

THE CALIFORNIA CHESS REPORTER

Vol. IV, No. 2

\$1.50 per year

September, 1954

The California Chess Reporter - Ten numbers per year

Official Organ of the California State Chess Federation

Editor: Guthrie McClain, 244 Kearny St., 4th Floor, San Francisco 8

Associate Editors: Bob Burger, Oakland; Valdemars Zemitis,
Dr. Mark W. Eudey, Berkeley; Neil T. Austin,
Sacramento; Francis Crofut, San Jose;
George Goehler, Irving Rivise, Los Angeles

Task Editor: Dr. H. J. Ralston

Games Editor: N. E. Falconer, Lafayette

Guest Annotator: Imre König, San Francisco

CONTENTS

California Open.....	25-29	Correspondence.....	37-39
Game of the Month.....	30-32	Games.....	40-43
News.....	32	Reporter Tasks.....	44
Photos.....	33-36		

STEINER WINS BIGGEST CALIFORNIA OPEN

International Master Herman Steiner of Los Angeles, current California State Champion, added the Open Championship to his collection at Santa Barbara, September 4-6, 1954. Steiner's $6\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ score headed a star-studded field which looked like a Who's Who of California chess. The 81 players constituted the largest Open on record and the biggest single tournament ever held in California.

Steiner won \$120 and the trophy presented by the California State Chess Federation. Jim Schmitt of San Francisco won the second prize of \$80 with a 6-1 score; Valdemars Zemitis (Berkeley), Isaac Kashdan (Tujunga), Sven Almgren (Los Angeles) and Vladimir Pafnutieff (San Francisco) won \$38.75 each with $5\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ scores, and Dr. Peter Lapiken (Los Angeles), Irving Rivise (Los Angeles), Henry Gross (San Francisco), Eugene Levin (Pacific Palisades), Larry Remlinger (Long Beach), Ray Martin (Santa Monica) and Jerald Slavich (Salinas) won \$7 each with 5-2 scores. The prize money (all the entry fees except \$1 for expenses) totaled \$404.

The 1954 California Open drew participants from a wide area. In addition to 38 players from southern California, 28 from northern California and 11 from central California, there were four out-of-state entries. It was California's pleasure to be host to Charles Joachim of Seattle, former Washington Champion, Maurice Gedance of Las Vegas, Nevada Champion, and Ray Smith and Ken Jones of Reno. The President of the Washington Chess Federation, Ken Mulford of Seattle, was also present as a spectator.

The tournament began at a little after 11:00 A.M. Saturday in the Garden Room of the Carrillo Hotel. Proceedings were delayed somewhat at the start by a short meeting of the players to discuss the matter of USCF rating of the tournament. It was ascertained that there were 35 USCF members playing, which meant that the rating fee would be \$46, or \$1 for every non-member. A motion favoring the rating was carried, but left undecided the matter of raising the \$46. Taking the money from the prize fund was voted down, and so was the official USCF practice of taxing the non-members \$1 each. It was decided after much discussion that an attempt would be made to raise the money by voluntary subscription. Kyle Forrest made the rounds during the day, and had the required amount by nightfall. A total of 47 persons contributed.

The first and second rounds were played at the rate of 30 moves per hour and 15 moves per half-hour thereafter, and a certain amount of seeding was done, in order to avoid playing any crucial games at the higher rate of speed. In Round I the seeded players won pretty much as expected, except that T.A. Baraquet of Downey upset Jim Schmitt of San Francisco (who then swept his next six games to finish in second place). Round II was also fairly formful; John Alexander of San Diego upset Henry Gross of San Francisco, and Mike Hailparn of Fresno forced Herman Steiner far into overtime before losing in a difficult end game. The shortest game of the tournament took place in this round, Dr. Bruce Collins of Santa Monica closing out Godfrey Lutz of San Francisco in six moves.

Round III: With the rate of play now 40 moves in two hours, the leaders really began to crack heads. Kashdan, Rivise, Almgren, Levin and Burger emerged from the first day's play with perfect 3-0 scores. Steiner was held to a draw by Zemitis, and these two joined six other players with $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ scores.

Round IV: The featured pairings for Sunday afternoon's games were Burger (0)-Kashdan (1); Rivise (1)-Almgren (0); Pafnutieff ($\frac{1}{2}$)-Levin ($\frac{1}{2}$); Steiner (1)-Bagby (0); Gordon (0)-Gedance (1); Markus (0)-Zemitis (1).

Round V: As this round started, only Kashdan and Rivise had perfect scores. Four had $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$: Levin, Steiner, Gedance and Zemitis.

There were eleven players with 3 points. When Kash won from Rivise, he took over first place by himself. Steiner and Zemitis won from Levin and Gedance, respectively, to take over the runner-up spot jointly. Some of the games in this round were as hard-fought as any this reporter has ever seen. The Levin-Steiner game, for example, did not finish until after three in the morning, or more than 7 hours of continuous play without a break.

