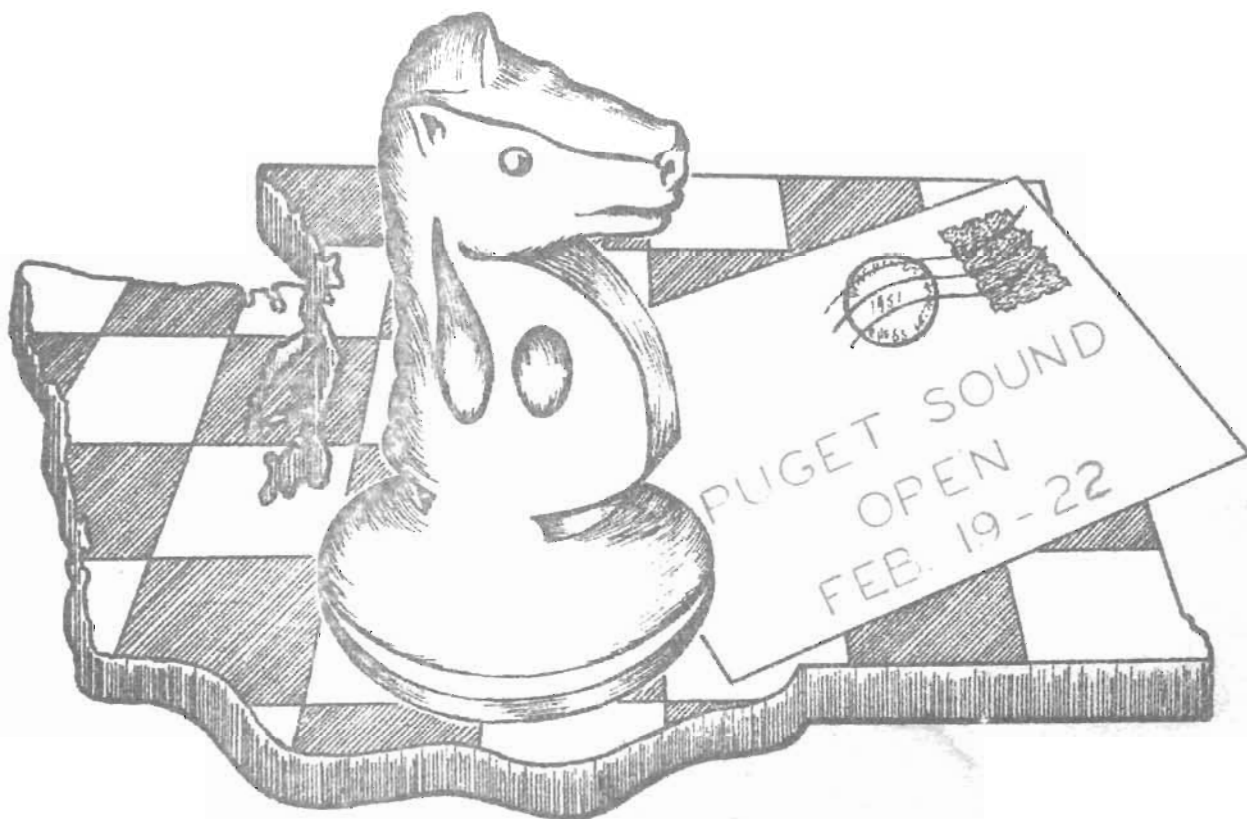


# WASHINGTON

# CHESS

# LETTER



JANUARY 1955

WASHINGTON

# Chess Letter

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## COMING EVENTS

PUGET SOUND OPEN February 19-22

This tournament promises to be the biggest and most successful open event ever seen in Washington. Cash prizes for the first three places, including \$100 for first will be distributed, as well as a special prize for the best played game. Finding a tournament like this a few years ago in the Northwest could have been an impossibility; its present existence indicates the growing enthusiasm of Washington players for large strong tourneys. Be sure you take advantage of this wonderful weekend of chess. (See page 7 for details)

## PUGET SOUND LEAGUE

Because the date set for the Puget Sound Open conflicts with the next scheduled round of Puget Sound League play, the final two matches will be played one week later than the dates announced in the September Washington Chess Letter. Round 8 will be played on February 27, and Round 9 on March 13. Team captains be sure to notify your players.

The pairings for the next scheduled round of league play are as follows:

Olympia Club at West Seattle  
Tacoma Club at Kitsap  
U. of W. at McNeil Island  
Seattle YMCA at Seattle

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR

# PUGET SOUND LEAGUE

Round 6 of Puget Sound League play ran approximately true to form with all favored teams winning, but some not so comfortably as expected. The University of Washington still leads the league with a perfect record of 5-0, with the Seattle YMCA hot on their heels with a 5-1 score, having conceded draws to Olympia and the Latvian Chess Club. If the present trend continues, the crucial match of the season will be in the last round when these two teams are scheduled to meet.

The Latvians journeyed to Bremerton where a full-strength Kitsap team did their worst but could only come out on the short end of a  $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  decision. Zemgalis and Pupols each took two points from Nourse and Magerkurth. Grinhagens drew only one game with Dr. Almond, who was the Kitsap hero of the day, and Robins, Jr. and Freimanis split with Rehberg and Blakefield.

The Seattle Chess Club registered their most decisive win of the season by demolishing the Tacoma Chess Club by a score of 9-1. Last year's co-champions, the Tacoma Club, has certainly had their ups and downs this season, but it must be admitted that this is the strongest Seattle team in many years with Ulvestad, Wade and Edberg as new additions. These three took two points apiece from Holmes, Coubrough, and Collins respectively while Dr. Shephard was doing the same to Victor Hultman. T. Dolle won one game from Ted Davidson to keep the match from being a complete route.

The University of Washington, without the assistance of Ted Warner managed a 6-4 win over West Seattle. G. S. G. Patterson and Alan Clark each won twice from Cowan and F. M. Howard. Vukonich and LaFreniere split as did Schrank and Lundh. Weisscher, who has played first, third and fifth board at various times this season, collected two points from L. Allyn to partially even the score for West Seattle.

The final match of the sixth round between the Seattle YMCA and McNeil Island was played a week late, because of transportation difficulties. The Seattle YMCA managed a 6-4 victory although playing without the services of the Baders or DeWitt. Berg surprised State Champion Bills at first board by winning one game of the two. Vellias won twice from Dorame, as did newcomer Teres from McKenzie. Rodnite split with Flint, and Johnson, a second newcomer to the Y team, lost twice to Oakley who did his best to save the day for the Islanders.

The Olympia Chess Club had the bye for this round.

<u>LATVIAN CLUB</u>	<u>6<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></u>	<u>KITSAP CLUB</u>	<u>3<math>\frac{1}{2}</math></u>	<u>WEST SEATTLE</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>U. of WASH.</u>	<u>6</u>
E. Zemgalis	2	J. Nourse	0	Cowan	0	G. Patterson	2
V. Pupols	2	C. Magerkurth	0	F. Howard	0	A. Clark	2
V. Grinhagens	$\frac{1}{2}$	Dr. Almond	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Vukonich	1	O. LaFreniere	1
E. Robins, Jr	1	G. Rehberg	1	Woodward	1	Lundh	1
Freimanis	1	Blakefield	1	Weisscher	2	L. Allyn	0
<u>TACOMA CLUB</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>SEATTLE CLUB</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>SEATTLE YMCA</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>MCNEIL ISLAND</u>	<u>4</u>
V. Holmes	0	O. Ulvestad	2	W. Bills	1	Berg	1
L. Coubrough	0	D. Wade	2	R. Vellias	2	Dorame	0
R. Collins	0	R. Edberg	2	Teres	2	McKenzie	0
V. Hultman	0	Dr. Shephard	2	Rodnite	1	Flint	1
T. Dolle	1	T. Davidson	1	Johnson	0	Oakley	2

# VELLIAS WINS SPEED

Russell Vellias, whose play is as unpredictable as the Washington weather, won the 1955 Washington State Speed Championship held at the Seattle Chess Club on Sunday, January 22, with a perfect score of 10-0. Second place was won by Victor Pupols, scoring 8-2, and third by Olaf Ulvestad with a score of  $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ , in the 11 player round-robin.

