



Chess Life



Vol. VI
Number 6

Official Publication of The United States Chess Federation

Tuesday,
November 20, 1951

RATED EVENTS INCREASE

Mary Bain Fulfills Early Promise In Winning U.S. Women's Title

Mrs. Mary Bain in winning the U. S. Women's Championship in 1951 at New York fulfilled an earlier promise given by her performances in previous events. In 1936 in New York she tied for second with Miss Edith L. Weart in a tournament conducted at the Marshall Chess Club, won by Mrs. Adele Rivero. In 1937 she represented the United States in the International Women's Tournament at Stockholm. In 1938 she placed second behind Miss N. May Karff in the Women's Championship at Boston. In 1939 she tied with Miss Karff and Dr. Helen Weissenstein for first in the Women's Championship in New York, losing the playoff to Miss Karff. In 1945 she tied for first with Miss Karff in the Pan-American Women's Tournament at Hollywood. In 1946 she placed second to Miss Karff in the Women's Championship in New York. And in 1948 at South Fallsburg, she was third behind the co-champions, Miss Karff and Mrs. Gresser.

In winning with an 8½-½ score, Mrs. Bain played brilliantly, defeating Miss Karff and drawing in a long and difficult Rook and Pawn ending with Mrs. Gresser. There were several upsets in the exciting event, with Mrs. Willa Owens dealing an unexpected defeat to Mrs. Gresser in the 4th round, while Mrs. Kathryn Slater downed Miss Karff in the semi-final 8th round. Mrs. Gresser gained revenge for her South Fallsburg defeat by Miss Karff, by besting her opponent in the 5th round.

Round One
The Women's Championship began auspiciously without noticeable upsets. Mrs. Willa White Owens, a comparative newcomer, showed her metal by defeating Mrs. Lena Grumette. Other scores were: Karff 1, Roos 0, Gresser 1, Kellner 0; Raettig 0, Slater 1; and Piatigorsky 0, Bain 1.

Round Two
Again peaceful and without upset, Mrs. Bain defeated Mrs. Owens. Miss Karff bested Mrs. Grumette, and Mrs. Gresser outpointed Mrs. Roos. Other scores: Kellner 1, Raettig 0; Slater ½, Piatigorsky ½.

Round Three
Mrs. Gresser defeated Mrs. Grumette in a hard-fought game that was adjourned once. Other scores: Karff 1, Owens 0; Bain 1, Slater 0; Raettig 0, Roos 1; Piatigorsky ½, Kellner ½. Leading scorers are Mrs. Bain, Miss Karff and Mrs. Gresser with 3-0 each.

Round Four
Mrs. Piatigorsky, a pupil of Herman Steiner in her first national tournament, scored something of an upset by defeating Mrs. Grumette; but the real upset of the round was the victory in a game that went to adjournment of Mrs.

Willa Owens over Mrs. Gresser—a game that provided the margin of victory for Mrs. Bain. Other scores were: Karff 1, Raettig 0; Slater 0, Kellner 1; Bain 1, Roos 0. Leading scorers were Mrs. Bain and Miss Karff with 4-0 each.

Round Five
Excitement in this round centered around the battle between Mrs. Gresser and Miss Karff, in which the former avenged her defeat at South Fallsburg by besting Miss Karff. Other scores: Owens 0, Slater 1; Roos 1, Piatigorsky 0; Grumette 1, Raettig 0; Kellner 0, Bain 1. At this point Mrs. Bain took the lead with 5-0 and never relinquished it. Miss Karff and Mrs. Gresser were tied for second with 4-1.

Round Six
This round was played at the Log Cabin Chess Club at West Orange, N. J. instead of the usual quarters at the Marshall Chess Club in New York. It was distinguished by a very hard fought battle of 82 moves between Miss Karff, the victor, and Mrs. Piatigorsky. Other scores: Owens 1, Kellner 0; Roos ½, Slater ½; Grumette 0, Bain 1; Gresser 1, Raettig 0. Mrs. Bain leading with 6-0, followed by Mrs. Gresser and Miss Karff with 5-1 each.

