

# THE CALIFORNIA CHESS REPORTER

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### GIL RAMIREZ WINS CALIFORNIA OPEN

Seventeen-year-old Gilbert Ramirez of San Francisco won the 1956 Open, held at the Hotel Carrillo in Santa Barbara, September 1-3, over 96 competitors. Ramirez headed a group of three players with 6-1 scores by virtue of S-B tie-breaking points. Second and third were Kurt Bendit, also from San Francisco, and Bobby Cross of Santa Monica.

Ramirez won \$93.33 and the California State Chess Federation trophy. Bendit and Cross also won \$93.33, the first three prizes of \$120, \$90 and \$70 being divided equally. Fourth with 5½ points was William Addison of San Francisco. Fifth through tenth prizes were shared by 14 players: Phil Smith (Fresno), Charles Bagby (S.F.), Robert Brieger (San Diego), D.J. Foley (San Jose), Harry Borochow (Los Angeles), Joe Mego (L.A.), Larry Remlinger (Long Beach), Roger Smook (Berkeley), Horst Bullwinkel (S.F.), Tom Fries (Fresno), George Hunnex (Elsinore), Robion Kirby (Chicago and San Diego), Jack Hursch (Berkeley), and Charles Henderson (Beverly Hills). The prize money (all the entry fees except \$5 for expenses) totaled \$475.

THE CALIFORNIA OPEN - ROUND BY ROUND

The 1956 Open got under way at slightly after 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, September 1. The Garden Room of the Hotel Carrillo had been a madhouse ever since 8 o'clock that morning when the sign-up began. By dint of hard work at the director's table, lots of assistance from various hands, and admirable patience on the part of the contestants, the unwieldy field of 96 players had paid their fees, been counted and paired, and had been tagged with name cards by the Chamber of Commerce in a couple of hours, more or less.

ROUND I - 10:30 A.M. Saturday:

Much interest was evidenced in the pairing of the first round. This was done by sorting out the players into two groups--called "sheep and goats" for lack of a better term--so that no two potential prizewinners would meet under the 30-move-an-hour time limit. Everyone wanted to know whether he was a "sheep" or a "goat." The result of such a round, when perfectly paired and played accordingly, would be an alternating 1,0,1,0... etc. The 48 games of the first round contained eight "upsets" as represented by an "0" instead of a "1" and five draws instead of positive results, so that only 35 games went according to plan. Part of this was due to the unusually large number of players; and therein lies the tale of the biggest upset of the round, the loss of Dr. Eugene Levin to Donald J. Foley of San Jose. The remarkable thing about this, besides the fact that one of California's most talented players lost to a newcomer, is that, as related to us by Mr. Foley, it was that gentleman's first tournament game! The other upsets were of a minor nature. Some were because the director goofed in the pairing, as in the Levin-Foley matter, others were pure and simple overturning of the dope bucket.

ROUND II - 2:30 P.M. Saturday:

In the second round the time limit was still 30 moves per hour, and "sheep" were paired with "goats" as far as the supply permitted. There were only four real upsets in the round; the most startling was the win by Kurt Bendit of San Francisco over Henry Gross (but in view of Bendit's eventual second place in the tournament it perhaps should not be called an "upset"). Other upsets: Spencer Van Gelder of San Francisco, over Ken Jones of Reno; Kyle Forrest of Manhattan Beach over Al Raymond of Lancaster; and John Thompson (Torrance) over Prexy George F. Goshler (Los Angeles). After two rounds, the following players had perfect 2-0 scores: W.G. Addison (San Francisco), Bobby Cross (Santa Monica), Bendit, Larry Remlinger (Long Beach), Charles Bagby (San Francisco), Roger Smook (Berkeley), Irving Rivise (Los Angeles), Harry Borochow (Los Angeles), Phil

Smith (Fresno), Dr. Peter Lapiken (Los Angeles), Louis Spinner (Los Angeles), Sven Almgren (Los Angeles), Jack Hursch (Berkeley), Ronnie Cross (Compton), John Demos (Hayward), Gil Ramirez (San Francisco), Dr. A. Janushkowsky (Sacramento), Van Gelder, and Tom Fries (Fresno).

ROUND III - 8:30 P.M. Saturday:

As the time limit reverted to the more leisurely 40 moves in two hours, heads began to collide as the leaders met. The featured pairings were: Addison-Cross, a draw; Bagby-Remlinger, a draw; Rivise-Snook, won by Rivise; Borochoy-Smith, won by Smith; Spinner-Lapiken, won by Lapiken; Almgren-R. Cross, Demos-Ramirez and Fries-Janushkowsky, all draws; and Hursch-Bendit, won by Bendit. This left Rivise, Smith, Bendit and Lapiken the only 3-0 players--a remarkable reduction of the 96 players in only three rounds.

There were two forfeits in Round III: Ray Richards of Sacramento failed to recover in time from an afternoon nap; and elderly M.O. Johnson of Healdsburg withdrew from the tournament. (Here, we would like to make an appeal to any reader who might know Mr. Johnson, to let us know the state of his health.)

As the first day's play drew to an end, the Tournament Director discovered that he was running out of score sheets. A profligate use of carbon copies for scores to turn in by both players of a game had nearly wiped out a 1000-sheet supply. An urgent telephone call was made to Isaac Kashdan in Tujunga, who was expected to visit the area on Sunday. "Kash" promised to beg, borrow or steal 400 or 500 sheets and have them in Santa Barbara in time for Sunday night's round. (Mr. Kashdan was as good as his word, and the scoresheets arrived as scheduled--courtesy of Mrs. Herman Steiner and the Herman Steiner Chess Group of Hollywood. Thanks, Selma, for helping us out of a tight spot; but where did you get those blue numbers with 14 moves to a sheet? From the attic?)

ROUND IV - 12:30 P.M. Sunday:

After the arduous first day, the players had a morning off. Refreshed and ready to go again, they faced a critical pair of rounds--the stretch run where the leaders who would battle for the title would emerge from the pack. The select pairings for the fourth round were Bendit-Lapiken and Smith-Rivise, the 3-pointers; although still to be reckoned with were  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -ers: Ramirez-Brieger, Logwood-Addison, Janushkowsky-Bagby, Remlinger-Demos, R. Cross-Fries, and Cross-Almgren. Lapiken beat Bendit to go out in front, while Smith and Rivise drew and joined the ranks of those with  $3\frac{1}{2}$  points, Ramirez, Addison, Fries and Cross.