Vellias, long an unknown quantity, can at times win from seemingly anyone with some heaven-sent inspiration and can equally well blunder games away to the veriest patzer. He deserves all credit, however, in winning this, the strongest speed tournament of many years. The time-limit of ten seconds per move favored him somewhat since he is primarily a tactical player and sees combinations almost instantly. In his victory parade, he had several very strong players to contend with such as, Ulvestad, Bills, Pupols and Edberg, as well as many lesser lights such as Lapins, DeWitt, Weaver and LaFreniere.

Victor Pupols in winning second place, turned in a creditable score by losing only to Vellias and Ulvestad, and winning from everyone else. Ulvestad, by losing to both Vellias and DeWitt and drawing with State Champion Bills could get no better than third. He would have been an easy second had he not overstepped the time-limit in the last round against DeWitt. Fourth place was won by Bob Edberg of Yakima, and fifth and sixth were shared by William Bills and Uldis Lapins, both of Seattle.

Traynor paid his entry fee, played one game and lost, and then left, so his position was taken over by Jim Amidon and then later by Bill Gillette when Amidon had to leave. Hence, Traynor should be in last place with a row of zeroes and LaFreniere, Rodnite and Weaver moved up one place. Traynor's defection, however, did not affect any of the higher places.

The tournament went off very well with only the above noted forfeit. Several games, however, were forfeited on time, which is the principal hazard in any speed tournament. The tourney lasted longer than expected, though, since it was decided to hold a round-robin in spite of the number of entrants. The prize money, which was gathered only from the entry fees, was distributed in the ratio of 50-30-20 for the first three places. The tournament director was John DeWitt.

		TOURNAMENT SUMMARY											
Player	Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Totals
1. Russell Vellias:		x	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
2. Victor Pupols		0	x	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
3. Olaf Ulvestad		0	1	x	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	1	1	1	1	$7\frac{1}{2}$
4. Bob Edberg		0	0	0	x	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
5. William Bills		0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	x	0	1	1	0	1	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$
6. Uldis Lapins		0	0	0	0	1	x	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	$5\frac{1}{2}$
7. John DeWitt		0	0	1	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	x	0	1	1	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$
8. Traynor, et al		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	1	1	0	3
9. Rodnite		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	x	0	1	2
10 O. W. LaFreniere		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	1	2
11 F. H. Weaver		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	x	1

# CHESS IN REVIEW & FROM CHESS LIFE

Samuel Reshevsky is a clear first at the half-way mark of the Rosenwald tournament, designed to develop and sharpen the younger masters. Reshevsky has had White three times, opening QP in each, and winning against Sherwin in 29 moves, against Bigguier in 24, and against Geo. Kramer in 41. In his two games with the Black pieces, Reshevsky played a Sicilian to win against Evans in 39 moves, and his only draw was a Nimzo-Indian Defense that went 40 moves against Donald Byrne.

## GEORGIA

- |                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. D.B. Wade        | 5 - 1 |
| 2. Dr. H. D. Morris | 4½-1½ |

## OKLAHOMA STATE (27 players)

- |                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1. Dr. Bela Rozsa      | 4½- ½ |
| 2. L. Richardson       | 4½- ½ |
| 3. Dr. de la Torre     | 4 - 1 |
| 4. Commander Bellinger | 3½-1½ |
| 5. Morton Luebbert     | 3½-1½ |

## UTAH OPEN (24 players)

- |                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. B Greenwald      | 6 - 0 |
| 2. Major Williamson | 4½-1½ |
| 3. L. Kimpton       | 4½-1½ |
| 4. R. Durham        | 4 - 2 |
| 5. W. F. Taber      | 4 - 2 |

## BIG CHESSBOARDS, HOW-TO-MAKE

It is difficult to find, and expensive to buy chessboards with large sized squares, and so the following suggestions have been developed from experiments by various players.

The best looking boards can be made on a table saw by cutting squares of two different kinds of hardwood veneer, finishing them in contrasting filler and stain, and then setting them with linoleum cement on thin plywood large enough to take a surrounding picture moulding. Lumber yards often have hollow-ground saws and will cut up enough otherwise wasted scrap material for about \$1.50 for the necessary 64 squares.

For a larger quantity of boards, as for a chess club, it is fairly easy to paint accurate squares by MASKING the alternate squares. For instance, boards of brown Masonite, or dark stained plywood, or even already-finished table tops can have light color squares imposed on them as follows:

Use a thick wallpaper paste (flour and water might do) on waxed paper from a kitchen roll to cover the entire surface of the chessboard. Get all of the air bubbles out with a rolling pin. Use a straight edged yardstick or T-square to make vertical and horizontal cuts with a razor blade at the desired intervals. If more than one board is to be made, extended lines can be marked on paper on which the work is laid to serve as a guide for additional chessboards. Seattle Chess Club uses 2½" squares, which are just right for the chess sets used there.

Now lift off each alternate square of waxed paper and blot up the surplus paste with a kitchen sponge. Allow the exposed wood to dry, usually about a half hour. Flow on light colored Super Ken-tone, or some other fast drying paint. Avoid brushing against the edges of the masking paper. Then after the paint has set up a little, about 20 minutes, pick off the remaining squares of waxed paper, lifting a corner with the razor blade to start them. Before the final finish, but after the paint has dried, any offsets that might have crept under the masking paper, as well as remaining dry paste, can be scraped with the razor blade. Intersecting stripes and margin lines can be drawn with colored striping pencil. The next day a thin coat of shellac or varnish will seal the entire surface, and can later be waxed with paste wax to reduce the gloss. Two or three boards can be made at the same time because of the waiting time.



# SVENSSON-CORNELIUS

## SPOKANE CITY CHAMPIONSHIP

Po.	Name	Rds.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	Sol.
1.	Svensson, Leon		W-24	W-7	W-4	W-17	D-2	W-8	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$	24
2.	Cornelius, Gordon		W-30	W-29	W-17	W-6	D-1	W-7	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
3.	Phil Aikman		W-38	W-31	W-12	D-14	D-4	W-6	5 -1	
4.	Parker, Dr. G. H.		W-41	W-11	L-1	W-5	D-3	W-15	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
5.	Lyberger, P. A.		D-15	W-40	W-11	L-4	W-19	W-14	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
6.	Higginson, Robert		W-8	W-9	W-18	L-2	W-10	L-3	4 -2	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
7.	Dycus, Robert		W-28	L-1	W-15	W-21	W-14	L-2	4 -2	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
8.	Mohr, Al		L-6	W-32	W-29	W-9	W-18	L-1	4 -2	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
9.	Roberts, Ken		W-32	L-6	W-26	L-8	W-21	W-18	4 -2	19
10.	Thunberg, Eric		W-33	L-12	W-22	W-25	L-6	W-19	4 -2	19
11.	Kromer Ray		W-40	L-4	L-5	W-16	W-24	W-17	4 -2	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
12.	Maykowskyj, Emil		W-42	W-10	L-3	L-19	W-33	W-22	4 -2	17
13.	Dineen, Robert		L-18	L-23	W-32	W-34	W-31	W-25	4 -2	15
14.	Vhay, John		W-39	W-22	W-20	D-3	L-7	L-5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
15.	Daniels, Donald		D-5	W-41	L-7	W-35	W-20	L-4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$	18
16.	Kiszely, Karl		L-17	W-36	D-28	L-11	W-30	W-20	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
17.	Neuman, Paul H.		W-16	W-21	L-2	L-1	W-29	L-11	3 -3	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
18.	Austin, Mike		W-13	W-26	L-6	W-23	L-8	L-9	3 -3	22
19.	Voget, William, Jr.		L-20	W-37	W-39	W-12	L-5	L-10	3 -3	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
20.	Warren, Ken		W-19	W-35	L-14	W-28	L-15	L-16	3 -3	18
21.	Breakey, John		W-27	L-14	L-10	W-39	W-35	L-12	3 -3	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
22.	Farrelly, James		W-36	L-17	W-30	L-7	L-9	W-28	3 -3	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
23.	Morris, Floyd		L-26	W-13	W-31	L-18	L-25	W-33	3 -3	17
24.	Campbell, John		L-1	L-28	W-41	W-30	L-11	W-29	3 -3	16
25.	Triplett, Dunbar, Jr.		L-31	W-38	W-33	L-10	W-23	L-13	3 -3	16
26.	Johnson, Robert		W-23	L-18	L-9	L-29	W-38	W-34	3 -3	15
27.	Frederick, Jack		L-22	L-39	W-37	L-33	W-40	W-31	3 -3	10
28.	Huber, A. J.		L-7	W-24	D-16	L-20	W-36	L-21	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
29.	Alexander, Ray		W-34	L-2	L-8	W-26	L-17	L-24	2 -4	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
30.	Alberts, David		W-25	L-3	L-23	W-38	L-13	L-27	2 -4	19
31.	Hay, Ed.		L-2	W-34	L-21	L-24	L-16	W-35	2 -4	19
32.	Gleeson, F.		L-9	L-8	L-13	W-41	L-34	W-38	2 -4	17
33.	Lunde, Al		L-10	W-42	L-25	W-27	L-12	L-23	2 -4	17
34.	Olsen, D.		L-29	L-30	W-36	L-13	W-32	L-26	2 -4	15
35.	Durant, R.		W-37	L-20	W-40	L-15	L-22	L-30	2 -4	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
36.	Glenn, G.		L-21	L-16	L-34	W-40	L-28	W-37	2 -4	13
37.	Frost, Jack								2 -4	11
38.	Brandt								1 -5	15
39.	Goforth								1 -5	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
40.	Stenerson								0 -6	
41.	Miller								0 -6	
42.	Trogdon								0 -6	

The third Spokane City Chess Tourney broke all records for this part of the state when forty-two players showed up ready for play January 13. By telephoning and personal contact our secretary, Don Daniels, had lined up eighteen players in advance and we were hopeful that one or two extras might show up to break our previous high of eighteen.

