



# Chess Life



Volume II  
Number 14

Official Publication of The United States Chess Federation

Saturday,  
March 20, 1948

## BOTVINNIK LEADS IN MATCH

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH ROUND BY ROUND DESCRIPTION

By Fred Reinfeld

CHess LIFE presents the story of the World Championship Tournament, as seen by the eyes of the noted annotator and author of chess studies, Fred Reinfeld, who will give his impressions in each issue of CHess LIFE during the course of the Tournament.)

After two rounds of the first World Championship Tournament ever held, Paul Keres was in first place with two straight wins.

Prophesying the outcome of such an event is a ticklish affair, but the standings cited above may well be the key to the final results: Keres and Botvinnik fighting it out for first place, with a slight edge for the latter; Reshevsky third, for it is doubtful that his superb fighting qualities can outweigh his lack of theoretical knowledge and practice; Smyslov and Euwe sharing the cellar. Euwe is the oldest contestant (47), and he is too prone to tactical oversights to do well in such a tournament. Smyslov is out of his depth in such exalted company.

If the first two games are any criterion, the play will be gratifyingly enterprising. Against Smyslov, Reshevsky defended by adopting a defense with which he has experimented in a number of important games.



Fred Reinfeld

He had a cramped game for a while, but maneuvered with his customary patience, which was rewarded by Smyslov's weak 28th Kt-Q5. Thereafter Reshevsky took the initiative, and in one of his usual time scrambles came near winning a Pawn. Careful analysis may show that he could have maintained his material advantage.

Euwe was unlucky against Keres, who adopted a venerable and characteristic cramped Lopez defense favored by Steinitz. Euwe handled the opening and early middle game in good style, but he went astray with his 28th move (time pressure?). Thereafter Keres displayed his grand abilities as a tactician. Note that if White had played 33. QxKP3, he would have lost a piece by 33... Q-K7. With his 33rd move Keres began some beautiful play, culminating in 37... R-B4! (if 38. Q-R8, R-B7 wins). At move 39, Keres could have won at once with 39... Kt-B6 ch! for if 40. K-B2, RxB ch. is crushing. However, his continuation was of course good enough to win.

#### Round Two

Keres started out with a very quiet variation which transposed into the Gruenfeld Defense. Despite the harmless appearance of this line, Smyslov seemed badly rattled. Keres worked up a tremendous attack, helped by the fact that Smyslov's Queen was out of play. After winning the exchange, Keres forced the win of a piece, causing Smyslov's resignation.

Euwe started out with a good game against Botvinnik, but the latter's Pawn sacrifice on move 17 seemed to upset Euwe considerably. Instead of returning the offered Pawn at once (20... Kt-Q4) he should have tried 20... PxP; 21. RxB, Kt-Q4; 22. QxQ, KtRxQ. Even in that event White would have ample pressure for his Pawn, but the fight could doubtless have

**ROUND ONE**  
Smyslov ½, Reshevsky ½; Ruy Lopez, 41 moves.  
Euwe 0, Keres 1; Ruy Lopez, 56 moves.  
Botvinnik, bye.

**ROUND TWO**  
Keres 1, Smyslov 0; Gruenfeld Defense, 27 moves.  
Botvinnik 1, Euwe 0; QGD (Semi-Slav), 32 moves.  
Reshevsky, bye.

**ROUND THREE**  
Reshevsky 1, Keres 0; Indian Defense, Smyslov ½; Botvinnik ½; Gruenfeld Defense. Euwe, bye.

been prolonged. As actually played, Black had no chance after 23. PxP: White had all the open lines, and Black was never able to untangle his pieces. White's 28th is killing, for if 28... PxP; 29. RxBP is decisive. The finish is pretty. (See game scores on page 3.)

