



Chess Life

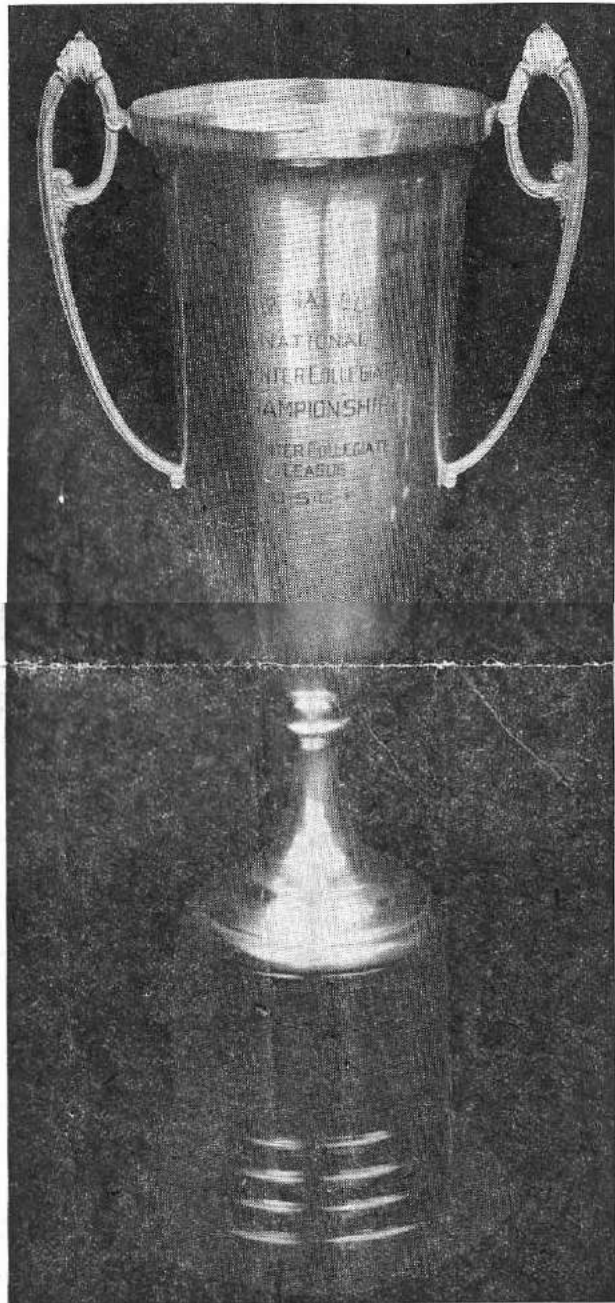


Vol. IV
Number 9

Official Publication of The United States Chess Federation

Thursday,
January 5, 1950

DIETZ WINS COLLEGIATE!



THE ARTHUR NABEL TROPHY

In Field Of Forty Collegiate Players Pittsburgh Champion Finishes First

By a score of 6½-1½ Paul Luther Dietz, Pittsburgh City and Pennsylvania Junior Champion, won the U. S. Intercollegiate Individual and custody of the H. Arthur Nabel trophy for the University of Pittsburgh. Drawing only with Francis Mechner of Columbia, the champion topped a strong field of forty players, representing nineteen colleges.

Eliot Hearst of Columbia finished second with a 5½-1½ score. Until the fifth round Hearst led the field, but in that fateful round lost to Dietz and never again obtained the lead. Hearst also drew with Mechner in the seventh round.

Among the other top players, tied at 5-2 each, were Francis Mechner of Columbia, Peretz Miller of Syracuse, James Sherwin of Columbia and Saul Wachs of Temple.

Other leaders in the 7-round Swiss, directed by Joshua Gross, were: Eucher of Michigan, Hatch of Penn State, Rogan of Indiana and Smith of Yale, tied at 4½-2½ each.

Dietz succeeds to the title won in 1947 by Robert Byrne of Yale, who did not defend his title.

Succeeding Robert Byrne as Intercollegiate Rapid Transit Champion is James Sherwin of Columbia who finished with an 8½-1½ score.