Round VI: This very important round started at 9:00 A.M. It was the last chance for a lot of players, and only the rugged, or the lucky, came through this one with a chance for one of the prizes. Two games were postponed until 11:00 A.M.: Rivise-Steiner, because Steiner had been up until four the previous night, and Schmitt-Colby, because Dr. Colby had been up just as long as Steiner, playing Ted Dana. When Zemitis hung the first mark against Kashdan with a draw while Steiner was winning from Rivise, the stage was set for the last round, with Kashdan and Steiner leading, $5\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$. Meanwhile, Almgren, who won from Popoff, Schmitt, who won from Colby, and Slavich, who won from Jacobs, tied Zemitis with 5-1 scores and a chance for first should the leaders, Kashdan and Steiner, draw their game.

Round VII: Before the last round started, Maurice Gedance announced that Bill Benedetti, who had left San Francisco for Las Vegas in the early 40s, developed tuberculosis and moved to the Los Angeles area in 1953, was now in a Tucson, Arizona, sanitarium for treatment. He said that the not inconsiderable expenses were being defrayed by a Nevada committee which would match dollar for dollar any funds raised at Santa Barbara. Benedetti's numerous friends and well-wishers quickly raised \$25.40, which Gedance promised would be doubled and transmitted, together with a letter expressing California's wishes for a speedy recovery.

In the last round's play, Steiner played aggressively with the White pieces and defeated Kashdan. Schmitt took second by beating Slavich while Zemitis and Almgren were drawing.

The 1954 Open was concluded with the presentation by Dr. Kurt Lowenstein of Santa Barbara of the really handsome prizes and of a purse (\$75) to Guthrie McClain, Tournament Director, and International Master Imre König, Referee, from the players in appreciation of an enjoyable tournament. Following the ceremonies, those who were staying over (a group of some 25 die-hards), adjourned to the Pink Cricket for post-mortems and refreshments.

CALIFORNIA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
Santa Barbara, September 4-6, 1954

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	S-B
1)	H Steiner, Los Angeles	W73	W59	D3	W16	W10	W8	W4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{3}{4}$
2)	J Schmitt, San Francisco	L48	W67	W46	W12	W24	W25	W13	6	24
3)	V Zemitis, Berkeley	W18	W36	D1	W34	W15	D4	D5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{3}{4}$
4)	I Kashdan, Tujunga	W28	W54	W12	W21	W8	D3	L1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{3}{4}$
5)	S Almgren, Los Angeles	W45	W43	W24	L8	W14	W23	D3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$
6)	V. Pafnutieff, San Francisco	D50	W65	W22	D10	D7	W15	W14	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	22
7)	P Lapiken, Los Angeles	W57	W62	L21	W9	D6	W19	D10	5	20 $\frac{1}{4}$
8)	I Rivise, Los Angeles	W26	W51	W35	W5	L4	L1	W23	5	20
9)	H Gross, San Francisco	W41	L22	W48	L7	W20	W31	W25	5	19
10)	E Levin, Pacific Palisades	W66	W39	W23	D6	L1	W37	D7	5	18 $\frac{3}{4}$
11)	L Remlinger, Long Beach	W68	D48	L15	D2	W52	W21	W28	5	17
12)	R Martin, Santa Monica	W70	W55	L4	L2	W62	W29	W27	5	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
13)	J Slavich, Salinas	W80	L16	W55	W62	W22	W27	L2	5	15
14)	R Smook, Berkeley	W42	D34	W44	W19	L5	W16	L6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{3}{4}$
15)	M Gedance, Las Vegas	W58	D31	W11	W37	L3	L6	W43	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	17
16)	C Bagby, San Francisco	W75	W13	D37	L1	W35	L14	W33	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
17)	T Eisenstadt, San Francisco	L36	W80	D20	W64	W40	D24	D18	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
18)	D Maron, Los Angeles	L3	W56	D49	D65	W51	W39	D17	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
19)	C Walker, Riverside	D52	W50	W59	L14	W34	L7	W37	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
20)	J Rinaldo, Long Beach	L53	W49	D17	W71	L9	W66	W40	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	11
21)	R Burger, Oakland	W29	W46	W7	L4	L27	L11	W34	4	16
22)	J Alexander, San Diego	W38	W9	L6	D35	L13	W48	D24	4	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
23)	B B Popoff, San Francisco	W60	W33	L10	W38	W31	L5	L8	4	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
24)	W T Adams, San Jose	W49	W53	L5	W26	L2	D17	D22	4	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
25)	Dr K Colby, Mill Valley	W69	L37	W42	W33	W29	L2	L9	4	14
26)	H Edelstein, San Carlos	L8	W45	W30	L24	L38	W70	W48	4	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
27)	R Jacobs, Los Angeles	W63	L35	W54	W52	W21	L13	L12	4	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
28)	K Reissmann, Hawthorne	L4	W79	L62	W50	W32	W38	L11	4	12
29)	E T Dana, Los Altos	L21	W68	W36	W70	L25	L12	W58	4	11
30)	R Womack, Fresno	L35	W58	L26	D78	W67	D36	W56	4	11
31)	S Geller, Los Angeles	W72	D15	D52	W73	L23	L9	W54	4	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
32)	C Joachin, Seattle	L51	D66	W72	D11	L28	W73	W52	4	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
33)	A Schechter, Santa Barbara	W74	L23	W63	L25	W70	W35	L16	4	10
34)	W Markus, Garden Grove	W47	D14	W40	L3	L19	W45	L21	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
35)	K Jones, Reno	W30	W27	L8	D22	L16	L33	W62	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
36)	F S Hazard, Los Angeles	W17	L3	L29	W74	D63	D30	D41	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
37)	M Gordon, Los Angeles	W79	W25	D16	L15	W43	L10	L19	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
38)	Dr B Collins, Santa Monica	L22	W75	W56	L23	W26	L28	D42	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
39)	T Fries, Fresno	W67	L10	D43	D48	W55	L18	D44	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

