

CHESS

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CUNNINGHAM WINS CAL. OPEN TOURNEY

Walt R. Cunningham of Arcadia, former California junior champion, scored six wins and one draw to take first prize in the California Open Chess Championship, contested over the Labor Day weekend at the Hotel Californian in Fresno.

It was a close call in the final round when Cunningham, half a point ahead of the field, was paired with Ray Martin of Los Angeles. Martin obtained a strong attack which seemed good for a win. But Cunningham defended stubbornly and outplayed his opponent in the time pressure phase.

William Addison of San Francisco was alone in second place with a score of 6-1. He was the only other undefeated player, drawing against Cunningham and Martin.

Third place, with score of 5½-1½, was shared by D. J. Foley, San Jose; R. H. Hoppe, San Francisco; H. Noland, Chico; I. Rivise, Los Angeles; A. Schoene, Pasadena, and F. Turim, Palo Alto.

Martin finished in a group tied at 5-2 which included R. E. Baker, Fresno; J. Blackstone, Saratoga; Robert Cross, S. Matzner and Tibor Weinberger, Los Angeles, and C. R. Wilson of Oakland.

After four rounds those with a minus score were placed in a separate reserve section, which was won by H. Zwerdling of Downey with a score of 4½-2½.

The attendance was 100, exactly equalling last year's figure. Herbert T. Abel of Santa Monica directed the tournament.

FISCHER VS. RUSSIANS

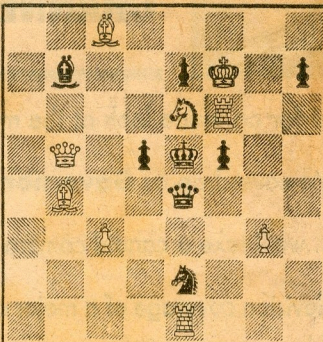
Last week we reported on an article by Bobby Fischer entitled "The Russians Have Fixed World Chess" which appeared in the Aug. 20 issue of

Sept. 9, 1962

TIMES PROBLEM 3413

By O. Wielgos

BLACK 8



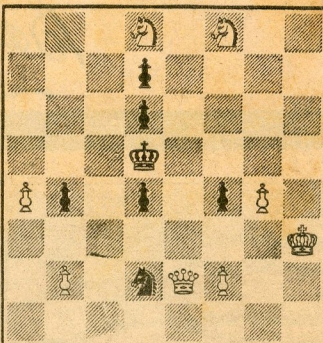
WHITE 9

White mates in two.

TIMES PROBLEM 3414

By R. Cheney

BLACK 7



WHITE 8

White mates in three.

Several close tries in 3413 are as interesting as the actual solution. The first move is a natural in 3414, but the variations have to be carefully worked out.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 3407: N-Q4
SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 3408: K-N7
Threat, 2 Q-N4ch; if B-B4, 2 Q-N3ch; if P-B5, 2 P-Q4.

SOLVERS' LIST

Five points — P. J. Burton, M. Chutorian, J. Di Fulvio, G. E. Engbretsen, W. W. Irwin, J. Kaufman, R. M. Stuart, B. C. Young. Three points — I. E. Nordstrom.

Two points — F. Aks, J. L. P. Gasper, Dr. J. A. Healy, M. Hirsh, N. Lesser, G. Lopez, C. Mosby, P. Rhee, T. Rosenthal, C. T. Tongko. One point — A. J. Diamond, J. T. Haag, W. P. Healy, S. Molino, R. Roslin, Mrs. A. Zelman.

STEINER MEMORIAL OPEN

Sports Illustrated. The brilliant 19-year-old grandmaster brought up some issues that can stand clarification.

Following are our comments in the form of an open letter to Fischer.

Dear Bobby:

I am concerned at your statement that you will never again face the Russians in challenge tournaments leading to the world championship. In your modest way you will probably agree that you have the best chance of any American to bring the title here.

You are young enough to keep trying, even if success does not come immediately. I have never believed that the Russians are 10 feet tall, or that they are invincible in chess or anything else.

What are the problems? You state that the system of selecting a challenger must lead to a Russian victory, but you give no evidence of this inevitability. Actually the system was worked out over a period of years by a group headed by former world champion Dr. Max Euwe of Holland, as fair-minded an individual as ever played chess.

The cycle of zonal, interzonal and candidates' tournaments was intended to develop chess interest all over the world as well as lead to a championship match. Theoretically a completely unknown player could go through the series and get to the top. All he has to do is win enough games.

Paul Keres, one of your opponents at Curacao, recently proposed a change in the system in an article in FIDE, the magazine of the International Chess Federation. Keres would limit world championship play to grandmasters.

Would that be fairer? Under that method you would not have qualified for the candidates' tournament in 1959, which you actually did at the age of 16. Incidentally, that rates as the greatest achievement in chess history for anyone of that age.

Yes, more Russians get into the candidates' tournaments than any other nationals. But let us face the fact that Russia has more fine chess players than all the rest of the world put together. This does not mean that we should give up the struggle, but it points up the need to develop more chess interest. This will not come about through changing a system of tournaments.

What about the Russians drawing so many games with each other? Do you really believe, Bobby, that this is why three Russians finished ahead of you in Curacao? Remember that every drawn game loses half a point for each player. If the Russians wanted to be certain of victory, they should have arranged to have one of them win most of the games in their interplay, rather than to level out by drawing.