Round Seven
The London Terrace Chess Club of New York was host for this round in which the exciting battle was Mrs. Bain's victory over Miss Karff, which eliminated the latter as a contender for the title. Other scores: Raettig 1, Owens 0; Piatigorsky 0, Gresser 1; Slater ½, Grumette ½; Kellner 1, Roos 0. Mrs. Bain leading with 7-0 and Mrs. Gresser second with 6-1.

Round Eight
The semi-final round at the Marshall Chess Club proved the decisive round when Mrs. Gresser and Mrs. Bain drew in a Pawn and Rook ending of 109 moves that lasted almost 11 hours. In addition Mrs. Kathryn Slater provided further thrills by defeating Miss Karff. Other scores: Owens 0, Roos 1; Grumette 1, Kellner 0; Raettig 1, Piatigorsky 0. Mrs. Bain leading with 7½-½, Mrs. Gresser second with 6½-1½.

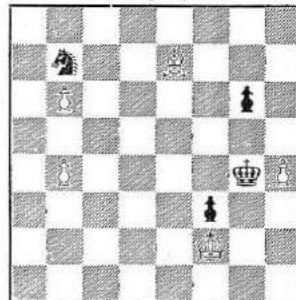
Round Nine
Mrs. Bain clinched the title by a victory over Miss Raettig, that was necessary since Mrs. Gresser defeated Mrs. Slater. Other scores: Piatigorsky 1, Owens 0; Kellner 0, Karff 1; Roos 0, Grumette 1. Final standings: Mrs. Bain 8½-½, Mrs. Gresser 7½-1½, and Miss Karff 6-3.

Position No. 69
H. Wolf vs. F. Spielmann
Czechoslovakia, 1923



P4p1, 6Q7, 1B4K1
White to play and win

Position No. 70
E. Nash vs. J. Rice
Washington, 1951



8, 1s2B3, 1P4p1, 8, 1P4kP, 3p2, 5K2, 8
White 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. 69, two forceful moves by White, and Black resigned.

Problem-like Position No. 70 was reached after about seven hours of play. I was pleased to find the winning continuation over the board, particularly as kibitzers had already chalked up the position as a draw. Suggestion to solvers: White can force a zugzwang position in five moves. I am grateful to H. Underwood, Federal Chess Club Champion, for solving and checking the position for me.

For solutions, please turn to page four.

PUBLICITY GOOD FOR U.S. WOMEN'S

Unusually fine publicity attended the playing of the U.S. Women's Championship at New York. Not only did the Times, World-Telegram and Sun in New York feature the event in articles by Herman Helms, but also the N.Y. Post and N.Y. Herald-Tribune covered the event. Other papers, including the Christian Science Monitor's excellent chess section, covered the event also; and due to the presence of two California players the tournament received special attention in the Los Angeles Times, and Los Angeles Mirror. "This Week," a newspaper supplement of national circulation, also featured a story on the event with pictures.

Among the visiting press were a reporter and photographer from Life Magazine and it is possible that a story on the Women's Tournament with pictures may appear in an issue of Life.

Radio and Television also contributed to the excellent publicity for the event. Miss Helen Faith Keane of "For Your Information" featured the event on her television show, while Mrs. Willa White Owens and Miss Lucille Kellner appeared on both the "Family Circle" and "Break the Bank" radio shows in which they were able to say a few words about the Women's Tournament. Much of the credit for this exceptional publicity goes to Miss Edith L. Weart, a trained advertising executive, who was tireless in seeing that news releases were sent to all leading publications. And part of the credit to the ladies themselves, for being a more glamorous subject for publicity than mere men.

NO. CITY DOWNS LOG CABIN CLUB

The North City Chess Club (Philadelphia) and the Log Cabin Chess Club (West Orange) resumed their inter-sectional rivalry with a 15 board match at the Log Cabin headquarters in which the home team was bested 10½-4½. U.S. Junior Champion Saul Wachs and Penn Junior Champion Robert Sobel held their opponents to draws, while the lower boards of North City mopped up the opposition. A. Koppany also drew for North City while victors were H. Morris, H. Hickman, J. Gibbons, J. Seibert, E. Huth, C. Badgett, A. Gonzales, J. Caputo and A. Nickel. Log Cabin players who salvaged points were R. Haefner, K. Hurlten, while draws went to F. Howard, E. McCormick and A. Boczar.

