

SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

Volume I, Issue 7

5425 8th Ave., Sacramento 17

June 4, 1950

This issue is a few days late - as your editors have been playing chess - in town, out of town, at San Francisco, at San Luis Obispo, and so on.

At the East Bay vs San Francisco match, Sacramento was well-represented by Meyer, Austin, and Gee. Out of sixteen players, we furnished three, not a bad representation from here. Altho Austin lost his game, Gee and Meyer managed a couple hard-fought draws on rather high boards, which helped some.

Flynn gives a good account of the North-South affair in his Comments. Gee played Board 8, and after 30 moves had a game he should have won. Didn't press the advantage strongly enough and played too cautiously, eventually lost. Meyer played #12, and while details of his game aren't known, he lost. And while the North won only 3 games out of the first 13, Meyer and Gee helped strengthen the rest of the team by handling two of the first 12 boards. Austin, on Board 26, finally came thru with a hard-earned win - which won the match for the north. Flynn fought for a draw on board 28. And the North won!! 24 to 21 !! Truly a great match.

The Chess News is going to have to "pull in its horns" a bit. Our circulation is getting rather wide spread. While there is no loss incurred so far, it is obvious that Chess News must at least pay its own costs of postage, envelopes, paper, and stencils. We are pleased that actual memberships have come in from Auburn, Dixon, Woodland, Modesto, Del Paso Heights, etc. But we shall soon have to draw the line as to how many copies will be sent out, and of course those who are actually supporting the local chess club will be assured of staying on the list.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH EVERYBODY'S CHESS?

By C.J.S. Purdy

(Excerpts from article in Australian Chess World)

What is wrong with your chess? It's 50 to 1 that your main weakness is in combinations. The proper use of combination play is the secret of winning chess. A sound combination is a coup which ends in mate, perpetual check, stalemate, gain of material, a great deterioration of the enemy position, or a great improvement in one's own, no matter what replies the enemy makes, and of which every move before the end is a forcing move.

The simplest mechanical rule for not missing combinations is to glance at all possible checks, captures, and threats at every move, even those which might seem absurd on general considerations. You won't see all combinations that way, but you will see many more than you otherwise would, and the more you see the easier it gets to see them.

By going properly through du Mont's "Basis of Combination in Chess", any player below average should improve his game anything from a Knight to a Rook in a month or so -- no, that's not an exaggeration, anyone who thinks so just doesn't understand much about the game.

(Note: Chernev & Reinfield's WINNING CHESS serves same purpose, but is chiefly in diagram format. Easier to read but not as much explanation as du Mont's book. Both can be ordered from CHESS REVIEW.)

ARE YOU READING CHESS REVIEW??? This is U.S.'s best chess magazine, and it gets better all the time. News, games, pictures, features, letters - it has everything. Only \$4.75 per year. You just aren't a chessplayer without CHESS REVIEW.

COMMENTS

by Flynn

Listen closely, children, because here is where you get your money's worth -- it cost me \$50 to find out these things, and look what we give our members for five bucks a year.

The North-South match was an exciting affair. 45 boards and the score began running ahead for the North. 1 point. Two points, etc. But it see-sawed, and the issue was still in doubt with the last four boards in play.

As our team captain, W. G. McClain, had predicted before the match, we took an awful drubbing on the top boards. The Yankees scored only 3 points out of the first 13. Then in the middle we came up strong, scoring 8 points in a row on about boards 18 to 26. And the tail-enders swung the balance over to our side, 24 to 21 final score. But note that $1\frac{1}{2}$ points less would have tied the match.

Personally, I was plenty scared on Board 28, playing K. Chambers of Whittier College. I had white pieces and played a frightened Queen's Pawn. I even started defending on the fourth move. I did my best to hang myself in the opening but he kept taking the rope away from me. What I didn't know was that he was just as scared as I was.

If somebody had said "Double Check!", we'd have both jumped over the table. Anyway, I had all the chess I wanted from this particular Confederate. He got the best of the opening. Then I came out alive in the middle game, got confident and started an attack which cost me a pawn. Then he won the exchange, by giving back the pawn. And there I was fifty moves along, and the exchange down.

I offered a draw. His team captain told him to play for a win. Naturally. Then I finally did play some chess. I manages to pull off a six-move combination (let's be big-hearted and call it that) which ended with me a pawn up but a forced draw. And was I happy? You bet.

The big thrill to me was when I was standing in front of the scoreboard and a fellow came running over, shouting, "Austin won. Austin won." And win he did. And that was the point that cinched the match. It was all over. And one of our men did it. Austin was really the Northern hero.

I met Lee Kerfoot down there, our Modesto friend, and he sent his best regards to Wm. Trousdale. Several fellows also asked about Bob Carmany. Lee Kerfoot scored a very important point with a nice win over Nancy Roos, former women's champion of Holland. It was a special triumph because Lee had the handicap of wondering all the time whether Nancy's dunee-hat was going to fall off or not. Man, man--what a costume she had.

