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KOVACS WINS CALIFORNIA OPEN, SIMON SECOND

Breezing through the first 6 rounds with a perfect record, Zoltan Kovacs was content to clinch the title with a last-round draw with runner-up Leslie Simon, both of Los Angeles. It was a steady victory, and one of the first big ones in California for the former Hungarian Master. Southern California players dominated the top spots. Behind 6 players tied at 3rd to 8th places came Earl Pruner of San Francisco and Julius Loftsson of El Cerrito, the lone Northern California contenders for honors.

UNITED STATES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, AUGUST 14-27, 1961, SAN FRANCISCO

Plans are being made for the big event of the coming year, the first time the Open will have been held in San Francisco. On Page 41 of this issue is an important announcement for all who now play or who have played previously in California.

THE CALIFORNIA OPEN, ROUND BY ROUND

The 1960 California Open was held at Fresno for the second straight time -- a decision made at the annual meeting after considerable discussion -- and a successful tournament resulted. There were 117 contestants, 6 fewer than the all-time record set in 1959, but the turnout was still the second largest on record. It was a strong tournament. There were 8 masters and 12 experts of record, and remarkable few patzers. When the field was split into 2 sections after the fourth round, there were some tough opponents in the second section.

With so large an entry list, it was decided to get off to an early start with the registration. On Friday night, Bob Baker and Phil Smith of the Fresno club started to take entries, and by the time Tournament Director McClain and statistician Van Gelder arrived at midnight there were about 50 players signed up. Early Saturday morning the same team set up business on the mezzanine, helped by various volunteers, and, within two hours, or about 10:30, the pairings for the first round were being called out over the public address system.

ROUND I -- The first round was the usual pairing of the top half against the bottom half, played at the rate of 30 moves an hour. After a very noisy period while everybody got paired off and settled down with sets and clocks, the large playing room quieted down. (We never fail to marvel at the unnatural hush which always marks the first round of the California Open.) The pairings went as expected, meaning that on the whole the "sheep" and "goats" performed as their ratings indicated. The only upset we can now recall was Leslie Simon's draw with young Rod Freeman of San Diego.

ROUND II -- On Saturday afternoon there were a few upsets. With the rate of play still 30 moves an hour, there were two losses on time; both Ray Martin and Leonard Standers neglected to find out the time limit. Even though both players were not in the room when the rate of play was announced, it was clearly posted; and it became the tournament director's sad duty to forfeit the games -- Martin's to Charles Henderson and Standers' to Bert Mueller. There were only a couple of other upsets: William Carr lost to Jerome Hankan (but this was not recognized as an upset at the time because Carr was unrated), Jim Schmitt lost to Ben Kakimi, and Rex Wilcox defeated Sidney Weinbaum.

ROUND III -- On Saturday night the games got tougher and the rate of play became 40 moves in two hours. A discussion was held concerning the division into two sections. Nobody was happy about the need to make the split, but it was found to be desirable in the interests of speeding up the pairings between rounds. However, it was decided to

divide after four rounds instead of three, with those who failed to make an even score or better going into the Reserves.

The third round had a sizable casualty list. Tibor Weinberger, defending champion, was defeated by Tom Fries. Saul Yarmak was defeated by Phil Smith. Earl Pruner had his second straight draw. Al Coles, Jim Barry, and Fritz Leiber all lost. After the round was over, only 10 of the 117 had three points.

ROUND IV -- Sunday morning was free of play, the fourth round starting at noon. This was the only break in three days of hard chess. Of the 10 players starting this round with three points, only 4 went on to the next round with perfect scores. Kovacs beat Loftsson, Rivise beat Wilcox, Fries beat Wang, and Cunningham beat Svalberg. Almgren and Barlai drew, thus joining those winners of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ point group who won their games: Simon, Rod Freeman, and Lien. The latter's victory over Weinberger was the upset of the round. Since the fourth round was the cut-off point for the "Reserves," there were several battles for survival and quite a few hardship cases. All told, 39 failed to make two points.

ROUND V -- This round began at 7:00 P.M. The situation regarding first place was becoming clarified, and the featured pairings were Kovacs (4) - Fries (4) and Rivise (4) - Cunningham (4). In strong contention were Barlai ($3\frac{1}{2}$) - Simon ($3\frac{1}{2}$) and Rod Freeman ($3\frac{1}{2}$) - Almgren ($3\frac{1}{2}$). There were 22 players with three points, however. When the round was over (and it was over early, which was somewhat of a surprise) Kovacs and Cunningham remained with 5 points. Simon and Rod Freeman stayed in close with $4\frac{1}{2}$. Freeman's win over Almgren was rated the upset of the round, although at this stage, with most of the tournament played, nothing could properly be called an upset.

In the Reserves, there naturally were no scores of over $2\frac{1}{2}$ points. At that, there was a decision in sight, for only four players had $2\frac{1}{2}$: Farly, Hoppe, Robinson, and Maron.

ROUND VI -- It was early Monday morning (nine o'clock) when the sixth round started. The two leaders, Cunningham and Kovacs, met and the youngster from Arcadia finally met his master in the veteran Kovacs. Simon ($4\frac{1}{2}$) won from Martin (4), and took over undisputed second place as young Rod Freeman ($4\frac{1}{2}$) was losing to Rivise (4). Carr joined Rivise in a tie for third, as the other three games between 4-pointers were drawn: Loftsson-Wang, Fries-Smith, and Keyes-Weinberger. In the Reserves, Farly took over first place by beating Maron, while Robinson was drawing with Hoppe.

