) and Mike GOODALL (1909). See crosstable for details - both players shared in the Class A prize, along with Allan VAN GELDER and Fresno's own Norman MILLER; while the Expert Prizes were carried off by Art SPILLER and Dave BLOHM, also Hugh NOLAND. SPILLER took first expert with 5½-1½, the others shared second with 5-2. Other class winners included, John ROWELL (1) Ray CUNEO and R. POST, Paul VAYSSIE and George OAKES (2) Class B; Greg WONG, Roy ERVIN and R. SILLS, Class C, and Frank HARRIS, Upset. Actually, SILLS, ERVIN, GOODALL and McILRATH all had higher total upset points than HARRIS, but as they have all qualified for other prizes, Frank gets the runner-up spot.

The 70 entrants were the lowest for many years and could be attributed to many factors. A conflicting tourney at Ventura, the upcoming almost conflicting Long Beach Classic, lack of publicity in the California Chess Reporter, State Federation organ to all CSCF members, late arrival of Chess Life containing publicity, the announcement of only one guaranteed prize instead of all class prizes etc. and so forth. Which is really to blame, or partly all - maybe you can tell us - if you weren't there, why weren't you? In spite of all, a grand, enjoyable event with no skirmishes except over the board.

C A L I F O R N I A O P E N

Labor Day weekend, 1968
Fresno

			Ratg	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	To.	Tieb.
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
1.	WEINBERGER	T.	2440	W 34	W 13	W 6	W 24	W 20	W 4	L 3	6	23
2.	RAMIREZ	G.	2238	W 25	W 28	L 12	W 17	W 10	W 20	W 7	6	22½
3.	BLACKSTONE	J.	2236	W 37	W 21	W 32	L 20	W 29	W 11	W 1	6	20½
4.	SPILLER	A.	2070	W 48	W 22	W 46	D 14	W 12	L 1	W 15	5½	21
5.	THORNALLY	F.	2272	W 30	L 23	W 42	W 13	D 6	W 32	W 12		20½
6.	NOLAND	H.	2039	W 18	W 44	L 1	W 46	D 5	D 12	W 29	5	21½
7.	McILRATH	J.	1860	W 62	W 63	W 39	D 21	W 14	D 8	L 2		20
8.	BLOHM	D.	2163	L 57	W 59	W 25	W 28	W 23	D 7	D 9		19+
9.	GOODALL	M.	1909	W 69	D 15	L 22	W 57	W 16	W 14	D 8		19
10.	VAN GELDER	A.	1988	W 40	W 50	L 14	W 44	L 2	W 34	W 23		18½
11.	MILLER	N.	1967	W 59	L 35	W 48	W 22	W 24	L 3	W 20		18
12.	RADAIKIN	V.	1967	W 49	W 27	W 2	W 15	L 4	D 6	L 5	4½	24½
13.	STANDERS	L.	1931	W 55	L 1	W 27	L 5	W 25	W 42	D 19		23
14.	RIVISE	I.	2274	W 42	W 26	W 10	D 4	L 7	L 9	W 36		22½
15.	KANE	G.	2109	W 64	D 9	W 35	L 12	W 33	W 21	L 4		20½
16.	LAZOS	J.	2316	L 33	W 18	W 43	D 26	L 9	W 51	W 52		18½
17.	LAINSON	B.	1930	L 58	W 45	W 53	L 2	W 37	W 31	D 18		17½
18.	ROWELL	J.	1689	L 6	L 16	W 56	W 54	W 61	W 33	D 17		17
19.	RUBIN	M.	1977	W 45	L 33	D 57	D 37	W 58	W 43	D 13		15
20.	POHL	I.	2040	W 47	W 57	W 33	W 3	L 1	L 2	L 11	4	23½
21.	FRIES	T.	1918	W 38	L 3	W 40	D 7	W 36	L 15	D 26		20½
22.	WILSON	C.	1816	W 67	L 4	W 9	L 11	W 41	L 29	W 48		20+
23.	SHUEY	P.	1949	W 65	W 5	L 24	W 63	L 8	W 44	L 10		20
24.	MEGO	J.	2104	W 51	W 61	W 23	L 1	L 11	D 36	D 30		19
25.	POST	L.	1793	L 2	W 56	L 8	W 50	L 13	W 45	W 44		18
26.	RASMUSSEN	G.	1915	W 56	L 14	W 50	D 16	L 32	W 47	D 21		17½
27.	VAYSSIE	P.	1714	W 41	L 12	L 13	D 38	D 57	W 58	W 55		16+
28.	DiMILO	A.	1896	W 71	L 2	W 60	L 8	D 51	D 35	W 42		16
29.	HAMMIE	R.	1973	L 50	W 65	W 51	W 61	L 3	W 22	L 6		15½
30.	CUNEO	R.	1793	L 5	W 69	W 52	D 34	L 42	W 60	D 24		15
31.	OAKES	G.	1758	L 52	W 62	L 63	W 66	W 46	L 17	W 43		14
32.	MOORE Dr.	R.	1950	W 39	W 58	L 3	D 33	W 26	L 5	L 16	3½	21+
33.	HARRIS	F.	1808	W 16	W 19	L 20	D 32	L 15	L 18	W 58		21
34.	HUNEKE	C.	1812	L 1	D 39	W 66	D 30	W 63	L 10	D 38		19
35.	CRITCHLOW	A.	u/r	W 43	W 12	L 15	L 36	D 47	D 28	D 37		18½
36.	GROSS	B.	1847	L 54	W 49	W 68	W 35	L 21	D 24	L 14		17
37.	EDELSTEIN	H.	1784	L 3	D 66	W 62	D 19	L 17	W 59	D 35		16½
38.	ERVIN	R.	1325	L 21	L 43	W 64	D 27	D 40	W 65	D 34		16
39.	SILLS	R.	1498	L 32	D 34	L 7	L 41	W 66	W 52	W 51		15½
40.	BOHANAN	E.	1664	L 10	W 54	L 21	L 43	D 38	W 68	W 57		15+
41.	WONG	G.	u/r	L 27	L 53	W 65	W 39	L 22	W 57	D 47		15
42.	SHIELDS	E.	1804	L 14	W 55	L 5	W 49	W 30	L 13	L 28	3	20
43.	EYDAL	A.	1818	L 35	W 38	L 16	W 40	W 45	L 19	L 31		18½
44.	WELSH	D.	1845	W 68	L 6	W 58	L 10	W 60	L 23	L 25		17
45.	HINRICHSEN	D.	1660	L 19	L 17	W 69	W 52	L 43	L 25	W 59		16
46.	HUFNAGEL	F.	1866	W 66	W 52	L 4	L 6	L 31	W 50	-		15½+
47.	O'DOAN	L.	1703	L 20	L 60	W 55	W 68	D 35	L 26	D 41		15½
48.	MATTINGLY	M.	1724	L 4	W 67	L 11	L 60	W 62	W 61	L 22		15
49.	FOTIAS	C.	1655	L 12	L 36	W 71	L 42	D 52	D 53	W 64		13½
50.	MISHLER	T.	1646	W 29	L 10	L 26	L 25	W 68	L 46	D 53	2½	18
51.	GAZSE	M.	1773	L 24	W 71	L 29	W 59	D 28	L 16	L 39		17½

