



Chess Life



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Number 18

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Sunday,
May 20, 1951

SURACI, STEINMEYER WIN

U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP DETAILS ARE SET

The U. S. Championship Tournament Committee has announced tentative plans for the Championship Tournament in July. Intended schedule calls for two sessions on Saturday and Sunday at 2-7 and 8:30-10:30 p. m. Single session on other days, except for playing of adjourned games. Eight prizes are contemplated with special fees per point for the non-prize-winners.

On the basis of 16 players invited (of which 6 are officially qualified from past events), the Committee proposes to issue invitations to the following players to participate: U. S. Champion Herman Steiner (California), U. S. Champion 1946-48 Samuel Reshevsky (New York), U. S. Champion 1944-46 Arnold S. Denker (New York), 1949 U. S. Open champion Albert Sandrin (Illinois), 1950 U. S. Open Champion Arthur Bisguier (New York), Robert Byrne (Connecticut), Arthur Dake (Oregon), A. DiCamillo (Pennsylvania), Larry Evans (New York), Reuben Fine (New York), Milton Hanauer (New York), I. A. Horowitz (New York), I. Kashdan (California), George Kramer (New York), Anthony E. Santasiere (New York), and the as yet unknown 1951 U. S. Open Champion.

No decision has been announced as to whom will be invited to fill possible vacancies.

OPEN TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Place: Hotel Texas, Fort Worth, Texas.

Time: July 9-21, 1951.

Accommodations: Write E. A. Bolinger, 202 Farm & Home Bldg., Fort Worth for reservations; Hotel Texas single rooms \$3.50 and up; double rooms \$5.50 and up; other hotels also available.

Registrations: At Hotel Texas 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, July 9; first round of play 7:30 p.m. Write Col. D. F. Walker, Box 3125 Poly Station, Fort Worth for registration by mail.

Entry fee: \$10.00 plus USCF membership dues for players not holding 1951 membership cards.

Women's Open Tournament: For details or registration write Maxine Cutlip, Wewoka, Okla. Checks are still scarce, so bring your own clock if possible.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

Place: Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Time: July 23-28, 1951.

Entry fee: No entry fee but players must hold 1951 USCF membership card or pay current USCF dues.

Inquiries: Address all inquiries to Art Nickel, 7408 Belden Street, Philadelphia 11, Pa.

Contributions: Donations to prize fund may be sent to D. A. Giangulio, Treas. Phila. Chess Assn., 48 E. Marshall Road, Landowne, Pa. Checks are still scarce, so bring your own clock if possible.

WACHS CAPTURES PHILA TOURNAY

In an event that had accent on youth, former Pennsylvania Junior Champion Saul Wachs won the Philadelphia Metropolitan Championship with 6-1 in a 14 player 7 round Swiss; drawing with Gordon Marcus and J. A. Hudson. Defending Champion A. DiCamillo was second with 5-2 on S-B points, losing to Wachs and drawing with Hudson and S. Sklaroff. Third place went to Sklaroff with 5-2, losing to Wachs and drawing with DiCamillo and Robert Sobel. Fourth to sixth on S-B points with equal 4-3 scores were J. A. Hudson of the University of Pennsylvania, the 17-year old Robert Sobel and Louis Brickman. Gordon Marcus, who recently tied William Ruth for the Mercantile Library title, had to be content with seventh with 3-3½.

SOMLO TOPS ALL IN CLEVELAND

Ernest Somlo, often a contender, triumphed in the City Championship of Cleveland with a 5½-½ score in the 32 player 6 round Swiss event. Playing with a stubborn will to win, Somlo was best in the final two crucial rounds when he bested Zoltan Pauer and defending Champion Tom Ellison. His draw was with Algirdas Nasvytis as result of an adjudication. Second place went to Zoltan Pauer, recent Hungarian arrival, who scored 5-1, losing only to Somlo. Third place on S-B points with 5-1 went to Don Miles, Rocky River high school student, who lost one game to L. Lipking. A. Nasvytis, recent Baltic addition to Cleveland chess, placed fourth with 4-1½, losing to Pauer and drawing with Somlo.

