## SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHESS LEAGUE

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April 6, 1953

BOB BURGER WINS CCCL INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Bob Burger, continued his winning ways, and took home the first prize in the League Championship Tournament. The entry list was not as large as had been hoped for, as only 17 appeared for play. Austin, of Sacramento, withdrew in order to provide an even number, thus allowing everyone to enter the Championship Flight. Fortunately, all the players were of a high enough calibre to provide hard-fought games throughout.

The field was weakened by the absence of Neyer and Gee from Sacramento, together with the lack of entries from the strong San Jose team. It was rather peculiar that Fresno, who had such difficulty fielding a team during the season, should
supply five entries, while San Jose, who can always match any team in numbers (and
quality), should fail to send anyone.

After an uneventful 1st Round, the 2nd Round was highlighted by Burger's win over Phil Smith. This disposed of one of the favorites, and left Burger, Loera, and David-Malig tied for 1st. Burger won from Loera in the 3rd Round, while David-Malig was winning from Fries. Woolfe was hanging on with 2 going in to the final round. However, Burger left nothing to chance and defeated David-Malig in a pretty finish.

The axiom that "good chess players are always lucky" was not borne out this time in the case of BOB BURGER. He defeated each of the three men who were tied for 2nd, and had control at all times. His showing was very nearly as impressive as his record in the Bay Area League this last season.

ROY RUSSELL came back strongly after his initial loss to Burger, and picked

off 2nd on the basis of Solkoff points.

PHIL SMITH played his usual solid game, suffering only from a lapse against Burger. He won nicely from Hailparn and Fries.

DR. J. M. DAVID-MALIG proved to be the dark horse of the event. He was in contention throughout, but never recovered from faulty opening play against Burger.

The miracle of the tournament was that AL LOERA was able to stay awake, let alone play chess. His tournament was sandwiched between three graveyard shifts in Oakland. With no sleep since Friday, and a 15 minute rest between his games with Burger and Hailparn, his Sunday afternoon draw with Hailparn was the greatest battle of the tournament.

On the heels of the leaders throughout, LLOYD WOOLFE lost his chances for a clear 2nd place, through a last round blunder.

This column has known for some time that MIKE HAILPARN had the technical qualifications. Sunday afternoon he proved that he has what it takes. Forced to defend
himself for 5 hours against Loera's victous attack, he finally emerged with a draw.

E. L. JEFFERS entertained us with his usual lightning chess. His game with Woolfe went 1 hour and 50 minutes, with Woolfe's clock showing 1:40. Unfortunately, for the story, Jeffers lost.

BILL REID made a good showing in his first tournament, and should do even better in the future.

LARRY DAVIS, just recovered from the flu, got off to a bad start, but finished strongly.

TOLI FRIES, becoming a veteran despite his tender years, was definitely in-and-

S. POULSEN, back from a hitch with Uncle Sam, must have played some chess while he was gone. In his last round game with Davis, both players offered and refused draws, until Poulsen finally lost it.

FRANK OLVERA, acting as Loera's chauffeur, didn't bear up as well as his passenger, and wore out in the final rounds.

(continued next page)

BOB WOTACK missed a win in his last round game, and also had the dubious distinction of losing the only game lost on time. A little more experience will make him tough.

FRANK WEINBERG, fresh from his recent victory over State Champion Henry Gross,

insisted on experimenting with unsound sacrifices.

OJARS CELE suffered from a cold and headache throughout, and could never get going.

HERB PAUL deserves great credit for directing the event, as does LEE KERFOOT for making all arrangements. NEIL AUSTIN acted as Assistent Director. BILL KESSLER, of Modesto, also assisted.

by N. T. Austin

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## KONIG EXHIBITION

I. Konig of San Francisco, former European chess star, will give a simultaneous exhibition this Saturday night (April 11th) at 7:30, Turn Verein Hall on J Street, against all comers at \$1.50 per board. The exhibition is open to the public. If you want to test your game against a real master, come on out Saturday night!