When the unexpected deluge fell upon us we were swamped with our registration and one half hour late getting started. A humorous side light was Daniel's discovery that he was three dollars short in registration fees. One entrant did not have the

money and had promised to pay the next night. Finally Daniels remembered that he had not paid and called me to ask me if I remembered paying. We had been so busy getting the players lined up that we had both overlooked the small item of paying ourselves.

Gordon Cornelius, two time city champion, played his usual strong game but was held to a draw by Leon Svensson, a newcomer to Spokane from Sweden. The draw was the only blot on both records. It was announced that the title would not be awarded on Solkoff points and that if a tie resulted a play-off would be required. The two leaders will play a two game match Thursday, February 3, for the title. (The result of this important match will be reported next month. - owl)

Robert Dycus, Co-Junior Inland Empire champion, surprised the oldsters with his strong play. He lost only to the two leaders.

An unusual but popular procedure was the awarding of five prizes to the five players heading the second half of the final standings. This was announced beforehand and gave the weaker players a chance at prize money. These prizes went to James Farrelly, John Breakey, Floyd Morris, John Campbell, and Dunbar Triplett, Jr. The top five players were also awarded cash prizes.

The University Club donated space in its rooms for the tournament. The large turnout was entirely due to excellent newspaper publicity given us by the local papers. Each paper carried three preliminary stories during the week preceding the tourney. (G. H. Parker's report)

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#### EAST OF THE MOUNTAINS

##### Spokane--

At the regular fall election Dr. Griffith H. Parker was re-elected president for the fifth year. That he truly deserves his position is attested to by the wonderful success of the recent Spokane City Championship. Ray Kromer was moved up to vice-president, and Don Daniels was elected secretary-treasurer. Daniels is also responsible for much of the success of the city championship.

##### Pasco--

The Pasco Chess Club officers are now H. L. Herigstad, president, George Asonovich, vice-president, Beryl Arbogast, treasurer, and Rodger G. Spencer, secretary. Asonovich has been one of the top players of that club for a considerable time, and Spencer is now one of the instrumental leaders of the organization of the Eastern Washington League.

##### Yakima--

At the annual business meeting of the Yakima Chess Club, all incumbent officers were re-elected to their posts. William Hoge is again president, and Eli Treisman is treasurer. Hoge announced projected plans for the annual spring tournament for the championship of Yakima county in April and May, 1955.

##### Walla Walla-- A letter from Max Baumwell to the Publicity Director--

"Thank you so much for your invitation. I made inquiries and the result is that I will have to remain here over the holiday. (Reference to February 22 and the Puget Sound Open.) It would certainly be interesting to attend a real tournament, although there would be little chance for me to place favorably. I am completely out of chess practice and I was not able to attend the chess evenings at Milton--Freewater for many months.

"Nevertheless it is a pleasure to see the 'Chess Life' developing so fast in Seattle. It is indeed amazing what progress you fellows have made during the past two years. I am going to write to Ted Warner and invite him here. A match between the Eastern Washington players and Seattle would be worthwhile and this time I would attend, too." -- Dr. Max Baumwell

# PUGET SOUND OPEN

Washington chess has never witnessed a tournament so large and so strong as the forthcoming Puget Sound Open. Sponsored by the Washington Chess Federation, the tourney will be played over the weekend of Washington's Birthday at the Seattle Chess Club, 616 Madison Avenue, Seattle.

Advance notices have been sent to nearly every chess club on the Pacific Coast, and masters and experts from the Northwest as well as some from California are expected. First prize is a guaranteed \$100 cash. Second and third places will also receive cash prizes and a special prize will be given the winner of the best played game of the tournament.

The tournament will be conducted by the Swiss system, and will consist of seven rounds. The first round will begin at 1:00 PM, Saturday, February 19th. Two rounds will be played on Saturday, two on Sunday, the 20th, one round Monday evening, the 21st, and two rounds on Tuesday, the 22nd. By playing only two rounds on any one day, instead of three as in past tournaments played only on the two days of a weekend, the quality of chess should be comparatively higher.

The tournament is open to any and all lovers of the Royal Game whether state residents or not. It will be 100% USCF rated, and the entry fee will be \$10, with a special student rate of \$5. The time limit is forty moves in two hours, and twenty moves each succeeding hour thereafter. Games may be adjourned at the request of either player after forty moves, but must be completed before the next day's play. Chess clocks should be brought, if possible.

The Puget Sound Open is a tournament inaugurated in 1933 and was won in that year by Olaf Ulvestad, who plans to compete this year. Since that time, there have been a few lapsis in holding the tournament, the largest being during the war, but it has been an annual event for the past eight years. Champions during this were: Jim Schmitt '48, Jim Amidon and Richard Allen '49, Robert Stork '50, Alex Suchobeck '51, Dan Wade '52, Jim Schmitt '53, and Victor Pupols '54, and current defending champion. Of these, only Pupols, Wade, and possibly Amidon will compete in this year's event.

If you want an unparalleled weekend of chess, where you can rub elbows with the finest exponents of the game in the Northwest, this is your chance. It is generally accepted, that there is no better way to improve your game than by tournament play, the stronger the better. Brush the dust off your Modern Chess Openings and your game, and join us in making this coming weekend the most memorable of Washington chess events.

For further information or advanced registration, write or call Oliver W. LaFreniere, 1101 Campus Parkway, Seattle 5, Washington (MElrose 1677, ext. 612).



# SEATTLE CHESS

On Friday evening, January 21st, the Seattle Chess Club held its annual meeting for the election of officers. Ted Davidsen was unanimously re-elected president and Howard Weaver and Dan Wade were unanimously elected vice-president and secretary respectively. Paul Sturges and Olaf Ulvestad were elected directors. About 25 of the 60 club members attended the meeting.

After its recent face lift, the club room looks about 200% better and the members are showing a little more pride in their club. Officers are now conducting a drive for new members as a minimum of 72 paid members is needed to pay the rent. Out of town players, women players and student players can join for \$7.50 per year or only \$2.50 each four months and other players can join for \$10.00 a year payable annually, semi-annually or quarterly.

The 1955 Seattle Chess Club Tournament now nears the closing stages with Russell Vellias and Dan Wade having the inside track for first in each section. In section one, Victor Pupols took Manney's place and was promptly eliminated from consideration for first by losing to Vellias! T. Davidsen still had an outside chance of tying for first but lost a game to D. Erickson and is out. In section two, Wade has now won five in a row and must defeat John DeWitt to cinch first place. DeWitt has played only one game so must defeat Dan Wade and then yield no more than a draw in his four other games to take first in section 2.

The present standings (January 28th) follow: Section One: Vellias  $5\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ , Davidsen  $3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ , K. Mulford 2-2, Pupols 1-1, David Erickson 1-2, Dr. Shephard 1-3 and John Ring 0-4. Section 2: Dan

Wade 5-0, J. DeWitt 1-0, William Bills  $3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ , Robert Edberg  $3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ , W. McCulloch 1-4, Emil Rennord 1-4 and Dr. Lewis 0-4.