U. S. INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP	
Dietz (Pittsburgh)	6½-1½
Hearst (Columbia)	5½-1½
Mechner (Columbia)	5-2
P. Miller (Syracuse)	5-2
Wachs (Temple)	5-2
Sherwin (Columbia)	5-2
Eucher (Michigan)	4½-2½
Hatch (Penn State)	4½-2½
Rogan (Indiana)	4½-2½
Smith (Yale)	4½-2½
Edelmann (R.P.I.)	4-3
Kenny (Fordham)	4-3
Steinberg (Yeshiva)	4-3
Stern (C.C.N.Y.)	4-3
Trink (C.C.N.Y.)	4-3
Zimmerman (C.C.N.Y.)	4-3
Burr (C.C.N.Y.)	3-4
Define (Fordham)	3-3
Mayer (Purdue)	3-3
Richard (R.P.I.)	3-3
Rosen (Yeshiva)	3-3
Tuch (Brooklyn)	3-3
Weininger (McGill)	3-3
Wilhelm (Columbia)	3-3
Haining (Temple)	3-4
Komayor (Rutgers)	3-4
Levy (Rutgers)	3-4
Stephan (Princeton)	3-4
Wachpress (Cooper Union)	3-4
Lubin (Brooklyn)	2½-4½
G. Miller (Rutgers)	2½-4½
Droplin (Cooper Union)	2½-4½
Farber (C.C.N.Y.)	2½-4½
Brickman (Temple)	2-5
Dunn (Syracuse)	2-5
Elder (Temple)	2-6
Lowy (Sir George Williams)	2-6
Campary (Fordham)	1½-5½
Packer (Temple)	1-5½
Dimitriadis (Rutgers)	1-6

ST. LOUIS WON BY INDEPENDENT

The Independent Chess Club won the St. Louis Chess League title for the first time since 1940 when they completed a three-year reign, but were forced to decide the title in their last round encounter by besting YMCA Juniors, who were runners-up, by a 4-2 score. The Independents scored victories in all five matches, while the YMCA Juniors lost two match points for a 3-2 score, but placed second on games won.

Outstanding individual scorer was Eugene J. Roesch with 4½-1½ on the top board for the YMCA Seniors. R. W. Bunner made a similar score on a lower board for the Independents; and T. P. Curtis scored 4-0, and Calvin Marvin 3-0 for the Independents as well.

PORTSMOUTH WINS NO. SHORE TITLE

For the third straight year the Portsmouth (N.H.) Chess Club won the title in the North Shore Chess League, but the race was very close. An upset occurred in the final match when Portsmouth was decisively trounced by Haverhill 5-1, and Newburyport (Mass.) Chess Club came within a few points of snatching first place honors. Best individual score in the league was that of Mrs. Margaret Gould of Newburyport who turned in five wins with no losses or draws.

WANDERLUST HITS LOG CABIN AGAIN

The never-resting Log Cabin Chess Club of New Jersey rallied around team captain E. Forry Laucks early in December and dashed off on one of their perennial chess raids, First skirmish was at Deep River (Conn.) where the powerful Log Cabin team, headed by Weaver Adams and J. Faucher, bowled over Deep River Chess Club by a 9½-½ score. D. Johnson saved the half-point for Deep River by drawing with G. Partos.

Next they sallied into New Haven, with hearts set upon revenge, and took a 5½-1½ victory although Adams drew with J. Voltin of Yale and Faucher lost to Byron Owens.

SUESMAN GIVES BLINDFOLD SIMUL

Walter B. Suesman, chess editor of the Providence (R.I.) Journal, gave a 5-board blindfold simultaneous at the Providence YMCA, winning four and drawing with Jack Davis. A total of 132 people attended spectators at the event, which served to draw attention to the chess school which is being conducted by the YMCA under the direction of Mark J. Thomas, president of the Greater Providence YMCA Chess Club.

In the club championship Walter Suesman captured the title with a 5½-2½ score, edging out State Champion Albert Martin who finished second with 5-3, followed by former club champion Otto Hoffer with 4½-3½.