PRIZE AWARDS ARE MODEST

Since women chess players seemed more concerned with glory than with cash, the prize awards for the U.S. Women's Championship were scaled very modestly for such an important event. First prize was \$150.00, second prize \$100.00, and third prize \$50.00. Expense allotments were made to the four players coming from a distance, and then the remainder of the fund was distributed among the players on the basis of point money.

The players in the tournament showed their appreciation of this plan and of the excellent management of the tournament by presenting to tournament director Mrs. Caroline Marshall and publicity director Miss Edith Weart the Mary Chess perfume "Strategy" in appropriate Pawn and Rook vials.

INTEREST GROWS IN RATING LIST

The importance of the National Rating System, now adopted by the U. S. Chess Federation, is attested recently by the number of tournaments in which 100% rating is being required, either through USCF membership or payment of rating fees.

Among the recent 100% rated tournaments were the Colorado Open Championship, the Southwestern Open Championship, the Michigan State Championship, the Pennsylvania State Championship, the Bay City Open Championship. And a recent submission of rating fees for non-members has added the New England Championship to the list of 100% rated tournaments.

Other tournaments, yet to be played, which will be included in the 100% rated group are the Oklahoma State Championship and the Northern Indiana Open Championship. Of course, such Federation events as the U. S. Open Championship, U. S. Championship, U. S. Junior Championship have always been 100% rated events.

EVANS, PRINS TOP IN CONSULTATION

U.S. Champion Larry Evans in consultation with Dutch master Lodewijk Prins at the Manhattan Chess Club won an exhibition game in 35 moves from the redoubtable combination of former U.S. Champion Samuel Reshevsky and chess editor Israel A. Horowitz. As Black, Reshevsky and Horowitz played a Sicilian defense and the White team of Evans and Prins were successful with a novel line of play involving the playing of 5. P-KB3 and castling Q-side. (See Tournament Life for game with notes by Champion Larry Evans.)

FORMULATE PLANS FOR CALIF. ASS'N

A steering committee of LeRoy Johnson and George Croy of Los Angeles and W. G. McClain and H. J. Ralston of San Francisco met at Atascadero to draw up plans for the creation of a California State Chess Federation, based upon the many existing chess leagues in the State. There have been several abortive attempts to organize a State Association in chess-active California, but none have had the chances of success that rest in the present endeavor and the growing recognition of all California players of the need for a state organization.

CFC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Our neighbor, the Chess Federation of Canada, has elected a new slate of officers at the annual meeting in Vancouver. Henry Loose of 194 Church St. Weston, Ont. becomes president. Other officers: D. A. MacAdam 1st vice-president (Montreal), Clarence Carroll 2nd vice-president (Chilliwack, B.C.), Osias Bain of 52 d'Aiguillon St. secretary (Quebec), John West treasurer (Ottawa), Max Guze auditor (Montreal), B. Freedman FIDE delegate (Toronto).

EVANS ACCEPTS STEINER BID

U.S. Champion Larry Evans of New York City and former U.S. Champion Herman Steiner of Los Angeles have signed articles of agreement for a sixteen game match for the U.S. title, tentatively scheduled for April 1952. The match agreement is expected to receive official USCF endorsement.

A minimum purse of three thousand dollars is the goal of the match committee for this premier event and lovers of the game are invited to send contributions to the match fund direct to the eastern treasurer, Dr. Edward Lasker, 510 East 23rd St., New York City. The western treasurer will be announced later.

Chess Life

Published twice a month on the 5th and 20th by

THE UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION

Entered as second class matter September 5, 1915, at the post office at Dubuque, Iowa, under the act of March 9, 1879.