THE CALIFORNIA CHESS REPORTER

29

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	S-B
40) F Crofut, San Jose	D64	W76	L34	W44	L17	W49	L20	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
41) E Achterberg, Visalia	L9	L42	L64	W69	W74	W53	D36	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
42) A Critchlow, Campbell	L14	W41	L25	W72	W73	L43	D38	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
43) C Svalberg, San Francisco	W77	L5	D39	W66	L37	W42	L15	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
44) H Zander, Inglewood	D65	W64	L14	L40	W71	D54	D39	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
45) P Meyer, Van Nuys	L5	L26	W75	D67	W59	L34	W66	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
46) L Johnson, Los Angeles	W81	L21	L2	D54	L49	W51	W67	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	8
47) R McCollough, Fresno	L34	L63	L77	W81	D65	W78	W69	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
48) T Baraquet, Downey	W2	D11	L9	D39	W58	L22	L26	3	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
49) C Fotias, Visalia	L24	L20	D18	W76	W46	L40	D50	3	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
50) G F Goehler, Los Angeles	D6	L19	D57	L28	W72	D62	D49	3	9
51) D Young, San Gabriel	W32	L8	L73	W53	L18	L46	W77	3	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
52) D Peizer, San Francisco	D19	W81	D31	L27	L11	W55	L32	3	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
53) K Forrest, Manhattan Beach	W20	L24	L70	L51	W77	L41	W73	3	8
54) R E Russell, Atascadero	W71	L4	L27	D46	W64	D44	L31	3	8
55) C R Wilson, Berkeley	W61	L12	L13	W59	L39	L52	W75	3	8
56) R Hyde, Santa Barbara	L62	L18	L38	W57	W69	W71	L30	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
57) G McMahon, Los Angeles	L7	D74	D50	L56	W60	L64	W76	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
58) J Jaffray, Glendale	L15	L30	W60	W77	L48	W63	L29	3	7
59) M Hailparn, Fresno	W78	L1	L19	L55	L45	W68	W64	3	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
60) P Petersen, Lomita	L23	L17	L58	W75	L57	W72	W71	3	6
61) Mrs O Higgins, Santa Barbara	L55	L72	L71	L63	W80	W76	W70	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
62) H Rosenbaum, San Francisco	W56	L7	W28	L13	L12	D50	L35	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
63) D Davis, San Francisco	L27	W47	L33	W61	D36	L58	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
64) J Edwards, Long Beach	D40	L44	W41	L17	L54	W57	L59	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
65) W Shirey, Fresno	D44	L6	L66	D18	D47	L67	W80	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
66) A Chappell, Gilroy	L10	D32	W65	L43	W78	L20	L45	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	6
67) C Huneke, San Francisco	L39	L2	W81	D45	L30	W65	L46	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
68) T Abao, San Francisco	L11	L29	Bye	D79	W76	L59	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
69) E Rix, Santa Barbara	L25	Bye	D74	L41	L56	W81	L47	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2
70) H Dasteel Jr, San Francisco	L12	W77	W53	L29	L33	L26	L61	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
71) M O Johnson, Healdsburg	L54	W80	W61	L20	L44	L56	L60	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
72) R A Smith, Reno	L31	W61	L32	L42	L50	L60	W78	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
73) S H VanGelder, San Francisco	L1	W78	W51	L31	L42	L32	L53	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
74) R Cuneo, Oakland	L33	D57	D69	L36	L41	L75	W81	2	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
75) G Lutz, San Francisco	L16	L38	L45	L60	W79	W74	L55	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
76) Virginia Harrington, San Diego	Bye	L40	W80	L49	L68	L61	L57	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
77) R English, San Diego	L43	L70	W47	L58	L53	D80	L51	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
78) R Garabedian, Fresno	L59	L73	W79	D30	L66	L47	L72	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
79) R Cohen, San Francisco	L37	L28	L78	D68	L75	Bye	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
80) W Sussan, San Diego	L13	L71	L76	Bye	L61	D77	L65	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
81) F Berry, National City	L46	L52	L67	L47	Bye	L69	L74	1	0

GAME OF THE MONTH - by Valdemars Zemitis

The final, deciding game in the California Open went true to form: Steiner playing aggressively, Kashdan defending resolutely, with time pressure the ultimate arbitrator. It was a game of many decisions and of a controversial result, but exciting at every turn.

Game No. 251 - King's Indian

White	Black
H. Steiner	I. Kashdan

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| 1. P-Q4 | Kt-KB3 |
| 2. P-QB4 | P-KKt3 |
| 3. Kt-QB3 | B-Kt2 |
| 4. P-K4 | P-Q3 |
| 5. P-B3 | |

Of the many variations at White's disposal, Steiner has usually chosen this Saemisch variation here. It has the positional defect, however, of committing White to a King-side attack early in the game.