ROUND V - 7:30 P.M. Sunday:

The only 4-pointer, Pete Lapiken, was matched with the  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -pointer with the highest Solkoff points, Bill Addison. It didn't look at that stage as though neither Lapiken nor Addison would share in the title, but that three lower-ranked players would take the honors. Paired with  $3\frac{1}{2}$  points were Cross (one of the three winners) vs. Rivise, Ramirez (the outright first place winner) vs. Smith, and Fries-Remlinger (a 3-pointer). The third of the three winners, Bendit, was paired lower down with another 3-pointer, Bullwinkel. When Lapiken lost to Addison, the leadership of the large field of entries was thrown into confusion. Addison, with  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , was tied with Cross, who beat Rivise, and Ramirez, who beat Smith. Other scores: Fries  $\frac{1}{2}$  Remlinger  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Bagby 1 Levin 0; Smook 0 Borochoy 1; Janushkowsky 0 Foley 1; Bendit 1 Bullwinkel 0; Colby 0 Hunnex 1; Burke 0 Mego 1; Fisher 0 Henderson 1; Almgren 0 Brieger 1.

ROUND VI - 9:30 A.M. Monday:

The pairings for the first round of "getaway day" were up on the blackboard bright and early. Addison was paired with Ramirez, while the other player having  $4\frac{1}{2}$  points, Cross, had the Black pieces against Lapiken, the erstwhile leader. When Ramirez and Cross won, the stage was set for the title-determining game of the last round. (In a 7-round Swiss, this is the best the tournament director can hope for. If either player wins the game, then he is the clear-cut champion. If they play a draw, as actually happened, the road may be clear for an "intruder" to enter the picture; but this cannot be avoided. Besides, it frequently happens that one or both of the leaders can beat out the "intruder" on tie-breaking points.)

Other results: D. Foley 0 Bendit 1; Hunnex 1 Borochoy 0 (an upset!); Mego  $\frac{1}{2}$  Bagby  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Henderson 1 Fries 0; Remlinger 1 Rivise 0; Smith 1 Demos 0. The first adjudications in the history of the California Open were made at the conclusion of this round. It has previously been possible to avoid adjudications, but this time there were some difficult games in progress when the time came to pair the last round. Fortunately, on hand were grandmaster Isaac Kasdan and international master Imre König to adjudicate, and their rulings were admittedly fair. It was decided to call the adjudications "tentative, for pairing purposes," with the players having the option of accepting the adjudication and standing on the result, or adjourning until time could be found to finish (it was by no means sure that such time could be found). There were seven adjudications, all told, and four were accepted without question. The other three were of the sort that everyone would have preferred to see played

out: Mego-Bagby was a middle-game position with each side having Queen and two Rooks, and Black in the middle of an attack which up to that time had been parried successfully; Remlinger-Rivise was an end game with White ahead a piece for two Pawns; H. Gross-Weinbaum was an ending with Queen and Bishop each, where White had a won Queen-side pawn position providing he could stop Black's checks. The adjudications were for a draw in Mego-Bagby and wins for Remlinger and H. Gross. At the time, Mego and Bagby failed to state whether or not they both accepted the adjudication; while Rivise and Weinbaum discussed their chances with the adjudicators for a time, whereupon they both sportingly accepted the adjudication. As play went on in the next round, Bagby soon arrived at a draw and had time to look at his adjourned game. Finding a tricky line he wished to try out over the board, and learning that there would be two hours or more before the tournament would be over, he put in an official request to resume play with Mego. Alas! By this time, Mego had finished his game and had left the room. By the time he was located, he had made up his mind to accept the adjudication (after all, he was on the defense) and was reluctant to resume play in a tournament he had thought was all over. The upshot of the matter was that a players' committee was appointed (Henry Gross, Charles Henderson and Bobby Cross) to decide whether or not Mego should be forced to play out the game at this late hour. Bagby and Mego argued their cases, and Mego pointed out that he had been given to understand by the tournament director at the conclusion of his seventh game that he would not be required to play. The players' committee ruled that the fairest thing to do was to allow Mego one hour for analysis (to even up the extra time Bagby had enjoyed) and then the two players would resume for one hour's play. This was not acceptable to Mego, who claimed Bagby had had assistance in his analysis, and there was the makings of a first-class hassel until the matter was settled by Bagby's sporting withdrawal of his claim.

#### ROUND VII - 3:30 P.M. Monday:

The center of interest, of course, was the clash between the two leaders, Cross and Ramirez. As is usual in the last round, the scores turned in by the "horses" were all-important; and Ramirez evidently had a pretty good count of the tie-breaking points, for he played carefully and soon had a draw which ensured first place (although the cash was divided equally). Bendit completed his intrusion into the ranks of the winners, after having been almost knocked out of the running by his fourth-round loss to Lapiken, by beating Hunnex and nosing out Cross for second place. Addison won a clear fourth position with  $5\frac{1}{2}$  points by defeating Henderson (who

had already startled his friends by flying so high--after losing to Smook in Round I, Charlie won five straight games!).

Bagby drew with Smith, Mego drew with Remlinger, Bullwinkel beat Lapiken (Pete's third loss in a row, after winning his first four games), Borochoy beat Rinaldo, Raymond lost to Smook, Brieger won from Reed, D. Foley beat Colby, Hursch beat Logwood and Kirby won from Earnest.

At the late hour of 9 o'clock, the last game was over and the S-B points figured. In a short ceremony, the remaining prizewinners (several had already hit the road for home) were presented with the booty, as follows:

<u>Prize</u>		<u>Paid</u>
1 - \$120 and Trophy	Gil Ramirez	\$93.33
2 - 90	Kurt Bendit	93.33
3 - 70	Bobby Cross	93.33
4 - 55	Bill Addison	55.00
5 to 10 - 140	(14 players)	10.00 ea.

The total prize fund was \$475. A total of \$480 was received in entry fees, a charge for expenses accounting for \$5. To complete the financial picture: The California State Chess Federation is richer for the receipt of \$125 in membership dues. It will pay for the trophy for the winner, a matter of about \$20, and will pay two special \$5 prizes for the best games played in the tournament.

The 1956 California Open concluded with the presentation of a purse to the tournament director by the players, in appreciation of an enjoyable tournament.

The 1956 Open was a huge success by all ordinary standards. While it is recognized that Santa Barbara, one of the world's loveliest cities, should always draw a good attendance, this Open drew nearly as many players as the U.S. Open Championship at Oklahoma City, 1956! Credit for this accomplishment is due Mrs. Charles Henderson; Lyn became the publicity director of the CSCF this year, and did a magnificent job in publicizing the tournament. She caused invitations to be sent to some 200 players and obtained fine coverage, both story and photographs, in the local papers.