ROUND VII -- The last round was scheduled to start as early as two-thir but round six was the bitterest of the tournament and it was after three thirty before the scene could be cleared. The last game to finish was Wilcox - Schmitt, a game with numerous ups and downs, and it was not finished until after the seventh round. It appeared that this game would be either a draw or win for Schmitt. A provisional result was entered for pairing purposes, the game was adjourned, and the last round was started.

The contest for the championship was limited to Kovacs (6) - Simon (5½) Kovacs had the White pieces, played accurately and soundly for a reasonable length of time, and the players agreed upon a draw when nothing developed. The only players with a chance for second place, Rivise, Carr and Cunningham, drew their games. Rivise, with the White pieces, drew with Carr and Cunningham, with Black, drew with Pruner. So it was Kovacs the champion, Simon the runnerup, and six players in a tie for third. For a while it looked as though there would be a seventh player in the tie for third, but Schmitt was unable to win his adjourned game.

There was a four-way tie in the Reserves section between Farly, Hoppe, Kocsis, and McCullough. Farly (3½) drew with Leidner (2½), Hoppe (3) beat Thach (3), Kocsis (3) beat Robinson (3), and McCullough (3) beat Gillette (3). Because there was only one trophy, Solkoff points were computed and Farly was the winner.

Because of the lateness of the hour there were no ceremonies in connection with the presentation of the prizes, but because there was an interesting endgame being played between Wilcox and Schmitt there were a number of spectators. The prizes: 1 - \$105 and trophy; 2 - \$80; 3 - \$65; 4 - \$55; 5 - \$45; 6 - \$35; 7 - \$30; 8 - \$25; 9 to 13 - \$20; 14 to 18 - \$10; Reserves - trophy. The six who tied for third through eighth places received \$42.50 each and the twelve who tied for ninth through eighteenth received \$12.50 each. At one stage it looked as though Schmitt had a win against Wilcox, and the tournament director paid several prizewinners only \$39.25 instead of \$42.50, which later made some mailing of checks necessary. However, several in the next group were paid \$13 instead of \$12.50, some of which was unrecovered.

The tournament was a financial success, as always. Out of \$1,000 paid in by contestants, \$590 was paid out in cash prizes. The State Federation received 71 memberships, new and renewals, for a total of \$177.50 and also earned \$1.00 commission on 27 memberships to the U.S. Chess Federation. A total of \$100 was collected for the expenses of the tournament directors, McClain and Koenig.

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CALIFORNIA OPEN 1960			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	SCORE	PTS.
1	Z. Kovacs	Los Angeles	W35	W13	W18	W10	W4	W3	D2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	17
2	L. Simon	Los Angeles	D22	W83	W30	W28	W7	W24	D1	6	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
3	W. Cunningham	Arcadia	W108	W31	W41	W14	W5	L1	D9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	17
4	T. Fries	Los Angeles	W105	W8	W20	W21	L1	D11	W23	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	16
5	I. Rivise	Los Angeles	W84	W68	W32	W12	L3	W22	D6	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
6	W. Carr	Los Angeles	W38	L51	W74	W27	W13	W32	D5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
7	I. Barlai	San Diego	W86	W60	W55	D33	L2	W49	W22	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	14
8	A. Keyes	San Diego	W85	L4	W64	W52	W14	D23	W21	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	14
9	E. Pruner	San Francisco	W112	D53	D37	W59	D12	W28	D3	5	15
10	J. Loftsson	El Cerrito	W66	W56	W39	L1	W16	D21	D11	5	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
11	P. D. Smith	Fresno	W58	D59	D25	W68	W60	D4	D10	5	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
12	R. Wilcox	Salinas	W93	W23	W26	L5	D9	D17	W69	5	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
13	J. Kalisch	San Francisco	W46	L1	W58	W48	L6	W60	W32	5	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
14	C. Svalberg	San Francisco	W91	W79	W52	L3	L8	W64	W36	5	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
15	S. Matzner	Anaheim	W82	D25	D49	L16	W44	W42	W38	5	12
16	E. H. Mueller	Campbell	W64	W69	L61	W15	L10	W68	W33	5	12
17	J. Schmitt	San Francisco	W92	L39	W82	D49	W70	D12	W26	5	12
18	E. Bersbach	Los Angeles	W47	W36	L1	L25	W67	W37	W35	5	11
19	N. Hultgren	Pasadena	W100	L33	W88	W71	L21	W62	W52	5	11
20	T. Weinberger	Glendale	W74	W29	L4	L60	W63	W50	W34	5	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
21	A. Wang	Berkeley	W95	W27	W51	L4	W19	D10	L8	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
22	Rod Freeman	San Diego	D2	W76	W53	W61	W33	L5	L7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	15
23	S. Weinbaum	Los Angeles	W67	L12	W92	W43	W34	D8	L4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	15
24	R. Martin	Santa Monica	W44	L41	W84	W56	W37	L2	D25	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
25	A. Raymond	Lancaster	W97	D15	D11	W18	L32	W45	D24	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
26	A. P. Coles III	La Jolla	W88	W34	L12	D38	W53	W51	L17	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	12
27	L. Hyder	Berkeley	W72	L21	W105	L6	W46	D39	W51	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
28	T. Lux	San Diego	W104	D80	W57	L2	W61	L9	W56	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
29	F. Hufnagel	Los Angeles	W110	L20	W86	L36	W41	D52	W49	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	11
30	R. Loveless	N. Hollywood	D96	W78	L2	D57	D40	W69	W70	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
31	H. Rosenbaum	San Carlos	W106	L3	L48	D79	W73	W71	W50	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
32	J. Barry	Northridge	W48	W63	L5	W39	W25	L6	L13	4	15
33	S. Almgren	Los Angeles	W94	W19	W45	D7	L22	D38	L16	4	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
34	H. Edelstein	San Carlos	W111	L26	W79	W45	L23	W47	L20	4	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
35	W. Rebold	Berkeley	L1	W46	W73	W63	D50	D36	L18	4	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
36	D. Sutherland	San Francisco	W81	L18	W42	W29	D51	D35	L14	4	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
37	M. Wilkerson	San Francisco	D103	W96	D9	W54	L24	L18	W63	4	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
38	O. Bender	Sacramento	L6	W40	W111	D26	W69	D33	L15	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
39	B. Kakimi	Monterey Park	W99	W17	L10	L32	W75	D27	D43	4	11