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| 5. ... | O-O |
| 6. B-Kt5 | |

Black must now play the weakening move P-KR3 or allow White control of the diagonal QB1-KR6.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 6. ... | P-KR3 |
| 7. B-K3 | |

It is strange why White usually retreats the Bishop to K3 in this position. On KR4 the Bishop would prevent P-K4 for a while, and could not be well driven away by P-KKt4 because then White's P-KR4 would be too strong. In at least two games of my own with the Black pieces, I failed to achieve a satisfactory position against B-R4 here.

- | | |
|--------|------|
| 7. ... | P-B3 |
|--------|------|

An unusually slow move here in such a dynamic situation. In the same tournament I played

against Steiner 7...P-K4 and after 8. Kt-K2, Kt-B3; 9. Q-Q2, K-R2; 10. P-KKt4, Kt-Q2; 11. P-R4, Kt-Kt3; 12. P-Kt3, P-B4; 13. P-Q5, Kt-Q5; Black had equality. In this line, instead of P-Q5, White could play 13. P-R5, but after 13...P-B5; 14. PXPch, KxP; 15. B-B2, B-B3, Black has a sound defense.

- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 8. Q-Q2 | K-R2 |
| 9. P-KKt4 | |

Mr. Steiner eschews maneuvering and heads for complications immediately in this opening.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 9. ... | P-K4 |
| 10. O-O | Q-K2 |

If Q-R4, 11. P-Kt5 would prove too strong with the Queen absent.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 11. P-KR4 | |
|-----------|--|

Even now P-Kt5 is good because it forces a Pawn exchange immediately.

- | | |
|------------|-------|
| 11. ... | Kt-K1 |
| 12. KKt-K2 | |

Even now 12. P-Kt5 is favorable to White: e.g. 12...P-KR4; 13. P-B4, PxBP; 14. BxP, P-B3; 15. PXP, KtxP; 16. B-Q3. But White prefers to hold off until he is fully developed, though this also allows Black time to prepare for the assault.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 12. ... | Kt-Q2 |
| 13. P-Q5 | |

Forcing a decision in the center before announcing intentions elsewhere.

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 13. ... | P-QB4 |
|---------|-------|

With this and his seventh move Black avoids a positional weakness on Q3 but is left with only two files to play with on the Queen-side.

- 14. Kt-Kt3 P-R3
- 15. Q-R2 Kt-B2
- 16. B-Kt5

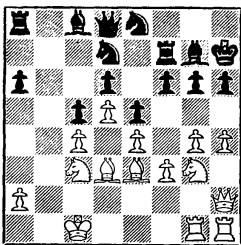
The idea of forcing P-B3 with this and the preceding move turns out to be artificial and time-wasting. If he wanted to force a pawn exchange it was possible on move 10.

- 16. ... P-B3
- 17. B-K3 R-B2
- 18. B-Q3 P-QKt4
- 19. P-Kt3

There is now no question of wasting further time grabbing a Pawn.

- 19. ... PxP
- 20. PxP Kt-K1
- 21. QR-Kt1 Q-Q1

White's game is still overpowering because of the time lost by Black in shifting assignments on the last two moves. Q-R4 is threatened.

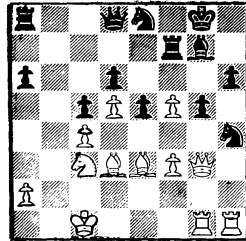


- 22. P-Kt5 Kt-B1
- Not BPxP; 23. PxpP, P-KR4; 24. KtxP, PxKt; 25. QxpCh, K-Kt1; 26. P-Kt6, etc.
- 23. P-R5! BPxP
- 24. PxpCh KtxP

- 25. Kt-B5 Kt-R5
- 26. Q-Kt3

Here KtxKt, PxKt; 27. P-B4 is strong, since White gets a passed Pawn at K6 or B5 after complications.

- 26. ... BxKt
- 27. PxB K-Kt1



- 28. RxKt

White's attack has somewhere faltered and he must now speculate.

- 28. ... PXR
- 29. Q-Kt4 K-B1
- 30. Kt-K4 Kt-B3
- 31. Qxp KtxKt
- 32. QxKt R-Kt1

Q-R4 was much stronger, but in the time rush Black did not want to remove any defensive pieces.

- 33. B-Q2! B-B3

A simple oversight. Q-Kt3 first was much better.

- 34. BxpCh K-K2
- 35. B-Q2 Q-R1
- 36. P-B4 R-Kt1
- 37. R-R1 Q-Kt2
- 38. Pxp Bxp
- 39. K-B2

In this type of position the placement of the pieces, not the pieces, counts. Black must prevent B-Kt5 and P-B6, opening lines for the KB.

39. ...	Q-Kt7	44. Q-R8	B-B5
40. Q-R4ch	K-Q2	45. R-Q1	BxB
41. Q-R5	R/2-B1	46. RxB	

R/1-Kt2 seems equally good, since Q-R8 is answered by QxBch.

42. Q-R7ch	R-Kt2
43. Q-R6	R-B3

But now the Queen can penetrate to the other side of the King via R8, unless Black allows a draw with 44...R-Kt1.

Here Black overstepped the time limit on the presumption that he had an hour for twenty moves instead of a half-hour for ten. The threat of Q-R8, however, gives White all the chances. A strange finish to a strange game!

