

THE CALIFORNIA CHESS REPORTER

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CONTENTS

California State Chp., 1956. 65-67	Photos.....	73-76
Southern Calif. Chp..... 67-69	Game of the Month.....	77
Northern Calif. Chp..... 70	Correspondence.....	78-79
Central Calif. Qualifying..... 71	News.....	80
S.F. Bay Area League..... 71	Games.....	81-83
Central Calif. League..... 72	Reporter Tasks.....	84

GIL RAMIREZ STATE CHAMPION

Seventeen-year-old Gilbert Ramirez of San Francisco added the State Championship to his collection over the Thanksgiving week end, thus making him the only player except the late Herman Steiner to hold the State title and the Open title concurrently. Gil is also title holder of the Chess Friends of Northern California, an honor he won last February.

Ramirez won four games and drew four, to post a score of 6-2. Second was Jim Schmitt (San Francisco), $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$, and third was William Addison (San Francisco), 5-3. Bobby Cross and Irving Rivise (both of Los Angeles) tied for fourth with $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ scores.

The final field of nine players included qualifiers from three elimination tournaments (Southern California, 4 players, Northern California, 3 players, Central California, 1 player) plus the current Open Champion (Ramirez). The tenth spot, reserved for the current State Champion, was left open because of the death last year of Herman Steiner.

The regional winners: Larry Remlinger (Southern California), Bill Addison (Northern California), Donald J. Foley (Central California).

CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, 1956

Gil Ramirez climaxed a great year in California chess by annexing the State title. By drawing with his four principal opponents and winning from the other four, he again demonstrated the consistency which is beginning to be regarded as his hallmark. Starting off with a $2\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ score in the games played in San Francisco prior to Thanksgiving, he scored $3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ in the final encounters, when the full field of nine was assembled.

Jim Schmitt was Ramirez' chief competitor. After scoring a fine win over Addison in the early rounds, Schmitt was neck-and-neck with Ramirez until the last round, when he was unable to win an end game against Foley which for a time looked like the necessary point to tie Ramirez for the championship. Schmitt also was undefeated.

Bill Addison, who went into the tournament the Northern California Champion and who had recently won the S.F. city title, dropped a tough one to Schmitt and thereafter found it impossible to make up the lost ground.

The highest southern California players were Bobby Cross and Irving Rivise. Cross lost a game to Addison and was "helped along" downward by a loss to Rivise; while the latter was knocked out of the picture by losses to Remlinger and Geller. In their games against San Franciscans, Cross and Rivise did very well.

Larry Remlinger, prior to this tournament, had gone some 40 or more games without a loss! The youngest competitor at age 15, Larry had his string broken by a brilliancy at the hands of Addison; the manner in which it happened may have caused some loss of composure, for Larry went on to lose three more games - more losses in one week end than he had sustained in a year and more! Remlinger came to San Francisco with a fine $2\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ score from the three rounds played in Los Angeles and holding the Southern California Championship, but he was unable to score so much as a half-point against the four San Franciscan players in the tournament.

Kurt Bendit of San Francisco and Sam Geller of Los Angeles made respectable $2\frac{1}{2}-5\frac{1}{2}$ scores in their first State Championship tournament. Both players are recent arrivals in California master play; Bendit was a surprise as he finished second in the California Open at Santa Barbara over the Labor Day week end, while Geller was a fine second to Remlinger in the strong Southern California Championship.

Don Foley of San Jose made a strong showing in view of his previous lack of strong competition. He informed us at the California Open that he was playing in his first tournament! He then won the Central California qualifying tournament (4-0), so this was evidently only his third tournament.

The tournament was held at the Mechanics' Institute between November 22 and November 25, 1956, and was ably directed by A. B. Stamer.

CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, 1956

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score
1.	G. Ramirez	S.F.	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	6-2
2.	J. Schmitt	S.F.	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$
3.	W. Addison	S.F.	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	5-3
4.	R. Cross	L.A.	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
5.	I. Rivise	L.A.	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	X	0	1	0	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
6.	L. Remlinger	Long Beach	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	X	0	1	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$
7.	K. Bendit	S.F.	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	1	X	1	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
8.	S. Geller	L.A.	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	0	0	X	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
9.	D. Foley	San Jose	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	1	0	X	2-6

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP, 1956 - by Irving Rivise

On Sunday, August 19, 1956, at the Herman Steiner Chess Club there gathered 42 players to compete for four places in the State Championship finals. As usual in this event, there was a strong contingent of veterans (Almgren, Borochoy, Bob Cross, Jacobs, Martin and Rivise) who had been dominating this annual fixture for some years.

This year witnessed the breakthrough of the ever-present and challenging youngsters, who captured two of the four prize-winning places. Fifteen-year-old Larry Remlinger captured first place quite easily. A newcomer, also 15 years old, Stephen Sholomson gave a fine accounting of his chess ability by placing fourth.

Sam Geller won second place outright, while Irving Rivise took third by reason of the "Inglewood" tie-breaking system.