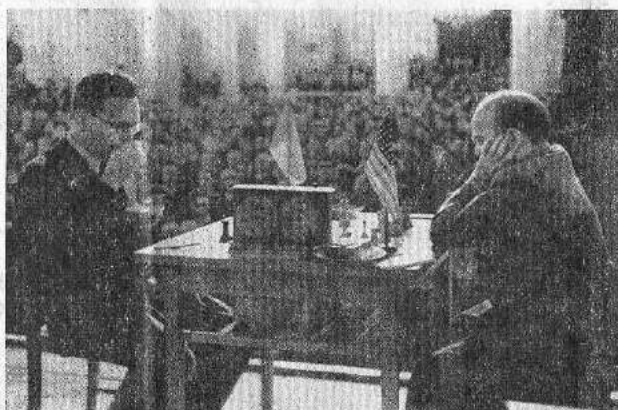
#### General Comment

The present stage of the tournament is a good one for an American to make some comments about this contest: if he reserves these observations to the end of the tournament, he will be rewarded with a chorus of "Sour grapes!"

The original decision to include three Russian players and only two Americans was disadvantageous for us. It is not clear why Smyslov was included, as he has not won a major event to this writer's knowledge. However, since he was included, a third American might well have been added.

In drawing up the tournament rules, it should have been borne in mind that whereas Russian masters are helped by the State, American players have to depend on their own private efforts, thus raising the possibility that either or both might find themselves unable to compete. This has actually happened in the case of Reuben Fine, who announced close to the last minute that "professional duties" made it impossible for him to compete. The tournament was thus robbed of considerable sporting interest, as Fine has accomplished nothing of importance since his great feat of tying Keres for first prize in the great Avro Tournament of 1928, ahead of Botvinnik, Alekhine, Euwe, Reshevsky, Capablanca and Flohr. It would therefore have been interesting to see how Fine would have acquitted himself in this tourney.

(Please Turn to Page 3, Col. 2)



How they looked when Sammy Reshevsky (right) faced Mikhail Botvinnik in the Team Match at Moscow.

### Their Need Remains!

IN PAST issues of CHess LIFE, we have published the names and addresses of European chess friends who were brought to our attention as deserving and in need of help. There has been generous response from our USCF members. Particularly commendable is the example set by the Oak Ridge Chess Club which dispatched a CARE package to each of the five Europeans listed in CHess LIFE on October 20.

For the benefit of readers who missed our earlier appeals and as a reminder to those whose good intentions are about to become good deeds, we repeat the listing:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Kurt Richter<br>Donhoffstrasse 29<br>Berlin Karlshorst<br>Germany                     | Ernst Gruenfeld<br>Schottenfeldgasse 86<br>Vienna VII, Austria. | Joseph Lokvenz<br>Bei Heollriegl<br>Burgstrasse 30<br>Vienna VII, Austria   |
| Hermann Rommig<br>Bubenhausstrasse 28<br>(22b) Zweibruecken<br>Germany<br>French Zone | Hans Keller<br>Braunasse 22<br>Vienna XVII, Austria             | Friedrich Saemisch<br>(24b) Kiel<br>Herzog-Friedrich-Strasse 66<br>Grossschloessing-Holstein<br>British Zone, Germany |
|   | S. Koch<br>Traukovstrasse 7<br>Berlin N 58, Germany             |   |

Let's show these men that they can rely on their American chess friends in this hour of need.

(Packages of food and other essentials—\$10.00—may be sent through CARE, 50 Broad Street, New York City)

PAUL G. GIERS

Executive Vice-President, USCF

### Area 4 Preliminary Won By Whitaker; Martin Southern 2nd; Ross Owens 3rd

Four finalists battled it out for the privilege of representing Area 4 in the U. S. Biennial Championship Finals, and victory went to N. T. Whitaker of Shady Side, Md. Martin Southern of Knoxville, Tenn., president of the Southern Chess Association, was second; Ross Owens of Richmond, Va., president of the Virginia Chess Federation, was third; and George DeVault of Johnson City, Tenn., was fourth.