BAY AREA INDUSTRIAL CHESS LEAGUE

This league, organized in 1950, is now playing its fifth year of 6-man team matches. The 1954-55 season finds the following eight teams lined up:

Calif. Research Corp., Richmond	Pabco Products, Inc., Emeryville
Crockett Club, Crockett	Pac. Gas & Electric Co., S.F.
Cutter Laboratories, Berkeley	Shell Development Co., Emeryville
Fluorescent Fixtures of Calif., SF	Shell Point Chemical Co., Pittsburg

While the 1954-55 schedule is now closed, the league is looking for new members. Any industrial team interested should write for particulars to the Secretary, Godfrey Lutz of Cutter Laboratories, Fourth and Parker Streets, Berkeley 10, or telephone Berkeley 7-9420, Extension 282.

LOS ANGELES CHESS CLUB

This venerable organization celebrated its 60th birthday on Saturday, September 18, 1954, with a grand opening of its newly decorated quarters on the 10th floor of the Embassy Hotel, 851 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles. The quarters are 51 by 51 feet with a 42-foot ceiling, and it is claimed that it is the world's most beautiful chess club. The club is directed by J.P. Simonsen and is open every day from 12 noon until midnight.

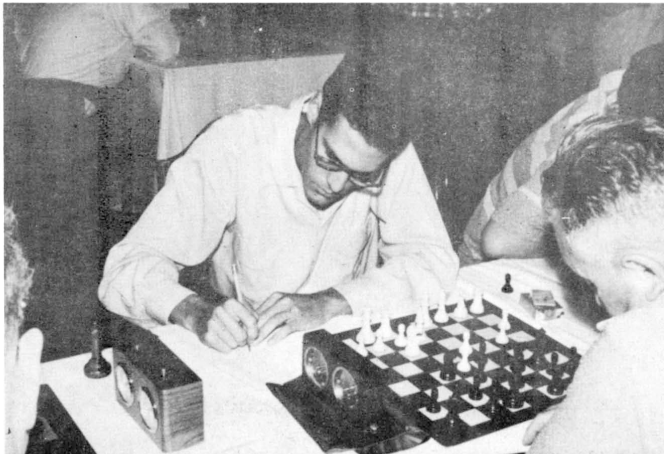
NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION CHESS CLUB

Matthew Ek won the second annual club championship on S-B points ahead of J.C. Gysbers, J. Wiener and F. Rosen, all with $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ game scores. L. Nogowski and J. Robertson were 1-2 in Section B and F. Schulz and W. Ramsey 1-2 in Section C. Thirty players competed. The North American club meets on Thursday evenings at 7:45 in the company cafeteria at the Downey plant.



ABOVE C.S.C.F. President LeRoy Johnson (Los Angeles).

BELOW Roger Smook (Berkeley) with Vladimir Pafnutieff (San Francisco) in foreground.





LEFT International Master Herman Steiner (Los Angeles), California Open Champion.



RIGHT Valdemars Zemitis (Berkeley), third prizewinner.



Jim Schmitt (San Francisco), second prizewinner, and Jerald Slavich (Salinas), thirteenth. The head of Dave Peizer (San Francisco) appears in the foreground.

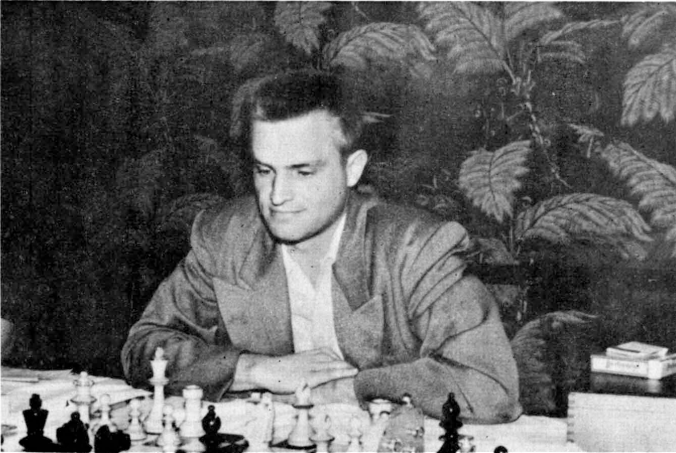


International Master Isaac Kashdan (fourth prizewinner). R. E. Russell (Atascadero) at right.



ABOVE Sven Almgren (Los Angeles) - fifth.

BELOW Ray Martin (Los Angeles - twelfth.



CORRESPONDENCE

In the August issue we published a letter from Dr. H.J. Ralston in which Dr. Ralston criticized Mr. John Alexander of San Diego for his activities at the New Orleans meeting of the United States Chess Federation. As is our custom, we ran Dr. Ralston's letter without comment. However, we have been asked subsequently, wha' hopen? - as follows:

"Some of us are a little concerned about the position of the CSCF in the Alexander-Major dispute. The latest issue of CHESS LIFE carries excerpts of a letter by Bip Ralston, which seems to indicate a rift in our thinking...

"My own position is as follows. I sent my proxy to Alexander because the ideas expressed in the circular letter were in substantial agreement with my own. However, the editorial policies of CHESS LIFE seemed to be a relatively minor issue, although I have criticized Major several times by correspondence. Therefore, I was greatly surprised to read that about all John accomplished was to get through a motion of censure, which I believe unnecessary and unjustified. I see no discussion of what I believe to be far more important issues, i.e., the rating system and financial policies..." - Neil T. Austin, Sacramento.