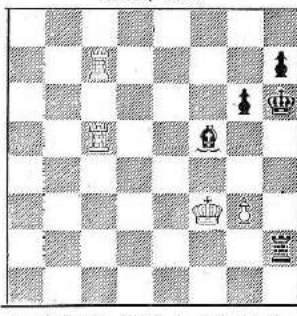
PAUER CAPTURES CLEVELAND SPEED

Missing his chance for the city title, Zoltan Pauer took the Cleveland speed championship 14-1 with two draws. Second place went to another recent Hungarian arrival, Emil Roethler, who scored 12-3 in the 16 player event. John Hoy, Julius Goodman and Thomas Ellison tied for third with 11-4 each. Defending champion Ernest Somlo, apparently exhausted by the city championship struggle, finished last.

RUSSELL WINS AT SACRAMENTO

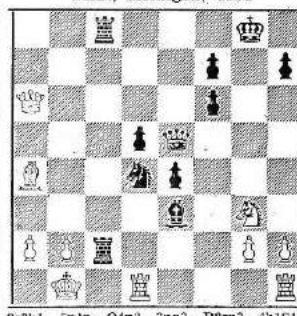
Clinging doggedly to an early lead, R. E. Russell withstood the final round challenges of J. B. Gee, N. T. Austin and S. S. Kozen to win the Sacramento City Championship 5-1, with draws in the last two rounds to Gee and Austin. Tied for second on S-B points with equal 4½-1½ scores were USCF Vice-President Gee and N. T. Austin. Gee drew with Austin, O. M. Meyer and Russell; Austin drew with Meyer, Gee and Russell. Fourth, also with 4½-1½ was S. S. Kozen who lost to Gee and drew with Meyer. O. M. Meyer, despite ill health, placed fifth with 4-2, losing no games but drawing with G. W. Flynn, Gee, Kozen and Austin.

Position No. 57 V. Goglidze vs. G. Kasparyan USSR, 1934



8. 2R4p, 6pK, 2R2h3, 8. 5KPl, 7r, 8
White to Play and Win

Position No. 58 A. Beaudette vs. E. Muller Flint, Michigan, 1951



2r3k1, 6p1p, 04p2, 3pQ3, R2sp3, 4b1s1, Pp3BP, 1K1R3R
Black to Play and Win

Finish It The Clever Way!

Conducted by Edmund Nash

Send all contributions for this column to Edmund Nash, 1530 28th Place, S.E., Washington 20, D. C.

IN POSITION No. 57, Black despite his apparently strong defensive position resigns after White's fourth move. Black defends tenaciously, but White's clever third move spells his doom.

In Position No. 58, Edward F. Muller announced mate in three (in some variations, White can delay the mate until the fourth move).

Please turn to Page four for solutions.

ARIKE TRIUMPHS IN COLLEGIATE

The Oklahoma Intercollegiate Championship was a tournament of definitely international flavor, for of the entries Enn Arike comes from Esthonia, B. Hernandez from Columbia, R. Pena from Bolivia, and Julius Gallus from Czechoslovakia. Victory went to Arike of Okla. A & M with 6½-2½ in the 8 player round robin event, drawing with Robert Schmidt. Second place on S-B points went to defending Champion Robert Virgin of Tulsa U. with 5-2. Also with 5-2, B. Hernandez of Okla. U. placed third. Fourth place went to R. Pena of Okla. U. with 4-3. Virgin lost games to Arike and Pena, while Hernandez lost to Arike and Virgin. Pena lost to Rike, Hernandez and Lloyd Crocker of Okla. A & M.

SALICRUP WINS AT PLACE CLUB

Championship of the recently organized Place Chess Club of Ponce, Puerto Rico was won by Jorge F. Salicrup, with second place going to Carlos M. Colon. Pelayo Valls was third; and tied for fourth were Jose A. Parodi, Dr. Jose Amadeo and Rafael Castro and Fortian Cuppril. A match between defending Champion Carlos Colon and Jorge Salicrup for the championship of Ponce will be held in the near future.

VIRGINS SCORE 1-2 AT TULSA U.