Larry Remlinger started off by winning his first six games - counting among his victims Martin, Borochoy and Cross. In the seventh round he gave up his first half-point by drawing with Rivise. By drawing again with Geller in the eighth round and Sholomson in the ninth round, Larry allowed the rest of the field to come close but not close enough.

Geller in winning second prize lost but one game, to Rivise. His seventh-round game with Cross was the turning point so far as these two contestants were concerned. Geller in a ticklish situation went in for a combination which was later shown to be unsound. Cross missed the winning continuation and came into the ending with even chances, but in trying to force a win the usual happened - Cross lost. Thereafter Geller played excellent chess, drawing with Johnson in the ninth round and winning his last game from Syvertson.

Rivise for a long time during the tournament was Remlinger's closest pursuer. When these two met in the seventh round Remlinger was leading 6-0, followed by Rivise, 5-1. Remlinger got into difficulties but managed to hold on and when Rivise failed to find a win the draw was soon agreed to. After this it was a desperate chase which came to an abrupt end when Rivise lost to Sholomson in the final round.

Young Sholomson, who has to his credit two victories over Sammy Reshevsky in simultaneous exhibitions, plays a very enterprising and energetic brand of chess. Employing the ancient (but recently revived) Ponziani Opening to good effect, winning from Jacobs, Lorber and Rivise - as well as adopting the Albin Counter Gambit when the opportunity offered - he kept the spectators well entertained.

The tournament as a whole did not produce very exact chess, but many of the games were hard battles despite the positional and tactical errors.

Charles E. Kodil directed the tournament and scheduled the pairings in his usual competent fashion. The Los Angeles area is fortunate indeed to have such an individual as Mr. Kodil who is willing to devote so much of his time and energy to see that these tournaments are properly conducted.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP, 1956

69

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
1. Larry Remlinger	W20	W6	W33	W15	W7	W5	D3	D2	D4	W13	6½-1½
2. Samuel Geller	W36	W19	W18	L3	D4	W20	W5	D1	D13	W7	7½-2½
3. Irving Rivise	D6	W22	W17	W2	D5	W15	D1	W7	D6	L4	7-3
4. Stephen Sholomson	L17	W39	W22	W24	D2	W12	L7	W19	D1	W3	7-3
5. Robert Gross	W34	D16	W28	W13	D3	L1	L2	W18	W15	W11	7-3
6. Ray Martin	W32	L1	L10	W23	W30	W18	W11	W15	D3	D8	7-3
7. Ralph Syvertson	W27	W31	D13	W30	L1	W14	W4	L3	W20	L2	6½-3½
8. John Gibbs	D3	L18	L29	W27	Wf	D28	W33	W32	W19	D6	6½-3½
9. Sven Almgren	L15	D40	W32	L14	Lf	W31	W39	W28	W24	W20	6½-3½
10. Gene Rubin	L14	W36	W6	D12	D17	L19	L29	W37	W32	W18	6-4
11. Saul Yarmak	W29	L13	W21	L20	D37	W17	L6	W14	W12	L5	6-4
12. Robert Lorber	W37	D28	D16	D10	W13	L4	D14	W23	L11	W19	6-4
13. LeRoy Johnson	W40	W11	D7	L5	L12	W39	W24	W29	D2	L1	6-4
14. M. Kerilenevich	W10	L30	D31	W9	W16	L7	D12	L11	W23	D26	5½-4½
15. Harry Borochow	W9	W21	W30	L1	W19	L3	W20	L6	L5	D16	5½-4½
16. George Soules	W17	D5	D12	L19	L14	W40	L18	W22	W29	D15	5½-4½
17. Mrs. J. Piatigorsky	W4	D33	L3	W31	D10	L11	L21	D34	W28	D24	5-5
18. Hyman Gordon	W26	W8	L2	W29	L20	L6	W16	L5	W21	L10	5-5
19. Morris Gordon	W41	L2	W37	W16	L15	W10	W32	L4	L8	L12	5-5
20. Robert Hamman	L1	Wf	W41	W11	W18	L2	L15	W21	L7	L9	5-5
21. Ronald Gross	W42	L15	L11	L22	W25	W34	W17	L20	L19	Wf	5-5
22. Frank Burke	W39	L3	L4	W21	L29	W35	L23	L16	W31	W34	5-5
23. Hyman Rogosin	L31	W25	L24	L6	W41	W37	W22	L12	L14	W33	5-5
24. Joe Mego	L30	W35	W23	L4	D28	W33	L13	W26	L9	D17	5-5
25. Bruce Margolin	L28	L23	W42	L35	L21	W41	D37	W30	D27	W29	5-5
26. Jerome Wiener	L18	L29	W40	L39	W36	W30	D28	L24	W38	D14	5-5
27. Nathan Robinson	L7	L32	L39	L8	Wf	W36	D30	W40	D25	W38	5-5
28. Sidney Weinbaum	W25	D12	L5	D33	D24	D8	D26	L9	L17	W37	4½-5½
29. Leonard Standers	L11	W26	W8	L18	W22	L32	W10	L13	L16	L25	4-6
30. Charles Karson	W24	W14	L15	L7	L6	L26	D27	L25	D40	Wf	4-6
31. John Earnest	W23	L7	D14	L17	D35	L9	Lf	W41	L22	W40	4-6
32. Peter Meyer	L6	W27	L9	W41	W40	W29	L19	L8	L10	Lf	4-6
33. Charles Henderson	W38	D17	L1	D28	D39	L24	L8	W35	D34	L23	4-6
34. Ray Bagley	L5	L41	L36	W42	W38	L21	Wf	D17	D23	L22	4-6
35. Mrs. Lena Grumette	L16	L24	D38	W25	D31	L22	L40	L33	D36	bye	3½-6½
36. Gene Castleberry	L2	L10	W34	L37	L26	L27	L38	bye	D35	W41	3½-6½
37. Daniel Karpilowsky	L12	W38	L19	W36	L11	L23	D25	L10	bye	L28	3½-6½
38. Kyle Forrest	L33	L37	D35	L40	L34	bye	W36	Wf	L26	L27	3½-6½
39. Robert Jacobs	L22	L4	W27	W26	D33	L13	L9	Lf	D41	Lf	3-7
40. Frank Hufnagel	L13	D9	L26	W38	L32	L16	W35	L27	D30	L31	3-7
41. Mrs. Nancy Roos	L19	W34	L20	L32	L23	L25	bye	L31	D39	L36	2½-7½
42. Jose Ferrer	L21	Lf	L25	L34	Lf	-	-	-	-	-	0-10