"Re the Alexander-Major controversy. Did not we in California send John to New Orleans with our proxies and backing? It looks like we need to stand behind him. I respect Dr. Ralston, but I wonder if his denunciation is for the good of California Chess. I agree with E.P. Elliott." - Phil Smith, Fresno.

And now a few words from Mr. Alexander:

"At New Orleans I heard whether by proxy or by letter of encouragement from over ninety people. Included were four international masters, four U.S. masters, most of the strong tournament players from California, and a number of players from Washington and Oregon. Chess organizers who sympathized included leaders from Colorado, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.

"I talked to most of the players at New Orleans, and found that a vast majority were in sympathy with us, although we ran into opposition from the established organizers in power..."

"Aside from the censure I managed to make known our protest against the exclusion of negroes from the Open...and a committee was appointed to study the rating system. A number of questions regarding the financial policies of the Federation and the financial statements were raised but not answered, due to the refusal of the Treasurer to appear and make the report required by USCF rules."

John De Vine, USCF Director from Port Arthur, Texas, made the following suggestion to the President of the Federation:

"Since you will no doubt receive a lot of letters from players reading only Mr. Major's side of the issue, I am writing Mr. Alexander for all the correspondence he has, all the information he brought to the New Orleans meetings, and will have them printed and sent to every player, every club secretary I know...not only because he has slandered Mr. Alexander, but because of the personal damage done to every USCF director and officer present at the New Orleans meeting."

With this correspondence we intend to call a halt to the parade of controversy over the New Orleans meeting, at least on these pages. Both sides have been given their day, and the main business of this magazine can now go on uninterrupted. So as not to leave a taste of unfairness, however, we would like to suggest the thoughts behind Dr. Ralston's position, insofar as this is possible. First, he believes that the present officials and committee members of the USCF are capable men of long experience and that they are doing a good job. Second, he feels that without an inside knowledge of present long-range plans it is contrary to the best interests of the USCF to make public criticism. Third, he feels that such criticisms are playing into the hands of certain enemies of the present USCF officials. Fourth, he regards the censure of Montgomery Major as unnecessary and cruel. If we have represented him correctly, we will conclude by saying that his view and the contrary views of other writers from California amount to the kind of difference of opinion that makes a horse race.

Elmer Achterberg of Visalia writes:

"Since the State Federation and the USCF can't get together, wouldn't something like rating our own players increase more interest? This is just an idea, so I thought I'd drop a line to you and express it. Keep up the good work on THE REPORTER..."

Other readers have expressed interest in doing something about our own ratings. (John Alexander reported that at New Orleans "the rating system...had very few supporters.") - Ed.

R.C. Guzman of Pittsburg writes:

"In addition to the many fine annotated games, the local and foreign news, that fine set of pictures makes the July REPORTER one of the very best, for which we would like to congratulate you most sincerely..."

"October 20, 1954
Tucson, Arizona

"Dear Guthrie,

"Maurice Gedance sent me your letter and the contributions made at the California Open for me.

"It was very heart-warming to receive such an homage from such a wonderful bunch of fellows, some of whom I do not know personally. I thank you very much for your part in it and your charming letter.

"I hadn't written before because I've been rather weak and limited by the doctor to absolute essentials. I'm picking up slowly, however.

"Kindly return the greetings to the old gang at the Mechanics' Institute. I often think of them and wish I could by magic transport myself over there and play a game with one hundred masters around annotating! 'Let a man play who knows how to play!'

"With best regards,

Bill Benedetti
St. Luke's-in-the-Desert
Tucson, Arizona."

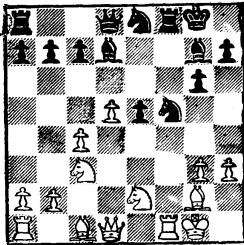
(For the background of this letter, see page 27 - Ed.)

(NOTE: In Game No. 249, Pafnutieff-Bisguier, Pan-American, 1954, reported in last issue, RxFch wins even more convincingly and beautifully on the move before the diagrammed position. - Ed.)

CALIFORNIA OPEN, 1954

Game No. 252 - King's Indian

White	Black
V. Zemitis	I. Kashdan
1. P-Q4	Kt-KB3
2. P-QB4	P-KKt3
3. P-KKt3	B-Kt2
4. B-Kt2	O-O
5. Kt-QB3	P-Q3
6. P-K4	P-K4
7. KKt-K2	Kt-B3
8. O-O	B-Q2
9. P-KR3	Kt-K1
10. P-Q5	Kt-K2
11. P-B4	P-KB4
12. PxKP	QPxP
13. PxP	KtxP



14. P-KKt4

Premature since White does not have time to withdraw the King's Bishop on the next move. Strong was Kt-K4, threatening P-QKt4 and an eventual Queen-side advance.

14. ... Kt-R5
 15. RxRch BxR
 16. Kt-Kt3 KtxB

After the interpolation B-B4ch the Bishop would only make Kt-K4 stronger.

17. KxKt B-Kt2
 18. QKt-K4

Opening the position with P-B5, now or later, would only emphasize Black's two Bishops.

18. ... P-KR3
 19. P-Kt3 Q-K2
 20. B-K3 Kt-Q3
 21. Q-Q2 K-R2
 22. R-KB1

Draw agreed.