In the third annual Tulsa University Championship Jerry Virgin topped the field with 5-0, while brother Bob Virgin placed second on S-B points with 4-1. Dr. C. I. Blanchard was third, also with 4-1; Bradley Smith fourth with 3½-1½; and Prof. R. K. Melekian fifth with 3½-1½. Dr. Bela Rozsa did not compete in the 20 player 5 round Swiss event.

MEIFERT TOPS KALAMAZOO CITY

The Kalamazoo City Championship went to Henry R. Meifert with 8-0 score in a 16 player 8 round Swiss. Sam Allerton was second with 6½-1½, losing to Meifert and drawing with Bob Walsh. Walsh was third with 5-1½, losing to Meifert and Harrison Kindig. Kindig with 5-3 was fourth, losing to Meifert, Allerton and August Deurloo.

MARCHAND GAINS ROCHESTER TITLE

Erich Marchand, CHESS LIFE games editor, regained the Rochester (N. Y.) City Championship with 8-1½ in an 11 player round robin, narrowly outpointing his perennial rival Dr. Max Herzberger, CHESS LIFE annotator. Marchand drew with Dr. Herzberger and lost a game to George Neidich. Dr. Herzberger and John Hasenoehrl tied for second with 7½-1½ each. Herzberger drew with Marchand and lost games to Hasenoehrl and Wayne Wagner. Hasenoehrl lost to Marchand and drew with George Switzer, George Neidich and Raymond Hayes. George Switzer placed fourth with 7-3, and George Neidich fifth with 6-4.

SAN JOSE TOPS CENTRAL CALIF.

San Jose Chess Club won the central California Chess League with 6-0 in match score and 45-11 in games. Second place went to Stockton Chess Club with 5-1 and 31-23, while Fresno Chess Club finished third with 4-2 and 30½-18½. Individual honors were shared by Monty Jackson of Modesto and H. Strob of Stockton with 4-2 each, while Slavich of San Jose was third with 3-0 and Lakin of Fresno fourth with 3-2.

SURACI TAKES CONN. OPEN MEET

Anthony Suraci of New Haven took the Connecticut Open Championship on S-B points with 6-2, drawing with Edmund Hand, Winthrop Beach, R. G. Mitchell and Brian Owens. Former Champion Brian Owens, Yale student from Kingston, N. Y., placed second, also with 6-2, losing a game to William Gallagher and drawing with Suraci and Mitchell of Warehouse Point who lost a game to Edmund Hand and drew with Suraci and Owens. Fourth and fifth respectively on S-B points with equal 5½-2½ scores were Winthrop Beach of Sealift, N. J. and Edmund E. Hand of West Haven. Beach lost to Mitchell and drew with Suraci, Nicholas Raymond and Richard Friedenthal, while Hand lost to Owens and Beach and drew with Suraci.

STEINMEYER WINS ST. LOUIS EVENT

For the seventh time Robert H. Steinmeyer captured the St. Louis District Championship — This time undefeated with five wins and four draws. Tied for second, one-half point behind, were St. Louis veterans C. M. Burton and Lewis W. Haller. Only another half-point behind in this very tight tourney, tied for fourth were E. J. Roesch and W. H. Newberry, while another St. Louis veteran, H. A. Lew, was sixth with 5½-3½. Former Missouri Champion John Ragan and James Cook were both entered in the event but were forced to withdraw to enter military service.

GEORGI TAKES KANSAS STATE

Henry Georgi of Lawrence captured the Kansas State title in a strong 24 player 6 round Swiss with 5-1 by one-half an S-B point. Georgi lost no games but drew with James Callis of Wichita and Jasper Stull. Former State Champion Stull (also of Wichita) was second with 5-1, drawing with Georgi and Oscar Ostrum. Third place went to Clarence Wales of Lawrence with 4½-1½, losing a game to Robert Miller of Hays and drawing with Kirk Mechem of Topeka. Former State Champion Mechem placed fourth on S-B points with 4-2, while Carl Weberg of Salina, James Callis of Wichita were fifth and sixth with 4-2 each.

