Bagby Leading in Chess Tournament

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

After six rounds of play in the Mechanics' Institute Centennial Tournament, Charles Bagby was leading the field with a score of 5-1.

Henry Gross and William Addison were tied with 4½ points each for second and third places. Then followed young Gilbert Ramirez with 3½ points and veteran Earl Pruner with 3 points.

One of the great surprises of the tournament thus far was the lack of success of Walter Pafnutieff, who was one of the favorites at the beginning of play. Pafnutieff has lost three games outright.

Bitterly Contested

No player has a perfect record, after only six rounds, so the tournament promises to be one of the most bitterly contested in many years.

Two rounds are played each week in the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club quarters at 57 Postst, Friday night at 7 and Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Visitors are welcome to watch the play.

From the latest issue of "Chess Life" we learn that the 26th annual congress of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was held in Gothenburg, Sweden.

It was decided that from 1959 onwards the Candidates' Tournament will be limited to seven players—five from preceding interzonal and two from preceding Candidates'—plus the ex-world champion if he should lose the title match.

Titles Awarded

Grandmaster titles were awarded to B. Ivkov and A. Matanovic of Yugoslavia. Frank Anderson of Canada was one of a number of players awarded the title of International Master.

The 1956 International Team Tournament will be held in Moscow, beginning Sept. 1. Each constituent federation may send up to eight players, consisting of four players, two reserves, one one-playing captain and one other official. The Soviet chess organization will defray traveling costs inside the Soviet Union.

Plans were made to crect a memorial over the grave of former world champion Alexander Alekhine next year on the 10th anniversary of his death, and to hold a special ceremony at which present champion Mikhail Botvinnik will be present.

We are pleased to note that our old friend, William H. Donnelly,



Task No. 118—By S. Almgren White Mates in Two Moves (Value four points)

Answer to Task No. 117: The key move is R-R7, threatening Q-Q5ch.

who used to be a fixture at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, has won the Iowa Open Championship. Donnelly scored a perfect 7-0 in the tournament played in Davenport. Twenty-one players from Iowa, Illinois and Indiana participated.

Three-Mover Solved

The three-mover by Godfrey Heathcote, published in this column two weeks ago, is solved by Q-K3, the main line being 1 Q-K3, B-B3; 2Q-Q4ch and mate next move. Correct solutions were received from:

Wilber Leeds, Dr. Horace C. Pitkin and C. Y. Verbarg, all of San Francisco; Harry Hokensen, Santa Rosa. But not a single one of these solvers gave the main line!

A number of solvers were fooled by the problem, which apparently was much more difficult than we thought. One of the players at Mechanics' Institute told us he spent five hours on the problem before he cracked it!

Here is a miniature by A. Akerblom which you may not find easy. White is to play and mate in three moves:

White (five men): King on QR8; Queen on QKt7; Rooks on KKt2 and QKt8; Pawn on QR2.

Black (two men); King on QR8; Bishop on KB6.

Be careful of this one!

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