



UNITED STATES CHAMPIONSHIP
Program

Denker: *Champion*
Steiner: *Challenger*
Fine: *Referee*

GRIFFITH AUDITORIUM • 3401 RIVERSIDE DRIVE • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MATCH
1946

United States Chess Championship

May 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18

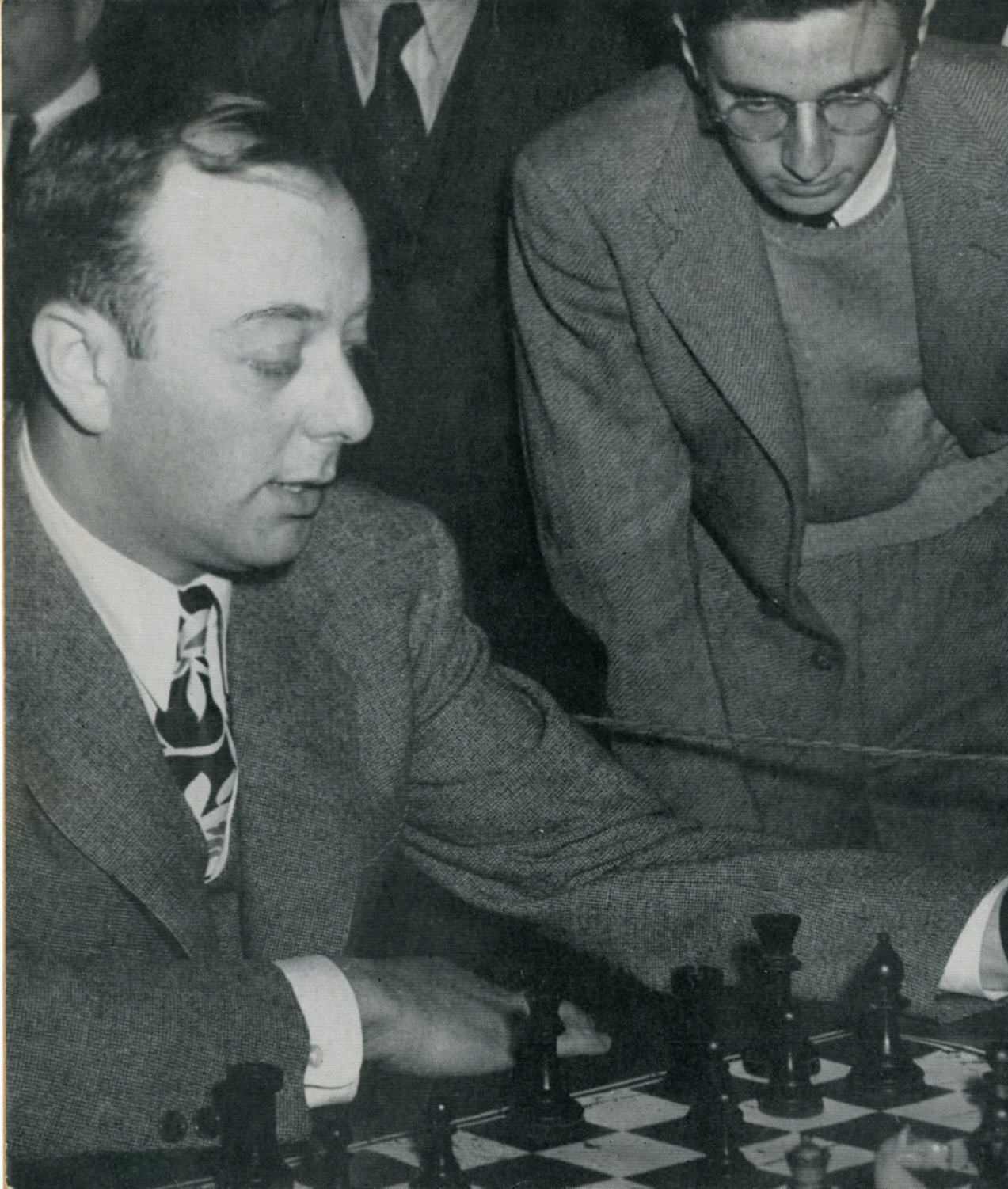
From 7 p.m. to midnight

Endorsed by U.S. Chess Federation
Conducted by California State Chess Assn.