Note: Inglewood system of tie-breaking used for final rank.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP, 1956

The Northern California Championship, which qualified three to the State finals, was played over the three consecutive week ends October 27-November 11, 1956. There was an unusually small field - particularly in view of the fact that the finals were to be held in San Francisco, which ordinarily brings out numerous competitors.

Bill Addison scored a spectacular victory with seven wins and one draw from the eight games. Following his similar near-sweep in the San Francisco City Championship, Addison's USCF rating should zoom.

Jim Schmitt took second place with a $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ score. Schmitt lost only to Addison, and drew with Bullwinkel. Kurt Bendit was a good third, losing only to Addison and Schmitt for 6-2.

Addison, Schmitt and Bendit were clearly the class of the tournament, the three allowing only two draws between them to the other players. Horst Bullwinkel and Jack Hursch were contenders, with $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 3-5, respectively. Bullwinkel got the draw given up by Schmitt and Hursch got the draw allowed by Addison. Because of final examinations at the University of California, Hursch was playing somewhat below his normal strength and received one loss by the forfeit route.

Dan McLeod of San Bruno tied for fifth and sixth places with Hursch, 3-5. Dave Nieder and Louis Tomori (San Bruno) were next, 2-6, while Spencer Van Gelder was off form as he took last place with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ score.

The tournament was held at the Mechanics' Institute and was directed by Arthur B. Stamer.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP, 1956

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score
1.	W. Addison	X	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	$7\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$
2.	J. Schmitt	0	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	1	$6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$
3.	K. Bendit	0	0	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	6-2
4.	H. Bullwinkel	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$
5.)	J. Hursch	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	Of	1	0	1	3-5
6.)	D. McLeod	0	0	0	0	1	X	1	1	0	3-5
7.)	D. Nieder	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	2-6
8.)	L. Tomori	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	X	1	2-6
9.	S. Van Gelder	0	0	0	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	$1\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT - by Neil T. Austin

The rather amazing Don Foley won his games with almost ridiculous ease in the tournament to qualify a central California representative in the State Championship. Where and how did he learn to play so well, without meeting some really good players?

Foley won easily even against P. Foley and Poulsen, who are quite strong players. When he beat me on first board in our recent San Jose-Sacramento team match, I played a good game and once had a very strong move, but overlooked a tactical maneuver and went wrong in the ending. What impressed me - he never seems to make the first mistake. I watched him play Smith and Poulsen, and was impressed by the depth of his moves. Against Smith, he was two pawns up and could win the exchange in two moves. Instead, he chose a line that shut Jeff's King out, sacrificed the exchange himself, and ended by winning a clear piece.

The field was disappointing. No Fresno, Stockton, or Sacramento players showed up. The tournament produced \$25 for the State tournament fund (one player was drafted to fill in the field and did not pay the entry fee).

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT - Modesto, Oct. 27-28, 1956

		1	2	3	4	Score
1.	D. J. Foley (San Jose)	W4	W5	W2	W3	4-0
2.	Phil Foley (San Jose)	W3	W4	L1	W6	3-1
3.	S. Poulsen (Pittsburg)	L2	W6	W5	L1	2-2
4.	C. J. Smith (Oakdale)	L1	L2	W6	W5	2-2
5.	R. Corporon (Oakdale)	W6	L1	L3	L4	1-3
6.	R. Ewing (Oakdale)	L5	L3	L4	L2	0-4

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHESS LEAGUE

At the annual business meeting held at the Mechanics' Institute on November 25, 1956, the incumbent officers were reelected: President, Guthrie McClain; Vice-President, Charles Bagby; Secretary-Treasurer, Russell Freeman.