Thirteen players assembled for the contest and were divided into three qualifying sections. Whitaker won the first section with junior Jackie Mayer of Louisville, Ky., a close second. Owens won the second section by a nose, ahead of junior Gerry Sullivan of the University of Tennessee. Southern and DeVault tied for leadership in the third section.

Highlights of the tourney, played at Johnson City, Tennessee, were the dangerous game in which young Mayer almost upset the veteran Whitaker, and Southern's spirited last round battle with the final victor.

The final winner of the tournament, after a long absence from chess, in the last year has signalled a determined comeback by placing in a tie for fifth at the U. S. Open Tournament at Corpus Christi after a tie for second with Weaver Adams in the Ventnor City Open Tournament.

The tournament was directed by Mrs. Gustav Hardt of Elizabeth, Tenn., and among the spectators were Dr. P. G. Keeney, CHess LIFE problem editor; Rev. Robert Williamson, a prominent CCLAer;

and aviator Paul Cromelin, president of the Georgia Chess Association, who flew in to the meeting and persuaded the members of the Southern Chess Association to change the annual Southern Association Tournament from Knoxville, Tenn. (previously considered) to Augusta, Ga., for the customary date of July 1-4, inclusive.

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

#### STANDINGS (SEVEN ROUNDS)

Botvinnik	4-1
Reshevsky	3-2
Keres	2½-2½
Smyslov	2½-2½
Euwe	1-5

### USCF ANNOUNCES 49TH U. S. OPEN

The 49th annual United States Chess Federation Open Championship, oldest in the country's history, will be held July 5-17 in the Hotel Lord Baltimore in that Southern city, Elbert A. Wagner, Jr., USCF president, announced today.

As usual the entry fee will be held to \$10, plus a USCF membership card. Although USCF Secretary Edward I. Treend will accept entries up until one hour before the player's meeting in the spacious ballroom of that hotel on Monday, July 5, it is believed best that players register early with the tournament committee, for a record attendance is known to be entering this year and the event may have to be limited to 150.

Ira Lovett, 327 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Md., is in charge of local arrangements for the event and is now booking hotel reservations in the Lord Baltimore, biggest and newest of the hotels in the "Southern Queen City." The Baltimore Chess Club, in cooperation with the Maryland Chess Association, is sponsoring the event this year.

The Baltimore club alone has a membership of 150 players, all USCF, of course, and nearly all of these are expected to enter the qualifying rounds of the event.

Play is expected to be conducted at least partly on the Swiss System, found so efficient in past events of the USCF where the entry list has run to record proportions.

Mr. Lovett said that many side events have been planned, including a banquet in the hotel, although he was not yet ready to announce dates. Mr. Wagner said that the members meetings and directors sessions would again be held this year in conjunction with the Open Tournament.

### RADIO CHESS HAS ITS DAY

Cleveland sends forth its challenge to all comers to meet either its insistent juniors of the Pawn Club or the assembled strength of its City Chess League in radio matches. The Cleveland group plan to begin their conquest of the airwaves with a match against the Columbus (Ohio) Chess Club. Interested clubs may address Radio Chess Director Al Martens, 12416 Marne avenue S.W., Cleveland, Ohio.

Close on the heels of the Cleveland announcement comes the open challenge from the associated chess clubs of Philadelphia (Pa.) where the united efforts of Charles O. Badgett and the York Road Radio Club have established a travelling transmitter which is available for the use of any Philadelphia chess club and transmit for rebroadcasting to the powerful W3EM station at Oreland (Pa.) Clubs in the radio group are: Abington V, Germantown Y, Mid-City, North City, Mercantile Library, Franklin, Yale & Towne, Juniata, Phila. Rifle Club, U. of Pa. Contact may be made with W3EM direct for a match, or with Walter Hall, 2451 N. Hancock street, Philadelphia 33, Pa.