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	SCORE	PTS.	
40	E. Bogas	Menlo Park	L51	L38	W109	W85	D30	D65	W66	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
41	C. Henderson	Los Angeles	W113	W24	L3	F	L29	W67	W68	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
42	J. Mortz	South Gate	W109	L52	L36	W102	W72	L15	W61	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
43	V. Radaikin	San Francisco	D78	W103	D59	L23	W54	D61	D39	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
44	C. Wilson	Oakland	L24	W110	W80	L50	L15	W72	W62	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
45	S. Yarmak	Los Angeles	W90	W77	L33	L34	W74	L25	W53	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
46	K. King	Van Nuys	L13	L35	W107	W92	L27	W74	W60	4	10
47	S. Mann	Sun Valley	L18	W107	L60	W117	W77	L34	W64	4	10
48	E. Shields	Bakersfield	L32	W97	W31	L13	D55	D66	W65	4	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
49	J. Blackstone	Saratoga	W89	D61	D15	D17	W55	L7	L29	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
50	W. Markus	Garden Grove	W102	W75	W81	W44	D35	L20	L31	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
51	J. Hanken	Los Angeles	W40	W6	L21	W55	D36	L26	L27	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	13
52	F. Leiber	Santa Monica	W98	W42	L14	L8	W58	D29	L19	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	13
53	F. Burke	Los Angeles	W71	D9	L22	W80	L26	W55	L45	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	12
54	Dr. B. Gross	San Francisco	L61	W106	W85	L37	L43	D59	W76	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	10
55	C. Sedlack	Emeryville	W75	W102	L7	L51	D48	L53	W71	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	10
56	F. Metz	Northridge	W115	L10	W66	L24	D71	W70	L28	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
57	D. Benge	Hollywood	D83	W62	L28	D30	L49	W78	D58	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
58	J. Lee	Union City, N.J.	L11	W116	L13	W113	L52	W73	D57	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
59	R. Bagley	Fullerton	W107	D11	D43	L9	L62	D54	W77	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
60	E. Lien	Berkeley	W116	L7	W47	W20	L11	L13	L46	3	14
61	H. Bullwinkel	San Francisco	W54	D49	W16	L22	L28	D43	L42	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
62	W. Hollingsworth	San Mateo	D76	L57	D94	W86	W59	L19	L44	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
63	R. Cuneo	Oakland	W117	L32	W113	L35	L20	W75	L37	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
64	V. Ratnieks	Albany	L16	W98	L8	W105	W76	L14	L47	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
65	F. Hazard	Los Angeles	L79	L88	W93	W91	D66	D40	L48	3	11
66	C. Huneke	San Francisco	L10	W73	L56	W111	D65	D48	L40	3	11
67	N. Nielsen	San Francisco	L23	L13	W106	W94	L18	L41	W78	3	11
68	G. Rasmussen	Vallejo	W114	L5	W102	L11	W78	L16	L41	3	11
69	I. Standers	Burbank	W101	L16	D95	W90	L38	L30	L12	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
70	M. Saca	Berkeley	L80	D91	W87	W95	L17	L56	L30	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	13
71	K. Forrest	Manhattan Beach	L53	W112	W77	L19	D56	L31	L55	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
72	R. Castle	San Diego	L27	L95	W108	W81	L42	L44	D75	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
73	D. Rogosin	Hollywood	Bye	L66	L35	W101	L31	L58	D74	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
74	F. Sleep	Fullerton	L20	W104	L6	W110	L45	L46	D73	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	10
75	R. Baldinger	Los Angeles	L55	L50	W115	W82	L39	L63	D72	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
76	D. Cotten	Riverside	D62	L22	W103	D78	L64	D77	L54	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
77	J. Freed	Los Angeles	W87	L45	L71	W104	L47	D76	L59	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
78	F. Smyth	Riverside	D43	L30	W100	D76	L68	L57	L67	2	9 $\frac{1}{2}$

Underlined scores indicate a forfeit.