In the Stockholm Interzonal, which you won so brilliantly, part of your advantage was the same series of draws among the Russians. If you recall, you also drew six of the games against your top seven opponents. Your winning margin was an almost clean sweep against the bottom half.

In Curacao your score against the top four Russians was 6½-9½. That accounts quite simply for your not winning the tournament. You have done better before and I am quite sure you will do better many times in the future.

You make a point that the Russians consulted in their games with you. If this was done openly it indicates lax refereeing, which is certainly wrong. This is a problem that has existed for many years. There undoubtedly is strength in numbers, and again it points up our major task.

Bobby, let us resolve not to quit, but to develop more and better players, so that you will have more support in your rise to the top. You can help by co-operating with American chess organizations, playing in American tournaments more frequently and in other ways working with those who would be your friends. Unfortunately you have not always adopted this course.

Actually American chess is in far better shape today than it was some 30 years ago when I headed several teams that went on to win the Chess Olympics four times in succession. We were a group of brash youngsters that decided that no one could beat us. I think basically you have that spirit, and my message to you is to keep going.

The next two weekends will be busy at the Herman Steiner Chess Club, 8801 Cashio St., scene of the open tournament in memory of the late Herman Steiner. Registration, with an entry fee of \$10.50, may be made at any time up to 9:30 a.m. next Saturday.

The prizes will be at least \$150, \$75 and \$50, with special awards for the highest scorers in Classes A, B and C. Two rounds will be played each day Sept. 15, 16, 22 and 23. Starting times will be 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Herbert T. Abel will direct the tournament.

LEAGUE MEETING

The Southern California Chess League will meet Thursday evening at the Water and Power Chess Club, 110 S Boylston St., Room 300. A number of important matters will be discussed. All clubs are urged to send representatives.

RALPH HAGEDORN DIES

Ralph K. Hagedorn of Sun Valley, treasurer of the Southern California Chess League, died of a sudden heart attack on Aug. 20.

He was the founder of the North Hollywood Chess Club, organizer and director of many tournaments, and active in every phase of the game. He did considerable research on early American chess, writing an interesting report on Franklin and chess.

Hagedorn's voice was a quiet one, but his influence was wide. He was always ready to be of service, no matter what the task. He will be sorely missed in local chess circles.

U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE

Matzner White	Smith Black	Matzner White	Smith Black
1-P-Q4	N-KB3	19-PxP	RxRch
2-P-QB4	P-K3	20-QxR	QPxP
3-N-QB3	B-N5	21-R-Q2	QxP
4-P-K3	P-B4	22-NxBP	PxN
5-P-QR3	BxNch	23-Q-N3	R-K
6-PxB	P-QN3	24-B-K5	RxB
7-B-Q3	B-N2	25-QxR	Q-Q2
8-P-B3	O-O	26-P-N4	N-B3
9-N-K2	N-B3	27-Q-N3	N-K2
10-P-K4	N-K	28-P-R4	K-R
11-B-K3	P-Q3	29-P-R5	PxP
12-O-O	N-R4	30-P-R6	BxP
13-N-N3	Q-Q2	31-PxNch	KxP
14-P-QR4	P-B4	32-Q-K5ch	K-B
15-KPxP	KPxP	33-Q-B6ch	K-K
16-B-B4	P-N3	34-Q-R8ch	K-B2
17-R-K	N-N2	35-B-N6ch	Resigns
18-R-R2	KR-K		

KING'S FIANCHETTO GAME

Erkes White	Cunningham Black	Erkes White	Cunningham Black
1-N-KB3	N-KB3	17-B-KB3	P-KN4
2-P-KN3	P-Q4	18-P-KN4	P-KR4
3-B-N2	B-B4	19-P-R3	PxRP
4-P-Q3	P-K3	20-PxRP	N-K4
5-P-N3	QN-Q2	21-BxN	QxB
6-QN-Q2	B-Q3	22-K-N2	BxR
7-P-B4	P-B3	23-KxB	PxKP
8-B-N2	Q-K2	24-NxP	QxN
9-P-QR3	O-O	25-K-N2	Q-K4
10-O-O	P-K4	26-R-N	QR-Q
11-R-K	P-K5	27-Q-B2	Q-K6
12-N-R4	B-N3	28-R-KR	RxB
13-NxB	BPxN	29-Q-R7ch	K-B2
14-PxKP	N-N5	30-Q-R5ch	K-B3
15-R-KB	NxBP	Resigns	
16-RxN	B-B4		

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

Marchand White	Gilden Black	Marchand White	Gilden Black
1-P-QB4	N-KB3	16-N-B	P-Q7
2-N-KB3	P-KN3	17-N-N3	Q-B5
3-N-B3	B-N2	18-KR-Q	B-K4
4-P-K4	P-Q3	19-NxP	Q-R7ch
5-P-Q4	O-O	20-K-B	N-N2
6-B-K2	B-N5	21-K-K2	P-KB4
7-B-K3	N-B3	22-R-R	Q-B5
8-P-KR3	BxN	23-P-KN3	Q-N4
9-BxB	P-K4	24-Q-N3	QR-K
10-P-Q5	N-Q5	25-K-Q	PxP
11-BxN	PxB	26-NxP	Q-B4
12-N-K2	N-K	27-B-N2	BxKNP
13-O-O	R-N	28-P-B3	RxN
14-R-N	Q-B3	29-PxR	Q-R4ch
15-Q-R4	P-Q6	Resigns	