

# Chess

## TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Stephen Kornher of Rhonert Park won the top-rated section of a one-day USCF tourney held in Walnut Creek, May 10. Second place went to Marc McNown, Pleasant Hill. Other section winners were Duncan Campbell, Orinda; Leonard Petty, Alameda; and Rendon Holloway, Castro Valley.

The decisive game from this event appears with original notes by Stephen Kornher, who posted a perfect 3-0 score.

White: Marc McNown.

Black: Stephen Kornher.

Walnut Creek, May 10, 1970.

French Defense

1 P-K4	P-K3	14 B-K2	P-QR4
2 P-Q4	P-Q4	15 P-B3	P-R5
3 N-QB3	N-KB3	16 N-K3(g)	P-R4
4 B-N5	B-K2	17 P-N4(h)	P-R6
5 P-K5	KN-Q2	18 QNPxP(i)	PxBP
6 BxB	QxB	19 Q-B2	RxBP
7 P-B4	P-QR3(a)	20 R-N1	N-N5
8 N-B3	P-QB4	21 RxN	QxR
9 B-Q3(b)	N-QB3(c)	22 R-N1	Q-R4
10 0-0	P-QN4	23 R-R1	PxP!(j)
11 Q-Q2	N-N3!(d)	24 NxNP	N-R5
12 QR-K1(e)	P-N5	25 Resigns(k)	
13 N-Q1	P-B5(f)		

(a) Modern theory condemns this move as being too passive, recommending instead 7 . . . 0-0, followed by . . . P-QB4 and . . . P-KB3. Master practice has shown that the whole procedure leaves White with a comfortable initiative, since Black's active pieces do not compensate his anemic pawn center. Dissatisfied with the "best" line, I have worked out an alternate system which I believe has theoretical significance.

(b) Better is 9 PxP but after 9 . . . QxP! (actually stronger than the standard 9 . . . N-QB3 given by most analysts) 10 Q-Q4 QxQ! (my improvement over 10 . . . N-QB3, as in Lillienthal — Konstantinopolski, Moscow, 1936) 11 NxQ N-Q3 12 QN-K2 N/2-N1! 13 R-Q1 K-K2, with at least equality due to the threat of 14 . . . P-B3.

(c) In the game Lasker — Loenwenfisch, Moscow, 1925, Black accepted White's challenge and continued with 9 . . . PxP 10 KNxP Q-N5 11 N-K2 QxNP 12 O-O Q-N3ch 13 K-R1 N-QB3, eventually winning. Simple, sound development seems to me preferable to banal "pawn chasing," however.

(d) Preparing a Q-side pawn advance, which is the key to my new system. Black's Q-side pawns move forward, backed up by knights at QB3 and QN3. His QB waits patiently on QB1 until White has committed himself, so that it can either help prevent White's possible K-side penetration (P-KN4 and P-B5) or support Black's pawn storm on the other wing. Finally, Black's king remains uncastled, so that White has no targets on the king side, while Black frees the KR to defend against White's contemplated K-side action with such moves as . . . P-KR4 and . . . P-KN3.

(e) If 12 PxP, which prior to his eleventh move would have been an unsound conception, since the White queen could not reach KB2 to contest possession of his Q4, then 12 . . . QxPch 13 Q-B2 QxQch 14 RxQ P-N5 15 N-K2 N-R5 with advantage to Black.

(f) Or 13 . . . PxP 14 Q-B2 Q-B4 15 P-B3, and White regains his pawn while opening the position.

(g) If 16 PxP, then 16 . . . NxNP 17 N-B3 (17 P-QR3 N-Q6) B-R3, followed by . . . N-Q6 and . . . P-R6.

(h) White must seek counterplay. Had White played P-KN4 before supporting his knight, then Black would have . . . P-KR4 to attack White's hanging K-side pawns. On 17 P-KR3 Black kills all counterplay with 17 . . . P-R5.

(i) Some Q-side action is forced, since Black threatened 18 . . . QRPxP and 19 . . . N-R5. Relatively best is 18 PxNP, but after KRPxP 19 NxNP PxP Black still has a decisive attack.

(j) An important move, preventing the knight from reaching Q1, where it would protect the vital QN2 square.

(k) For Black plays 25 . . . N-N7 and wins with 26 . . . RxP or 26 . . . B-R3, followed by 27 . . . N-Q6.