Palo Alto Chess Club Wins Class B Title

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

The Palo Alto Chess Club won the Class B division of the San Chess Francisco Bay Area League, nosing out Golden Gate by one-half point.

The deciding match between the two clubs was played last Saturday evening, Golden Gate started out with a rush, scoring three wins before Palo Alto had won a point. But Palo Alto slowly overcame the deficit, the match ending in a 31/2-31/2 tie.

Assured First Place

Palo Alto had entered the final round leading the field by onehalf point, so the draw with Golden Gate assured Palo Alto of first place. Meanwhile, the Whiz Kids of the Kings team were losing to

by the resounding Alameda of 5-2. This defeat thumping dropped the boys from third place to fourth in the final stand-

The Whiz Kids evidently were a bit over-confident, losing to a team which had not previously won a match.

Oakland scored a rather surprising win over the Russians, 4-3. Final Standings

The final standings in the B division were: Palo Alto 51/2-1/2, Golden Gate 5-1, Mechanics' Institute 31/2-21/2. Kings 3-3. Oakland 2-4, Alameda and Russians 1.5.

Last year the Russians won both the A and B divisions. This year Golden Gate won in Class A and Palo Alto in Class B. In a 14-board match played at the Palo Alto Community Cen-

ter March 29, the Palo Alto chess

team showed great strength in defeating San Jose 12-2. The San Jose Chess Club won the championship of the Central California Chess League this

year, so Palo Alto's achievement is a noteworthy one.

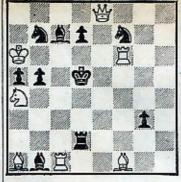
Special Tournament The Correspondence Chess

League of America will hold a special tournament this year. Assignments will be made as entries are received until July

The tournament is open to any resident of the North American continent or island contiguous thereto.

The entry fee is \$1.50 per section. Send remittance to Dick 14 BxKt

TASK No. 40-By H. Weenink



White Mates in Two Moves (Value four points) Answer to Task No. 39: Q-Kt6

Rees, CCLA secretary, 2826 Cor-

rectionville-rd, Sioux City 5, Ia.

The 24-game match for the chess championship of the world is now in progress in Moscow. Won in 1948 The present champion, Mikhail Botvinnik, who won the title in

challenger Vassily Smyslov, who won the recent Candidates' Tournament in Switzerland.

The games are being played in the Tschaikowsky Concert Hall, where some 2000 spectators look on. The first game was played March 16, Smyslov having the

1948, is defending his title against

white pieces, and opening with P-K4. Botvinnik defended with his favorite Winawer variation of the French Defense, scoring the point after 58 moves. The champion played a new tenth move, which seemingly unsettled the young challenger.

Smyslov's play thereafter was unduly passive in character, and Botvinnik was able to seize and maintain the initiative. The play in the second half of

the game is worth much study. The champion's end-game technique is superb.

No. 1—FRENCH DEFENSE White—Smyslov Black-

Botvinnik 15 KtxB 16 K-R1 17 P-B3 P-K4 P-K3 P-Q4 P-Q4 Kt-QB3 B-Kt5 P-K5 P-QB4 P-QR3 B-R4 Q-K+3 B-Q2 R-QB1 P-KR3 P-K5 P-QR3 P-QKt4 Kt-Kt5 Q-K1 P-QR4 Kt-Kt3 Kt-B5 P-QR4 Q-B2 B-B3 PXQP 20 B-B2

P-KB4 Kt-K2 Kt-KB3 QKt-B3 B-Q3 B-Kt1! Q-B2 Kt-Kt3 B-Q3 B-K+11 QKtxQP P-QR3 B-K3 B-R2 24 25 26 Q-B5? KtxQ KtxB Castles PxP P-R6

28

BxBch

B-R5 Kt-Kt R-KKt4 R-K6 BxKt KxB R-B2 R-KB 30 BxP 31 B-K2 32 P-Kt3 33 B-B3 R-Q5 Kt-Q4 Kt-B6 R-Kt1 31 32 33 34 KxB R-KB4! 49 R×R 50 R-Q84 51 R-B7 52 R-R7 53 K-R3 P×R R-K5 R×P Kt-Kt8! Kt-Q7 Kt-B5 R-R3 R-R2 R-KB2 P-R4 35 R-R6 P-B5 54 K-R4 55 R-R6ch 56 R-B6ch 57 K-R3 PxP K-B4! K-K5 R-KB6 RPXP PxP 39 PxP R-Kt8ch P-R4 R-Kt6! R-Q4 K-Kt2 40 41 B-K2 42 R-B2 58 R-QR6 43 R-KB Resigns

Last week we noted that after six games, Botvinnik had a lead of three points, but that the worm might turn.

Well, the worm has turned!

Latest reports give the score as 5-5, Smyslov having won three of the last four games! Charles Svalberg won weekly rapid tournament at

Mechanics' Institute, scoring 91/2-1½ in a field of 12 players. William Addison was second with 9-2, and Robert Currie and James Schmitt finished in a tie for third with 8-3.