Griffith Playground Gymnasium

Los Feliz and Riverside Drive

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Arnold Denker
Reuben Fine
Herman Steiner
Heaver Adams

Denker, *Champion*

Virtually a new-comer to the field of International Chess Masters, Arnold Denker achieved his first honors in New York, where he won the 1938 Championship; in 1942 he placed third in the United States title event, and in 1944 topped a field including such Masters as Reuben Fine, I. A. Horowitz, and Herman Steiner to win the United States Championship.

At the Hastings (England) Master's Tournament last year he placed third with Steiner and Dr. Euwe, former World's Champion; and at the London International Victory Tournament this year he placed third in his section.

Born 1914 in New York City, Denker played his first game of chess against his older brothers in the lunchroom of Bronx Public School 70.

The current biography of Denker reveals his personality to be of extraordinary depth and structure. Subsequent to leaving New York University in his junior year, Denker "won three successive Golden Glove bouts by knockouts and a fourth by decision before he was outpointed by George Brothers, "one of the greatest amateurs of the era" (Paul Gardner, New York City sports writer).

Denker amply demonstrates achievement as an athlete and as an intellectual. Denker's rating as an amateur philologist the more heightens this discovery of a boxer, a football player, a Chess Master, and a philologist all combined in a single personality.

At present Denker owns and operates a successful New York City exporting firm. Denker and his wife, Nina, live in Forest Hills with their five year old boy, Richard. Mrs. Denker is the former stage, screen and radio protege of the Marx Brothers.

Photo by Nancy Root

*Clippings
from
Nathan*

Steiner, *Challenger*

An International Tournament player since 1928, Herman Steiner won in 1929 the New York State Championship, the Hastings (England) Tournament; in 1931 top honors at Berlin; and tied first place in Mexico City (1935) and the National Open at Dallas (1942).

Steiner rescued the 1945 American Chess Team from complete defeat at the hands of the Russians, and this year captured top honors at the London International Victory Tournament.

One of the world's leading International Masters, Dr. S. G. Tartakover, characterized Steiner as a "devil-may-care opponnet". In reporting his brilliant play against the Russians, the national chess magazine, CHESS REVIEW, described Steiner as "fun-loving, jovial, gregarious".

Born in Czechoslovakia, April 15, 1905, Steiner played his first game of chess in New York at the age of eighteen.

Steiner has been Chess Editor of the Los Angeles TIMES fourteen years. He is Vice-President of the United States Chess Federation. Vice-President and Treasurer of the California State Chess Association and holder of the 1946 California State Championship. At present Steiner is professionally engaged in teaching chess at his Hollywood Studio, utilizing a specialized visual method synthesized from twenty-two years as a Chess Master.

Steiner is married to the former concert pianist, Selma Siegelman of Los Angeles and is father of two boys, Eugene eight and Armin twelve years of age.

Photo by Nancy Root





Denker: *Best Game*

Preface by an Amateur

Now most of us wouldn't know what is meant when it is said these Best Games of Champion Denker and Challenger Steiner are called the Guioco Piano Opening and the Riga Defense respectively. As an amateur I can barely recognize the things myself.

Mainly, chess for fun is principles and not names of Chess Openings and Chess Defenses: principles like rapid development of pieces, setting up combinations in the middle game, and tactically working out positional advantages. Chess is not all cold logic; chess is more psychological than you might think.

Now take the variations listed below by Mr. Denker and Mr. Steiner: if you and I entered into these sidelines in over-the-board play, a variation supposedly the winner might not win at all because of our different psychological reactions to attack. Chess for fun leaves the variations to the experts; the amateurs need only remember the principles.

In the game below, note how Mr. Denker and Mr. Avram in their first four moves rapidly develop their King's Pawns, their Knights and Bishops; and in Mr. Steiner's best game, observe how he simultaneously develops the maximum number of his pieces and initiates a vigorous attack. As an amateur, I have observed the experts exploit the dimension of time; rarely before the sixth or seventh move do they move a developed piece a second time. The heavy demands of time in chess requires that every possible piece be on the scene of an opponent's suddenly developed attack.

As an amateur I see in these two games how heavily chess relies upon original thinking and active initiative. And I most like these very characteristics in Mr. Denker's and Mr. Steiner's style of play. They play for fun and they play for blood and they fight their battles with original thinking, active initiative and slashing attack.

You might play over these games on your home board, or a board in the club room of the Los Feliz Chess group (in the building adjoining the gym) and enjoy putting these principles in action.

—S.W.E.

Tournament Game, Manhattan Chess Championship of 1939 with Herbert Avram.