HYDE PARK CHESS ELECTS OFFICERS

Annual election of directors at the Hyde Park YMCA (Chicago) Chess Club saw Abe Kaufman re-elected as president, Dr. Leonard Pearl as secretary, George Leighton treasurer, David Levadi publicity director and Paul Hinton as chairman of the board. All officials were nominated originally by a nominating committee except Mr. Leighton who was nominated from the floor at the annual meeting. Leighton has recently come into prominence as the ranking negro player of Chicago.

Chess Life

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Vol. V, Number 18

Sunday, May 20, 1951

ALAIN C. WHITE

PROBLEMISTS throughout the world will greatly mourn the passing of the foremost American authority on the Problem Art, as well as its most constant patron. Born in Cannes, France seventy-one years ago, a son of the late John J. White, lawyer, Alain C. White was destined to become the most outstanding figure in the international problem world, not so much for his own contributions in the way of composing, but for the encouragement and impetus he gave to the whole of problem art. His death in Somerville, S. C. on Monday, April 12, 1951 removed an irreplaceable force in the problem world.

Graduating from Harvard magna cum laude in 1902, a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, Mr. White soon directed his talents to the encouragement of problem composing, both by example (for he was himself a master of the art of composition) and by a series of annual Christmas Problem Books from 1905 to 1936 which he sent to problem enthusiasts throughout the world—and which remain today highly prized as outstanding anthologies of the best in problem composing.

But in remembering Alain C. White as a problemist, it must not be forgotten that his gifts were many and varied. His work upon Dante placed him as a scholar of great distinction, and he won the Lantham Prize of the American Dante Society while still an undergraduate. As a philanthropist he was also an outstanding figure and in his home of Litchfield, Conn., his name will long live as donor of the 4666 acre park on Bantam Lake, administered by the White Memorial Foundation.

Active in chess until the last, although in ill health for the past year, one of his final gestures toward promotion of the problem art he loved was donation of prizes for the current CHESS LIFE Composing Tourney. We trust that the prize winning compositions in this event will be worthy of standing as a slight but earnest tribute to his memory.

OUR APOLOGIES TO THE NEGRO RACE

And when your body's death gives birth
To soil for spring to crown,
Men will not ask if that rare earth
Was white flesh once, or brown
Countee Cullen

IT IS a matter of no importance to the chess pieces on the board whether the hand that guides their movement be white, yellow, black or brown. It is a matter of less importance whether the mind that directs these movements believes in God, Allah, Buddha or an abstract Law of Universal Necessity. To the chess pieces, it is all one; and so should it be to man.

Therefore, we have never felt it of importance to specify whether a chess player, noted in the news, was of Jewish, Irish, English, German, Dutch, French, Spanish, Turkish or African descent. But because there is a national sense in chess (a competitive spirit upon which all contest thrives), we have variously described players as Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian, Ukrainian, etc. in a purely nationalistic sense. Of our own players, it is our rule to speak of them as American, whatever the race from which they sprang, since their being American was much more importance than the land of their forebearers' origin.

We find now that we must break that rule and institute a practice repugnant to our principles—driven by the unreasonable intolerance of two distinct groups. In the future we will refer to American chess players of the Negro race as colored or negro, not denying them their rightful claim to be considered Americans (which, we know, they would prefer) but in answer to certain intolerances that must be eradicated from the American chess scene. We apologize to the members of the Negro race for this invidious distinction thrust upon them, and trust that they will forgive it in recognizing our purpose.

But the intolerance of the zealot who would enforce a "fair practice act" down the gullets of all is equally invidious as the intolerance of those who would exclude the Negro from his proper part in the practice of chess. Intolerance may be vanquished by education and example, it is never eradicated by a strait-jacket of law.

Thus to silence the clamor of the zealot with the visible assurance that intolerance is not a universal practice, and likewise to educate by continual reminder the bigot who still clings to his out-moded ideas of exclusion, it becomes necessary to record unmistakably the growing acceptance of the Negro chess player into the circles of chess from which, by justice, he should never have been excluded.

In doing this, we recognize that we must unjustly limelight the colored player in a manner in which he would prefer not to be noted, and we apologize in advance to each individual player for depriving him momentarily of his full right to be considered merely as an American chess player.