This writer hereby thanks those who made things easier for him and for the players: international master Imre Konig, who refereed the play daily; international grandmaster Isaac Kashdan, who adjudicated some difficult games and came through with the vitally-needed scoresheets; LeRoy Johnson, who saved the day at the registration table on the first day and took over the scoring more than once

while the director got some fresh air; Ed Fisher, Dr. Bruce Collins, Eugene Steiner, and several others, who helped with the scoring, the pairing, and the work at the blackboard; and Charlie and Lyn Henderson, who were everywhere when they were needed. Nevertheless, we must complain about Lyn's activities having given us too much work. For the first time since directing California Opens, we failed to have a swim, moonlight or otherwise. The fact of the matter is, 96 players are simply too many for a seven-round tournament. It is too large a field to determine first place with any degree of accuracy, let alone second and third; and the mechanics of pairing that many players within the very short times scheduled between rounds is a prodigious job.

It is perhaps going to be necessary to split up the field somehow in California Opens of the future. After the initial sign-up, and while the first round was being paired, Irving Rivise, chairman of the Board of the CSCF, conducted a meeting of the players in order to decide on the merits of a plan he originated. The plan was to offer a Premier Reserve or Amateur section to those players who preferred to compete for a trophy and limited cash prizes in a field which would exclude Masters and Experts. The idea was that if a quarter or a third of the entry list volunteered to play in such a section, any Masters or Experts present would be screened out, and a separate tournament set up. We would then have two more nearly manageable tournaments, in which the seven rounds would work better in picking the winners.

Practically nobody would go for the idea. Evidently the players pay their money in order to get a crack at the Masters and Experts!

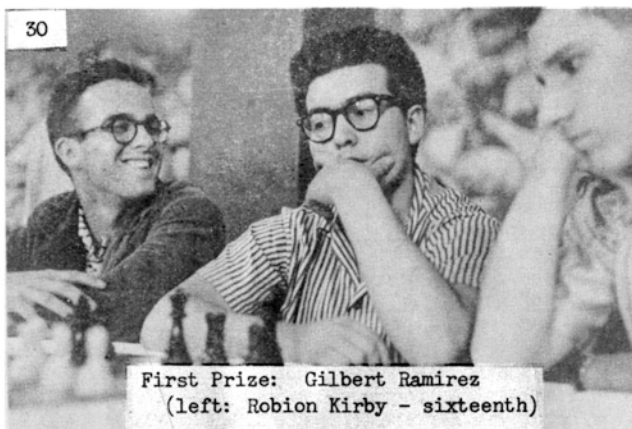
CALIFORNIA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP - Santa Barbara, September 1-3, 1956

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	Adj.	S-B
1. G Ramirez, San Fran.	W56	W33	D20	W7	W5	W4	D3	6	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	
2. K Bendit, San Fran.	W52	W29	W17	L32	W13	W8	W15	6	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	
3. R Cross, Sta. Monica	W50	W37	D4	W25	W19	W32	D1	6	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	
4. W Addison, SF	W22	W8	D3	W26	W32	L1	W18	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	
5. P Smith, Fresno	W94	W45	W9	D19	L1	W20	D6	5	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	
6. C Bagby, SF	W83	W21	D11	D38	W39	D10	D5	5	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	
7. R Brieger, San Diego	W53	D26	W34	L1	W25	D17	W33	5	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	
8. D Foley, San Jose	W39	L4	W22	W30	W38	L2	W31	5	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	
9. H Borochow, Los Angeles	W80	W43	L5	W29	W12	L15	W37	5	20	
10. J Mego, Los Angeles	W35	L32	W43	W47	W58	D6	D11	5	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	
11. L Remlinger, Long Bch.	W82	W69	D6	D20	D14	W19	D10	5	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	
12. R Smook, Berkeley	W18	W86	L19	W40	L9	W38	W35	5	19	

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	S-B
13.	H Bullwinkel, SF	D61	W73	D30	W64	L2	W68	W32	5	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
14.	T Fries, Fresno	W93	W66	D38	W24	D11	L18	W29	5	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
15.	G Hunnex, Elsinore	W90	L19	W77	W52	W31	W9	L2	5	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
16.	R Kirby, Lemon Grove	D59	D62	L58	W81	W30	W60	W27	5	16
17.	J Hursch, Berkeley	W91	W70	L2	D23	W62	D7	W26	5	15 $\frac{3}{4}$
18.	C Henderson, Bev.Hills	L12	W95	W86	W73	W68	W14	L4	5	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
19.	I Rivise, LA	W71	W15	W12	D5	L3	L11	W28	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	19
20.	J Demos, Oakland	W75	W46	D1	D11	D24	L5	W49	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$
21.	E Mueller, Campbell	W48	L6	W69	L31	W40	D23	W56	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
22.	L Johnson, LA	L4	W71	L8	W42	D75	W61	W47	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{3}{4}$
23.	S Geller, LA	L66	W93	W80	D17	D26	D21	W48	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
24.	R Gross, Compton	W87	W74	D25	L14	D20	D48	W57	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
25.	S Almgren, LA	W92	W77	D24	L3	L7	W62	W46	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
26.	E Logwood, SF	W44	D7	W60	L4	D23	W39	L17	4	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
27.	J Earnest, So. Pasadena	W41	D30	W61	L39	W54	D28	L16	4	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
28.	R Cuneo, Oakland	L32	W79	W49	D33	W34	D27	L19	4	14
29.	H Gross, SF	W57	L2	W37	L9	W70	W59	L14	4	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
30.	L Standers, Burbank	W54	D27	D13	L8	L16	W65	W64	4	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
31.	Dr K Colby, Mill Valley	L46	W90	W41	W21	L15	W63	L8	4	13
32.	Dr P Lapiken, LA	W28	W10	W40	W2	L4	L3	L13	4	13
33.	R Reed, Inglewood	W42	L1	W81	D28	D60	W67	L7	4	13
34.	S Van Gelder, SF	W47	W64	L7	D44	L28	D36	W59	4	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
35.	A Raymond, Lancaster	L10	L88	W71	W69	W45	W44	L12	4	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
36.	Dr B Weininger, Ojai	L69	W57	L44	W82	D56	D34	W60	4	12 $\frac{1}{4}$
37.	J Rinaldo, Long Beach	W72	L3	L29	W77	W52	W58	L9	4	12
38.	Dr A Janushkowsky, Sacto	W88	W81	D14	D6	L8	L12	W71	4	11
39.	Dr E Levin, Inglewood	L8	W91	W70	W27	L6	L26	W69	4	11
40.	L Spinner, Montrose	W89	W49	L32	L12	L21	W70	W67	4	11
41.	W Taber, Reno	L27	W72	L31	L59	W81	W86	W58	4	10
42.	R Richards, Sacramento	L33	W92	F64	L22	W79	W89	W68	4	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
43.	C R Wilson, Berkeley	W84	L9	L10	L45	W91	W92	W63	4	7
44.	J Thompson, Torrance	L26	W51	W36	D34	D63	L35	D50	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
45.	R Koutz, LA	W79	L5	L74	W43	L35	W72	D51	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
46.	V Bloomfield, Berkeley	W31	L20	L73	D49	W88	W54	L25	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
47.	J Barnes, Fort Ord	L34	W53	W88	L10	D51	W55	L22	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
48.	E Lindstrom, Hollywood	L21	L75	W72	W90	W65	D24	L23	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
49.	F Crofut, San Jose	W85	L40	L28	D46	W53	W73	L20	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
50.	H Edelstein, San Carlos	L3	L76	D53	W78	W89	D51	D44	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
51.	G F Goehler, LA	L81	L44	W87	W83	D47	D50	D45	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
52.	N Robinson, LA	L2	W83	W66	L15	L37	D74	W73	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
53.	D Karpilowsky, Bev Hills	L7	L47	D50	W94	L49	W76	W78	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
54.	A Critchlow, Los Gatos	L30	W85	W65	D67	L27	L46	W75	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$