Chess Problem Association Announces Prize Winners In 1949 Problem Tourneys

The newly founded Chess Problem Association of America announces the prize winners in their problem composing tourneys of 1949, conducted in their monthly publication, The American Chess Problemist.

In the informal two-move and three move tourneys there were the following results:

Two-movers: First Prize, A. C. Neisser (New Rochelle); Second Prize, F. ten Cate (Holland); Third Prize, E. Holladay (Charlottesville). Honorable Mentions were won by J. Buchwald and H. Huse; and Commendations by Costikyan, Labell, Fillery, Hilde Hassberg and Oppenheimer.

Three-movers: First Prize, J. Buchwald (New York); Second Prize, E. Holladay (Charlottesville); Third Prize, A. D. Gring (Brookline). Commendations were won by Rothenberg, Fillery, Sayer and Metzner. The judge was the editor, Eric M. Hassberg.

The Special Christmas Tourney Prize went to G. F. Anderson (England) for his selfmate.

In the Meredith Two-Move Tourney in honor of Otto Wurzburg's 75th birthday, where J. Buchwald was the judge, the following awards were made: First Prize, R. Fortune (South Africa); Second Prize, E. M. Hassberg (New York); Third Prize, R. Fortune; Fourth Prize, E. Holladay (Charlottesville). Honorable Mentions were won by C. Vaughan and V. L. Eaton; and Commendations by Becker, Hassberg, DeBlasio, Tump and Oppenheimer.

In the section for pawn-free Meredith's the Special Prize went to K. Rasmussen (Canada), who was the winner in CHESS LIFE's Problem Tourney. Special Honorable Mentions were won by N. Gabor and M. Major, editor of CHESS LIFE (this is his first suc-

FIRESTONE KTS WIN AKRON TITLE

First season of the Akron Chess League saw the title go to the Firestone Knights by a 6-2 match score, with Akron University in second place with 5-3. It was unfortunate that Akron U was forced to forfeit its second match to the Knights, for otherwise the race might have been a very close one.

With the close of the league season plans are under way for the first Akron City Championship in four years. The last event was sponsored by the M. O'Neil Co. in 1945 and won by Pete Seitz of the Firestone Chess Club who has reigned uncontested ever since.

MAGEE TRIUMPHS IN OMAHA EXPERTS

Winning in a stirring finish, Lee Magee took the Omaha Experts Tourney with a 4½-1½ score, losing a game to Ohman and drawing with Ludwig. Tied for second were Ackerman and Ohman with 4-2 each. Ackerman lost to Magee and Belzer while Ohman lost to Ackerman and drew with Spence and Ludwig. Ludwig finished third with 3½, followed by Belzer with 3, Spence with 1½, and Underwood with ½-5½.

The last round saw five players with a chance for the title; but while Magee bested Belzer, Ludwig lost to Ackerman in an interesting Gruenfeld; and the race was over.

Chess Life

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Vol. IV, Number 9

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AN OLD ENGLISH CUSTOM

READERS may sometimes wonder (and we do not blame them for their bewilderment) if the Editor can spell, in noting the various renditions of the same name, sometimes in the same issue of CHESS LIFE. Let us hasten to reassure the reader that no rules have been violated; the Editor is merely adhering to an old English custom of free spelling, dating back to Elizabethan days when words were not spelled according to inflexible regulations but according to the mood of the writer at the moment. Thus the family of the great Elizabethan dramatist wrote their name grandly as Shakespeare when they felt proud or curiously as Shaxpur when in a hurry, with some thirty other arrangements of the letters to fit their varying moods.

There is no set rule for the transliteration of names from the Cyrillic alphabet to the English, and so all Slavic names are dedicated to confusion when naturalized into English. Our good friend, Dr. Buschke, in obedience to his Germanic training writes Bogoljubov, whereas to us the name looks neater as Bogoljuboff—it is a matter of personal taste and educational background. We write Botvinnik, whereas some others prefer Botwinnik; and we trust the reader is not confused thereby.