Team matches were scheduled for Divisions "A" and "B". At last report, there were six teams entered in each division: Mechanics' Institute, Golden Gate, Castle, Oakland, Palo Alto and U.C. in Division A, and Mechanics' Institute, Golden Gate, Oakland, Precita Valley, Alameda and U.C. in Division B. Additional entries will be accepted up to Christmas, it was reported. Play will start on January 5 in Division "B" and January 12 in Division "A".

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHESS LEAGUE

In the annual team tournament which began on October 14 and which will run until next March 17, the defending champions from San Jose are off to a good start. Results of the first two rounds:

ROUND I, October 14, 1956San Jose 5, Sacramento 3

1 D Foley	1	NT Austin	0	5 P Foley	1	W Haines	0
2 WT Adams	0	RL Richards	1	6 E Hindman	1	MK Saca	0
3 EH Mueller	0	MO Meyer	1	7 K Chapman	0	J Scheurman	1
4 F Crofut	1	E Edmondson	0	8 H O'Shaughnessy	1	J Bender	0

Stockton 6½, Modesto 1½

1 N Shultz	1	EL Jeffers	0	5 M Mattingly	1	H Wente	0
2 JM David-Malig	1	L Krogness	0	6 J Willingham	0	CJ Cook	1
3 H Minchaca	½	E Hawksworth	½	7 W Jarvis	1	Forfeit	0
4 J Saxon	1	R McIelwain	0	8 AC Saxon	1	Forfeit	0

Pittsburg 5½, Fresno 2½ (no report from Pittsburg)

1 L Talcott	0	P Smith	1	5	0	Phettleplace	1
2 W Whisler	½	R Baker	½	6	1	R Legler	0
3 S Poulsen	1	O Maschke	0	7	1	A Sotelo	0
4	1	J Hudson	0	8	1	Forfeit	0

ROUND II, November 11, 1956Fresno 5½, Modesto 2½

1 P Smith	1	EL Jeffers	0	5 Phettleplace	½	CJ Cook	½
2 K Draughon	½	L Davis	½	6 D Hudson	½	E Hawksworth	½
3 R Baker	1	L Krogness	0	7 L Legler	0	R McIelwain	1
4 O Maschke	1	M Alcamo	0	8 R Shein	1	R Olson	0

San Jose 6, Stockton 2

1 WT Adams	1	R Leigh	0	5 P Foley	½	M Mattingly	½
2 EH Mueller	1	N Shultz	0	6 H O'Shaughnessy	½	W Jarvis	½
3 F Crofut	1	H Minchaca	0	7 L Daugherty	1	M Sanders	0
4 A Critchlow	0	J Saxon	1	8 K Chapman	1	AC Saxon	0

Pittsburg 6½, Oakdale 1½

1 L Talcott	0	J Sutherland	1	5 F Weinberg	1	C Smith	0
2 W Whisler	1	H Mortensen	0	6 S Poulsen	1	W Maxey	0
3 G Garcia	½	V Smith	½	7 F Olvera	1	S Sampson	0
4 R Guzman	1	R Ewing	0	8 L Turner	1	Forfeit	0

State Champion Gil Ramirez vs. Irving Rivise
(Background: Sam Geller, T.D. Arthur B. Stamer)