Only White can force matters, and this he prefers not to do.

(Notes by Bob Burger.)

Game No. 253 - Grunfeld Def.

White	Black
J. Schmitt	Ray Martin

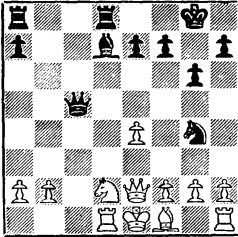
1. Kt-KB3 Kt-KB3
 2. P-Q4 P-KKt3
 3. P-QB4 B-Kt2
 4. Kt-B3 P-Q4
 5. Q-Kt3 PxP
 6. QxBP O-O
 7. P-K4 Kt-R3
 8. B-K3

8. Q-Kt3 or Q-R4 seems better, embarrassing the QKt for a move. If 8...B-K3; 9. P-Q5, Kt-B4; 10. Q-B4.

8. ... P-B4
 9. PxP Kt-KKt5
 10. B-B4
 Not B-Q4, P-K4.
 10. ... B-K3
 11. Q-Kt5 B-Q2!
 12. QxP Q-R4!
 13. QxKt BxKtch
 14. B-Q2 BxBch
 15. KtxB QxBP

At the cost of a Pawn, Black has gained a great advantage in time.

16. Q-K2 KR-Q1
 17. R-Q1



29. PxQ Rxpch
 R-Q6 fails by a hair, after:
 30. QxR, BxQ; 31. Pxp, R-K1;
 32. R-Q1, B-K5; 33. R-Q8, B-B3;
 34. Kt-B4, K-Kt2; 35. RxxR, BxxR;
 36. Kt-Q6 and wins.

30. K-B3 Resigns.
 A tenacious defense by White in a tight position.

(Notes by Neil Falconer.)

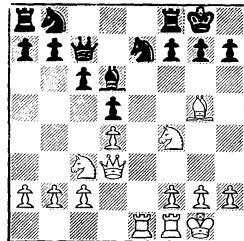
Game No. 254 - French Defense

White	Black
R. Jacobs	R. Russell

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1. P-K4 | P-K3 |
| 2. P-Q4 | P-Q4 |
| 3. Kt-QB3 | B-Kt5 |
| 4. Pxp | |

This has the advantage, over the exchange on the third move, of knowing the whereabouts of Black's King's Bishop immediately.

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 4. ... | Pxp |
| 5. B-Q3 | P-QB3 |
| 6. Kt-K2 | Kt-K2 |
| 7. O-O | B-KB4 |
| 8. B-KKt5 | BxB |
| 9. QxB | O-O |
| 10. QR-K1 | Q-B2 |
| 11. Kt-B4 | B-Q3? |



- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 12. BxKt | BxB |
| 13. QKtxP | PxKt |
| 14. KtxP | Q-R4 |

17. ... Q-Kt5

Here Black begins to falter, and loses the fruits of his imaginative play. 17...P-KR4 (threatening 18...B-Kt4; 19. Q-B3, BxB; 20. RxB, Q-B7; etc.) seems to give Black a winning bind. If 18. Q-B3, QR-QKt1; 19. P-QKt3, Kt-K4; and 20...Q-B7. If 18. Kt-Kt3, Q-Kt3; 19. Q-B3, Kt-K4; etc.

18. P-B3 QxKtP?!

18...Kt-K4 should still win.

19. PxKt B-R5

20. Kt-B4 Q-B6ch

21. R-Q2 B-Kt4

22. Q-K3 Q-B8ch?

White has each time produced a sufficient move, and Black now slips. Q-R8ch keeps the edge.

23. K-B2 Q-R8

Not 23...BxKt, because of 24. RxRch and 25. QxQ. Had the Black Queen already been at R8, BxKt is safe.

24. Kt-R3 Q-B3

25. K-K1

And not K-Kt1?, RxR and Q-Kt3ch.

25. ... Q-R8ch

26. K-B2 Q-B3ch

27. K-Kt3 BxB

28. P-K5 RxR!?

Desperation.

15. KtxBch K-R1
 16. R-K5 Resigns.
 For White threatens both RxQ,
 and, if Q moves, QxPch.
 (Notes by Bob Burger.)

Game No. 255 - Petroff Def.

White	Black
T.A. Baraquet	H. Gross

1. P-K4	P-K4
2. Kt-KB3	Kt-KB3
3. KtxP	P-Q3
4. Kt-KB3	KtxP
5. P-Q4	P-Q4
6. B-Kt5ch?	P-B3
7. B-K2	B-Q3
8. QKt-Q2	O-O
9. KtxKt	PxKt
10. Kt-Q2	P-B4
11. Kt-B4	B-B2
12. O-O	Q-R5
13. Kt-K5	Kt-Q2

13...P-B5 looks promising, but is adequately met by 14. B-Kt4.

14. P-B4

Not 14. B-B4ch, K-R1; 15. Kt-B7ch?, RxKt and wins. 14. P-KKt3, Q-B3; 15. B-B4ch looks good at first, but after 15...K-R1, the Kt at K5 cannot be maintained (16. P-B4, PxP e.p.; 17. KtxP, P-B5, etc.).

14. ...	KtxKt
15. QPxKt	B-Kt3ch
16. K-R1	B-K3
17. P-KKt3	Q-R6
18. Q-K1	

White is already very cramped.