We feel, however, that the solution to the problem insofar as chess is concerned lies in educational publicity; that only by the cumulative examples of complete tolerance and understanding can the bigot be finally persuaded that the views he holds, often sincerely, are totally erroneous.

Montgomery Major

Mate The Subtle Way!

by Vincent L. Eaton

Address all communications to this column to Vincent L. Eaton, 622 McNeill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland.

ALAIN CAMPBELL WHITE passed away on April 23. And with his passing all those who cherish the tiny branch of the arts known as chess problems have lost their one great world figure.

Born in Cannes, France, on March 3, 1880, Mr. White grew up in an intellectually stimulating family atmosphere. He graduated from Harvard College in 1902 and secured his Master's degree from Columbia University in 1904. While it is with his chess career that this note must be primarily concerned, we must point out that Mr. White regarded his chess accomplishments as comparatively minor. He wrote books in the field of Italian literature, he was a skilled historian, he was a recognized authority on botany; but it is as a philanthropist that his fellow-residents of Stamford, Conn. will best remember him. The White Memorial Foundation, which he established in 1913, has added many thousands of acres to the park and recreation systems of his State.

Mr. White learned to play chess when he was boy, published his first problem when he was 11 years old, and had become recognized as one of America's foremost composers by the time he reached manhood. He published his first problem book in 1905 (Chess Lyrics, a collection of the work of Arthur Ford Mackenzie), and then conceived the idea of putting out a volume each year, distributing them to friends all over the world at Christmas time. The "Christmas Series," begun in 1905 and continued through 1938, ran to more than 40 books and virtually created a distinctive literature of chess problems.

To compile these books, Mr. White called for help from many correspondents, providing a little army of voluntary laborers with diagram blanks and getting them to copy out from magazines examples of themes in which he was interested. This led naturally to the thought of developing a systematically organized collection of the important problems of past and present, which would map out what had been done on the various themes and point the way to new experiments. He began the work in 1908, and by 1926, when he felt compelled to turn the task over to a curator, the collection had grown to more than 200,000 positions.

These were his two outstanding chess accomplishments; but there were more. He was a skillful and imaginative composer, he sponsored many composing tourneys (the last of these being the one just held by Chess Life, in which he took a keen interest), and he gave stimulus to hundreds of other problemists. By them he will be remembered as a warm human being, whose humor and kindness overflowed in his letters.

Mr. White's last years were spent at Sommerville, South Carolina, where he had a large, hospitable house set among tall pines and magnolias. There, in the woodlands he loved, he found a natural environment for work and for relaxation. And one who, like myself, had the pleasure of visiting him there, could readily see that the work and the relaxation alike, and even more, perhaps, the environment of the woods, had brought him with the years a full measure of content. He was fond of quoting Rupert Brooke's lines:

I saw tall pines against the white north sky,
Very beautiful, and still, and bending over,
Their sharp black heads against a quiet sky:
And there was peace in them.

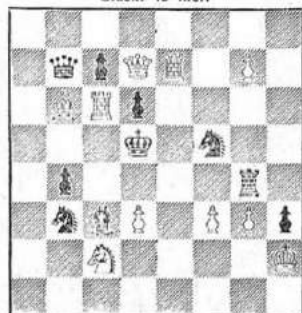
(Parts of the above are reprinted, with the kind permission of the copyright owner, from a biography of Mr. White which appeared in A Sketchbook of American Chess Problemists, one of a beautifully-printed series of books he compiled for the Overbrook Press, of Stamford, Connecticut, in the early 1940's.)