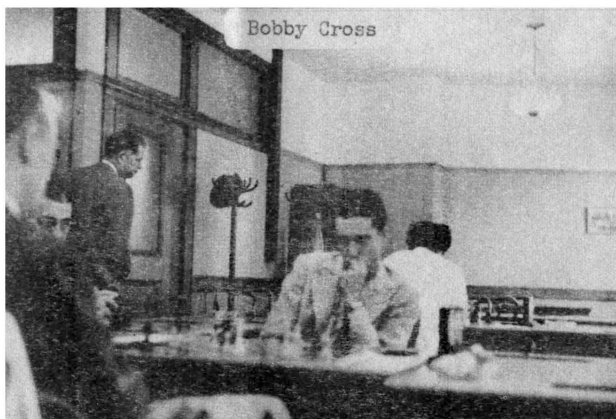
Runner-up Jim Schmitt



Bill Addison in a post-mortem with Larry Remlinger



Bobby Cross



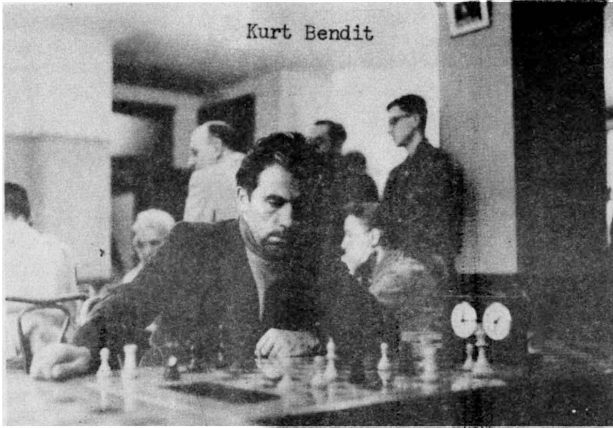
Irving Rivise



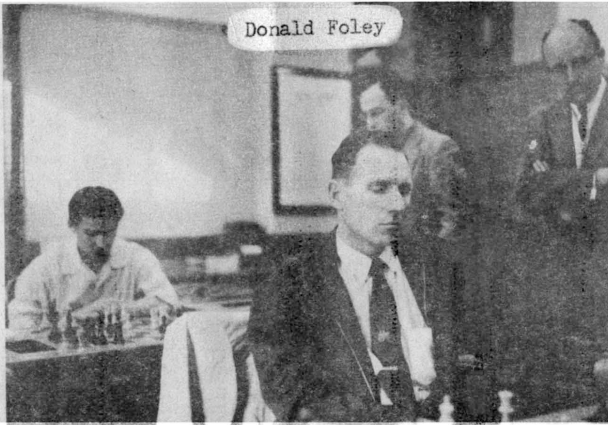
Larry Remlinger



Kurt Bendit



Donald Foley



GAME OF THE MONTH

The following game is of interest for three reasons: (1) It brought together the 1956 Southern California and Northern California champions; (2) It was Larry Remlinger's first loss in something like 40 games; and (3) It has a remarkably devastating finish.

CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, SAN FRANCISCO, 1956

<u>Game No. 356 - English</u>	
White	Black
L. Remlinger	W. Addison
1. P-QB4	P-QB3
2. Kt-QB3	P-Q4
3. P-K3	Kt-B3
4. Kt-B3	P-KKt3
5. P-Q4	B-Kt2
6. Q-Kt3	O-O
7. B-Q2	PxP
8. BxP	QKt-Q2
9. O-O	Kt-Kt3
10. QR-B1	KtxB
11. QxKt	Kt-Q2!
12. KR-Q1	P-K4

another tempo by ...B-K3; however, if 14. Q-Kt3, B-K3; 14. Q-Kt4, P-KB4; 15. Kt-B5 and ...P-K5 is prevented.

14. ... P-KB4
15. Kt-B5
Kt-B3 seems to be better.

15. ... P-K5
16. Kt-K1 Q-Q4
17. P-QKt3 P-B5
18. Kt-B2

To answer ...B-Kt5.

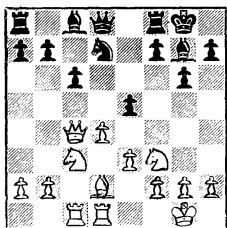
18. ... B-Kt5
Anyway!

19. Kt-Kt4 Q-R4
20. KtxKtP B-K7!

A bolt from the blue! Black scorns winning the exchange.

21. Q-K1 P-B6
Resigns.

For KKt2 can no longer be protected.



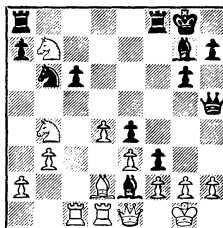
13. Kt-K4

An unhappy square for the Kt, as it loses a tempo when the Black pawns advance.

13. ... Kt-Kt3

14. Q-B1

White, naturally, does not like to remain on the QR2-KKt8 diagonal so as to maintain the pin of the Black KBP, because he loses



CORRESPONDENCE Most of our correspondence this month relates to the rating matter discussed in the last two issues. We have not yet, however, had time to hear very much in reply to Kenneth Harkness' rebuttal in the October issue. Keep the letters coming!

BOB BURGER, former associate editor, writes from New York:

"Your discussion of the rating system in the August issue makes a lot of sense - especially the idea of the seepage of points out of the system. Let me add to your words the slant I take of it.

"A rating is simply a shorthand (in the form of numerals) for a longhand account of a player's performance and possibilities. This longhand account includes such things as how the player fared in his club matches, whether he plays up to par in friendly club games, and what to expect of him in the future.

"The shorthand account is only a reflection of this longhand account - and no juggling of the shorthand can alter the facts, improve on them, or give them greater meaning. The shorthand only saves space.

"If the rating statistician gives a rating to a player before he has any discernible past performance, he is in effect making a judgment about a player's future possibilities without anything to base his judgment on. No one should be rated until he has a performance. Nor is this unfair to the player playing the unrated player (for the only way of judging from the results of one game is to study the quality of the game - which can hardly be scored).

"If two players of say 1800 and 2200 points square off for a series of games, there is no reason why an equal score between the two should give them both about 2000 points - although it's convenient mathematically. For the longhand account of such an encounter might be to the effect that the 2200 player is still equal in strength to his rivals rated at 2200 - whereas the 1800 player has improved by 400 points. The convenience of manipulating the shorthand should not dictate facts to the longhand.