I also played three games with Professor Ralston. The score, from my point of view, went "Ouch, ouch, ouch."

More than half the fun of the match was prowling around town with Neil Austin, Milt Meyer, and J. B. Gee. I was really proud of our Sacramento gang and the universal respect with which they are regarded in the top circles of California chess. Sunday night Mr. and Mrs. Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Gee and the two Gee youngsters, Neil and I joined a gang which went out to Pismo Beach for a sea-food dinner. That abalone alone was worth the trip.

McClain and his wife were along and I wish you could have heard Mac tell about the search he and Bill Barlow made to locate a chess genius by the name of Loera. They wanted him desperately in the match but couldn't find him. Finally they ended up on Fifth St. in Oakland searching for him house by house. At about 3 a.m. two policemen picked them up and asked them what the big idea was. Barlow said: "You're not going to believe this. But we're looking for a chessplayer by the name of Loera." And Loera scored a vital point on a top board!

And "Heinie" Gross! What a fellow! More fun than a large-sized barrel of monkeys. (He calls me "Errol".)

Well, I could tell you about Fred Christensen, Herman Steiner, Jim Cross, etc. etc. But I'd like to close, remembering myself standing at the scoreboard and the excitement which followed when the fellow came running over, shouting, "Autin won, Austin won!"

By President Jim Marianos

Except for the insistence of J. B. Gee these words would never have found paper. One is a bit wary of putting things or thoughts or expressions without thought down in black and white as some sharp apple with no concern for your blushing cheeks might dig up or even remember some disconcerting refutation of your expressed idea. However these things I think I know to be true. Chess like math requires mental effort. Good chess moreso. Championship chess prodigiously so. People play for a number of reasons among which are the sheer beauty of combinations (your own of course). The self satisfaction derived from winning, especially consistantly, very especially if one needs to be self-satisfied. The thrill of a contest (the bloody kill) and last but not lost the hope that one might be one of those gifted persons to whom ununderstandable conceptions are readily conceived (without undue effort) which automatically puts said one in a position to make an ample sample of wampum without effort. All jesting aside it is an absorbing, interesting, even fascinating game, serving the twofold purpose of providing pleasure and giving one practice at thinking and arriving at correct conclusions (sometimes). Whether it is chess or math, or living, arriving at correct conclusions improves with practice, and one's ability to appreciate pleasure grows with one's ability to recognize it. Pawn to King Four.

Letter to Dues Collector of Sacramento Chess Club.

I wish to inform you that the present shattered condition of my bank account makes it impossible for me to send you a check at this time.

My present financial condition is due to the effect of Federal laws, County laws, City laws, Corporation laws, By-laws, in-laws, and outlaws that have been foisted upon an unsuspecting public.

Through these various laws I have been held down, held up, walked on, flattened, squeezed and broken, until I do not know what I am, where I am, or why I am.

These laws compel me to pay a merchant tax, capital tax, excise tax, property tax, luxury tax, income tax, gas tax, auto tax, light tax, cigar tax, school tax, syntax, liquor tax, and others too numerous to mention.

I am required to get a business license, car license, truck license, not to mention marriage license and dog license.

For my own safety, I am required to carry life insurance, health insurance, burglar insurance, fire insurance liability insurance, property insurance, accident insurance, business insurance, earthquake insurance, tornado insurance, unemployment insurance, and old age security.

On top of all this, I am requested to contribute to every society and organization that the inventive mind of man can create. To St. Patrick's Day, Veterans Poppy Day, Kentucky Derby, Policemen Benefit, ball game poker game, Chess Club, tournaments, Dorcas society, Goldiggers home, Funderal directors.

I am suspected, expected, inspected and disrespected, examined, re-examined, investigated, informed, required, commanded and compelled, untill all I know is that I am supposed to provide an inexhaustible supply of money for every known and unknown need, desire, and hope of the human race.

And all of this because I have not enough money. That is why I wish to register with you, Sir, a protest and complaint. This world is not to my liking. First you have trouble being born. Then I work hard trying to learn to play chess, and it brings no returns. I have to scramble in other directions to get some money. Then I have more trouble with doctors, hospitals, and the gravedigger's union. Goodnight.

Johnson & Co.

THE CHESS DIAGRAM

Solution to #4 (in last issue) 1. R-B5, Q-R1 2. R-B7, Resigns. Appropriately, the lady chess player is deadliest with her Queen's Rook. 1. R-B5 would never have been considered by the average player but why be average? Actually, a very simple technique will bring out these imaginative moves. Simply consider every possible check, capture, or forcing move. In this case, 1. R-B5 is a very strong forcing move which attacks Black's Queen and requires black to take the rook or else back up. Since if black takes the rook, white mates on the move, black has to back up. The rest is easy. --- #5 (in this issue) illustrates the possibilities in pawn endings. No hints on this because you will enjoy proving to yourself that white's two pawns are stronger than black's three.