	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	S-B
55. L Gross, Compton	F47	L65	W78	L60	W85	L47	W74	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8
56. E Steiner, LA	L1	L58	W91	W66	D36	W95	L21	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6
57. F Hufnagel, LA	L29	L36	W95	W86	D73	W75	L24	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
58. F Burke, LA	L73	W56	W16	W74	L10	L37	L41	3 11
59. S Weinbaum, LA	D16	L60	D76	W41	W74	L29	L34	3 10 $\frac{1}{4}$
60. Capt E Edmondson, MthrFld	D63	W59	L26	W55	D33	L16	L36	3 10
61. R Clark, Long Beach	D13	W67	L27	L63	W76	L22	D62	3 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
62. R Lorber, Reseda	D68	D16	D63	W76	L17	L25	D61	3 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
63. C Huneke, SF	D60	D68	D62	W61	D44	L31	L43	3 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
64. K R Jones, Reno	W65	L34	W42	L13	L67	W85	L30	3 9
65. F Gross, La Canada	L64	W55	L54	W80	L48	L30	W86	3 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
66. G Castleberry, LA	W23	L14	L52	L56	L80	W82	W85	3 8
67. P Meyer, LA	D55	L61	W94	D54	W64	L33	L40	3 8
68. E Fisher, Torrance	D62	D63	W82	W75	L18	L13	L42	3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
69. K Reissmann, Hawthorne	W36	L11	L21	L35	W82	W91	L39	3 7
70. C B Walker, Arlington	W76	L17	L39	W79	L29	L40	W88	3 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
71. W Rebold, Berkeley	L19	L22	L35	W93	W83	W80	L38	3 6
72. B Thach, Long Beach	L37	L41	L48	W92	W77	L45	W81	3 6
73. A Munson, San Diego	W58	L13	W46	L18	D57	L49	L52	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
74. H Rosenbaum, SF	W96	L24	W45	L58	L59	D52	L55	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
75. Dr B Collins, Sta. Monica	L20	W48	W89	L68	D22	L57	L54	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{4}$
76. G Bingaman, FPO SF	L70	W50	D59	L62	L61	L53	W89	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $\frac{3}{4}$
77. R Freeman, Oakland	W78	L25	L15	L37	L72	W90	D79	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
78. D Stewardson, Monterey	L77	D94	L55	L50	W84	W88	L53	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4
79. R Walker, Portland, Ore	L45	L28	W93	L70	L42	W87	D77	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
80. E H Yaggie, SF	L9	W87	L23	L65	W66	F71		2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
81. H King, SF	W51	L38	L33	L16	L41	W93	L72	2 4
82. Dr E Kupka, Berkeley	L11	W96	L68	L36	L69	L66	W91	2 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
83. C Fotias, Visalia	L6	L52	W92	L51	L71	W84		2 3
84. M George, Long Beach	L43	L89	L90	W96	L78	L83	W95	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
85. Mrs O Higgins, Sta Brbra	L49	L54	W96	W95	L55	L64	L66	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
86. P Foley, San Jose	W95	L12	L18	L57	W90	L41	L65	2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
87. R Seiden, Glendale	L24	L80	L51	L91	W95	L79	W92	2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
88. K Forrest, Manhattan Bch	L38	W35	L47	D89	L46	L78	L70	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 $\frac{3}{4}$
89. E Lien, Berkeley	L40	W84	L75	D88	L50	L42	L76	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
90. J Blaney, Arcadia	L15	L31	W84	L48	L86	L77		1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
91. R Seltzer, Bev. Hills	L17	L39	L56	W87	L43	L69	L82	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
92. H Chamness, Wilmington	L25	L42	L83	L72	W93	L43	F87	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
93. D Webster, Redondo Bch	L14	L23	L79	L71	L92	L81	Bye	1 -
94. Mrs G Piatigorsky, LA	L5	D78	L67	L53				$\frac{1}{2}$ 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
95. Mrs O Lindstrom, Hollywd	L86	L18	L57	L85	L87	L56	L84	0 -
96. M O Johnson, Healdsburg	L74	L82	F85	F84				0 -



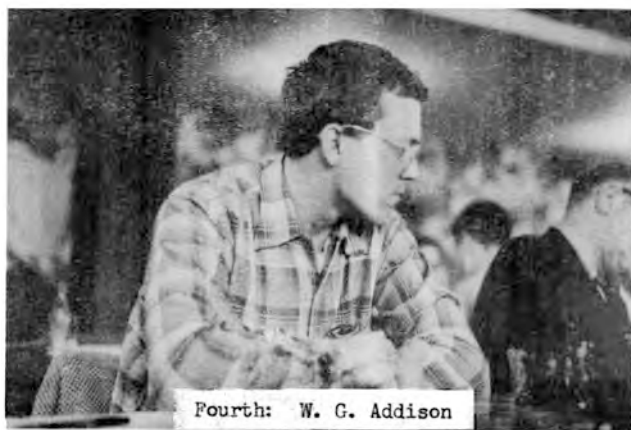
First Prize: Gilbert Ramirez  
(left: Robion Kirby - sixteenth)