"The only conclusion I draw is that - while the present rating methods have good results in a club composed of members who regularly play each other and all of whom have a considerable past record - on a national basis the two evils mentioned above are magnified by the inadequacy of the 'longhand.' Regional ratings - based on honest (it's possible! - witness choosing of the North team) judgments of strength, should be collated by a national committee, if national rankings are wanted.

"THE REPORTER seems to be at such a state of quality that no one need continue patting it on the back - but still I say, good work! And Oh for the days of the North-South Match - the team matches - the Open - and Zeno the Rat..."

STEWART O. SAMUELS writes an open letter to Mr. Harkness:

"Dear Mr. Harkness:

"You certainly have made a concrete contribution to the world of chess through the development of your rating device. It is good that someone is willing to spearhead ratings. Evolution must start somewhere.

"My interest in the question is in my relatively new capacity of Activities Director of the Mechanics' Institute. As Tournament Director and non-playing captain of certain of the M.I. groups, ratings loom pretty large in my thinking.

"A 'system' per se, it is generally agreed, is a collection of principles or of facts that are arranged in rational connection. Any arbitrary deviation from principle or fact automatically disqualifies a procedure from the 'system' category. It seems to me, therefore, that the Rating Statistician's assumed licence in making adjustments (as in the cases of Ronald Gross and of young Bobby Fischer, cited in your letter to Mr. McClain) is tantamount to buying a ready-made suit and then altering the man to fit the garment.

"In the instances of these two players, actual application of a rating system ultimately should peg them in their proper categories, just as water seeks its own level. That this might take time is immaterial; as you state, 'An advancing player may perform brilliantly in one or two tournaments, but he must demonstrate consistency and prove.....etc.' If that is your philosophy, why must you 'adjust'? Your statement hardly is consistent with your following paragraph.

"Further along in your letter you discuss the hypothetical case of the 'boy' and the 'master.' I fail to see that your arguments hold water. Under a sound system, principles should operate under all circumstances. If the 'boy' and the 'master' are rated accurately, they should end up in the same relative positions regardless of whether they meet in match play or engage in tournament play.

"Your concluding paragraph I find specious, if not suspicious. If the high-rated player is clobbered consistently by players 350 or more rating points below him, the conclusion must be either that the high man doesn't warrant his rating or that the lower men are grossly misappraised. Either is an indictment of the system!!"

AL HOROWITZ OFF ON TOUR CHESS REVIEW'S indefatigable editor will start his fourteenth transcontinental tour shortly after the first of the coming year. His itinerary will take him through the South, into Mexico and Central America, thence to the West Coast. Precita Valley C.C. and Mechanics' Institute have booked appearances in San Francisco.

Al charges \$80 for a lecture and simultaneous exhibition up to 40 boards. Requests for appearances should be addressed to I.A. Horowitz, c/o Chess Review, 250 W. 57th Street, New York 19.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE PLANS ACTIVITIES The fourth floor at 57 Post Street in San Francisco is going to be a busy place. This century-old chess and checker club, one of the best equipped in the country, is open from 9 AM to 10 PM six days a week and until 11 PM on Saturdays. When tournaments are under way, the clock is discarded and activities continue to a finish.

M.I. is preparing to field strong "A" and "B" teams in the Bay Area Chess League matches, starting early in January. As soon as this round-robin is finished, the Club will hold two tournaments, each with a healthy cash prize inducement. There is to be the First Annual Invitational Tournament for the Master and Expert contingent in the San Francisco Bay area, and a Premier Tournament open to all. The latter also will be an annual event.

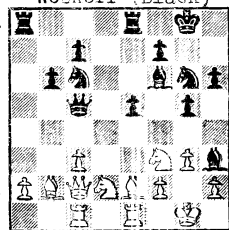
Weekly series of ten second tourneys are now going on. These weekly events are round-robins of the first 15 entrants at the tables at 7 PM. A 10¢ entry fee is charged, and the first to win three events takes the jackpot. "Thirty-Thirty" events also are scheduled. These are conducted on a knock-out basis, the surviving entrant sweeping the modest pot.

Mechanics' solicits requests for formal or informal team matches, and volunteers its premises and equipment therefor. For informal matches, Mechanics' will arrange competition at the playing level of its opponents. Interested groups should get in touch with Stewart Samuels, Activities Director, and give him a list of their players and an estimate of their playing strength. Such matches can be arranged for any time not in conflict with organized tournament or match play.

MORE "COFFEE HOUSE" Shakespeare said of Cleopatra, "Age cannot wither her nor custom dull her infinite variety." Woskoff (Black)
 He might have been describing Charles Woskoff of San Francisco. Deep in his 70s, Charlie remains as fast as lightning on a chessboard, and his disregard for the orthodox is a joy to the kibitzers, if not to his opponents.

