

# THE CHESS PLAYER

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

**TASK No. 74—By Montgomery  
Major, Oak Park, Illinois  
(Original to THE ARGONAUT)**



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN  
(Value 5 points)

Answer to Task No. 72: Q-K4.

Answer to Task No. 74 should be postmarked not later than June 25. Two variations should be given.

**M**R. J. B. SLAVICH of Marysville is well-known to California chess players as a devoted follower of our beloved game. Mr. Slavich is a teacher of music, and it is noteworthy that love of music and chess frequently go together. We recently received from Mr. Slavich the following interesting note:

"Now and then one comes across that rare type of teacher who is beloved by all for his devotion to his students. Donald Thieler, principal of Lincoln Elementary School, Yuba City, is one of those persons. I know him as an average player who sees a Keatsian beauty in chess, who wants others to share the pleasure of that beauty. A few years ago he introduced chess to his eighth grade students as a rainy day, noon-hour activity (also to purge the demon comic-book). Now chess is a major recreational activity in the school program. It is a gladsome sight to see youngsters exercising their wits in such a profitable sport. . . .

"The teaching of chess in the county schools has been recently undertaken by the Recreation Department of the Sutter County Board of Education. We are using Mr. Keckhut's manual which we obtained through the Los Angeles Department of Recreation. . . . Recently the Sutter County Recreation Department sponsored a chess and checker tournament. Results of the finals were: Bruce Adams, Lincoln, 6-1; Marian Thompson, Lincoln, 5½-1½; Jimmy Uyemoto, Lincoln, 5-2; Larry Phipps, Lincoln, 3½-3½; Wilma Miller, Lincoln, 3-4; Armid Cline, Encinal, 3-4; Sally Bailey, Lincoln, 2-5; Carlyle Westbury, Lincoln, 0-7."

(Other counties would do well to follow the example set by Sutter County.—Ed.)

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Word was received on June 2 from Mr. Folke Rogard of Stockholm, president of the International Chess Federation, that the Soviet Union had accepted the date of July 15 for the meeting of the Soviet and American teams in New York City. Play will be on eight boards, and the Russians are planning to bring a delegation of 15 players, including the World Champion, Mikhail Botvinnik. Before the match is assured, however, it is necessary that the State Department in Washington issue the necessary visas for the Soviet players.

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Play between Samuel Reshevsky and Miguel Najdorf in Buenos Aires began on schedule. Reshevsky won the first game in 42 moves, playing the white pieces against a King's Indian defense. Najdorf declined an offer of a draw on the nineteenth move, and Reshevsky declined a similar offer on the twenty-eighth move! The end of the game was marked by a desperate time-scramble.

The match will consist of 18 games, as last year's match, which Reshevsky won in decisive fashion.

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Northern California defeated southern California by a score of 34-27 in the annual team match at San Luis Obispo May 31. This was the biggest match to date, 122 players meeting at 61 boards. The South had a decisive margin on the top ten boards, scoring 6½-3½, but the strong middle boards of the North more than made up for the deficit at the top. In the preliminary rapid transit tournament, Ray Martin of Santa Monica and Walter Pafnutieff of San Francisco tied for first and second, becoming co-champions for the year at rapid play.

The following short game occurred at board five. R. E. Burger of Lafayette catches Louis Spinner of Los Angeles in a gambit variation of the French defense.

#### FRENCH DEFENSE

White—R. E. Burger      Black—L. Spinner

1. P-K4	P-K3	8. QxP	Q-R5ch
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	9. P-KKt3	QxQP
3. Kt-QB3	B-Kt5	10. Kt-Kt5	Q-K4ch
4. Kt-K2	PxP	11. B-K3	P-QR3
5. P-QR3	BxKtch	12. O-O-O!	K-B2
6. KtxB	P-KB4?	13. B-Q4	Resigns
7. P-KB3	PxP		

Mr. Spinner evidently was not familiar with this gambit line, which was made famous in a game played by former World Champion Alexander Alekhine against A. Nimzowitsch at Bled in 1931. That game lasted a few more moves than the one above, but was the shortest defeat of Nimzowitsch in that great master's entire career!