Second: Kurt Bendit



Third: Robert G. Cross (1954 photo)



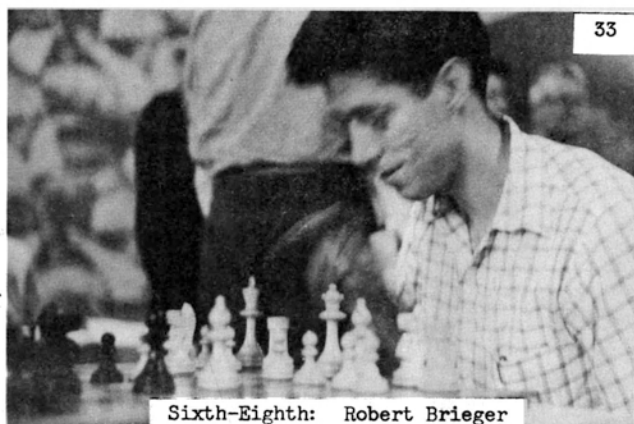
Fourth: W. G. Addison



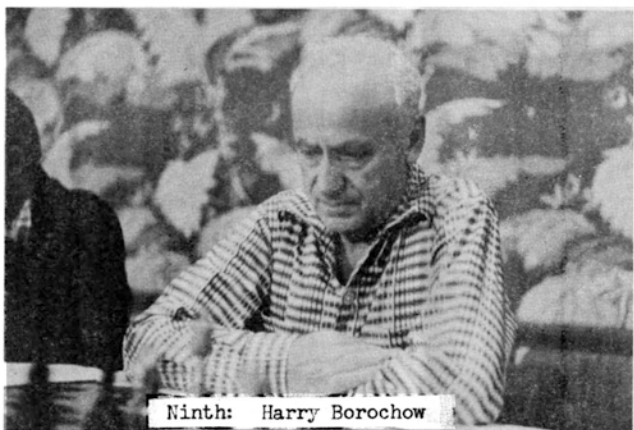
Fifth: Philip D. Smith (right: Dr. K. Colby)



Sixth-Eighth: Charles Bagby



Sixth-Eighth: Robert Brieger



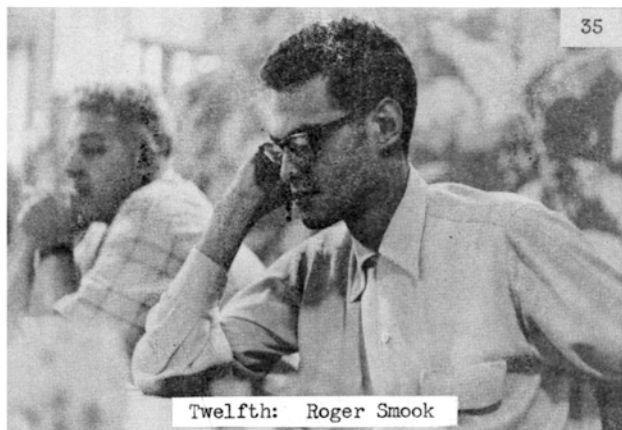
Ninth: Harry Borochoff



Tenth: Joe Mego



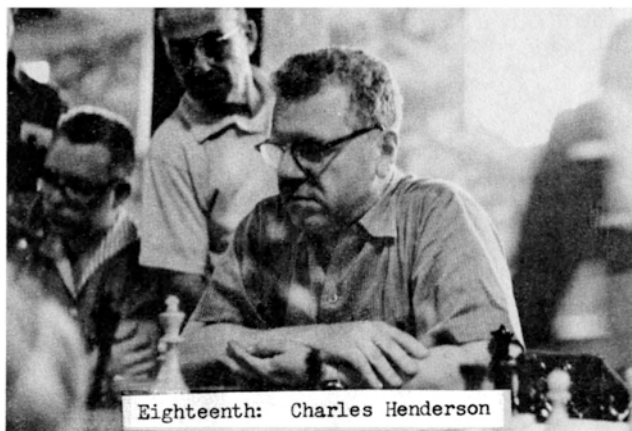
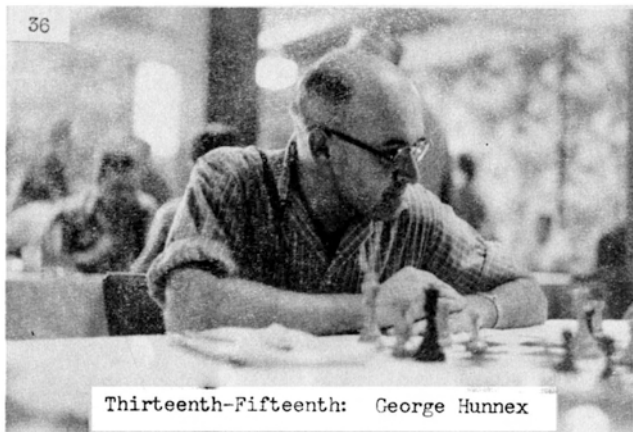
Eleventh: Larry Remlinger (1955 photo)



Twelfth: Roger Smook



Thirteenth-Fifteenth: Hurst Bullwinkel





U.S. TO HOST CHESS OLYMPICS

A postal card from USCF President Frank Graves in Moscow informs us that his bid to hold the 1958 Chess Olympiad in the U.S. has been accepted by the International Chess Federation (FIDE). This will be an important "first" for U.S. chess and we warmly congratulate our genial president.

VALLEY OF THE MOON CHESS FESTIVAL, SONOMA, AUGUST 12, 1956

The annual Sonoma chess festival drew a record attendance of 213 this year. The tournament, again split into groups of four players each in Classes A, B, and C, was directed by international master George Koltanowski, with the able assistance of Mrs. Leah Koltanowski. Promotion for the popular event was under the direction of Mrs. Lois McVeigh of the Sonoma Chamber of Commerce.

Prizes were awarded on the basis of the most rating points gained. Jack Strong of Napa won the Class A trophy, Dr. Harold Kletschka of Parks A.F.B. won Class B, Harry Steiner of Oakland won Class C, and Roy Hoopoe of San Francisco won the junior trophy. The prize for traveling the longest distance to Sonoma was awarded Jerry Spann of Oklahoma City (who was the host of the USCF Open Championship, 1956).