"RESERVES"		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	SCORE	PTS.
79 G. Farly	Berkeley	W65	L14	L34	D31	W84	W90	D83	4	10
80 R. Hoppe	San Francisco	W70	D28	L44	L53	W95	D88	W93	4	9
81 Z. Kocsis	La Jolla	L36	W115	L50	L72	W109	W92	W88	4	7½
82 R. McCullough	San Francisco	L15	W114	L17	L75	W96	W104	W91	4	7½
83 M. Leidner	Canoga Park	D57	L2	D91	D88	D85	W102	D79	3½	9½
84 Dr. T. Bullockus	P. Palisades	L5	W93	L24	D12	L79	W115	W98	3½	7½
85 D. Weamer	Berkeley	L8	W108	L54	L40	D83	W113	W97	3½	7
86 J. Zizda	Monterey Park	L7	W109	L29	L62	W113	D89	W95	3½	6½
87 T. Jones	Lancaster	L77	D90	L70	L96	W101	W117	W100	3½	4½
88 N. Robinson	Los Angeles	L26	W65	L19	D83	W98	D80	L81	3	10½
89 M. Jeffrey	Chula Vista	L49	L105	L104	W108	W94	D86	D90	3	9½
90 D. Maron	Los Angeles	L45	D87	W96	L69	W97	L79	D89	3	9½
91 D. Gillette	Davis	L14	D70	D83	L65	W99	W100	L82	3	8½
92 Russ Freeman	Oakland	L17	W99	L23	L46	W103	L81	W102	3	8
93 B. Thach	Long Beach	L12	L84	L65	W107	W110	W96	L80	3	8
94 H. Rogosin	Hollywood	L33	D100	D62	L67	L89	W101	W103	3	7
95 R. Baker	Fresno	L21	W72	D69	L70	L80	W109	L86	2½	9
96 J. Zuzow	Los Angeles	D30	L37	L90	W87	L82	L93	W104	2½	8½
97 B. Allen	Ridgecrest	L25	L48	Bye	D98	L90	W116	L85	2½	7½
98 J. Owen	Southgate	L52	L64	W116	D97	L88	W114	L84	2½	7½
99 W. Barlow	Oildale	L39	L92	L101	W106	L91	D110	W105	2½	6½
100 M. Beiley	San Pedro	L19	D94	L78	D103	W105	L91	L87	2	8½
101 J. Black	Chula Vista	L69	L111	W99	L73	L87	L94	W110	2	8
102 C. Ulrich	Hollywood	W50	L55	L68	L42	W111	L83	L92	2	8
103 H. Rader	S. San Gabriel	D37	L43	L76	D100	L92	W111	L94	2	7½
104 P. Sandridge	Los Angeles	L28	L74	W89	L77	W114	L82	L96	2	7½
105 V. Homolka	P. Palisades	L4	W89	L27	L64	L100	W107	L99	2	6½
106 A. Cherestes	Santa Monica	L31	L54	L67	L99	L107	W108	W114	2	5
107 J. McCarty	Alameda	L59	L47	L46	L93	W106	L105	W115	2	5
108 W. Griesmeyer	Temple City	L3	L85	L72	L89	W116	L106	W113	2	4
109 W. Jachens	San Jose	L42	L86	L40	W115	L81	L95	D111	1½	8
110 H. Chamness	Montclair	L29	L44	W117	L74	L93	D99	L101	1½	7
111 D. Mortz	South Gate	L34	W101	L38	L66	L102	L103	L109	1½	5½
112 H. Keeseey	Buena Park	L9	L71	W114	D84				1½	0
113 Mrs. H. Freed	Los Angeles	L41	W67	L63	L58	L86	L85	L108	1	7
114 Mrs. E. Torrance	Pac. Grove	L68	L82	L112	W116	L104	L98	L106	1	6½
115 W. Winston	Boron	L56	L81	L75	L109	W117	L84	W107	1	6
116 L. Thompson	Long Beach	L60	L58	L98	L114	L108	L97	W117	1	5
117 P. Rogosin	Hollywood	L63	Bye	L110	L47	L115	L87	L116	1	5

Underlined scores indicate a forfeit.

SANTA MONICA INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT, 1960

This must be ranked as one of the strongest events of the year in Southern California. Conducted over several weeks during the summer, the tournament was delayed in being reported until the full table could be given in this issue.

The substantial first prize of \$100.00 was carried off by Steve Sholomson, ahead of a fine field that included Tibor Weinberger, Irving Rivise, Leslie Simon, Joe Mego, Carl Diesen, and Emil Bersbach. The last mentioned received \$30 and \$20 respectively for third and fourth places, while Weinberger earned \$50 for his close second. Several strong players had to content themselves with minus scores. The table:

SANTA MONICA INVITATIONAL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SCORE
1 S. Sholomson	W15	W18	W9	W3	D2	W13	D4	W7	7 - 1
2 T. Weinberger	D17	W14	W10	W9	D13	W7	W6	D4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 C. Diesen	W8	W16	D13	L1	L7	W5	W15	W9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 E. Bersbach	L16	W6	W5	D7	D12	W17	D1	D2	5 - 3
5 J. Jaffray	W6	L9	L4	D18	W10	L3	W19	W14	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 J. Kliger	L5	L4	W19	D16	W11	W18	L2	W17	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 J. Mego	D13	W17	D8	D4	W3	L2	W12	L1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 I. Rivise	L3	W19	D7	L12	L18	W11	W17	W15	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 E. Warner	W20	W5	L1	L2	W15	D12	W13	L3	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 D. Hestenes	D14	W12	L2	L17	L5	W20	L11	W16	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 J. Laird	D12	L13	L20	W14	L6	L8	W10	W19	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
12 G. Rubin	D11	L10	W16	W8	D4	D9	L7	--	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
13 L. Simon	D7	W11	D3	W15	D17	L1	L9	--	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 T. Fries	D16	L2	L17	L11	W20	D16	W18	L5	3 - 5
15 F. Hazard	L1	W20	W18	L13	L9	W19	L3	L8	3 - 5
16 F. Leiber	W4	L3	L12	D6	L19	D14	W20	L10	3 - 5
17 J. Pinneo	D2	L7	W14	W10	D13	L4	L8	L6	3 - 5
18 N. Goldberg	W19	L1	L15	D5	W8	L6	L14	--	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
19 N. Robinson	L18	L8	L6	W20	W16	L15	L5	L11	2 - 6
20 Antonio Loera	L9	L15	W11	L19	L14	L10	L16	---	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 7

SANTA MONICA EXPERT CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT, 1960

A preliminary to the event reported above, this tournament was an equal success. Of the 26 participants, Carl Diesen was a clear first with 6-0. Dan Van Arsdale took second with 5-1 and Robert Harshbarger third with 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$. John Jaffray, S. Lewis, A. Gilbert, and R. Bukey were tied at 4-2. Both this and the Invitational were directed by Herbert Abel, with the assistance of E. Gardos.