Problem No. 255
By Francis J. C. DeBlasio
Brooklyn, New York
Entry in CHESS LIFE
Composing Tourney
Black: 9 men



White: 11 men
4s3, 3S2P1, 3pp1K1, 3KpP2, 2R1r1p1,
1P3RS1, 2s2, 4Q2B
White mates in two moves

Problem No. 257
By M. Marysko
Prague, Czechoslovakia
Entry in CHESS LIFE
Composing Tourney
Black: 10 men



White: 10 men
8, qpQR1P1, 1BRP4, 3K1s2, 1p4r1,
1sb1PPp, 2sK, B
White mates in two moves

Problem No. 256
By H. Hermanson
Unbyn, Sweden
Entry in CHESS LIFE
Composing Tourney
Black: 11 men



White: 10 men
1BQ4s, 4Kp1s, 2b3p1, 1B1RSp2, 3Sk3,
1Ppp1P1, 4p3, 1e6
White mates in two moves

Problem No. 258
By N. Rutberg
Ailgemeine Zeitung
1927
Black: 4 men



White: 7 men
KQ5b, 2R5, 8, 8, p7, 8, KBSPP2r, 8

Alekhine's Early Chess Career

Additional Data
By A. Buschke

V. ALEKHINE IN SOVIET-LAND

ALEKHINE himself has provided enough examples of blindfold games he was able to produce while he was still in the Soviet Union, to refute his allegation that he could not play blindfold during the revolution. But thanks to this somewhat irresponsible statement, we are in the fortunate position of having another one of the games he played in 1918. As a supplement to the Alekhine article in "64", N. D. Grigoriev published in the same number and immediately following Alekhine's article the following note:

A NOT SUPERFLUOUS ADDITION (To Alekhine's Article)

I thought that the following game might see the light of day. By itself it deserves that but little, I had even forgotten about it. But when I read in Alekhine's article that he had not been able to play blindfold after the revolution recalled at once this game and that small "blindfold" seance in which it was played. Yes, in 1918 Alekhine gave a seance to the effect, I believe K. Kh. Baranov will remember because he made, it seems, a draw with the grandmaster. At that time I played already in the first category, I had come to the taste of chess matters and a seance of several games "à l'aveugle" did not seem to me a "miracle." I knew that Alekhine would not be daunted, I was also convinced that he would win the greater percentage of games, but something else interested me. "It cannot be," so I said to myself, "that Alekhine 'blindfolded' will conduct even these few games as strongly as I mean you sees." And I refused to believe that it would not be possible to confuse him somewhere in the course of the battle. I wanted to play Alekhine at the seance, and I joined the other four participants of the seance. I did not have to regret it. The course of the game graphically confirmed the correctness of my assumption. Now, after many years, I unearthed the game in my archives, looked it over and decided to give it publicity in connection with the Alekhine article. I hope that whoever goes through the game will understand this connection and will not reproach me.

It is interesting to note that Alekhine, even at that early period of his blindfold practice, did not mind trying his abilities not only in the unusual role of Black (game with Gonssiorovski) but also against very strong players, almost-masters. He was either very sure of himself (a prerogative of his youth) or considered such additional mental "aerobatics" as valuable practice.

Alekhine's opponent in the following game is of course the same Nikolai Dmitrievich Grigoriev known to us already from the preceding chapter. That his name is associated in the Western Chess World mainly with the "famous" game supposedly played in Moscow 1915, in which at one time five queens were on the board and Alekhine pulled an amazing quiet rook move out of his hat—see the preceding chapter proving that this "game" was never played—is all the more to be regretted since Alekhine himself has highest praise for this then first category player. We will encounter his name several more times as one of Alekhine's opponents before the latter left Soviet Russia. In the text part of "Schachleben in Sowjet-Russland," Alekhine devotes the following lines to this gifted player and outstanding organizer:

N. Grigoriev (who should not be confused with the much older Moscow amateur B. P. Grigoriev, a participant of the II All-Russian Tournament) is undoubtedly one of the most pleasant sights on the present-day "decadent" chess firmament. A player of broad knowledge (which made itself felt especially in pawn endgames because he has not only worked out his own theory in this field, but even written an entire monograph), he almost as far as practical strength is concerned the master regions; above all, he is an indefatigable and fanatical propagandist of the art of chess and in spite of his being only 26 years old now, he was in the hard years 1917-1919 actually the only man who was responsible for keeping the little flame of chess burning in the hearts of the Muscovite chess friends, in spite of all the tragic events in the outside world. A present (i.e. in 1921—Translator) he has the post of President of the (Please turn to page 4, col. 1)