Saturday, March 20, 1948

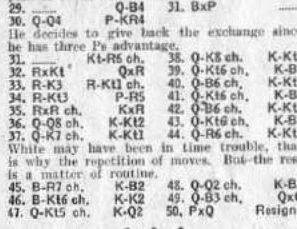
DUTCH DEFENSE

Manhattan Chess Club Championship Finals, New York, 1948

Notes by Bela Rozsa
White: DR., DUTKA
Black: SIFF
1. Kt-K3 P-K4 7. Kt-B3 P-B3
2. P-Q4 P-K3 8. Q-B2 Q-K1
3. P-KK1 Kt-KB3 9. B-K15 Q-R4
4. B-K2 B-K2 10. BxK1 BxB
5. P-B4 Q3 11. PxP KPxP
6. Q-O P-Q4



Premature! This involves Black in an unhappy combination. He is thinking about opening White's Kt1 file at the cost of the exchange. This is too speculative when his pieces are not in full operation yet. Kt1 would have been a better continuation. Kt1 would have been a better continuation. Kt1 would have been a better continuation.



SICILIAN DEFENSE

Intercollegiate Individual Championship, New York, 1947

Notes by J. B. Gee
White: A. LARSEN
Black: S. WEINSTEIN

1. P-K4 P-Q4 5. Kt-QB3 P-Q3
2. Kt-KB3 P-Q3 6. B-K2 P-R3
3. P-Q4 PxP 7. Kt-K13 P-R3
4. KtP Kt-KB3



Tournament Life

Contacted by
Erich W. Marchand

Dept. of Mathematics
University of Rochester,
Rochester 3, New York

Annottors
J. B. Gee Richard Harrell
A. Y. Hesse Edw. J. Korpany
Dr. J. Platz G. E. Page
Fred Reinfeld Bela Rozsa
J. Soudakoff

21. Kt(A)P
This loses a piece. QxKt would be better.
21. PxKt 24. RxB QxQ
22. KtXP QxP 25. RxB RxR ch.
23. KtXP Kt-B3 26. BxR Kt-B5

RUY LOPEZ

Manhattan Chess Club Championship Finals, New York, 1948

Notes by Fred Reinfeld
White: C. WILKINSON
Black: A. BISGUIER

1. P-K4 P-K4 5. Q-O B-K2
2. Kt-KB3 Kt-QB3 6. Q-K2 P-QK4
3. B-K15 P-QR3 7. B-K13 Q-O
4. B-B4 Kt-B3 8. P-B3
P-Q14 is more forcing.
5. P-Q4
Offering a gambit which is difficult to meet in over board play.



VIENNA GAME

Elmira Chess Club vs. Endicott-Johnson Chess Club Team Match, 1948

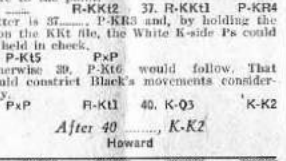
Notes by Dr. J. Platz
White: A. D. PIPER
Black: S. T. HANUS

1. P-K4 P-K4 4. P-Q3 B-K5
2. Kt-QB3 Kt-KB3 5. B-KK15 Q-O
3. B-B4 Kt-B3

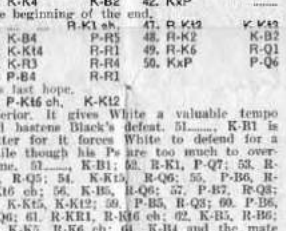
21. Kt(A)P
This loses a piece. QxKt would be better.
21. PxKt 24. RxB QxQ
22. KtXP QxP 25. RxB RxR ch.
23. KtXP Kt-B3 26. BxR Kt-B5

proper time, by R-K15 and then Kt-K2 would be better at this point.
19. QR-Q1 R-Q2 22. R-K13 RxR
20. R-R4 Q-K3 23. QxR Q-KK1
21. R-Q3 P-KK1 24. QxQ ch. KxQ

After 40 ... K-K2



Here Black could try for a draw by advancing the KR. It would be profitable to give up the RP for White's KP. The following shows the danger to White in attempting to force a win with his two Ps.