Subscription—\$2.00 per year; Single copies 10c each

Address all subscriptions to: 845 Bluff Street OR 2319 Washington Ave.
Glenn E. Hardele, Mem. Sec'y Dubuque, Iowa Erie, Pennsylvania
Make all checks payable to: THE UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION

Address all communications Editorial 123 North Humphrey Avenue
on editorial matters to: Office: Oak Park, Illinois

Editor and Business Manager
MONTGOMERY MAJOR

Contributing Editors

Dr. A. Buschke Eliot Hearst Vincent L. Eaton
Guilherme Groessler Erich W. Marchand Edmund Nash
Fred Reinfeld William Rojman Dr. Kester Svendsen

Address all communications to the United States Chess Federation
(except those regarding CHESS LIFE) to USCF Secretary Phil J. Mary,
2011 Carew Tower, Cincinnati 2, Ohio. USCF Membership Dues—\$3.00.

Vol. VI, Number 6

Tuesday, November 20, 1951

FRAUDS IN CHESS

CHESS Forgeries are fortunately rare, but they are not unknown; and so editors of chess publications, whether national in scope or limited to regional or club circulation, should always exercise extreme care in selecting the material they publish. For when a chess forgery is circulated, it is not only a deception foisted upon the unsuspecting reader but is a damaging and base libel on the reputation of the alleged victim in the forgery.

Recently in a western club publication there appeared two game scores in which a 17-year old player "came up with a pair of amazing sacrificial orgies." The alleged victims of V. R. (as we will designate this young player) were C. Bagby, a noted player of San Francisco, and former U. S. Open Champion Arthur Bisguier.

Our curiosity was aroused immediately by the alleged 13-move victory over Bisguier, which supposedly occurred in a "stake game" at New York in July of this year. It seemed improbable to us that Bisguier would be a victim of such a trap in a much analyzed variation of the Ruy Lopez—an opening in which his familiarity and skill are well known—particularly in a "stake" game. Our curiosity was increased when we were informed by a Californian correspondent that the alleged victim in the other published score, C. Bagby of San Francisco, denied categorically that he had played the game in question or that he had participated for the Mechanics Institute in an interclub match in December, 1950. Our correspondent further stated that he could not trace any record of such an interclub match in December, 1950, as alleged in connection with the published score of the game.

In consequence, in the interests of truth and justice, we asked our New York correspondent, Mr. Eliot Hearst, to contact Mr. Bisguier and gain his statement regarding the validity of the published incident. We quote below the pertinent passages from a letter received from Pvt. Arthur Bisguier, now at Ft. Jackson, S. C.:

I received a piece of correspondence from Eliot Hearst which contained the score of a chess game I was supposed to have lost with a Mr. V. R. as the victor in the alleged encounter. I have never heard of Mr. R. as the score of the game is completely unfamiliar to me. The variation is one of my favorites (I would never fall victim to such a trap in the gambit variation of the Ruy Lopez), and last, but by no means least, I was inducted into the armed forces June 27, 1951, and I did not visit New York until October 1, 1951. Since the alleged game was supposed to have taken place in New York sometime during the month of July, Mr. R. evidently confused me with some other gentleman.

It becomes very obvious therefore that the "brilliance" in question is spurious; it occurred only in the over-imaginative mind of young Mr. V. R., who psychologically may have confused fact and fancy. That this confusion can occur we know from the researches of Dr. A. Buschke and Fred Reinfeld into the earlier career of Dr. Alexander A. Alekhine, for both these authors have produced verified instances in which Dr. Alekhine published as actual game scores what were in reality only analysis of possible but unplayed variations in the actual games.

We can possibly condone these lapses from the truth in the case of Dr. Alekhine because his genius has contributed so much of beauty and art to chess; but Mr. V. R. can scarcely claim such leniency.

Editors cannot always avoid being deceived by forgeries, however carefully they may check the known facts before publication; but they owe an eternal duty of vigilance to their readers in order to prevent the publication of such forgeries, whenever possible. And we trust that the editor of the chess publication who was victimized by Mr. V. R.'s plausible forgery, will undeceive his readers in his next issue by publishing the true facts regarding this fraud. He owes this much to Mr. Bisguier's reputation as a player to relieve him of the onus of being the victim of a spurious brilliancy. And henceforth all editors of chess publications will be well advised to view with scepticism any future scores submitted by Mr. V. R., unless well authenticated from other sources.