CALIF. OPEN - cont'd.

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
		Ratg.	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	Round	To.	Tieb.
52.	JAFFRAY	J. 2091	W 31	L 46	L 30	L 45	D 49	L 39	W 60	2½	17
53.	QUARVE	D. 1706	L 63	W 41	L 17	L 58	D 54	D 49	D 50		14½
54.	MILLS	M. 1747	W 36	L 40	L 61	L 18	D 53	L 55	W 67		14+
55.	BRETHEN	A. 1385	L 13	L 42	L 47	W 71	D 65	W 54	L 27		14
56.	NARCISI	J. 1283	L 26	L 25	L 18	L 62	D 67	W 69	W 65		13
57.	STELLMACHER	W. 1783	W 8	L 20	D 19	L 9	D 27	L 41	L 40	2	21
58.	HYDLE	H. u/r	W 17	L 32	L 44	W 53	L 19	L 27	E 33		18½
59.	DAWDY	C. 1538	L 11	L 8	W 67	L 51	W 64	L 37	L 45		16
60.	ANDREWS	M. u/r	L 61	W 47	L 28	W 48	L 44	L 30	L 52		15+
61.	HEFFERNAN	J. 1831	W 60	L 24	W 54	L 29	L 18	L 48	-		15
62.	STUART	W. u/r	L 7	L 31	L 37	W 56	L 48	L 64	W 69		14½
63.	SMITH	P. 2052	W 53	L 7	W 31	L 23	L 34	-	-		14
64.	HALE	J. 1778	L 15	L 68	L 38	W 69	L 59	W 62	L 49		11½
65.	THIESSEN	J. 1414	L 23	L 29	L 32	W 67	D 55	L 38	L 56	1½	16
66.	BARLOW	W. u/r	L 46	D 37	L 34	L 31	L 39	L 67	W 71		15½
67.	ALPERT	A. u/r	L 22	L 48	L 59	L 65	D 56	W 66	L 54		11
68.	EVANS	R. u/r	L 44	W 64	L 36	L 47	L 50	L 40	-	1	14
69.	FRASIEUR	L. 1240	L 9	L 30	L 45	L 64	W 71	L 56	L 62		13½
70.	HALL	W. u/r	-	-	-	-	-	W 71	-		
71.	BRIGGS	E. 938	L 28	L 51	L 49	L 55	L 69	L 70	L 66	0	

CAL OPEN POLKA DOTS

Vitaly RADAIKIN had the strongest opposition of all, as borne out by his tie-breaking points.....Some outside excitement stopped all games in progress in a late round, when a car parked outside the entrance caught on fire....No appreciable damage though....The unrated players produced one semi-dark horse in the form of Art CRITCHLOW..... Only one lady player, Miss Meredith ANDREWS on the scene. Missed seeing the regulars of Donna BRAGG, Joan BATCHELDER, Olga HIGGINS, Greta OLSSON, Line GRUMETTE, Mrs. BETTENCOURT et al.....Overheard around the boards: "Someone ought to form a Woodpushers Anonymous - where players could support each other in quitting chess".....Also: "Prizes should include some down-to-earth haircuts".....Overheard six times: "I've played the worst game of my life".....and, "I've played only the greatest game I've ever played".....

The new change of management at the Hacienda Motel indeed showed in handsome dividends. The service is much improved, the airconditioning is all fixed, a free champagne hour is instituted, and with an occasional exception, maintenance calls promptly answered. Even the service of watersupplies in the tournament room was constant. All in all, a very welcome change in the operation of the motel, which has been slipping in the last two or three years. Let's hope it sticks.

The tournament was directed by your editor.