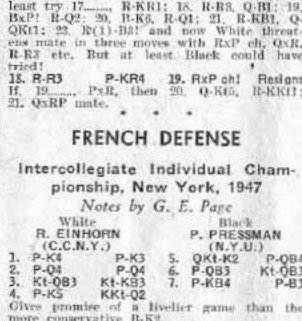


21. Kt(A)P
This loses a piece. QxKt would be better.
21. PxKt 24. RxB QxQ
22. KtXP QxP 25. RxB RxR ch.
23. KtXP Kt-B3 26. BxR Kt-B5

After 17. R-B3



After 13. B-K2



FRENCH DEFENSE

Intercollegiate Individual Championship, New York, 1947

Notes by G. E. Page
White: R. EINHORN
Black: P. PRESSMAN

1. P-K4 P-K3 5. QK-K2 P-QB4
2. P-Q4 P-Q4 6. P-Q3 Kt-QB3
3. Kt-QB3 Kt-KB3 7. P-KB4 P-B3
4. P-K5 Kt-Q2

DOUBLE FOR NOTHING

Eight pages of CHESS LIFE will cost the reader no more than four. But More Readers mean More Pages. SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Team Matches From The Chess Clubs

Table with columns for Tacoma Chess, Skagit Chess, Seattle Chess, University, Germantown Y, South Jersey, etc.

GERMANTOWN, PA.

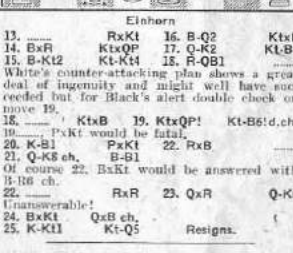
Table with columns for Germantown Y, South Jersey, etc.

FRESNO, CALIF.

Table with columns for Fresno, Salinas, etc.

AUSTIN, MINN.

Table with columns for Austin, Mankato, etc.



CHESS LIFE ABROAD

Continued from Page 4, Col. 5
pionship tournament: 1-2 Gilgorich and Dr. Trifunovic 123-43 each; 3. Puc 113-5 1/2 (A name name to remember); 4. Pirte 11-6; 5. Dr. M. Vidmar 101-6 1/2; 6-7. Tomovich and Ing. M. Vidmar, Jr. 9 1/2-7 1/2 each; 8-10. Bidev, Markovic and Milic 9-8 each, etc.

SHORT AND SWEET: Championship of Warsaw, 1947. Queen's Gambit Accepted. White: J. Sajter; Black: B. Sliwa. 1. P-Q4, P-K4; 2. P-QB4, PxP; 3. Kt-KB3, Kt-KB3; 4. Q-K4 ch, QKt-Q2; 5. Kt-B3, P-K3; 6. P-K4, P-B4; 7. P-Q5, PxB; 8. P-K5, P-Q5; 9. BxBP, PxB; 10. Kt-K15, Q-K2; 11. BxB ch, Black resigns. (If 11. Q-K1; 12. Kt-K6 ch, etc.)

DOUBLE FOR NOTHING

Eight pages of CHESS LIFE will cost the reader no more than four. But More Readers mean More Pages. SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Team Matches From The Chess Clubs

Table with columns for Tacoma Chess, Skagit Chess, Seattle Chess, University, Germantown Y, South Jersey, etc.

GERMANTOWN, PA.

Table with columns for Germantown Y, South Jersey, etc.

FRESNO, CALIF.

Table with columns for Fresno, Salinas, etc.

AUSTIN, MINN.

Table with columns for Austin, Mankato, etc.

"CHESS" Monthly Magazine for Enthusiasts. Sutton-Goldfield England. means EVERYTHING for CHESS! We'll hunt out ANY chess book for you, new or old. We'll make or supply or repair any sort of chess set in wood, bone, ivory or plastic. Just refer any chess difficulty to us—we are at your service!