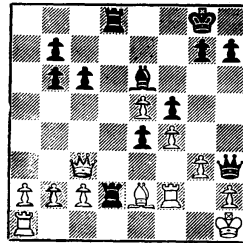
18. ...	QR-Q1
19. Q-B3	R-B2
20. B-K3	R/2-Q2
21. BxB	PxB
22. R-B2	

While White has been struggling

to free himself, Black has seized the Q-file. White's last move lays a trap into which Black "falls."

22. ... R-Q7!!

In a less gifted player this would probably have to be called an oversight. It appears, however, to be perfectly sound.



23. B-Kt4	RxR
24. BxQ	R/1-Q7
25. Q-R3	

If 25. B-B1, P-K6; 26. B-B4, BxB; 27. QxBch, K-B1; 28. Q-B7, RxPch; 29. K-Kt1, R/Q-Kt7ch; 30. K-B1, P-K7ch and wins. If 28. R-K1, RxPch; 29. K-Kt1, R/Q-Kt7ch; 30. K-B1, R-B7ch; 31. K-Kt1, P-K7 forcing 32. RxP, RxR and should win.

25. ...	RxPch
26. K-Kt1	RxB
27. Q-K7	RxPch
28. K-B1?	

K-R1 prolongs the game a little, but 28...B-B2 followed by 29...P-K6 and (if 30. P-K6) B-R4 should win quickly.

28. ...	B-B5ch
29. K-K1	R-K7ch
30. K-B1	R-R7 dis.ch.
	Resigns.

(Notes by Neil Falconer.)

Game No. 256 - Catalan

White	Black
V. Zemitis	S. Almgren
1. P-Q4	P-Q4
2. Kt-KB3	Kt-KB3
3. P-QB4	P-K3
4. P-KKt3	P-B4
5. BPxP	KPxP
6. B-Kt2	Kt-B3
7. O-O	P-B5

This move gives the game its character. White will create and uncover a weakness on the QB file.

8. Kt-B3	B-K2
9. Kt-K5	O-O
10. P-K4	B-K3
11. KtxKt	PxKt
12. P-K5	Kt-K1
13. P-B4	Q-Q2
14. P-QKt3	

Black is positionally lost as early as the fourteenth move.

14. ...	PxP
15. PxP	P-Kt3

P-QB4 immediately would leave White with too many threats after the simple 11. B-K3.

16. Kt-R4	Kt-B2
17. B-QR3	BxB
18. RxB	Kt-R3
19. Q-K2	Q-Kt2
20. R-B1	

20. Kt-Kt2 was to be considered, for if Black replies Kt-Kt5; 21. P-Kt4 is very strong. However, the text is thematic & good enough.

20. ...	Q-Kt5
21. Q-Kt2	P-QB4?!

It is now or never, since White threatens Kt-B5.

22. KtxP	KtxKt
23. PxKt	

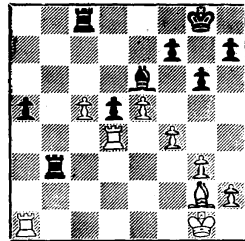
With RxB White could have gained exactly what he threatened on move 21. He need not fear Q-K8ch; 24.

B-B1, B-R6; 25. R-R1, Q-K6ch; 26. Q-B2. But the text is even stronger.

23. ...	KR-B1
24. R-R4	Q-Kt2
25. R-Q4	

The complications after P-QKt4 favor White.

25. ...	P-QR4
26. Q-B3	QR-Kt1
27. R-R1	QxP
28. QxQ	RxQ



29. BxP

After 29. RxRP, R-Kt8ch; 30. K-B2, R-Kt7ch; 31. K-B1, R-B7; 32. BxP, R-Kt1! Black's chances are at least equal.

29. ...	BxB
30. RxB	R-Kt4
31. R-QB1	R-B3

If White can exchange the Q-side Pawns and one pair of Rooks, he has good winning chances.

32. R-B2	P-R5
33. R-Q4	R-R4!
34. R-R2	

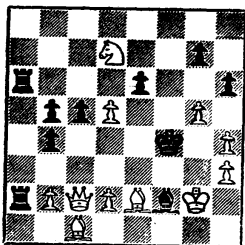
Draw agreed.

After 34...R/4xP!; 35. R/4xP, White has winning chances, but it is not clear how he can advance his King. 34. R/4-B4, P-R6; 35. R-R2, etc., is also unclear. With the tournament all but over, both players preferred to leave well enough alone.

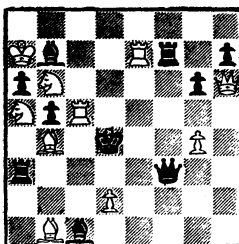
(Notes by Bob Burger.)

REPORTER TASKS We continue the seventh problem-solving contest with TASK No. 59, by the 19th-century Austrian composer, Prof. Johann Berger, and with TASK No. 60, by the 20th-century Scandinavian composer, Knud Hannemann.

TASK No. 59
White Mates in Three



TASK No. 60
White Mates in Three



ANSWERS: TASK No. 57: The key-move is Kt-K1.

TASK No. 58: The key-move is Q-Kt5, with many beautiful variations.

Answers to REPORTER TASKS should be sent to:

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