Playing skittles, Charlie unleashed this gem:

- | | | | |
|----------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| 18. ... | B-K2 | 21. Kt-Q4 | PxKt |
| 19. B-RL | QxPch! | 22. B-Q3 | PxPch |
| 20. KxQ | B-B4ch | 23. K-B3 | P-Kt5mate |



CALIFORNIA OPEN, SANTA BARBARA, 1956

Game No. 357 - K's Ind.

White Black
L. Spinner Dr. P. Lapiken

(Notes by Peter Lapiken)

- 1. P-Q4 Kt-KB3
- 2. P-QB4 P-KKt3
- 3. Kt-QB3 B-KKt2
- 4. P-K4 P-Q3
- 5. Kt-B3 O-O
- 6. B-K2 P-K4
- 7. PxP PxP
- 8. QxQ RxQ
- 9. B-Kt5 P-B3

A "book" sacrifice: 9...Kt-B3?
is not strong on account of Kt-Q5.
9...R-K1 is better but still
inferior to the text move.

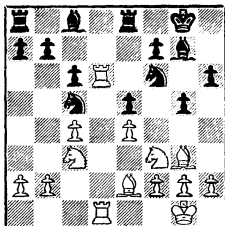
- 10. O-O QKt-Q2
- 11. QR-Q1 R-K1
- 12. R-Q6

R-Q2 is probably better.

- 12. ... P-KR3
- 13. B-R4 P-KKt4
- 14. B-Kt3

The fate of this Bishop decides
the game.

- 14. ... Kt-B4
- 15. KR-Q1



- 15. ... B-KKt5

(A lot of players would take the
Bishop here.)

- 16. P-KR3 B-KR4

- 17. B-Q3

It is difficult to find a good
move for White. The text move,
however, is not the best.

- 17. ... BxKt
- 18. PxB P-QR4

To prevent P-QKt4.

- 19. B-B1 Kt-R2
- Kt-R4 is possible. I had in
mind Kt-B1 and Kt-K3 or Kt-Kt3.
Of course, B-B1, if permitted,
is the first choice. The idea
of Kt-R2-B1 is to prevent pos-
sible penetration of R via Q7
after exchange of QKt.

- 20. P-Kt3 Kt-B1
- 21. P-KR4 Kt-K3
- 22. Kt-K2 B-B1
- 23. QR-Q2 P-B3
- 24. B-KR3 K-B2
- 25. B-Kt4 K-K2
- 26. PxB RPxB
- 27. K-Kt2 KR-Q1
- 28. B-R2 RxB
- 29. RxR R-Q1
- 30. RxR KxR

The game is lost. Some chances
for struggle offers the sacri-
fice of Pawn P-KB4 and freeing
Bishop via KB2 (PKB3).

- 31. BxKt KtxB
- 32. K-Kt3 B-QB4

A useless move. It is difficult,
however, to spoil Black's game.

- 33. K-Kt4 K-K2
- 34. B-Kt3 B-Q5
- 35. K-B5 K-B2
- 36. K-Kt4 B-Kt7
- 37. B-R2 Kt-B4
- 38. K-B5 Kt-Q6
- 39. Kt-Kt3 B-R6

40. Kt-K2 Kt-Kt5
 41. Kt-B3 B-Kt7
 42. Kt-R4 B-Q4

Now the Kt is trapped. White plays without two pieces.

43. P-R3 Kt-B7
 44. P-Kt4 Pxp
 45. Pxp KtxP?

P-Kt4 wins at once. See comment to the 32nd move.

46. P-B4 KtPxP
 47. P-B3 P-Kt4
 Resigns.

STEINER CLUB (MASTERS) 1956

Game No. 358 - English

White Black

R. Cross Dr. P. Lapiken

(Notes by Bobby Cross)

1. P-QB4 Kt-KB3
 2. Kt-QB3 P-KKt3
 3. P-KKt3 B-Kt2
 4. B-Kt2 O-O
 5. Kt-B3 P-Q3
 6. O-O Kt-B3

This is unusual at this point but very playable. More usual is ...QKt-Q2 followed by (a) P-K4, R-K1, Kt-B1-K3 or (b) P-K4, P-KR3, Kt-R4, P-KB4. But after 6...QKt-Q2, White can transpose into the King's Indian without running into the Yugo-Indian, which leads to equality according to latest analysis. (Herein lies the usefulness of the English: the ability to transpose.)

7. P-Q3

Following Petrosian: if P-Q4, Black can play Panno's line ...R-Kt1, ...P-QR3 and ...P-QKt4.

7. ... B-Q2

Original play; more logical would seem to be ...P-K4 followed by ...Kt-KR4, ...P-KR3, and ...P-KB4.

8. R-Kt1 Q-B1
 9. R-K1 Kt-KKt5
 10. B-Q2 R-K1

A prophylactic move of the highest order. Wishing piece play rather than pawn play, Black doesn't push his KP and KBP. The point of the text is that after Black's Kt leaves QB3, White's Kt would occupy Q5 with tempo.