The Seattle Chess Club's Puget Sound League entry has won more matches this year than in the preceding two years combined. The Seattle team had a sad start this season when they lost 3-6 against the U. of Washington. After that they staggered to a 6-4 win over Kitsap, looked good in a 7-3 win over Olympia, looked bad in a 3-7 loss to Latvian Club, defeated West Seattle  $7\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{1}{2}$  and then smashed Tacoma 9-1.

Ted Davidsen has donated a pair of foot high, beautifully formed knight pieces which will be given as prizes to the lucky winners of two forthcoming speed tournaments. These will be the White Knight (Friday night February 11th starting 7:30) and the Black Knight which will come later and will be announced next issue. A dollar entry will let you in this interesting tournament. The money collected will go into the club treasury where it is badly needed.

Dr. Seering donated a chess library to the Seattle Chess Club many, many months ago, a fact, I believe, unknown to many club members. Chess club players can borrow books by contacting club secretary Wade. These books must be signed for and be kept no longer than a month.

While on the subject of donations, the Seattle Chess Club received a large donation from Mr. G.S.G. Patterson several months ago. This writer believes that Mr. Patterson should be listed as an honorary member along with present honorary members Zengalis and Ulvestad, our state's two chess masters. More club news next issue. D.W.

# EASTERN LEAGUE ?

At long last some definite action in regards to an Eastern Washington League has been taken. Mr. Rodger Spencer, secretary of the Pasco Chess Club, offered the idea of making up a ballot to elect the necessary director for the league. The suggestion has been well taken, and a ballot is now being prepared and will be sent shortly to the four clubs--Pasco, Spokane, Yakima, and Milton-Freewater--interested in forming the league. On This ballot are the following items, which for the sake of democratic action are thoroughly discussed in the following paragraphs:

Director of the league: Robert E. Edberg and Dr. G. H. Parker nominated.

Bob Edberg, a resident of Yakima, has recently become known as one of the state's ten best players. He is a relative newcomer to Yakima, but has played in the Puget Sound League, and thus is familiar with usual league procedure.

Griffith Parker, a Spokane man, has achieved virtual fame through such brilliant organization successes as the 1954 Inland Empire Open (a tournament he named himself) and the recent gigantic Spokane City Championship. He has been the president of the Spokane Chess Club for five years and has built that club from nothing to one of the better clubs of the state.

Name of the league: Inland Empire League or Eastern Washington League.

The first name has some imagination and novelty to it, and would follow the title of the most important annual tournament for Eastern Washington.

The second name--well, at least one would know where the league was being held!

League season: Spring-summer or fall-winter.

In spring-summer arrangements the organizers would have to put up with such things as spring fever, heat, and low club attendance. But, then, perhaps a league would help sustain club interest throughout a warm summer.

As for fall-winter, there would be snow and cold to combat, plus the autumn harvest season, which is important in an agricultural region. The choice is probably between two evils.

Number of games per match: One or two.

In the Puget Sound League, with several masters and a host of experts playing, it has been found difficult to play more than one game at a time limit that would produce good chess. One game per player at each match has been suggested.

Then two games give a truer indication of the relative playing strength of the contestants than just one. A trip of 90 miles or more is a bit lengthy for one game.

Time limit: 40, 30, or 20 moves per hour.

A league does need some kind of time limit in order to prevent 'Sitzkrieg,' which has occurred on occasion. The number of moves per hour depends upon the number of games to be played in an afternoon and the quality of chess desired.

Return matches or no return matches.

The Puget Sound League has but one match between each club. A large league, of course, cannot afford return matches because the season would never finish. A small league might envision return matches. But remember the traveling factor. Whatever is started should be finished.

Number of players in a match.

The Puget Sound League plays five players from each club for definite reasons. If there were more, say ten, it would be difficult to gather a good team, if a full team could be had at all. The limit of five permits only the best of the club to play, thus tending to produce better chess. It increases competition among the players of the club to reach the top five. On the other hand, when ten play a greater number of players get to participate and interest in the League is greater. Some suggested

that the host club be able to meet any number the travelers bring. But how does the host club know how many players it might have to oppose?

Number of matches per month: One or two.

More than two matches per month are not well attended. The model on the coast plays two matches monthly. With a small league, however, one match monthly might be sufficient, especially since distances between clubs are so much greater.

Whether or not to affiliate with the Washington Chess Federation.

In order for a club to play in an official league it must first pay federation dues of \$5.00 yearly. These dues are broken down as follows: \$2.00 goes for the twelve issues of the Chess Letter, and \$3.00 goes for a bound yearbook which is sent each member club. In addition, league dues of \$3.00 must be paid. For this amount come the benefit of extensive publicity in the Chess Letter, official organizational interest, two votes at the annual director's meeting, and provision of a permanent trophy by the federation. (This trophy would be an expensive one beyond the range of a small league.)

An unaffiliated league would save each club \$8.00 yearly, but would receive none of the above benefits.

Above the chief issues of the ballot are presented. Ten ballots will be sent to each club shortly. It is hoped that these issues will be logically discussed before the ballots are returned. Please send any further ideas and comments to Oliver LaFreniere, Baker House 612, 1101 Campus Parkway, Seattle 5, Washington.

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At the University of Washington -- Viktors Pupols has recently donated time for blindfold simultaneous exhibitions at the Men's Residence Hall. In one match against two opponents he won very quickly, and in another against three opponents he won all three games in impressive style. In the latter match he announced checkmate on two boards successively and on the third relieved his opponent of his queen. He recited the positions of the men on each board following the games without error! (George Koltanowski, watch out!)

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## HELP PROMOTE W.C.F. !!!

Many thanks again to Alan Baron for sending some more names for our prospective members list. Also thanks to Leslie Coubrough and Bob Merk for the same service. We need this help. We have 300 letters printed up, but to whom are we going to send them?? Please send the names and addresses of your chess friends to your Publicity Director (address in inside front cover).

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER

R. V. Meliza, Seattle

This is a shame! Quality grows with circulation, and nobody seems to be helping circulation grow very quickly. We have got to move forward with a continually growing membership and Chess Letter, else we must slide backwards. Say you saw it in the Chess Letter (which is true anyway if you are talking about local chess). Talk the Chess Letter up to your friends. You won't find any non-profit chess organization anywhere with as fine a publication. It is worth supporting.

If your subscription to the Washington Chess Letter is due now, renew quickly! You won't want to miss the forthcoming issue with features by Ulvestad, Bills, and Edberg.

Remember February 19, 20, 21, and 22 -- the days of the Puget Sound Open. Who wouldn't try for \$100.00 cash first prize?!

# THE UGLY MOVE

OLAF  
ULVESTAD

Tarrasch felt very strongly about his contention that good or strong moves always had a pleasing, aesthetic appearance; while bad or weak moves appeared distasteful and ugly. Perhaps his point of view is generally true. However, the object of this semi-literary effort is to determine just how 'ugly' a chess move can be without being refuted.

For example, in the Reti System one line runs as follows:

1. N-KB3 2. P-QB4 3. QN-R3  
P-Q4 PxP

This unpleasing-looking move carried with it the theoretical apology that the White Queen Knight makes a valuable capture of the Black Queen Bishop Pawn on its fourth move and therefore the jump to QR3 was justified. In short, only the most hide-bound stickler for exactitude would try to continue the case against the move on aesthetic grounds. Actually, say the loyal apologists, the Knight merely detoured to QB4 via QR3. Or, better still, one might say the cavalry steed never really occupied the square, but struck it with its hooves -- "glanced" off it, as it were. Important enough, no less noted an exponent of opening theory than Bogoljubow favored this move of a type so displeasing to Tarrasch.

For a second example, let us take the Kevitz System, which is a branch of the Nimzowitsch Defence to 1. P-K4. The main line runs somewhat as follows:

1. P-K4 2. P-Q4 3. P-Q5  
N-QB3 P-K4 N-K2

Here we are -- offended again. How displeasing can we get? It seems as though Black is trying to suffocate himself. -- Actually, though, the move is not as bad as it looks (Let's stop our ears to the old cliché that it couldn't be). White's strongest line is probably 4. P-QB4, working for an early Queen-side pressure and a bind in the center. If the second player doesn't wax too tactical in the early stages, he may be able to extricate himself from his self-imposed strait-jacket. Continuing briefly along analytical lines we have:

4. N-N3 5. B-K3,

laying the basis for Queen-side initiative, promoting general elastic development, and denying the Black King Bishop its one important attacking diagonal;

6. B-N5ch 7. N-Q2  
KN-K2

Black needs an early P-KN4; and although he will have to yield his KB for the White QN shortly, wary manoeuvring may bring him a semblance of playability. The dangers of trappy tactical play at this stage are glaringly illustrated by the game, Ulvestad-Kramer



U. S. Championship, 1948. It ran:

7.  $\frac{Q-R5?}{Q-R5?}$  (instead of N-K2) 8.  $\frac{Q-B2}{N-B3}$  9.  $\frac{N-B3}{QxP}$  10.  $\frac{B-Q3}{Q-N5}$   
11.  $\frac{P-KR3}{QxNP}$  12.  $\frac{O-O-O}{BxNch}$  (the only way to save the Queen)  
13.  $\frac{NxN}{NxP}$  14.  $\frac{PxN}{QxP}$  15.  $\frac{N-B4}{N-B4}$

and White shortly returned the piece for two Pawns, obtaining an overwhelming attack.