But while this confusion of foreign names remains a chaos beyond order, we trust that those Europeans who settle in these United States or Canada will lend a hand in naturalizing their names into one standard form. Even the Editor (inured as he is to the vagaries in nomenclature of foreign chess masters) blinks in dismay when three separate accounts of the New English Championship refer to the former Lithuanian champion, now a resident of Boston, as Tautvalshais, Tautwaisha and Tautvalskas. Let's settle for one spelling while the Lithuanian master resides in this country. In the same vein, let us standardize reference to the Russian master now residing in Canada as Dr. Bohatyrychuk (although he is better known to the world as Bogatyrychuk) simply because Dr. Bohatyrychuk now spells it that way.

Fortunately for future generations, most of the great names eventually become standardized like Alekhine or their variants are recognizable like Nimzowitsch (Nimzovitch), Chigorin (Tchigorin). So the struggle for identities is limited to the rising luminaries like Naidorf (Najdorf), Smisloff (Smyslov), Lowenfisch (Levenfish), etc., whose names will finally solidify into one accepted form.

Montgomery Major

TWO WAYS OF PROMOTING CHESS

By HANS KMOCH

Vice-President, United States Chess Federation

THIS COUNTRY has in the past produced Morphy, Pillsbury and Marshall, has fostered Capablanca, has enabled Steinitz and Emanuel Lasker to become World Champions, has by its team four times won the (to use a simplified expression) Olympian Championship, while at the present it has in Fine and Reshevsky two recognized candidates for the World Championship. Nonetheless the pulsation of U. S. chess life has in comparison with Europe always been astonishingly weak. Chess life everywhere culminates in, and is in return most effectively stimulated by international tournaments. Such tournaments, however, are very rare in this country; scores of them have always been held in Europe before the U. S. could organize one. All the American chess heroes would have withered as flowers in the desert had they lacked the possibility of proving their qualities in Europe. Take e.g. Pillsbury who participated in all together twelve great international tournaments; eleven of these contests took place in Europe, and only one (Cambridge Springs 1904, his last) in the United States. Isn't it ignominious?

The conclusion is that chess in this country has been hampered by some factors the significance of which has so far been underestimated.

In deed, there are first of all strongly excusing factors provided by history and geography. While chess life in Europe largely roots in tradition, old culture, and the competing forces arising from a variety of independent nations, many of them small, it lacks such roots in this country which, speaking in terms of history, is still a baby, and speaking in terms of geography a gigantic hermitage. Yes, the organization of international chess contests in the United States is for obvious reasons immeasurably more difficult than in Europe.

However, these arguments are convincing only if looked at from the European economic standpoint; as against the immeasurably greater wealth of this country, they fade away. The United States, for all its handicaps, could easily organize international tournaments if there were enough interest in chess. Why is this interest so low?

One reason of overwhelming importance is that unlike Europe, the United States drives chess players to seclusion.

In most European coffeehouses and similar places, anybody may order a cup of coffee and a chess set, and play for hours without getting bothered, except probably by kibitzers. I myself did so frequently not only in large cities but also in small places of many European countries; I did so in Centinje, former Montenegro's pocket-sized capital lying high

in the mountains, and I did so in such an extremely swanky place as Monte Carlo.

Nobody can do that in the United States.

A chess master and a very dignified man, accompanied by a friend, recently tried it in a New York chain restaurant—of course during the quiet hours. Being sane, he did not order a chess set but used his own. Unexpectedly left undisturbed, they tried it again the next day. This time, however, the manager nabbed and politely ousted them explaining that what the gentlemen were doing did not look good.

Under such circumstances, the popularization of chess in this country is severely hampered. Chess players can meet only at home or in a chess club which, however, is more complicated than just entering a cafe. Moreover, it lacks the propagating power that playing chess in public has. During the period of warm weather, chess players (in New York at least) frequently gather in public parks and always attract on-lookers as does the Manhattan Chess Club where sometimes more people are kibitzing outside than are playing inside. But as soon as the weather changes, these people have to hibernate; signs of "No lingering" as well as watchful managers would keep them away from restaurants, cafes, tearooms, cafeterias, bars etc.