Special events at the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club during the summer included a French Defense Tourney and a Speed Championship.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY OPEN, 1960

The thirteenth annual event in this series sponsored by the Pasadena Chess Club resulted in a three-way tie for first, between Gordon Barrett, Al Larsen, and Don Young. Their scores of 5-1 were just ahead of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ of Neilen Hultgren. Club President E. B. Adams and Alan Carpenter tied for fifth-sixth place with 4-2. The score table:

San Gabriel Valley Open	1	2	3	4	5	6	SCORE	POINTS
1 G. Barrett	W11	W10	W2	L3	W5	W8	5 - 1	$19\frac{1}{2}$
2 D. Young	W15	W19	L1	W12	W9	W3	5 - 1	$16\frac{1}{2}$
3 A. Larsen	W17	W21	W16	W1	W7	L2	5 - 1	$14\frac{1}{2}$
4 N. Hultgren	W13	L9	L19	W16	D8	W7	$4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$
5 A. Carpenter	L10	W11	W18	W17	L1	W13	4 - 2	11
6 E. B. Adams	W14	L16	W21	L7	W19	W12	4 - 2	9
7 J. Freed	W8	W12	D9	W6	L3	L4	$3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$
8 E. Klein	L7	W14	W15	W9	D4	L1	$3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$
9 Howeth	W20	W4	D7	L8	L2	W18	$3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$
10 Meidt	W5	L1	L12	W22	D16	W17	$3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
11 R. Wilson	L1	L5	W14	W18	D17	W16*	$3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$
12 Gagnon	Bye	L7	W10	L2	W20	L6	3 - 3	$5\frac{1}{2}$
13 J. Porth	L4	L18	W22	W20	W15	L5	3 - 3	5
14 H. Nichols	L6	L8	L11	Bye	W21	W19	3 - 3	3
15 Delong	L2	W22	L8	W23	L13	W21	3 - 3	2
16 R. Gish	W23	W6	L3	L4	D10	L11*	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$
17 Tapia	L3	Bye	W20	L5	D11	L10	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
18 H. Freed	L19	W13	L5	L11	W22	L9	2 - 4	3
19 McClanahan	W18	L2	L4	W21	L6	L14	2 - 4	3
20 Cohan	L9	W23	L17	L13	L12	W22	2 - 4	1
21 Nash	W22	L3	L6	L19	L14	L15	1 - 5	0
22 D. Miller	L21	L15	L13	L10	L18	L20	0 - 6	0
23 Hall	L16	L20	Bye	L15	Withdrew		1 - 6	0

*Forfeit

THE CALIFORNIA BOOK OF CHESS

The U. S. Open will come to San Francisco for the first time ever on August 14, 1961. As a souvenir of this event The Reporter intends to publish a collection of the best games, problems, or positions of all Californians who wish their names to appear. Tentatively named "The California Book Of Chess" it will be representative of every part of the State. THIS IS THE FIRST CALL. SELECT YOUR 3 BEST GAMES AND ANY NUMBER OF POSITIONS OR STUDIES AND SEND THEM TO THE REPORTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Your own annotations welcome. Your name should appear in this commemorative volume -- send your games immediately.

GAME OF THE MONTH

By V. Zemitic

The Nimzo-Indian variation chosen in the following game has a comparatively short history. It first appeared in the game Lilienthal - Botwinnik, Moscow 1935, when the former played 6. P-B3. After the game almost everyone agreed that such a weakening of the Kingside pawn formation was unsound, and was rightfully and effectively refuted by Black. Not all chess masters, however, shared this view. The Match Tournament of 1941 saw the 6. P-B3 variation anew. This time Bondarevsky, acting on Keres's suggestion, chose the risky-looking move 8. Pxp in his encounter with Smyslov. Unfortunately, the move did not find favor, and many masters, among them Herman Steiner, were again looking for improvements. A new move, 8. Q-Q2, was turned up. In the initial game H. Steiner - Donner, Venice 1950, the latter cast this fresh discovery into doubt. Even Botwinnik was forced to admit as much when, as World Champion at Munich 1958, his 8. Q-Q2 was decisively refuted -- again by Donner. There were those who experimented with 8. Pxp, and although the results were inconclusive all the games had one common characteristic, namely, they created highly interesting positions.

It was gratifying to see 2 young Californians embark recently on this enterprising line. The occasion was the California Open, 1960, reported in this issue. The leader of the Black forces, Art Wang of Berkeley, tried to improve on the variation with 9. ... Kt-B2, but his opponent, playing through the tournament like a house afire, made the most of the opening and burned him well.

CALIFORNIA OPEN, 1960Game No. 588 - Nimzo-Indian

White	Black
T. Fries	A. Wang
1. P-Q4	Kt-KB3
2. P-QB4	P-K3
3. Kt-QB3	B-Kt5
4. P-QR3	BxKtch
5. PxB	P-B4
6. P-B3	...