SAN BRUNO WINS CHESS FRIENDS TEAM TITLE

A belated report dating back to June, 1956, finds the Evans Chess Club of San Bruno winning the interclub championship over the Piedmont Chess Club, East Bay titleholders, by a score of 4-2. The scores:

Piedmont 2, San Bruno 4: 1) R. Smook 1, W. Hendricks 0; 2) W. Rebold 1, L. Tomori 0; 3) H. Thomas 0, Nancy McLeod 1; 4) J. Schmerl 0, D. McLeod 1; 5) Dr. Schmerl 0, A. Turner 1; 6) Forfeit, A. McNeil 1.

STATE WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP ANNOUNCED

Plans are under way for a California State Championship for Women to be held at the Herman Steiner Chess Club, Hollywood, in mid-November. The CSCF will offer a championship trophy and a southern California committee is raising a cash prize fund. It is hoped that Sonja Graf (international master), Nancy Roos, Jacqueline Piatigorsky, Lena Grumette, Helen Ivanoff, Nancy McLeod, Olga Higgins and others will compete. Entrants should write Lena Grumette, 1539 Laurel Ave., Los Angeles, for particulars.

MORE ON THE RATING SYSTEM

Our article on ratings in the August issue drew a number of replies, the most important of which is a letter from Kenneth Harkness, author of the USCF system in use. Because this issue is jam-packed with Santa Barbara news, rating correspondence will be postponed to October. In the meantime, we publish below at the request of the president of the CSCF the minutes of a meeting held at Santa Barbara.

First Meeting of the CSCF Rating Committee, August 31, 1956:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 P.M. by President George F. Goehler. Rating Committee members present: Guthrie Mc Clain (SF), Henry Gross (SF), Kyle Forrest (Manhattan Beach). Absent: Neil T. Austin (chairman), Isaac Kashdan. The following CSCF members also participated: Ed Fisher (Torrance), Burt Thach (Long Beach), Al E. Raymond (Lancaster), Charles B. Walker (Arlington), LeRoy Johnson (L.A.), Charles Henderson (Beverly Hills), Charles Bagby (S.F.), Phil D. Smith (Fresno), Dr. Eugene Levin (L.A.), Irving Rivise (L.A.), Gil Ramirez (S.F.), Harold Edelstein (San Carlos), Herbert Rosenbaum (S.F.).

The question and answer method was used in order to cover the written questions prepared by Committee Chairman Austin and the written answers prepared by Committee members. Henry Gross was unable to prepare written answers but gave oral answers during the meeting. Isaac Kashdan also was unable to prepare written answers and could not be present at the meeting; consequently his valued opinions on the subject of ratings were not heard.

There was apparent a big difference of opinion regarding what a rating system is supposed to accomplish. The consensus was that every effort should be made by the CSCF to improve the USCF (Harkness) rating system before abandoning it in favor of a California State system. Ed Fisher and Dr. Eugene Levin, both professional mathematicians, emphasized the importance of determining exactly what the desired rating system should do. They pointed out that we can have either a "fast" or a "slow" system, depending on majority preference; that it is no great problem to set up the mechanics of the system after they know what is desired. They warned that any system would be somewhat imperfect in its operation and therefore would cause some annoyance under certain conditions.

It was agreed that Fisher, Levin, and Bagby should become members of the Rating Committee and that further study of the matter of ratings be made by the enlarged committee, with a final report submitted next May 30.

GAMES FROM THE CALIFORNIA OPEN

Our plans to have the brilliancy prize games from Santa Barbara in the place of honor this month having gone astray (the award is not yet determined), we will present instead of Game of the Month a selection which we hope will not include the prize-winners. Thus, in next month's issue we will be able to honor the two prizewinning games properly. (The leading contenders for the two prizes appear at this time to be Romlinger-Rivise, Cross-Rivise, Ramirez-Brieger, and Bagby-Mueller.)

Game No. 344 - Irregular

White	Black
H. Chamness	S. Almgren

- |                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Kt-KB3                       | P-Q4   |
| 2. P-K4                         | PxP    |
| 3. Kt-Kt5                       | B-B4   |
| 4. Kt-QB3                       | Kt-KB3 |
| 5. Q-K2                         | Kt-B3  |
| 6. KKtxKP                       | Kt-Q5  |
| 7. KtxKtch                      | PxKt   |
| 8. Q-QL                         | KtxPch |
| Resigns, for the Queen is lost. |        |

This game, which definitely will not win the best played game prize, did win Ellis Levy's special prize for the shortest.

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 6. PxP  | QxP  |
| 7. O-O  | B-Q2 |
| 8. P-Q4 | P-K5 |
| 9. P-B4 | Q-R4 |

A little better would have been 9...Q-B4; 10. Kt-R4, Q-Kt5; 11. P-KKt3, KtxQP; 12. BxBch, QxB; 13. QxQch, KxQ; 14. R-QL, P-QB4; 15. B-K3, Kt/2-B3; 16. Kt-B5 or QB3 with a slight plus for White.

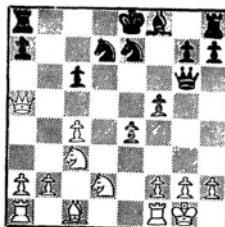
- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| 10. Kt-Q2          | P-B4  |
| 11. P-Q5           | Kt-K4 |
| 12. BxBch          | KtxB  |
| 13. Kt-QB3         | P-B3  |
| 14. PxP            | PxP   |
| 15. Q-R5           |       |
| Threatening KtxKP. |       |
| 15. ...            | Q-Kt3 |

Game No. 345 - Ponziani

White	Black
G. Hunnex	H. Borochow

(Notes by George Hunnex)

- |           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| 1. P-K4   | P-K4   |
| 2. Kt-KB3 | Kt-QB3 |
| 3. P-QB3  | P-Q4   |
| 4. Q-R4   | P-B3   |
| 5. B-Kt5  | KKt-K2 |



- |            |        |
|------------|--------|
| 16. P-QKt4 | Kt-Kt3 |
| 17. P-Kt5  | P-B4   |

18. B-R3 Kt/2-B1  
 19. QR-Q1 B-Q3  
 Not as safe as B-K2.  
 20. Kt/3xP

Sacrificing a piece to get the attack.