I believe that every effort should be made, by organizations as well as individuals, to lift this ban on chess. Progress in this regard, however slight, would greatly serve to make chess in this country more popular. One must realize that the game of chess is almost exclusively learned through onlooking and getting advice from friends or relatives; only those who already got a faint idea of it are inclined to go further by the means of books, clubs, expert teachers and so on.

A second field where U. S. chess should and could make substantial progress is the press. Indeed, U. S. newspapers observe a more friendly attitude towards chess than U. S. restaurants do, yet it is desperately little in comparison with what the European press is doing. While most European newspapers have a regular chess column, most U. S. newspapers have none. Of the few U. S. chess columns there are, few are being conducted by experts, none by this country's leading experts Fine and Reshevsky. Besides, the unfortunate idea of considering all U. S. chess players as beginners seems to prevail, and so the columns are largely kept on a very primitive level containing little that could please and further educate the average chess players.

Therefore, in addition to the possibility of being played in public, U. S. chess urgently needs more and better chess columns in daily newspapers, columns of approximately the level on which the bridge columns stand.

To strive for progress in these two regards, it would be necessary to convince authorities, newspapers and leading personalities of the royal game's morale value. It would be necessary to convince them, that the chess community as a whole belongs to the most decent part of the nation, and that promoting chess, though for the time being it may require small sacrifices, would pay in the long run by stimulating particularly in young people the urge for decency and noblesse.

A National Rating System Planned To Cover Local And National Events

By WILLIAM B. BYLAND

Vice-President, United States Chess Federation

FOR THE past several years the United States Chess Federation has contemplated the adoption of a system for rating the chess players of the United States. The work involved in setting up a practical rating plan has, of necessity, been time-consuming; it was important to give consideration to rating practices used in certain other countries, as well as to examine and study original ideas proposed by American players, for we were determined that the system finally adopted would be the best obtainable, and one eminently fair to all of our country's players.

The studies and the preliminary detail have now been completed, and your Federation officers will shortly be presented with a definitive rating plan for their approval; it is, therefore, our confident hope that a national rating system will be in effect early in 1950. Full details of the final plan adopted will be published in future issues of CHESS LIFE—but right now we can assure you of certain features of the plan—features you have every right to expect under a fair and practical system of rating:

- 1) It will be a rating system designed for all chess players in the United States, and will give weight to performances in club, local, and state competition, as well as in the large national tournaments.
- 2) It will be a completely fair system, entirely mathematical in operation, and only the player's actual performance—not anyone's personal opinion on his chessic prowess—will be taken into consideration.
- 3) It will provide the easiest possible method of—and incentive for—improvement and advancement to the aspiring player.
- 4) Last, but not least, it will finally solve the perplexing problem of which American players can properly be dubbed "masters," a question which has certainly led to some heated controversies in the past.

We believe that such a rating system will prove extremely popular with the chess players of the United States. We feel that practically all of you are anxious to learn of your strength and standing in the national chess community (the popularity of the various correspondence rankings amply substantiates this view), and we are confident that our national rating system will meet with your instantaneous support and wholehearted cooperation.

The Kibitzer Has His Day

From the Editor's Mail Bag

Dear Mr. Major:

Your fine editorial in CHESS LIFE of September 20th, "The Growth of the Swiss", and my recent experience as Director of the 1949 Quebec Provincial Championship have induced me to write to your readers a few words on the subject of the 6-Round Week-End Swiss System Tournament.

It was felt at the outset of the 1949 Championship that the most important problem to be faced was that of determining a Champion

who had played at least with the 2nd prizewinner, and with as many other strong players as possible. A prime condition to be fulfilled was that once the tournament started, the pairings were to be completely automatic, not allowing the Director any possible subjectivity whether he played or not in the tournament.