In passing, we might also mention the very reprehensible habit of some editors in printing chess problems and end-game positions without giving full credit to the composers. This actually constitutes theft in a moral and quasi-legal sense, for while it is always permissible to republish problem compositions, it is never permissible to deprive the composers of their just due as the creators of such positions. Editors sometimes err through a failure to realize that a definite standard of professional ethics covers the republication of any previously printed material—a standard of ethics that all reputable publications recognize and follow.

It is even more reprehensible to publish a modern problem composition (as one club periodical did recently) with the statement that it was discovered in an "old chess magazine." For this erroneous statement implies to readers who recognize the authorship of the problem that the modern composer plagiarized it from an older position. The implication is a nasty one, and every honest editor will avoid creating such unfounded implications simply by publishing the source from which the problem position was actually obtained and the name of the composer. Failure to publicize source and authorship of any material reproduced from other sources is unethical in the extreme and such

failure brands the editor as being careless, indifferent and dishonest (although he may actually only be uninformed concerning the strict ethics of publishing).

Montgomery Major

Mate The Subtle Way!

by Vincent L. Eaton

Address all communications to this column to Vincent L. Eaton, 612 McNeill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland.

THE year 1951 has taken a heavy toll of American problem composers. First there was Alain C. White; now, from Dr. P. G. Keeney and Peter Korf, comes news of the death on October 19 of Otto Wurzburg of Grand Rapids, Michigan. With the passing of these men two of the giants of the problem world have left our midst.

Mr. Wurzburg was seventy-six years old and had lived all his life in Grand Rapids, where he had been employed by the Post Office Department. Nephew of the great W. A. Shinkman, he became a distinguished composer in his own right, beginning when he was in his teens and continuing through more than half a century. He was a master of the lightweight, aiming at artistic and pointed effects with economical use of White and Black force. Though he composed more than a thousand problems he never made one hastily, seeking always to produce a polished setting that solvers would remember. One of his classics is reproduced below, as fresh in its appeal today as it was when it first came from his brain and fingers fifty-five years ago.

Problem No. 291
By Burney M. Marshall
Shreveport, La.
Unpublished
Black: 10 men



White: 10 men
3K4, 2RQ4, 5B12, 4P7, 1bq3P1,
2kPR3, p41P4, S4b2
White mates in two moves

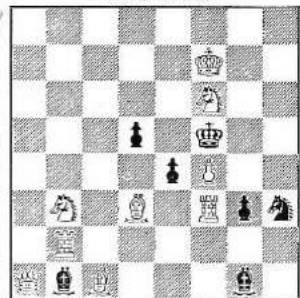
Problem No. 293
By J. Jesus Cornejo
Aguascaliente, Mexico
Unpublished
Black: 9 men



White: 8 men
2S5, 1rsR1Pr1, 2p3b1, 1pk1S1R1, 1p6,
1P1P3, 2K5, 8
White mates in two moves

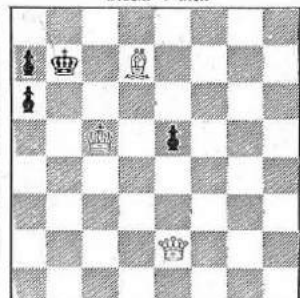
For solutions to previously published problems, please turn to page four.

Problem No. 292
By Montgomery Major
Oak Park, Ill.
Unpublished
Black: 7 men



White: 9 men
8, 5K2, 5S2, 3P12, 4P2, 1S1B1RPs,
2R6, Qb3b1
White mates in two moves

Problem No. 294
By the Late Otto Wurzburg
British Chess Magazine
1896
Black: 4 men



White: 3 men
8, 1h1B3, p7, 2K1p3, 8, 8, 4Q3, 8
White mates in three moves

The Editor Reads A Book

By Montgomery Major

THE ROYAL GAME, Chess for Young People, by Edith Lucie Weart; illustrated by B. Brussel-Smith; New York, The Vanguard Press, Inc., 1948; \$2.50. 64 pp, 71 diagrams.

THIS is the only book of instruction on chess that exists in English for the sole purpose of teaching chess to children, but it would also serve excellently to instruct the parents. Miss Weart has spent many years in teaching chess to children in the cardiac ward at Bellevue Hospital, and in this book she has collected all the lessons she has learned through practical experience about teaching chess to young people.