This is Lilienthal's controversial move. Instead, both 6. P-K3 and 6. Kt-B3 tend to stabilize the center while 6. Q-B2 is eccentric but not

too bad. Overzealous are 6. P-K4 or 6. P-Kt4 (hoping for 6...KtxP when 7. P-K4 is good for White.)

6. ...	P-Q4
7. BPxP	KtxP
8. Pxp	...

As mentioned above, the alternative Q-Q2 was twice parried with success by Donner. Against Herman Steiner he played Q-R4 followed by Kt-Kt3; against Botwinnik he chose the slightly better QKt-B3, again followed by Kt-Kt3.

8. ... Q-R4
 Not the best. Romanovsky's recommendation 8. ... P-B4 is better. (See the game Klavins-Tal, Riga 1953, in "The Unknown Tal" for a detailed exposition of this move.)

("The Unknown Tal" is V. Zemitis's recent book on the World Champion published in cooperation with The Reporter and available from the author or The Reporter for \$1.50 - Ed.)

9. P-K4 Kt-B2
 Of course QxPch is weak. 9...Kt-K2 as Smyslow played against Bondarevsky is met with 10. B-K3, O-O; 11. Q-Kt3, Kt-R3; 12. R-Q1, Kt-B3; 13. B-Kt5! (Euwe). Best is 9. ... KtxP, which leads to only a small advantage for White.

10. B-K3 O-O
 11. Q-Kt3 QKt-R3
 12. R-Q1! P-K4

On KtxP, 13. Q-Kt4 is strong.

13. B-QB4 B-K3
 14. BxB KtxB
 15. Kt-K2 KKtxP
 16. Q-R2 ...

White's Queen remains on an important diagonal.

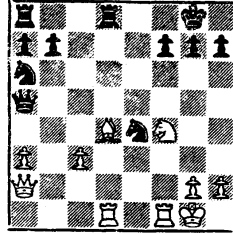
16. ... KR-Q1
 17. O-O Kt-Q6

Black has apparently "won" the opening struggle, but this precipitous move loses. Indispensable was Q-Kt4 so as to threaten Q-Kt6.

18. P-KB4! PxP

Better was KtxKBP 19. KtxKt, RxR; 20. RxR, PxKt; 21. BxBP, R-Q1; 22. R-Q5, Q-Kt3ch, etc.

19. B-Q4! Kt(6)-B4
 Kt-K4 seems a shade better.
 20. KtxP KtxP



21. Kt-K6! ...
 The Knight was crying to go to some square, and this has to be "it". Black cannot well accept the sacrifice because of a mating attack. For example, 21. ... PxKt 22. QxPch K-R1; 23. Q-K7 (not BxPch, KxB; 24. R-Q7ch, RxR! 25. QxRh K-R1; 26. R-B7, Q-Kt3ch, etc.) and now White wins after:
 23. ...RxB (24. R-B8ch)
 23. ...Kt-B3 (24. RxKt)
 23. ...Q-B2 (24. BxPch) and
 23. ...R-KKt1 (24. R-B7)

21. ... Q-Q4
 Apparently silencing the big guns, but White remains with some strong threats.

22. QxQ RxQ
 23. KtxP P-B3
 The threat of Kt-B5 and the resulting Knight threats are difficult to meet. After Kt-Q3 could come 24. P-B4!

24. Kt-B5 K-B2
 25. QR-K1 R-K1
 26. Kt-Kt3! KtxKt
 27. RxPch Resigns
 A deceptive game that gives great credit to the winner.

GAMES SECTION

Conducted by V. Zepelin

"The case of the brave Bishop"

CALIFORNIA OPEN, 1960

Game No. 589 - Nimzowitch Defense

White	Black
F. Burke	E. Pruner

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 1. P-K4 | QKt-B3 |
| 2. P-Q4 | P-K4 |
| 3. P-Q5 | QKt-K2 |
| 4. P-QB4 | P-Q3 |
| 5. Kt-QB3 | P-KB4 |

Though natural-looking, this turns out to be too ambitious. Normal Kingside development would have been sufficient for equality.

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 6. B-Kt5! | P-KR3 |
|-----------|-------|

Black is in difficulties. Also possible was 6. ... PxP followed by B-B4 and Q-Q2, here or next.

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| 7. B-R4! | P-KKt3 |
|----------|--------|

The Bishop is temporarily immune from smothering (P-KKt4 8. Q-R5ch) but he is in no hurry to immolate himself.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 8. B-Q3 | P-B5 |
|---------|------|

Black cannot complete his development with Pxp and Q-R5ch threatened.

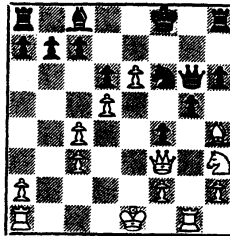
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|------------|--------|
| 9. P-KKt3! | B-Kt2 |
| 10. Pxp | Pxp |
| 11. P-K5! | P-KKt4 |
| 12. Q-R5ch | K-B1 |
| 13. P-K6 | Q-K1 |
| 14. Q-B3 | BxKtch |

Black had to forego taking the Bishop because of Qxpch followed by Kt-K4 and KKt-B3.

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 15. PxB | Kt-Kt3 |
| 16. BxKt | QxB |
| 17. Kt-R3 | Kt-B3 |

The Bishop is again protected by the answer 18. KtxP, Q-B3; 19. Kt-Kt6ch, etc.