Now, the question of seeding the players according to previously known strength was immediately (Please turn to page 3, col. 2)

Alekhine's Early Chess Career

Additional Data
By A. Buschke

IN HIS recently published book, THE UNKNOWN ALEKHINE, Fred Reinfeld points out two instances which show a remarkable "lack of sportsmanship" on the part of Alekhine. One is the suppression or omission of the fact that, as a very young man in 1908, he played a match with the much older recognized master V. L. Nenasov, lost three games in succession and gave up the match as lost, from his "Summary of Results" of tournament and match play inserted in his book, "My Best Games of Chess 1908-1923." (See "Unknown Alekhine," p. 46). The other one is the history of the Alekhine-Tenner game which Alekhine mentioned in the same book, on p. 240 in a note to a game with Teichmann, and claimed as a win while actually the game was played at a different time and ended in a draw ("Unknown Alekhine," p. 93).

If one goes through the "Summary of Results" published in "My Best Games of Chess 1908-1923," he will notice a number of inconsistencies not only with the survey given in the German edition of the book under heading "Dr. Aljechins Erfolgstablelle (1908-1927)," but with data given in the text of the book and even in itself. A corrected and definite "Summary of Alekhine's Results" indexing all the published Alekhine games with their place of publication will be published by the writer of this article at a later date. As long as only Alekhine's own "Summary" is available and this (in the English version) shows such inconsistencies as the listing of the "1913 St. Petersburg Quadrangular Tournament" with a total of 4 (!) games played of which Alekhine claims to have won two, lost 1 and drawn none, one could think that this Summary is just carelessly put together and this might explain the omission of the Nenasov match in the Summary. However, it is interesting to note that the Summary in the English version mentions the won match with Blumenfeld (see also the "result" of this match given in the masthead to game No. 36 of the "Best Games 1908-1923"), while the German "Erfolgstablelle" seems to skip intentionally events of 1908 and therefore fails to mention the Blumenfeld match as well as the Nenasov match, and the heading of game no. 36 with Blumenfeld in the German edition mentions only that this was played "in a match, Moscow, October 1908." Of course, both editions do not mention at all Alekhine's first appearance in the international chess arena, at the Dusseldorf "Hauptturnier" of 1908, his matches with von Bardeleben and Fahrni, several local Moscow tournaments of 1908 (except in the heading to game No. 35 in "Best Games 1908-1923"), in which the very young Alekhine took several first prizes.

Obviously the mature Alekhine found or wanted to pretend to find the year 1908 too insignificant although, strangely enough, he did not find it too insignificant to figure in the very title of the book as the starting point of his career. Possibly he really had forgotten about the events of that year and whatever he cited from memory was not quite correct—e.g., the Blumenfeld match, according to contemporary reports in the first issue after the reappearance of "Shakhmatnoe Obozrenie" (which devotes more than two pages to young Alekhine's activities in 1908, including the Nenasov match, No. 79-82, p. 66068, 1909), consisted of only 5 games (not 8 as Alekhine reports) of which Alekhine won 4 and drew one. The same result is also reported in "Deutsches Wochenscha" 1908.

(Please turn to page 3, col. 5)

Thursday, January 5, 1950

DUTCH DEFENSE

New York State Championship Rochester, 1949

Notes by Dr. J. Platz

White: J. SOUDAKOFF, Black: S. RUBINOW... 1. P-Q4 P-K3 5. B-Q2 B-K2...



After 12... P-KK4 RUBINOW... 13. B-B1 KtP-Q 17. R-Q1 B-B3...

White's positional advantage has been transformed into material advantage. From here on the win is a matter of technique...

FRENCH DEFENSE

Annual Highschool Championship Omaha, 1949

Notes by Erich W. Marchand

White: R. CHIZUM, Black: J. BELZER... 1. P-K4 P-K3 5. B-Q3 Kt-K2...



White has at least an eye for combinations despite his inaccurate opening play.

Tournament Life

Conducted by Erich W. Marchand 192 Seville Drive Rochester 17, N. Y.

FRENCH DEFENSE

New York State Championship Rochester, 1949

Notes by Max Herzberger

White: A. SANTASIERE, Black: M. HERZBERGER... 1. P-K4 P-K3 2. Q-K2 K-R3...

A tricky move 17... P-KK4 would be followed by 18. R-KB3 and White has reached all his objectives...