Now for chess ugliness to end all chess ugliness. The writer is indebted to a Washington State player with a flair for innovation for the next and final example. Bob Edberg suggests a plausible idea for Black in the Two Knights' Defence. The opening moves:

1.  $\frac{P-K4}{P-K4}$  2.  $\frac{N-KB3}{N-QB3}$  3.  $\frac{B-B4}{N-B3}$  4.  $\frac{N-N5}{P-Q4}$  5.  $\frac{PxP}{N-K2!!??}$

Here it is. All of our artistic toes stepped on simultaneously. A self-blocking move in an open position?! The one chessic eyesore the sight of which Tarrasch was spared. At least in the Kevitz System this same move was partially obscured by the thin screening of a closed formation. But not here. No. Here it flaunts, taunts and enrages. What old-school attacking player wouldn't queue up for his turn to play -- say -- P-Q6 and speed the whole idea to an early oblivion?

There is a saying that goes, "Such a good-looking move must be good." If this is true of a pleasing-looking move, surely the reverse must be true of the present offender. Let us make a giant attempt at objectivity and see.

The most obvious attempt at quick refutation is 6. P-Q6. This double attack will either force a cry of "Uncle" or at least bring out whatever is in the hat.

6.  $\frac{N(2)-Q4}{N(2)-Q4}$  (obviously forced) 7.  $\frac{PxP}{QxP}$  8.  $\frac{B-N5ch}{B-Q2}$  9.  $\frac{BxBch}{QxB}$

Surprisingly enough, this line is not very convincing for White as an early "killer" -- in fact, as any kind of killer. Black has a lead in development, space, control of the center, and will gain further time against the misplaced White Knight. Briefly, these advantages are about as much as the second player can expect from any gambit.

- Again: 6.  $\frac{B-N5ch}{B-Q2}$  7.  $\frac{BxBch}{QxB}$  8.  $\frac{P-QB4}{P-B3}$

and Black has all he needs for survival and more. There is a limit to the value of a pawn, and it may be passed here.

Is it possible that the very repulsiveness of the idea prevents clear analytical reasoning? No. This thing must be seen through to the finish.

(Continued page 16)



# GAMES

by Wade

At last we present the games from the Washington State Closed Invitational Tourney. First, some games from the Preliminary sections.

R. EDBERG

G. S. G. PATTERSON

(K. Gambit Acptd.)

1. P-K4	P-K4
2. P-KB4	PxP
3. N-KB3	N-KB3
4. P-K5	N-R4
5. P-Q4	P-Q4
6. B-K2	B-KN5
7. O-O	P-KN4
8. P-B4	P-QB3
9. N-B3	P-KR3
10. Q-N3	Q-Q2
11. PxP	PxP
12. B-N5	N-QB3
13. P-K6	BxP
14. N-K5	Q-Q3
15. BxN ch.	PxB
16. Q-N7	R-QN1
17. QxRP	R-B1
18. P-QR4	B-N2
19. R-K1	O-O
20. Q-R6	BxN
21. RxB	N-B3
22. P-R3	R-R1
23. Q-Q3	N-Q2
24. R-K1	P-KB4
25. P-QN4	N-B3
26. B-R3	KR-N1
27. P-N5	Q-Q2
28. PxP	QxP
29. N-N5	N-K5
30. KR-B1	Q-R3
31. Q-KB3	QxP
32. R-B7	RxN
33. Q-R5	QxP ch.
34. K-R2	Q-B3
35. B-N2	Resigns.

O. ULVESTAD

W. BILLS

(Q. Gambit Declnd.)

1. P-Q4	P-Q4
2. P-QB4	P-K3
3. N-QB3	N-KB3
4. B-N5	B-K2
5. P-K3	O-O

6. Q-B2	QN-Q2
7. R-Q1	P-B3
8. N-B3	P-QN3
9. PxP	BPxP
10. B-Q3	P-KR3
11. B-R4	B-N2
12. O-O	N-K1
13. BxB	QxB
14. N-Q2	N-Q3
15. P-B4	P-B4
16. N-B3	QR-B1
17. N-K5	NxN
18. QPxN	N-B5
19. BxN	RxB
20. Q-Q2	Q-B4
21. P-QR3	P-QR4
22. R-B2	KR-B1
23. Q-Q3	P-QN4
24. N-K2	P-N5
25. PxP	PxP
26. N-Q4	Q-N3
27. P-N4	P-N3
28. R-N2	K-R1
29. P-R3	B-R3
30. Q-Q2	B-N4
31. K-R2	B-K1
32. R(1)-KN1	K-R2
33. Q-Q3	R-B8
34. PxP	KPxP
35. QxP	RxR
36. QxR	RxR ch.
37. KxR	B-R5
38. P-K6	Q-R2
39. Q-B8	Q-N2
40. P-K7	Q-Q2
41. Q-B7 ch.	K-R1
42. N-K6	Resigns.

R. VELLIAS

G. BISHOP

(Sicilian Def.)

1. P-K4	P-QB4
2. N-KB3	N-KB3
3. N-QB3	P-Q3
4. P-Q4	PxP
5. NxP	P-QR3
6. B-K3	N-B3
7. B-K2	P-KN3
8. N-N3	B-N2
9. P-B4	P-KR4
10. P-KR3	B-K3
11. Q-Q2	Q-B2
12. O-O-O	P-QN4
13. N-Q5	Q-N2

14 B-B3	P-QR4
15 NxN ch.	BxN
16 P-K5	BxN
17 KPxB	B-K3
18 PxP	Q-B2
19 QxP	R-QR2?
20 BxN ch.	Resigns.

However, White has an easy to win position. If 19...R-QB1; 20. BxNch., QxB; 21 QxQch., RxQ; 22 R-Q8ch. winning a rook. If 19...QxQ 20 RxQ and Black loses a knight.

F. H. WEAVER

V. PUPOLS

1. P-QB4	N-KB3
2. N-QB3	P-KN3
3. P-KN3	B-N2
4. B-N2	O-O
5. N-B3	P-Q3
6. P-Q4	P-QB4
7. P-Q5	N-R3
8. O-O	N-B2
9. Q-B2	R-N1
10 P-QR3?	
Why not P-QR4?	
10 ....	P-QN4
11 P-N3?	B-B4
12 P-K4?	NxKP
13 NxN	BxR

Shall we run along to another game? White resigned on his 28th.

A. CLARK

J. MCCORMICK

1. P-QB4	N-KB3
2. P-Q4	P-K3
3. P-KN3	P-Q4
4. B-N2	P-B3
5. PxB	KPxP
6. N-KB3	B-K2
7. N-K5	O-O
8. O-O	QN-Q2
9. P-KB4	Q-N3
10 P-QN3	R-K1
11 P-K3	N-B1
12 Q-Q3	N-N3
13 N-Q2	B-Q2
14 QN-KB3	QR-B1
15 NxN	RPxN
16 N-K5	B-KB4
17 Q-K2	P-B4
18 P-KN4	B-K5
19 P-N5	BxB
20 KxB	N-K5
21 N-Q7?	Q-K3
22 NxBP	NxN
23 PxB	BxP
24 R-K1	B-N5
25 R-Q1	Q-K5 ch.

