

Curious Match Play

5/26/63

By George Koltanowski

Nothing is harder to win than a won game.—Adolph Albin, Chess Master.

Lode Prins, the Dutch Chess Master, writes an interesting chess column in the "Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant." Recently he told the story of the way the Dutch Chess Team was approached by the captain of a team they were going to play the next day at one of the Chess Olympics, and offered a rather high bribe if they would lose the next match by 4-0.

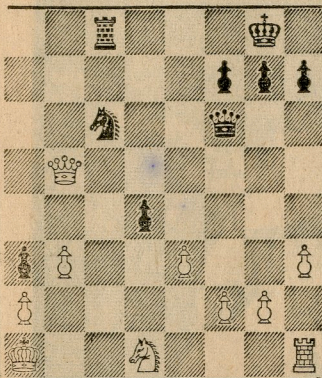
Astonished, they turned the offer down. The captain of the opposing team left flashing a sarcastic smile and telling them that they might just as well get something for playing, as they were going to lose all their games anyway.

Prins tells further that the Dutch team played like lions the next day and to the surprise of all nations present—and themselves—they beat the team in question: 2½-1½.

A few years ago, in the tournament of Sansouci, in which both Prins and I participated, the then national champion, a complete unknown even now, had managed to reach second place and in the final round had to compete against a weak opponent from his town.

This "fish" found good moves and to the astonishment of his countrymen, but to the delight of all the participating foreign masters, this Sansouicien even obtained an easy win, as the following position shows:

Black: Sansouicien



D-14

White: "Great" Champ

The "great" player did not think of resigning. Instead he left his board and met with a number of the committee members in a private "alcove." When he returned, he took a long time to study his position.

In the meantime one of the committee members lured his opponent away from the board and he was taken to the "alcove" where a big national crises was settled.

Upon his return to the board, the two players found a way for the "great" champ to win and stay in second

Last Move

With yesterday's 30th move in the Koltanowski-Keres chess match, the readers' participation aspect of the contest came to an end. Winners of the contest will be announced in The Chronicle on Saturday, June 1. So that the tabulation and judging can be concluded without interruption, chess fans are requested not to call Mr. Koltanowski before announcement of the winners is made.

place. Here are the moves that followed:

32. Q-B4 P-N3

Everyone knew that Black knew about 32 . . . N-K2 or N-R2 . . . he had been told about it!

33. PxP QxPch

Even now N-K2 or N-R2 does the trick.

34. QxQ NxQ

35. N-K3 P-B3

(N-B7ch leads to a draw.

36. K-N1 N-N4

37. R-QB1 RxRch

38. KxR N-B6

39. N-B4 NxPch

40. K-Q2

and White won.

This story has an after-

CHESS

math, that most of my co-master's know nothing about! A year later I was in Sansouci for exhibitions and one day I had to have a couple of teeth extracted so I went to this Dentist, who was the Sansouicien in question.

He still felt so badly about what had happened in this Sansouci tournament, especially as I had come in third, tied with Dr. Tartakower, (Lilienthal had come in first) that he not only extracted my teeth, but fixed me up with two gold ones free of charge!

★ ★ ★

The third National Chess Solving Competition, sponsored by the Paul Masson Vineyards of Saratoga, attracted 14,000 entries. The top prize, a large silver trophy, was won by Marshall Matteson, Hampton, Virginia . . . The key move, by the way, was 1.K-B1.

It is now certain that the 2nd Monterey County Open tournament sponsored by the Salinas Chess Club, and co-sponsored by Chess Friends of Northern California, will be held in Salinas on Saturday and Sunday, June 8-9.

It is a five-round Swiss. First round starts at 12 noon on Saturday, June 8. Entry fee \$4 for members of CNFC; \$7 for non-members. Send entries, hotel reservations to Sam Lowe, 312 Noice Drive, Salinas, Calif.