GUIOCO PIANO

White-Denker		Black-Avram
P-K4	1.	P-K4
Kt-KB3	2.	Kt-QB3
B-B4	3.	Kt-B3
P-Q4	4.	PxP
O-O	5.	B-B4

5 . . . KtP; would be met by 6. R-K, P-Q4; 7. BxP, QxB; 8. Kt-QB3 regaining the piece with a strong attacking game.

P-K5	6.	P-Q4
PxKt	7.	PxB
R-Kch.	8.	B-K3
Kt-Kt5	9.	Q-Q4

Not 9 . . . QxP; 10. KxB, PxKt; 11. Q-R5 ch, and the bishop is lost.

Kt-QB3	10.	Q-B4
QKt-K4	11.	B-KB1?

This move is the cause of his subsequent embarrassment. The best defense would have been to castle (queen side) giving back the pawn and relying on the powerful center in the ensuing middle game.

Photo by Tony Post

12. Q-Q4 P-KK4
 Not 12 . . . QxP ch; because of 13.
 QxQ, BxQ; 14. Pxp, Bxp; 15. Kt-B6 dbl.
 ch. winning.

KtxBP	13.	KxKt
Kt-Kt5ch.	14.	K-Kt
KtxB	15.	Kt-K4

A very neat try, but it just falls short. Black had the following variation in mind, 16. KtxBp, Kt-B6ch; 17. K-B (If 17. K-R, Q-B3! whereas 17. K-Kt2, KtxR dbl. ch. and wins) Ktx Rp ch; and White must content himself with a draw by playing K-Kt. If he should try to win with 18. K-K2, a fate worse than death awaits him after Q-B6 ch. followed by P-B6 mate.

P-B7ch.	16.	KxP
Kt-Kt5ch.	17.	K-Kt

Forced, for had the king moved elsewhere, P-B4 would have won immediately.

RxKt	18.	QxR
Q-B3	19.	resigns.

A very curious position! The threats of Q-B7 and Q-Q5 cannot both be parried in spite of the apparent defensive strength of the black queen.

STEINER BEST GAME

Match Game, May 2, 1929, with
 Lajos Steiner

RUY LOPEZ

<i>L. Steiner</i>	<i>H. Steiner</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>
1—P-K4	P-K4
2—Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3
3—B-Kt5	P-QR3
4—B-R4	Kt-B3
5—O-O	KtxP
6—P-Q4	PxP (a)
7—R-K	P-Q4
8—KtxP	B-Q3 (b)
9—KtxKt	BxPeh
10—K-B? (c)	Q-R5!
11—RxKtch (d)	PxR
12—Q-Q5	O-O! (e)
13—B-KKt5	PxKt! (f)
14—BxP	Q-R4!
15—B-K7 (g)	B-K4!
16—Kt-Q2 (h)	Q-R8ch
17—K-K2	B-Kt5ch
18—K-K3 (i)	QxR
19—QxB (j)	Q-K8ch
20—K-B4	QxPeh
21—KxB	QxPeh
22—K-R4	QxKt
23—BxP	QR-K
Resigns (k)	

Continued next page

Steiner: Best Game



A Chess Horse is a very fine character

Nobody ever ran a chess horse at Santa Anita. Not even Crosby. There are just some horses which do not have the personality for that sort of thing. So a chess horse just doesn't have the right personality.

But you just give a chess horse a fast track on a chess board and you've got something which the bookies would not take if bookies listed any chess tracks, which they don't. This is not to say a chess horse does not have track competition, which he does; but this competition is strictly a bunch of conservative characters, because you never saw a bishop show up at Santa Anita looking for a hot tip on the fourth; not to speak of what the track *getus* boys would think of the regal airs of a chess queen, or the down-the-line, no curves, nothing-but-a-straight-track rook. All of which just proves a chess horse has the right

personality, and breaks clean at the barricade on this chess board, which is not to be confused with a tote board.

But the bookies will have no part of these chess meets. It's really on account of the jockeys. This chess jockey problem to the bookies is like what a problem Crosby would have if he put up Hope on one of his hayburners. You take this Denker who copped the on-the-nose honors at the U. S. Championship meet in 1944.

He strictly wasn't touted to win, which is really on account of this Denker started out as a boxer, threw in some pigskin line plunging, and is a guy like that supposed to have the brains it takes to herd a couple of chess horses down the stretch ahead of such brain-department boys as Fine, Horowitz and



Steiner? After all, you can't blame the bookies if they want no part of a deal where the bets are strictly on the jockeys.