26 K-N3	P-Q5
27 B-N2?	R-B7
28 Resigns.	

If 27 R-Q3, R-B6! 28 RxR, BxR; 29 B-N2, BxB; 30 QxB, QxPch.; 31 K-N4, R-K5; 32 R-KB1, P-Q6; 33 Q-KB2, and Black will end with 5 pawns to White's 3 or another plan which appears better - 32...P-B4ch.; 33 PxB e.P., PxB; 34 Q-KB2, P-B4ch.; 35 K-N5, Q-R6. IF KxP? R-K3ch.; 37 K-N5, Q-N5 mate. IF 36 K-B6? Q-R3 is murderous! IF 36 Q-B3 (best) Q-R2; 37 R-QB1 (what else?), Q-K2ch. IF 38 KxP, R-K3ch.; and mate will follow swiftly. IF 38 K-R6, K-B2! (the only winning move) 39 Q-N3, Q-B1ch.; 40 K-N5, Q-Q1ch.; 41 K-R6, Q-R1ch.; 42 K-N5, Q-R4 mate.

G.S.G. PATTERSON

G. BISHOP

1. P-Q4	N-QB3
2. N-KB3	P-Q3
3. B-B4	N-B3
4. P-K3	B-N5
5. B-QN5	P-QR3
6. B-R4	P-QN4
7. B-QN3	P-Q4
8. P-QR4	N-QR4
9. PxB	PxB
10 QN-Q2	P-K3
11 P-B3	NxB
12 NxN	P-B3
13 O-O	B-K2
14 N-B5	O-O
15 P-R3	BxN
16 PxB	N-R4
17 B-R2	BxN
18 PxB	Q-R5
19 K-N2	Q-N4 ch.
20 K-R1	Q-B4
21 K-N2	P-K4
22 Q-K2	QR-K1
23 QR-Q1	R-K3
24 B-N3	Q-N4
25 R-KN1	P-B4
26 K-B1	Q-K2
27 P-N4	P-B5
28 B-R2	Q-R5
29 P-K4	QxP ch.
30 R-N2	R-N3
31 Resigns.	

Ted Warner and Jim Amidon also in the tournament. More games from the preliminaries of the Washington State Closed in the next CL

All notes by D. Wade.

# VOX POPULI

## A DISSERTATION ON THE FINER POINTS OF CHESS by Viktors Pupols

Do not judge me by my deeds; rather listen to my words.  
(source unknown)

The biggest attempt in chess promotion yet attempted in Washington is the Puget Sound Open Tournament, advertised elsewhere in the Letter. This tournament will cater to the serious tournament player only; a fact which I welcome very much. I hope it does as much for our experts as the relatively light Puget Sound League has done for their lesser brethren.

Foremost among the contenders will be Olaf Ulvestad, anxious to renew his feud with Zemgalis and sweep the other opposition. Olaf's successes are too numerous to be counted and his presence anywhere guarantees a friendly atmosphere. He also talks a good game of chess.

Following are two games played against him. They tend to show him on his off moments; catching him in one is the hope of many prospective tournament entrants.

State Championship, 1955. White: R. Vellias Black: Ulvestad  
1.P-K4, P-K4 2.N-KB3, N-QB3 3.B-B4, N-B3 4.N-N5, P-Q4 5.PxP,  
P-QN4

To let oneself in for a variation Ulvestad has originated is a sign of either courage or gross folly. In spite of himself, though, Vellias manages to reach a good position.

6.B-B1, NxP 7.BxP, B-N2 8.P-Q3, Q-K2 9.N-QB3, N-B5 10.BxN,  
PxBch 11.Q-K2, QxQch 12.NxQ, K-K2

Odd-looking, like his previous play; but the direct result of it. Black must lose another Pawn, and he was also threatened with the dreadful 13. N-Q4.

13.QNxP, N-Q5 14.B-R4, P-KR3 15.N-K4, P-N4 16.N-K2, NxN 17.  
KxN, P-KB4 18.N-N3, BxP 19.NxPch, K-B3 20.KR-KN1, B-R6 21.N-K3,  
B-Q3 22.QR-K1, QR-N1 23.B-N3, P-B3 24.K-Q1, R-N5

Although White should have prevented this move, after 24. P-QB3, KR-K1 he would still be in a difficult position. The initiative has already passed to Ulvestad, and in such cases the better player always has the edge. It seems difficult to believe that White has actually been outplayed, after Black's superficial opening play; but despite White's material plus, his position is devoid of long-term possibilities. Amazing.

25.N-B1, R-KB5 26.N-N3, B-N5ch 27.K-B1, B-K4 28.P-KR3, B-B6  
29.P-B3, R-KR5 30.B-Q1, B-B5ch 31.K-B2, BxBch 32.KxB, RxP 33.N-K4ch  
K-B4 34.R-R1, RxR 35.RxR, P-R4 36.K-K2, P-R5 37.P-B3, R-QN1 38.  
P-N3, P-R4 39.K-B2, R-K1 40.R-Q1, R-QB1 41.R-KR1?

White is at a loss for a plan. It seems to me that 41.P-Q4 holds the game, as P-QR5 can always be answered by P-N4. After Black secures the Q4 square, he has a winning breakthrough at hand.

41...P-B4 42.K-N2, R-QB2 43.R-Q1, B-K4 44.K-B2, P-R5

Now the QR-file is opened with telling effect.

45.R-QN1, PxP 46.PxP?

47.RxP still offered some hope.

46...R-QR2 47.R-KN1, R-R7ch 48.K-B1, B-B5 49.R-R1, B-K6 50.  
R-R3, R-QN7 51.N-Q6, K-B5 52.N-K4, RxP 53.K-K2, R-N7ch 54.K-Q1

White has been reduced to movelessness.

54...R-N7 55.K-K1, R-N6 !!

If the Rook is taken, the NP must queen.

56.NxNP, KxN and White resigned shortly.

State Championship, 1955 White: W. Bills Black: O. Ulvestad

1.P-Q4, N-KB3 2.N-KB3, P-K3 3.P-KN3, P-QN4

Here we go again! Ulvestad, the author of "Chess Charts",  
deviates from all charted courses.

4.Q-Q3, P-QR3 5.P-K4, B-N2 6.QN-Q2, P-Q4 7.P-K5, N-K5 8.B-N2  
P-QB4 9.Q-O, N-QB3!

Leads to interesting exchanges, by which Black profits. His  
Q-side advance immediately becomes more active.

10.NxN, N-N5 11.N-Q6ch, BxN 12.Q-K2, B-K2 13.P-QB3, N-B3 14.  
PxP, BxP 15.B-K3, Q-N3 16.BxB, QxB 17.KR-Q1, O-O 18.N-Q4, KR-B1  
19.NxN, RxN 20.R-Q4, P-QR4 21.P-QR3, B-R3 22.Q-R5, QR-B1 23.P-KR3  
Q-K2 24.QR-Q1, P-R3 25.B-B1, R-QN1 26.R-KN4, K-R1 27.QR-Q4, KR-N3  
28.QR-KB4

The lines have been drawn, and each player recklessly embarks  
on his own plan. But already Black blunders badly. 28...QR-N2  
would leave White in midair with no visible win. Black's threats  
on the Q-side might become devastating in the meantime.

28...P-N5? 29.R-B6

Although the Rook is immune because of mate, this move gives  
Black more play than he could expect, and should have been  
replaced with 29.RxBP.

29...Q-B1 30.RxBP, Q-N1 31.BxB, PxRP 32.PxP, RxB 33.Q-N6, Q-R2  
34.QxQch, KxQ 35.KRxPch, K-R1 36.R-R7ch, K-N1 37.QR-N7ch, K-B1 38.  
R-QB7, K-N1 39.RxRP, R-N6 40.P-QR4 Black resigns.

The comments are somewhat meager, but I was afraid to commit  
myself definitely; Ulvestad can out-talk even me.

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#### THE UGLY MOVE \* continued

Hugh Noland suggests 6. Q-K2. This is a fine positional idea  
to take advantage of Black's awkward-looking position on the King  
file. But for some peculiar reason this attempt also runs into a  
blind alley. Here is why. Black answers 6...N(3)xP, and the  
Black KP is immune. Simple enough.

One final attempt before giving up. 6. P-Q4 looks like a  
natural attempt to open up the game completely before Black gets  
organized. Here, another gambit idea springs up as follows to  
thwart punishment:

6. Q-Q3      7. P-Q6      8. PxP      9. QxP      10. B-N5ch  
                  N(2)-Q4            QxP            KB-B4            K-B1

Much to our disgust and amazement we find this Queen move hard to  
crack both tactically and positionally -- even in test games.

All right. We give up, for now. But there will come a day  
when we shall see that this triumph of the unaesthetic is only  
temporary (we hope, if only out of respect for Tarrasch's teach-  
ings.)