- | | |
|------------|-----|
| 18. KR-Kt1 | ... |
|------------|-----|



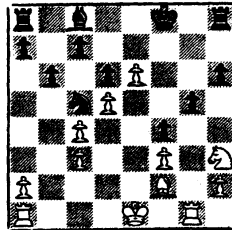
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| 18. ... | Q-K5ch |
|---------|--------|

On Q-B4, White could proceed with 19. KtxKtP, PxKt; 20. Rxp, Q-R2; 21. Qxp -- or if 20. ... Q-K5ch; 21. QxQ, KtxQ; 22 R-B5 ch, in the first case with winning, in the second with good winning chances.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 19. QxQ | KtxQ |
| 20. P-B3 | Kt-B4 |
| 21. B-B2 | ... |

At last the Bishop is alive...

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 21. ... | P-Kt3 |
|---------|-------|



After KtxP; 22. PxKt, Bxp; 23. B-Q4! followed by Kt-B2 White's pieces are superior.

22. K-Q2 ...
 But here the Bishop misses his chance for glory. 22. B-Q4 forces either R-Kt1 (23. KtxBP! B-R3; 24. Kt-K2, BxP; 25. Kt-K3) or R-R2 (23. O-O-O, B-R3 24. KtxKtP, PxKt; 25. RxP and there is no good defense against QR-Kt1 -- for example 25. ... RxP; 26. QR-Kt1, Kt-Q6ch; 27. K-Kt1, R-Kt7ch; 28. K-R1, BxP threatens an unavoidable mate in one, but after 29. R-Kt8ch he is mated himself!)

22. ... B-R3
 23. BxKt ...
 And now, having missed his one big moment, the Bishop must exchange himself to save the Pawns.

23. ... KtPxB
 24. K-Q3 P-B3!
 25. PxP P-Q4
 26. QR-Kt1 BxPch
 27. K-Q2 K-K2
 28. KR-K1 QR-Kt1
 29. P-B7 RxR
 30. RxR R-QB1
 Otherwise comes R-Kt8.
 31. R-K7 KxP
 32. RxP K-Q2
 33. Kt-B2

Draw Agreed

"It takes three errors to lose a game" (- N. Falconer)

Game No. 590 - Queen's Gambit, Slav

White	Black
T. Weinberger	T. Fries

1. P-Q4	P-Q4
2. P-QB4	P-QB3
3. Kt-QB3	Kt-B3
4. Kt-B3	P-K3
5. P-K3	QKt-Q2

6. B-Q3	PxP
7. BxBP	P-QKt4
8. B-Q3	...

White can also retreat to Kt3 or K2. In the first case P-Kt5 9. Kt-K2, B-R3, in the latter case B-Kt2 is a good reply.

8. ... B-Kt2
 Finally deviating from the main variation of the Meran, which is P-QR3; 9. P-K4, P-B4, etc. It should be noted that White could have avoided this line with 6. Q-B2 or even Rubinstein's 6. Kt-K5, which, however, offers only equality. Black in turn could have avoided the Meran on his sixth move with B-Kt5 or B-Q3, the latter having been played as far back as 1889 in the Steinitz-Tschigorin match.

9. O-O ...
 If 9. P-K4, then P-Kt5; 10. Kt-QR4, P-B4. Or if 9. Q-K2, then P-QR3; 10. P-K4, P-B4; 11. P-Q5, P-B5; 12. B-B2, PxP; 13. P-K5, Kt-K5! (Kottbauer - Donner, Amsterdam, 1950. Keres suggestion 9. P-QR3 is met with P-QR4.

9. ...	P-QR3
10. P-K4	P-B4
11. P-Q5	P-K4

PxP and P-Kt5 lead to disaster for Black. Q-Kt3 was to be considered, but White still has the advantage.

12. P-QKt3 ...
 On 12. Q-K2, B-Q3; 13. Kt-KR4 Black does not have to play KtxQP, but plays simply P-Kt3 with a satisfactory position.

12. ...	B-Q3
13. Q-K2	O-O

14. P-QR4! ...

A fine positional move which marks Black's pawn weaknesses on the Queenside.

14. ... P-Kt5

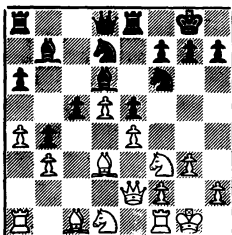
15. Kt-Q1 ...

Although this move is not an error, Kt-Kt1 with Kt-Q2 in mind was a good plan.

15. ... R-K1

16. P-Kt3 ? ...

An incredible oversight by the State Champion. B-QB4, followed by Kt-Q2 if necessary, would have given White an excellent game. Mistake No. 1.



16. ... BxP!

17. PxB P-K5

18. B-KKt5 ...

Mistake No. 2. Relatively best is 18. B-Kt2.

18. ... PxB

19. QxP P-R3!

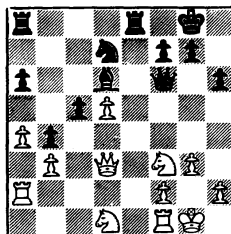
20. BxKt ...

Mistake No. 3. B-B1 would have given more fighting chances.

20. ... QxB

21. R-R2 ...

Apparently White has overlooked Black's strong reply. The point is that the King's Knight is not well protected, and in regaining material White loses his defenses.



21. ... P-B5!

22. QxP ...

Or 22. PxP, Kt-B4, etc.

22. ... QxKt

23. Q-B6 Kt-K4

24. QxB Q-K5!

Another fine move which takes advantage of the defenseless King.

25. Kt-K3 ...

After P-B3, KtxPch; 26. K-B2, Kt-Q5 wins easily.