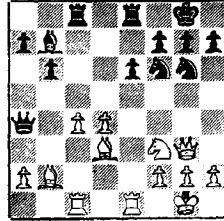
20. ... PxB  
 21. KtxP KtxP  
 (Now Black's K has to stay in the center. Why not 21...O-O; 22. KtxB, KtxKt; 23. BxP, KtxP--Ed.)

22. KtxBch Kt/lxB  
 23. KR-K1ch K-Q2  
 24. Q-R4 KtxB  
 ...Kt-Kt3 loses just as quickly because of 25. Q-R6.  
 25. P-Kt6ch K-Q1  
 26. Q-B6 Resigns.

Game No. 346 - Q.G.D.

White Black  
 W. Addison G. Ramirez

1. P-QB4 Kt-KB5  
 2. Kt-QB3 P-K3  
 3. Kt-B3 P-Q4  
 4. P-Q4 B-Kt5  
 5. P-K3 O-O  
 6. B-Q3 P-B4  
 7. O-O QPxP  
 8. BxP QKt-Q2  
 9. B-Q3 P-QKt3  
 10. Q-K2 B-Kt2  
 11. R-Q1 PxB  
 12. PxB BxQKt  
 13. PxB Q-B7  
 14. P-B4 QR-B1  
 15. B-Kt2 Q-B3  
 16. QR-B1 KR-K1  
 17. KR-K1 Kt-B1  
 18. Q-K5 Kt-Kt3  
 19. Q-Kt3 Q-R5



20. P-Q5?! PxB  
 21. QBxKt PxB  
 22. PxB RxBch  
 23. RxR BxP  
 24. P-R4 BxKt  
 25. QxB QxKRP  
 26. Q-Kt7 R-B4  
 27. P-Kt3 Q-Q5  
 28. BxKt RPxB  
 29. R-K7? Q-Q8ch  
 30. K-Kt2 R-B8  
 31. P-Kt4 QxPch  
 32. K-R2 Q-R5ch  
 33. K-Kt2 Q-R8ch  
 34. K-Kt3 R-B6ch  
 35. P-B3 Q-Kt8ch  
 36. K-R3 R-B4  
 37. Q-Kt8ch K-Kt2  
 38. RxPch KxR  
 39. Q-Kt7ch K-K3  
 40. Q-K4ch R-K5  
 41. Q-B4ch K-Q6  
 42. Q-Kt4ch Q-B5  
 43. Q-Q2ch K-K6  
 Resigns.

Game No. 347 - French

White Black  
 E. Levin D.J. Foley

1. P-QB4 P-K3  
 2. P-K4 P-Q4

		<u>Game No. 348 - French</u>	
		White	Black
3.	P-Q4	PxKP	
4.	P-KB3	FxF	C. Henderson A.E. Munson
5.	Kt xP	Kt-KB3	(Notes by Charles Henderson)
6.	Kt-B3	B-K2	
7.	B-Q3	Kt-B3	
8.	B-K3	KKt-Kt5	1. P-K4 P-K3
9.	B-KKt1	B-B3	2. P-Q4 P-Q4
10.	B-K4	B-R5ch	3. Kt-QB3 Kt-KB3
11.	P-KKt3	B-K2	Courageous. This move is like
12.	P-QR3	O-O	walking into a buzzsaw unless you
13.	Q-B2	F-KB4	know reams of book.
14.	BxKt	FxB	4. B-KKt5 B-K2
15.	P-KR3	Kt-B3	5. P-K5 KKt-Q2
16.	Kt-K5	B-Kt2	5...Kt-K5 is speculative but play-
17.	O-O-O	Q-Q3	able, while 5...Kt-Kt1 was favored
18.	P-B5	Q-Q1	by Nimzowitsch.
19.	P-KKt4	Kt-Q4	6. BxB
20.	KtxKt	QxKt	Playing it safe, and giving my op-
21.	B-R2	B-R3	ponent credit for knowing the de-
22.	P-QKt4	B-Kt2	vious lines which stem from 6.
23.	Kt-B4	B-Kt4ch	P-KR4!?! Thematically, White ex-
24.	K-Kt2	B-R3	changes his "bad" bishop for
25.	Kt-K5	B-K6	Black's more righteous one.
26.	KR-K1	F-B5	6. ... QxB
27.	B-Kt1	BxB	7. P-B4
28.	RxB	P-B6	Overprotecting the spearhead.
29.	Q-B2	B-K7	7. ... P-QB4
30.	R-Q2	P-QR4	Asking for complications. Safer
31.	Kt-Q3	BxKt	and more usual was ?...P-QR3.
32.	RxB	FxF	8. Kt-Kt5!
33.	R-QR1	P-K4	The exclamation mark is appropri-
34.	RPxP	RxR	ated from M.C.O. with thanks to
35.	KxR	P-K5	the copyright owner.
36.	R-R3	Q-B5	8. ... K-Q1?
37.	K-Kt2	QxKtPch	Answers the immediate threat at
38.	R-Kt3	Q-B5	the cost of ultimate K safety.
39.	P-R4	R-Q1	Book is 6...O-O!?!?, sacrificing the
40.	Q-Kt3	QxPch	exchange just for the hell of it
41.	R-B3	Q-Q7ch	apparently.
42.	K-Kt3	R-Kt1ch	9. Q-Kt4
	Resigns.		Pressure on both wings will be the
			watchword.

9. ... P-KKt3  
 10. Kt-KB3 Kt-QB3  
 11. P-B3  
 Overprotecting the QP, and initiating a series of restrictive moves.

11. ... Kt-Kt3  
 12. Kt-Q6  
 Kt-Kt5 was threatened.  
 13. P-QR4 PXP  
 14. KtXP

It was tempting to open the file, but I didn't want to be annoyed by 14...Kt-Kt5.

14. ... P-R3  
 Preventing B-Kt5, which could not be answered by 15...B-Q2 without loss of QKtP. But in view of the continuation, 14...P-QR4 may be preferable.

15. P-R5 Kt-Q2  
 16. P-Kt4  
 Again restrictive, and gaining advantage in space. Often a problem in French society, Black's QB is a sad character, and will remain so.

16. ... Kt-B1  
 Preparing the freeing move ... P-B3 and hoping the Kt can find a K-side snorkel.

17. B-Q3 P-B3  
 At last the thematic freeing move. The KKtP is, of course, immune because of the pin.

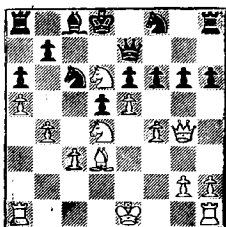
18. Q-Kt3  
 Holding KtxKtch in reserve. 18. O-O is just too clock-tickin' cotton-pickin' complicated.