# NOURSE 'AD NAUSEAM'

## THE HOBBY OF COLLECTING CHESSMEN

Chess collections may be likened to sets of sculptures depicting history through the centuries, starting with the early ages, when the Assyrians and Egyptians went to war atop their elephants and camels, through the middle ages when the knights in shining armor led their men armed with spears, broadswords and shields, to the modern propaganda sets of Russia, which depict Capitalism versus Bolshevism - the capitalist pawns being in chains, miserably working to earn gold which is poured out from a sack by the White Queen, whereas the Bolshevik pawns are happy harvesters, gaily gathering the golden grain.

Chess of course, was played in ancient times only by the wealthy, and the chess pieces were really pure miniature sculpture, fascinating for their meticulous workmanship and their exquisite design, money or time, of course, being no object.

The most valuable pieces, naturally are in museums. In the British Museum are 78 pieces found in the Island of Lewis, in 1831. They have been variously dated from the eleventh to the seventeenth century, and the experts still are undecided as to whether they are of English or Icelandic origin. The consensus at this time is that these pieces were lost in a shipwreck.

The most fascinating collection is probably that at the Treasury Museum at Istanbul. These are the great rock-crystal set, cloudy for the black side, and clear for the white side, fashioned of great blocks of faultless crystal, decorated with gold bands, and to further distinguish the sides, rubies are set in the gold bands of one and emeralds in the other.

Another noteworthy collection is a set of terra cotta and black pebbles in the Pitts River Museum at Oxford.

For sheer artistry there have probably never been more beautiful pieces than those designed by Josiah Wedgwood and Son, which show the influence of Victorian times on chess design. These pieces were reputedly of porcelain, and were made in great numbers of varying design.

The earliest chessmen reflected the main divisions of contemporary armies;- In Bengal, a King, elephants, horsemen, ships and foot soldiers, while in the remainder of India the ships were replaced by chariots. Later chariots were replaced by camels. Apparently it was in England that the war theme as the motif of the game was challenged by the idea of having the pieces represent a commonwealth.

(To be continued)



# MATCH PLAY

The match between Ted Warner, winner of the Washington Open, and William Bills, the current State Champion has concluded with a 6-4 victory for Ted Warner. This result in a great measure makes up for Ted's rather poor showing in the state championship tournament finals, where he ended last. The following game is the concluding game of the match. Annotations are by the winner.

## GRUENFELD DEFENCE

Ted Warner

William Bills

- |          |       |
|----------|-------|
| 1. P-Q4  | N-KB3 |
| 2. P-QB4 | P-KN3 |
| 3. N-QB3 | P-Q4  |

Although I did not know it at the time this game was played it seems that Bills has done considerable work translating a Yugoslavian book on the Gruenfeld opening.

- |         |     |
|---------|-----|
| 4. PxP  | NxP |
| 5. P-K4 | NxN |
| 6. PxN  |     |

Black gives up the center in order to attack it later. It is interesting to see how well Bills handles this phase of the game.

P-QB4 is usually played first.

- |         |     |
|---------|-----|
| 7. N-B3 | O-O |
| 8. B-K2 |     |

A move which seems to work out better than the more common move B-QB4.

- |         |       |
|---------|-------|
|         | P-QB4 |
| 9. O-O  | B-N5  |
| 10 B-N2 | N-B3  |

Black's 6th, 8th, 9th, and 10th moves have all been directed toward forcing some concession at Q4.

- |          |      |
|----------|------|
| 11 P-Q5  | N-R4 |
| 12 R-N   | P-B5 |
| 13 P-KR3 | B-Q2 |

- |         |       |
|---------|-------|
| 14 N-Q2 | P-QN4 |
|---------|-------|

Black has gained some space on the Queen side but it has been at the expense of the coordination of his pieces.

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 15 P-B4 | P-K3 |
| 16 Pxp  | Pxp  |

16...Bxp looks stronger as if 17.P-B5 (17.B-R3, R-K 18.RxP, BxBP), Pxp 18.Pxp, B-Q4 19.B-R3 Q-N3ch 20.K-R, KR-Q Black has a good game.

- |         |       |
|---------|-------|
| 17 B-R3 | R-B2  |
| 18 P-K5 | Q-R5? |

This is poorly timed. The best move here is 18...P-N4! & if 19.B-R6, RxP 20.RxR, Pxr 21.Q-N4, Q-N3ch 22.K-R, Q-K6.

- |          |       |
|----------|-------|
| 19.N-K4! | B-QB3 |
|----------|-------|

If instead 19...RxP 20.QxB RxRch 21.RxR, QxN 22.B-B3, Q-K6 ch 23.K-R, R-N 24.QxPch, K-R, 25.B-N4, Q-N3 (if Bxp, B-Q6) 26 QxQ, PxQ 27.P-K6 and White wins easily.

- |          |      |
|----------|------|
| 20 Q-Q4  | R-Q  |
| 21 N-Q6  | B-R3 |
| 22 B-KN4 | B-Q4 |

Black has no defense. If, 22...Q-K2, 23.NxR and if 22...R-K2 23.Q-K3 (threatening P-N3) P-N4 24.P-B5. The rest is a little bloody.

- |           |      |
|-----------|------|
| 23 NxR    | KxN  |
| 24 QxP ch | N-N2 |
| 25 RxP    |      |

If R-Q2 26.RxB, therefore,

- |    |         |
|----|---------|
| 25 | Resigns |
|----|---------|

## ODDS AND ENDS

Norwood Potter once gave an amateur the tremendous odds of a Queen. After only six moves were played, he announced a forced checkmate in nine moves! Here is the game. Can you see the mate?

1. P-K4, P-K4 2. N-KB3, N-QB3 3. B-B4, N-B3 4. N-B3, N-QR4  
5. NxP, NxP 6. P-Q3, N-B4.

# TENACITY !!!

by Alan Clark  
(owl)

The following game was probably the most important one of the University of Washington-Latvian Sportsmen match. Both teams were undefeated at the time of the crucial meeting on January 9. Zemgalis was certain to get two points against Warner and Pupols would probably do as well. Thus it was up to the other three University men to win on the last boards. And that is what they did. Patterson took  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points, Clark two, and Lund and Brown each one on fifth board to win the match 6-4. How Alan Clark ever managed to win the game below is a complete mystery. Persistence and tenacity are the key words. (Game annotated by Alan Clark.)

Alan Clark	English Opening	V. Grinhagens	
			Better Q-B3; 32. R-R7, R-N7; 38. RxR, RxQ; 34. RxR, Q-B6, and a pawn should fall.
1.	P-QE4	P-K4	32. P-K4 P-KB3
2.	N-QB3	N-KB3	33. P-R4 R-N6?
3.	P-KN3	B-E4	The idea was BxP.
4.	B-N2	P-QB3	34. N-R5 R-N7
5.	P-Q3	P-KR3	35. QxR RxQ
6.	N-B3	P-Q3	36. RxR B-Q6
7.	P-QR3	N-N5	37. R-N7? - - -
8.	P-K3	P-QR4	The knight should come to the aid of the king first. R-N3 to chase the bishop off the QBP was better.
9.	O-O	O-O	- - - Q-K4
10.	P-R3	N-B3	38. R/8-R7 Q-Q5
11.	K-R2	B-K3	39. RxPch. K-R1
12.	B-Q2	QN-Q2	40. R-R7ch. K-N1
13.	N-QR4.	R-N1	41. RxP?? B-B8
	A waste of time.		At this point I didn't think the game would last another thirty moves. The future looks dark.
14.	Q-K1	P-N3?	42. R-R8ch. K-N2
	Loses a pawn. R-R1 was best.		43. R-R7ch. - - -
15.	P-QN4	- - -	Desperation moves (Corre-telli). All is lost, etc., etc.
	Not P-Q4; BxBP is good for		- - - K-N3
black.	- - -	PxP	44. R-N5ch. K-R3??
16.	PxP	P-N4	If 44. - - - KxR; 45. P-R5ch., K-B2; 46. R-R7ch., K-K1; 47. R-R8ch., K-Q2; 48. R-R7ch. (R-Q1 is no better), K-B1; 49. R-R8ch., K-B2; 50. R-R7ch., K-N3; 51. R-N7ch., K-R3.
17.	PxB	PxN	45. R-R5ch. KxR
18.	PxP	N-E4	This gives white a chance, though small.
	Loses a pawn; N-K1 is better.		46. P-N4ch. K-R3
19.	NxP	QxP	47. K-N3 Q-N8ch.
20.	P-Q4	- - -	48. K-E4 Q-R2ch.
	Threatening B-N4.		49. K-K3 Q-N8ch.
	- - -	N-N6	Q-K7ch. wins the move and ends things quickly. (Zemgalis)
21.	RxP	NxB	50. K-E4 B-K7
22.	QxN	P-E4	51. N-B6 Q-B8
23.	N-B6	R-N3	52. P-N5ch. K-N3
	Keeping the file.		
24.	N-R5	KR-N1	
25.	P-Q5	- - -	
	To keep the pawns connected.		
	- - -	B-E4	
26.	R-R2	N-K5	
27.	RxN	BxB	
28.	N-B6	R/1-N2	
29.	P-B3?	B-N8	
30.	R-R8ch.	K-R2	
31.	R-E2	P-KR4?	