The official "Sacramento City Chess Championship" tournament, sponsored by the Capital City Chess Club but open to all chessplayers in this vicinity, will be held at the Turn Verein on April 25th-26th. Entries will be accepted until Wednesday night, April 22nd. Entry fee will probably be \$2.50, Swiss system will be used, and Tournament Director is Neil Austin. Games are scheduled for 9 AM Saturday, so it would be wise to be there earlier. Austin's phone is Hi 606081 if you wish to calland place your entry fee. Remember, this is the Sacramento Championship!

The Capital City Championship has finished three rounds, excepting four players. Meyer and J. A. Celle have 2-0 with their third round to be played. Leading at present are Sam Johnson and George Flynn, with 3-0 each. With scores of 2-1 are Zimmerman, Talcott, Austin, followed by 1-2 Hardy, Keith, Horton, Bishop, Lacey, Hartley & Bender. Two players bring up the rear with 0-3. LaBerge and Clawson each have 1-1, with a third round to be played.

## OFF THE CHESST by George W. Flynn

The club championship is moving along at the Capital City CC—well into the third round, now. Favorites have been performing through the first two rounds about as expected, with a minor upset now and then. The encouraging part of the tourney to me has been the good chess played by men who are fairly new to the Club.

Keith, for instance, won in the first round from Bender (I really figured Bender to win) and then, in the second round, gave veteran Sam Johnson a whale of a

battle, only to lose a difficult ending.

Zimmerman, also, has been playing fine chess. As a kibitzer, I enjoyed his game with Milt Meyer. It was a real struggle, with Milt's endgame the decisive factor. Zimmerman is a player to watch. He told me that he has just finished a study of "Winning Chess" which is, in my opinion, the best book for combinations—any player not up to snuff on tactical play can improve his game tremendously by going through this book. As the Washington legislator remarked at the Republican convention, "Beware the young man with a book."

Of course, Zimmerman and I were just talking idly about different chess books, and maybe I shouldn't quote him. But I do it not to warn players against him but rather to encourage others to seek out the resources of chess literature. There is such a thing as a "natural" chessplayer—but even a natural can save himself a lot

of time by learning from the experience of others.

Congratulations to Bob Burger on winning the League Championship. Bob is now approaching the full promise of his play. He's been playing first board for the University of California and also for the Pittsburg team. Among his recent victims have been the top players in Northern California chess. We don't like to brag or anything (not much!!!) but our valley league can claim just about full credit for encouraging Bob in chess. His first serious efforts were in our League; we reported his potential ability in this magazine at the very start; he even wrote a fine serious of articles on Alekhine for us; all in all, the Central California Chess League can take justified pride in the accomplishments of our Bob.

Another younger player who has been associated with us, off and on, is Ken Chambers, a Doctor of Foozleosophy at Stanford University. Ken has been doing extra well while playing for the Palo Alto team down on the peninsula. This year he won the Palo Alto championship. Ken also wrote an article for us one time on the State Open Championship. And, to my dying day, I'll never, absolutely never, forget the six-hour game Ken and I played down at the North-South match. Six hours to a

draw! By that time, I think we were both happy to draw.

And while we're passing out congratulations, let's not forget Phil Smith of Fresno, il Oera of Pittsburg and Roy Russell of Sacramento—three fine players who tied for second place in the league championship. Say, this league is getting rugged when we have three players like that tied for second. Any one of them would be outstanding in any league.

Sudden Thought Department: Is there anything more sidening than to sit for two or three hours looking at a lost game?

Second Sudden Thought: Or anything more refreshening than to find a resource which saves that same lost game????

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Don't forget to send in game scores. We have several on hand to use as soon as convenient. Also, remember the Sacramento City Championship, April 25th-26th. Call up Austin and enter. Be interesting to say the least.

If you're free this Saturday, come out to the Turn Verein and play Konig. We never last long but we always have lots of fun losing. Ye Ed had a draw last time against Gligorich, but what's a draw? So I lost trying to win!

(Excuse only four pages plizz - we are in a hurry to get this mailed!)