11. P-Kt4 P-QR3
 12. P-QR4 P-QR4

If this had been played at move 11, White could have played P-Q5 followed by Kt-QR4 and P-B5.

13. P-Kt5 Kt-Q1
 14. Q-Kt3 Kt-K3
 15. Q-R3

White's play now revolves around his efforts to enforce P-B5.

15. ... P-QB3
 16. Pxp Pxp
 17. Kt-K4

To oppose ...Kt-B4 and hoping to provoke ...P-KB4. Better would have been 17. P-K3, Kt-B4!?!; 18. B-B1, B-B4; 19. P-K4, B-Q2; 20. P-Q4, Kt-K3; 21. P-KR3 with an excellent game.

17. ... P-KB4
 18. Kt/4-Kt5 Kt-Q1!

By avoiding the exchange, Black consigns the White Kt to KR3.

19. B-B3

A second-best move. Better was P-B5.

19. ... P-KR3
 20. BxB KxB

21. Q-B3ch Kt-B3
 22. P-R4
 To restrain the Black KtP
 (P-Kt4-Kt5 might follow
 22. Kt-R3).

22. ... P-K4
 23. Kt-R3
 Exile!
 23. ... P-B5!?
 Tactically good, but positional-
 ly not best. Best was 23...Kt-K3
 with excellent play for Black.
 Even then, P-Q4 gives White
 fighting chances: 24. P-Q4,
 Kt-K5; 25. Q-R1.

24. K-R2 Kt-Kt5ch
 25. K-R1 PXP
 26. PXP Kt-K6
 27. Kt-B2 KtXB?

Too soon; the B wasn't going
 anywhere. Better was ...P-B4:
 For example, 28. Kt-K4, B-R6
 wins.

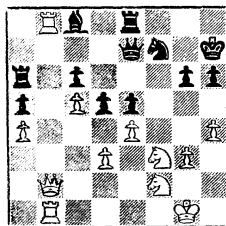
28. KxKt Kt-B2
 Even now ...P-B4 gave even play.
 The text dooms the Kt to passiv-
 ity. The position of the Black
 K on the long diagonal is amaz-
 ing.

29. P-B5!
 Now White, who controls the QKt
 file, has the better of it.

29. ... P-Q4
 30. R-Kt6 Q-B2
 It is interesting to see that
 if Black had played ...P-B4 the
 White QRP would have been weak.
 However, White got in P-B5 and
 now Black's QRP is weak.

31. R/1-QKt1 R-R2
 32. Q-Kt2 B-B1
 33. R-Kt8 Q-K2
 34. Q-Kt6!?

Time pressure inspiration?
 34. ... R-R3
 35. Q-Kt2 K-R2
 36. P-K4



36. ... QxBP?
 Later analysis showed this po-
 sition to be very difficult for
 Black:

(a) 36...Q-B2; 37. Kt-Kt4!,
 BxKt; 38. RxR, Q-Q2; 39. KtxP!,
 B-R6ch (...QxR; KtxB wins);
 40. K-R2, QxR; 41. Q-Kt7.

(b) 36...P-Q5; 37. Kt-Q2,
 K-Kt1; 38. Q-R3, B-K3; 39. R/1-
 Kt7, Q-B1; 40. Kt-B4!, BxKt;
 41. PxKt, R-R1; 42. Q-Kt3 fol-
 lowed by Q-Kt6 and Kt-Q3 and
 the control of the Kt file is
 decisive.

(c) 36...R-B1; 37. P-Q4! opens
 lines in favor of White.

(d) 36...R-R2; 37. Q-Kt6,
 R-R3; 38. Q-Kt3, K-Kt2!; 39. Q-
 B3, K-R2!; 40. R/8-Kt6 wins a
 pawn at least.

Against other moves Q-B3 holds
 the advantage.

37. RxB! RxR
 38. Q-Kt7 R-B1
 39. QxR PXP
 40. PXP Kt-Q3
 41. Q-Q3 Resigns.

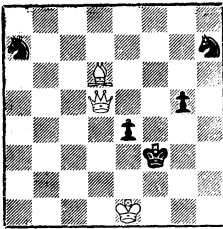
REPORTER TASKS: In this issue we present the third-round problems in our solving contest. Task No. 103 is worth 5 points, and No. 104 7 points.

Due to the fact that this issue of THE REPORTER is coming out so soon after the October issue, we defer the standings and solutions to previous problems until the next issue.

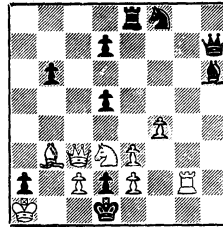
Remember! Your solutions should be received within three weeks after mailing the magazine. Also, don't forget to include several leading variations - the more the merrier.

So, here goes for the third round:

TASK No. 103
White Mates in Three



TASK No. 104
White Mates in Three



Solutions and remarks about the contest should be sent to:

Dr. H. J. Ralston
184 Edgewood Avenue
San Francisco 17, Calif.