25. ... Kt-B6ch

26. K-Kt2 Kt-Kt4ch!

Now after K-Kt1 White is mated.

27. P-B3 QxKt

and White resigned after a few more moves.

Just as impressive as the total score were the games which Tom Fries conducted in the Open -- against California's top players he played consistently well. If it takes 3 mistakes for your opponent to lose a game, it must take somewhat less than 3 for you to win!

In the following game Ray Martin again demonstrates that his attacking verve is still to be feared. The famous trilogy of errors contributes to the debacle.

CALIFORNIA OPEN, 1960

Game No. 591 - French Defense

White	Black
R. Martin	F. Metz

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 1. P-K4 | P-K3 |
| 2. P-Q4 | P-Q4 |
| 3. Kt-QB3 | PxP |
| 4. KtxP | Kt-Q2 |
| 5. Kt-KB3 | KKt-B3 |
| 6. B-Q3 | ... |

This neither wins nor loses time compared with KtxKtch. The real alternative was Kt-Kt3 or Kt-B3.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 6. ... | B-K2 |
| 7. Q-K2 | ... |

Also 7. O-O, 7. P-B3, and 7. KtxKt have been tried and offer White a good game.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 7. ... | P-QKt3 |
| 8. KtxKtch | KtxKt |
| 9. B-KKt5 | B-Kt2 |
| 10. O-O-O | Kt-Q2 (?) |

The right idea but the wrong square (Kt-Q4 was natural enough). On the other hand, 10. ... O-O would have given White a strong attack after P-KR4, BxKt and Kt-Kt5. Compare a similar position Lasker-Capablanca, Moscow 1935.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 11. B-KB4 | P-QB3 (?) |
|-----------|-----------|

This is a slow and cumbersome way to free the Queen. Better was B-Q3.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 12. P-KR4 | P-QKt4 |
| 13. Kt-Kt5 | Kt-B3 |
| 14. K-Kt1 | P-KR3 (?) |

The trilogy of errors - or maybe a chess player should be a fatalist and say misfortune seldom comes alone.

- | | |
|------------|-----|
| 15. KtxKP! | ... |
|------------|-----|

Sacrifice a la Tal! (The honor really belongs to Spielmann, but in our fast moving world one is liable to overlook the facts of "far away times.")

- | | |
|-------------|------|
| 15. ... | PxKt |
| 16. B-Kt6ch | K-Q2 |

After 16. ... K-B1; 17. QxKP, Q-Q4; 18. KR-K1, QxQ; 19. RxQ Black would have a difficult defense, but somewhat better than the game.

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 17. B-B7 | K-B1 |
| 18. BxPch | Kt-Q2 |
| 19. P-Q5! | ... |

The final destruction of the Black pawns. Restricted as he is, Black still requires White to play carefully.

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 19. ... | PxP |
| 20. QxP | ... |

Tying the Queen to the defense of the Knight.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 20. ... | P-R3 |
| 21. Q-R4 | ... |

Carefully played. Q-Kt3 would allow B-B4.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 21. ... | R-B1 |
|---------|------|

Now B-B4 is useless against R-R3 (F-Q5; 23. RxP! BxR; 24. QxP and R-B3ch cannot be prevented).

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 22. R-R3 | RxB |
| 23. QxR | Q-B2 |
| 24. R-QB3 | B-QB3 |
| 25. QxQch | ... |

Faster was Q-B7, followed by BxP or RxP. But the ending is easily played.

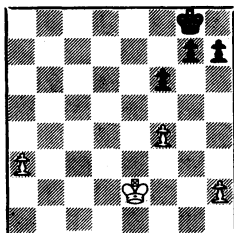
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| 25. ... | KxQ |
| 26. BxP | Kt-Kt1 |
| 27. R-K3 | BxP |
| 28. R-K4 | B-B3 |
| 29. R-K6 | BxB |
| 30. RxB | Kt-Q2 |
| 31. P-QB4 | R-QKt1 |
| 32. P-QKt3 | Kt-Kt3 |
| 33. R-B5ch | Resigns |

REPORTER TASKS

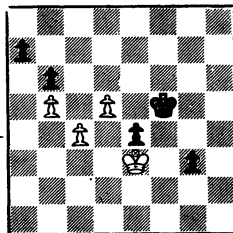
A new book of endgames recently published is worth noting in this department for several reasons. First, it is the work of 2 familiar Americans who are not known primarily for publishing. Second, without being of the "instructional" type it is highly recommended for the practical player. Contrived studies are omitted, the various types of endings are grouped together for easy reference, and many positions are from actual games. The book is "Selected Endings" by Norman T. Whitaker and Glenn E. Hartleb. Printed in Heidelberg, the text is in both English and German; the diagrams, 2 to a page and 365 in all ("one for each day of the year"), are

Bogoljubow - Fine

Keres - Alekhine



No. 168



No. 169

Zandvoort, 1936

Black to play and draw
(No points this month)

Dresden, 1936

Black to play and win
(2 ways)

sharp and large. The positions above give some idea of the type of endings selected: all are quite basic, without sacrificing the surprises of more complicated studies.

In the first position, Black seems strategically lost ("the outside passed pawn"). He manages to save the game by tactics. In the second example, Black can win in 2 different ways, one strategic and the other tactical. (Alekhine chose the tactical; years later, a famous composer pointed out a laborious strategic method.)

SOLUTIONS: No. 166: 1. P-R7, P-R4 2. P-B3!
No. 167: 1. B-B6ch, K-K1 2. B-R5!