First, each piece speaks for itself, telling the reader what it is, why it exists, and what its part is in the scheme of chess. And the method of instruction is Socratic, for each piece asks questions about itself—the questions that a bright child would ask it—and then answers them fully and completely.

Second, each piece is clearly illustrated, both as it appears in the standard Staunton-pattern set and as it appears in a chess diagram. And the movements of the pieces are concisely demonstrated upon the most effective diagrams that this reader has ever seen. In these large clear-type diagrams, the profuse use of color makes it impossible for the most stupid beginner not to understand precisely how each piece moves upon the board.

Many fundamental positions are also illustrated by these diagrams, while the concepts of mate and check are vividly portrayed. Notation is also treated in a very simple and lucid manner which makes the learning easy, as well as being fun.

In addition to these features, the clever illustrative drawing of Brussel-Smith are designed to catch a youngster's eye and lead him inquisitively to discover more about a book with such attractive and exciting drawings in it. Certainly a must for anyone who wishes to teach chess to youngsters.

Chess Life In New York

By Eliot Hearst

THE 1951 U. S. Women's Champion has just been crowned, and, for the first time since 1944 the diadem rests not on the head of either Mrs. G. K. Gresser or Miss N. May Karff; Mary Bain has won it.

Mrs. Bain, who has in the past few years been most successful in competition with male experts, never before exhibited her best chess against players of her own sex; in this tourney, however, she demonstrated skill, determination, and tenacity. Witness her exciting semi-final round struggle with Mrs. Gresser; this game, which meant so much to both contestants, was extremely hard fought, both sides missing wins at various stages and at other stages rallying valiantly to hold a crumbling position. After almost eleven hours of play and 109 moves the game was finally drawn, and by a victory over Miss Raettig in the last round, Mrs. Bain clinched the title.

Unlike the procedure at the conclusion of a men's championship, there was no widespread shaking of hands; Mrs. Bain was the recipient of more kisses than handshakes this time! Women's tourneys are becoming more and more popular!!!

This championship received excellent publicity in the New York papers, some of the largest carrying daily reports and here and there a feature story on one or more of the contestants could be found; e. g., the "Brooklyn Eagle" ran an article on Mrs. Grumette, that borough's representative in the tourney, while the Sunday Magazine section of the "Herald Tribune" contained an "expose" of the private life of our female chess stars. A "Life" Magazine photographer was on hand for several of the last few rounds also, while Miss Kellner and Mrs. Owens appeared on the "Break the Bank" Radio Show. The women chess players really took Gotham by storm!

The Marshall Chess Club banquet, celebrating the victories of its members, Larry Evans and Jim Sherwin, was a huge success. Many famous masters and chess fans attended—to mention but a few, Rueben Fine, I. A. Horowitz, Herman Steiner, Alexander Bisno, Edward Lasker, George E. Roosevelt, Harold Phillips, Lodewijk Prins, Horace Bigelow, Milton Hanauer, Max Pavey, and all the contestants in the women's tourney then in progress. Larry Evans announced at the banquet his intention to play Herman Steiner a 16 game match early in 1952 for the U. S. Championship; so now the former champion and present champion will fight it out for the title! Larry was presented with a unique chess postal set designed by Frank J. Marshall himself; it was felt that if Marshall were still alive today, he would have wanted Larry to have it. Jimmy Sherwin, the New York champion, also was the recipient of many fine words, and a lovely "chess tie" was given him as a remembrance of the evening. Thunderous applause greeted Mrs. Marshall, the boss-lady of the Marshall Chess Club, and so overcome was she by this burst of enthusiasm that she did not remember all she intended to say. She told us afterwards that she wanted to mention the donation of Mrs. Fritz Brierger towards prizes in Marshall junior tourneys—contests which have unearthed many a promising youngster. A great burst of enthusiasm greeted Herman Helms also as the "Dean of American Chess" rose to say a few words; Mr. Louis Wolff, the toastmaster, spoke of Mr. Helms' great contributions to chess, and of the still potent chess play of this "youthful octogenarian." After the banquet the guests walked

(Please turn to page 3, col. 5)