18. ... P-KKt4  
 19. O-O PxBP  
 20. KtxKtch PxKt  
 21. QxP P-KB4  
 22. Q-Q4  
 Centralizing. On 22...Q-R2, pinning, I intended 23. Q-Kt6ch with the possible continuation 23...QxQ (not... Q-B2; 24. Kt-B7ch); 24. PxQ, R-KR2!; 25. P-Kt5 with advantage.

22. ... R-KR2  
 23. P-B4 R-Kt2  
 24. PXP BPXP  
 Seemingly the better way to recapture, but allowing:

25. KtxP! For if 25...PxKt; 26. QxPch, Q-Q2; 27. QxR, and now the B at Q3 is immune because of the threatened pin.

25. ... Q-R2  
 26. QxQ R/2xQ  
 27. KtxP K-K1  
 There followed: 28. R-B4, R-KKt2; 29. QR-KB1, Kt-Q2; 30. R-KKt4, RxR; 31. KtxR, R-Kt1; 32. R-B4, K-K2; 33. P-R4, B-Kt2; 34. B-Kt6, R-KB1; 35. RxR, KxR; 36. K-B2, B-B3; 37. B-Q3, B-Kt2; 38. K-K3, K-Kt2; 39. K-Q4, B-B1; 40. P-Kt5, Kt-Kt1; 41. K-B5, Kt-Q2ch; 42. K-Q6, resigns.



Game No. 349 - Ruy

White Black  
 J. Hursch K. Bendit

1. P-K4 P-K4  
 2. Kt-KB3 Kt-QB3  
 3. B-Kt5 Kt-B3  
 4. O-O KtxP

5. P-Q4 B-KP  
 6. PxP O-O  
 7. Q-Q5 Kt-B4  
 8. B-K3 Kt-Kt5  
 9. Q-B4 K-K7  
 10. P-QR3 P-QR3  
 11. B-R4 P-QKt4  
 12. Q-K4 Kt-B3  
 13. B-Kt3 B-Kt2  
 14. Kt-B3 Kt-R4  
 15. B-Q5 P-QB3  
 16. B-R2 B-B1  
 17. QR-Q1 Q-B2  
 18. B-KB4 Kt-Kt2  
 19. KR-K1 P-QR4  
 20. BxKt BPx3  
 21. Kt-Kt5 P-Kt3  
 22. R-K3 BxKt  
 23. BxKt P-Q4  
 24. Q-Kt4 Kt-Q1  
 25. R-R3 B-R3  
 26. B-B6 P-Kt5  
 27. Kt-R4 Pxp  
 28. Pxp Kt-Kt2  
 29. Kt-Kt6 R-R2  
 30. R-Q4 Kt-B4  
 31. Kt-R4 R-Kt2  
 32. Kt-B3 Kt-K5  
 33. RxKt Pxr  
 34. QxP Q-Q2  
 35. P-B3 Q-QB2  
 36. P-Kt4 Q-Kt3ch  
 37. K-Kt2 R-Q2  
 38. R-R6 Q-Kt2  
 39. K-Kt3 Q-B2  
 40. K-R4? Rx3  
 41. Pxr QxPch  
 42. K-Kt5 Q-Q7ch  
 43. P-B4 QxKt  
 44. R-R1 Q-B4ch  
 45. Q-K5 QxQch  
 46. PxQ R-Q7

and Black won.

Game No. 350 - Q.G.D.

White Black  
 R. Freeman B. Thach

(Notes by Burt Thach)

1. P-Q4	P-Q4
2. Kt-KB3	Kt-KB3
3. P-K3	B-B4
4. P-QB4	P-B3
5. Kt-B3	QKt-Q2
6. B-K2	P-K3
7. Kt-KR4	B-Kt3
8. KtxB	BPxKt

Remlinger pointed out that I should have taken with the RP, but I thought I saw another way to open the R-file and by taking with the BP I would have two open files.

9. O-O	B-K2
10. Q-Kt3	Q-B2
11. B-B3	P-KR4
12. P-K4	Kt-Kt5

Mr. Freeman thought he could choke off the attack by moving P-K5 but he overlooked the Kt sacrifice.

13. BxKt  
 (13. P-Kt3 looks necessary—Ed.)

13. ... PxB

14. P-K5  
 (Also 14. P-Kt3—Ed.)

14. ...	KtxP4
15. PxKt	QxP
16. P-B4	B-B4ch
17. R-B2	Q-K8 mate.

If 17. K-R1, then ...Q-R4 and mate in a few moves anyway.

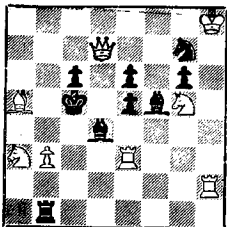
**REPORTER TASKS:** Beginning in this issue, we are offering a series of problems, each of which is given a certain "point" value. To the solver who first gets ahead of the field, we shall award \$5 cash plus a chess book. Then in succeeding issues, prizes will be awarded to solvers as they forge ahead of the field. These prizes will consist of selected books on chess - all phases of chess, including problems - and will be well worth your labor.

The above contest is contingent upon there being a reasonable number of solvers, about which we shall say more in the next issue.

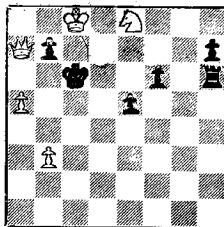
So gird your loins, and start in! No. 99 is a very old problem, and is worth six points. No. 100 is a fairly recent problem, and is worth five points. Solutions should be received within three weeks after mailing of magazine. Only subscribers to THE REPORTER are eligible for prizes.

Solutions should include several significantly different variations. If you find a "cook," you will receive one extra point per cook. A justified "no solution" claim is worth full value, but you lose full value if your claim is erroneous.

TASK No. 99  
White Mates in Three



TASK No. 100  
White Mates in Three



**ANSWERS:** Task No. 97: The Key-move is Kt-R4.

Task No. 98: The intended key-move is Q-R4. The problem was cooked by Wm. Adams of San Jose and E. Jonas of San Francisco.

Karl Reissmann, Hawthorne, Calif.: Sorry to keep you waiting for an answer to your note of recent date. We promise to write soon. But for the moment, we may say that Task No. 95 is sound.

Questions regarding TASKS should be sent to: Dr. H. J. Ralston  
184 Edgewood Ave.  
San Francisco 17, Cal.