

# THE CHESS PLAYER

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

TASK No. 55—By G. N. Cheney



WHITE MATES IN FOUR MOVES  
(Value 7 points)

Answer to Task No. 53: K-R5.

We don't often give four-movers, but Task No. 55 is so pretty and ingenious we can't resist it. It was published in *American Chess Nuts* in 1861. Answer should be postmarked not later than February 12, and a complete sequence leading to mate should be given.

**M**R. NEIL E. FALCONER, of Berkeley and San Francisco, is a young attorney and one of the strongest chess players in the State of California.

Mr. Falconer is a graduate of the University of California. He was captain of the university chess team during the years 1940-42 and 1947-49, playing first board for the team. In 1948 he won third prize in the California State Championship tournament, and in 1950 won the first prize in the strong Castle Chess Club tournament. Mr. Falconer's greatest success came in 1951, when he won the California State Open Championship in a field of 43 players at Santa Cruz.

The exciting game given below was played in 1941, in a team match between the University of California and the Castle Chess Club. Mr. Falconer's opponent, John Tippin, was for many years one of the leading players in California, and winner of numerous prizes in important tournaments. The notes are by Mr. Falconer.

# RUY LOPEZ

White	Black
<i>N. E. Falconer</i>	<i>J. Tippin</i>
1. P-K4	P-K4
2. Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3
3. B-Kt5	P-QR3
4. B-R4	P-Q3
5. P-B4	P-B4
6. P-Q4	BPxP
7. KtxP!	PxKt
8. Q-R5ch	P-Kt3
9. QxKPch	K-B2
10. BxKt?	—

Inferior, but Black's entire line was a surprise to me, and I was hoping for 10. . . . B-Kt2.

10. —	PxB
11. QxR	Kt-B3

Threatening to win White's Queen in one move by 12. . . . B-Kt5ch, and in two moves by 12. . . . Q-Q2 and 13. . . . B-Kt2.

12. Kt-B3	Q-Q2?
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QxP would give Black a good game.

13. KtxP!	KtxKt
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If now 13. . . . B-Kt2, 14. Kt-Kt5ch wins.

14. QxPch	B-Kt2
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15. B-R6	QxP
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16. O-O	Q-B3
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16. . . . B-B4 was necessary, though White could then force a won ending.

17. QR-K1	Kt-Kt4
18. R-K7ch!!	KxR
If 18. . . . QxR; 19. QxBch, K-K1; 20. Q-Kt8ch, K-Q2; 21. R-Q1ch wins.	
19. BxKt	QxB
20. QxBch	K-Q3
21. R-Q1ch	K-B4
22. Q-Q4ch	K-Kt5
23. Q-B3ch	Resigns

For White mates in two.

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Imre König, well-known chess master and author, will give a simultaneous exhibition at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, 57 Post Street, San Francisco, on Saturday evening, January 31, at 7:45. Visitors are welcome.

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In the "B" division of the San Francisco Bay Area Chess League, Mechanics' Institute and Golden Gate chess teams played a hard-fought draw, 3½-3½.

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#### SOLVERS' LADDER

The present list includes standings through Task No. 51. Twenty solvers who have not sent in solutions for two months or more have been dropped from the list. They will be reinstated, with full scores, as soon as solutions are received from them.

#### Points

- 162—Hubert G. Webb, Pasadena.
- 161—Dr. Mark Eudey, Berkeley.
- 107—Henry Gross, San Francisco.
- 105—Lee Kerfoot, Modesto.
- 84—Eric S. Bergstrom, San Jose.
- 81—Jerald Slavich, Marysville.
- 71—Boris Popoff, San Francisco.
- 54—Guthrie McClain, Berkeley.
- 46—Kenton Chambers, Stanford.
- 39—Neil T. Austin, Sacramento.
- 28—Joseph D. Hill, San Francisco.

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