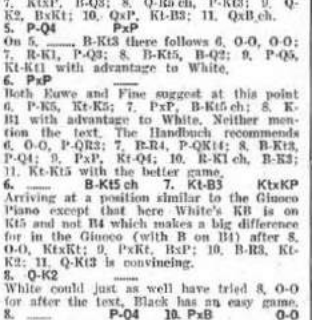
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White has at least an eye for combinations despite his inaccurate opening play.

FRENCH DEFENSE

U. S. Open Championship Omaha, 1949

Notes by J. B. Gee

White: E. J. McCORMICK, Black: J. M. STULL... 1. P-K4 P-K3 5. Kt-K3 B-Q2...



White could not prevent... P-R5 by 31. P-KR4 for 31. QxKt ch; 32. QxQ, RxQ...

CARO-KANN

Manhattan Chess Club Championship Preliminaries, 1949

Notes by J. Soudakoff

White: J. RICHMAN, Black: N. KAY... 1. P-K4 P-QB3 6. Kt-B3 B-K2...



White: R. K. SACHS, Black: R. E. MARTIN... 1. P-K4 P-K4 3. B-K15 B-B4...

FRENCH DEFENSE

U. S. Open Championship Omaha, 1949

Notes by J. B. Gee

White: E. J. McCORMICK, Black: J. M. STULL... 1. P-K4 P-K3 5. Kt-K3 B-Q2...



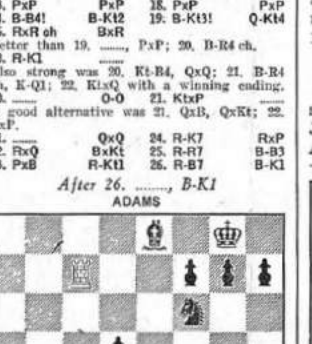
White could not prevent... P-R5 by 31. P-KR4 for 31. QxKt ch; 32. QxQ, RxQ...

FOUR KNIGHTS GAME

New England Championship Attleboro, 1949

Notes by Povilas Tautvaishais from Waldo Waters chess column in the Boston Herald

White: P. TAUTVAISHAIS, Black: W. W. ADAMS... 1. P-K4 P-K4 4. B-K15 Kt-Q5...



White: R. K. SACHS, Black: R. E. MARTIN... 1. P-K4 P-K4 3. B-K15 B-B4...

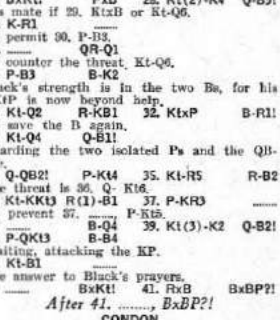
Annotations

J. B. Gee, Dr. M. Herzberger, A. Y. Hesse, Edw. J. Korpany, J. Lapin, J. Ragan, Dr. J. Platz, I. Rivis, Fred Reinfeld, Dr. Sosa, A. E. Santasiere, J. Soudakoff, Wayne Wagner

QUEEN'S PAWN GAME

Correspondence Game Notes from the Pawn Roller of the Oklahoma Chess Assn.

White: E. L. SWARDSON, Black: F. E. CONDON... 1. P-Q4 P-K3 3. B-K2 B-Q2...



White: P. TAUTVAISHAIS, Black: W. W. ADAMS... 1. P-K4 P-K4 4. B-K15 Kt-Q5...



White: P. TAUTVAISHAIS, Black: W. W. ADAMS... 1. P-K4 P-K4 4. B-K15 Kt-Q5...

Author and His Hero Just Making Headlines: DAVID BRONSTEIN'S BEST GAMES OF CHESS, 1944-1949 by Larry Evans. Limited edition of 500 numbered copies. \$3.00. A. BUSCHKE, 30 East 11th St. New York 3 Catalogues of Chess literature free on request.

Solutions:

White to Play and Win Position No. 67 (Gargiev): 1. P-B5 ch, KtP, 2. Kt-R6 ch, R-K3; 3. P-R7, Kt-K4 ch; 4. BxKt, KxR; 5. P-R4 ch, K-R6; 6. P-R8(R1), K moves; 7. BxK and wins.

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