But in the first place that is what makes a chess horse such a very fine character. Anybody can be a jockey with this nag. But you have to break away fast and at the opening with this character. And he's got something no hayburner at Santa Anita has got: he's got straddle, and this is strictly rough on the back stretch. So when you're the jockey up on a chess meet, remember this character and have your wife hold the win-place-show bets. That way you lose anyhow, so then no harm is done.

But when Denker and Steiner are the jockeys pounding down the stretch for the championship title of the United States, don't let your wife find a book, and the tip sheets won't help: this meet is all photofinish and plenty of rough stuff down the stretch.

STEINER, BEST GAME

(Continued from previous page)

(a) Riga variation. This defense to the Ruy Lopez was first played between Berlin and Riga in 1908 and 1909 by correspondence, and is a questionable answer to the Ruy Lopez opening. With best play, White should win, but such a conclusion is very difficult to prove in over-the-board play. The Riga variation seeks the sacrifice of two minor pieces for a rook and two pawns.

(b) The sacrifice begins.

(c) Not White's best; as a matter of fact, I consider it White's losing move. Of course, KxB would draw from perpetual check: viz., Q-R5, ch., followed by QxP ch., etc. White's best move would have been 10 . . . K-R, Q-R5; 11. RxN ch, PxR; 12. Q-Q8 ch!, QxQ 13. NxQ discovered ch, KxN; 14. KxB, and White has two minor pieces against a rook and two pawns.

(d) If 11. B-K3, Castle; 12. N-Q4, B-N5; 13. N-KB3, Q-R4. (In the Maroczy-Berger game, 1908, at Vienna, White played 14. N-B3, QR-Q; 15. Q-Q3, BxN; 16. PxB, QxP; 17. NxN, PxN; 18. Q-B3, Q-R6ch; 19. K-K2, Q-N5 ch; 20. K-B, R-Q4; 21. B-N3, RKR4; 22. P-B3, PxP; 23. Resigns).

(e) Refuting the combination of the exchange sacrifice.

(f) And now the Queen cannot be taken because 14 . . . PxQ, and the material loss cannot be regained.

(g) And now the Rook cannot be taken, because of 15 . . . B-K3.

(h) Neither Rook can be taken because of B-K3 and the next move is forces; Black threatened 16 . . . Q-R8 ch; 17. K-K2, B-N5 ch; 18. P-B3. (If K-Q3, QK8 mates. If K-Q2 Q-Q8 mates) 18. . . QxP ch; 19. K-K, B-N6 ch; 20. K-Q, BxP ch; 21. K-B, B-B5 ch; 22. N-Q2, Q-N8 mate.

(i) If 18. P-B3, PxP ch and followed by QxR; and after the series of exchanges, Black comes out with the exchange and a pawn ahead.

(j) Q-K8 mate was threatening.

(k) It is interesting to note that neither of the attacked black rooks could be taken for ten moves without loss of the game for White.

CHESS ACROSS THE NATION

Chess is renowned for the active interest and intellectual caliber of its followers. In testimony to this, chess players from the ranks of such professions as physicians, attorneys, artists and celebrities have maintained for nearly a half century a national organization, the United States Chess Federation, for the coordination of chess activities in every state in the Union. The Federation has conducted the biennial national tournaments, the annual National Open Tournament, sponsored the numerous state tournaments, and provided counsel and financial assistance to worthy chess functions throughout world.

The Federation will conduct a National Junior Championship at Chicago in July this year, a new innovation in chess affairs of the nation.

In October, the Federation will stage the 6th biennial Championship Tournament. The winner of the Denker-Steiner match will be defending champion at this tourna-

ment, with the nation's other five leading players, Reuben Fine, I. A. Horowitz, Irving Kashdan, Albert S. Pinkus and Samuel Reshevsky competing for the national title.

Officers of the Federation are, Elbert A. Wagner, Jr., President; George E. Roosevelt, Herman Steiner, L. Walter Stephens, Vice-Presidents; Paul G. Giers, Secretary-Treasurer; and Hermann Helms, Publicity Director.

The California State Chess Association, through whose facilities the Denker-Steiner Championship match was organized and is conducted, is headed by C. T. McKinney, President; Herman Steiner, Vice-President; and Melvin J. Royer, Secretary.

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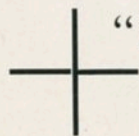
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