Trying for the quick win.

53. N-K7ch. K-R4  
 54. PxP QxPch.  
 55. K-K5 Q-N7ch.  
 56. K-K6 B-N5ch.?  
 Forever loses the win.  
 57. N-B5 BxNch.  
 Forced mate is threatened.  
 If Q-B3; 58. R-R7ch., K-N3; 59. R-N7ch.,  
 K-R4; 60. R-N5ch., QxR; 61. PxQ & P-B7.  
 58. KxB Q-B6ch.  
 59. K-K5 KxP?  
 Better was Q-N6ch.; 60.  
 K-K6, Q-N5ch.

60. P-B7 Q-N6ch.  
 61. K-K6 Q-N5ch.  
 62. K-Q6 Q-B1  
 63. R-B7 Q-B1ch.  
 64. K-K6 K-N4  
 65. P-K5 K-N3  
 66. P-Q6 Q-N2  
 67. R-K7 Q-B1  
 68. K-Q5 K-N2  
 69. KxP Q-B6ch.  
 70. K-Q5 Q-R1ch.  
 71. K-Q4 Q-B3  
 72. R-B7 Q-N3ch.  
 73. K-Q5 Q-R4ch.  
 74. K-K6 Q-N3  
 75. K-K7 Q-K6  
 76. P-B8(Q)ch. Resigns

SHORTIES

Queen out too early----  
 St. Petersburg, 1878  
 Greco Counter Gambit

Schletser

M. Tchigorin

1. P-K4 P-K4  
 2. N-KB3 P-KH4  
 3. PxP N-QB3  
 4. B-N5 B-B4  
 5. BxN QPx B  
 6. NxP BxP  
 7. Q-R5ch. P-N3  
 8. NxNP Pxn !!  
 9. QxR Q-K2ch.  
 10. K-Q1 BxP !  
 11. QxNch. K-Q2  
 12. Q-B4 R-K1  
 Resigns

Blunder or trap?----

Queen's Gambit Declined

B. Wikstrom

B. H. Wood

1. P-Q4 P-Q4  
 2. P-QB4 P-K3  
 3. N-QB3 N-KB3

4. B-N5 QN-Q2  
 5. N-B3 P-B3  
 6. PxP KPxP  
 7. P-K3 B-K2  
 8. B-Q3 O-O  
 9. O-O R-K1  
 10. Q-B2 P-KR3  
 11. BxN NxB  
 12. N-K5 N-N5  
 13. P-B4 !! NxKP?  
 14. B-R7ch. K-B1  
 15. Q-K2 N-B4  
 16. Q-R5 N-Q3  
 17. QxPch. !! NxB  
 18. N-N6 mate

Exciting draw----

French Defense

H. Rossetto

G. Stahlberg

1. P-K4 P-K3  
 2. P-Q4 P-Q4  
 3. N-QB3 N-KB3  
 4. B-N5 B-K2  
 5. P-K5 KN-Q2  
 6. P-KR4 P-QB4  
 7. N-N5 !? P-B3  
 8. B-Q3 ! P-QR3 !  
 9. Q-R5ch ! K-B1  
 10. R-R3 ! Pxn  
 11. B-R6 !! Q-R4ch.  
 12. B-Q2 Q-B2  
 13. R-N3 ! PxpP !  
 14. N-B3 ! NxB  
 15. RxP ! P-R3 !!  
 16. B-R7 !! KxR  
 17. QxPch. Drawn

Unknown klobbers master----

Sicilian Defense

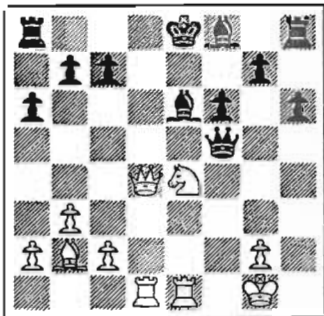
K. Galia

E. Gruenfeld

1. P-K4 P-QB4  
 2. N-KB3 N-QB3  
 3. P-Q4 PxpP  
 4. NxB N-B3  
 5. N-QB3 P-K4 ?  
 6. N/4-N5 P-Q3  
 7. P-QR4 P-QR3  
 8. N-R3 B-K3  
 9. B-QB4 BxB  
 10. NxB NxB?  
 11. NxB P-Q4  
 12. B-N5 !! P-B3  
 13. BxP ! PxB  
 14. QxP !! B-K2  
 15. N/k4-Q6ch. BxN  
 16. NxBch. K-K2  
 17. O-O-O N-Q5  
 18. RxN ! Resigns  
 Poor fellow !

## No. 1 - Combination

BLACK - BERATENDE

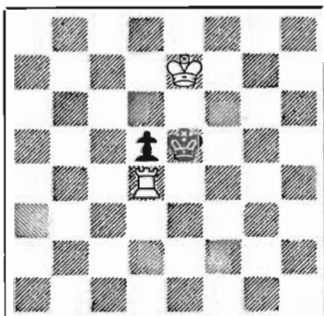


WHITE - POLLACK

White mates in five moves

## No. 2 - STUDY

RICHARD RETI  
BLACK

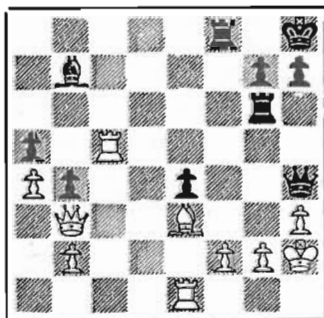


WHITE

White to play and win

## No. 3 - Combination

BLACK - ROSSOLIMO

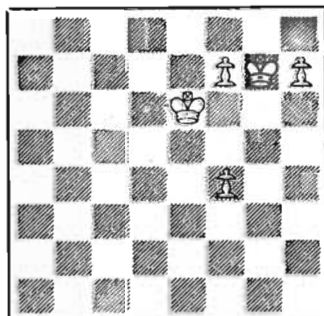


WHITE - L. SCHMID

Black to play and win

## No. 4 - PROBLEM

SAM LOYD  
BLACK



WHITE

White mates in three moves

# DIAGRAMS

JOHN  
DEWITT

Again this month we have taken our positions from various late issues of the German publication Schach Echo, with the sole exception of the final problem.

1. Here, through his overwhelming command of the board coupled with Black's backward development White polishes off his opponent in five snappy moves. The game was played at Buffalo in 1893!

2. This is another profound endgame study by Grandmaster Reti. The study illustrates a valuable rule in this type of ending which is given by Fine as follows: "If the Black King is on the same rank as the Pawn, and the White Rook is on the first rank, White to play always wins when the Pawn is on the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th ranks. In addition, if the Kings are on the same side of the Pawn, White must never have to lose the opposition." Don't feel bad if you fail to solve this one, as the win is very subtle.

3. Here, Nicholas Rossolimo, former champion of France has the opportunity to display some fireworks against West Germany's best player next to Unzicker, Lothar Schmid. Played at Heidelberg, 1949.

4. There is a typesetting error in this one; the King at White's N7 is supposed to be Black. Sam Loyd is probably America's most famous problemist. This one should not give you too much trouble.

## DECEMBER SOLUTIONS

1. Reti. 1.K-Q4, K-B7 2.P-R4 (if 2.P-N5, K-N3) K-N6 3.K-K3!, B-N5 4.P-N5, K-R5 5.P-N6! B-B1 and White goes to Qb7 with his King, forcing the Bishop to move and then pushes P-R6 etc.

2. Ahues. 1.R-R7ch, K-N1 2.Q-N4, QxP 3.NxNP!! QxQ 4.N-K7 mate.

3. Davey. 1...P-K7 2.BxP, Q-K6ch 3.K-R1, N-R6!! 4.PxN (forced) Q-K5ch 5.K-N1, B-B4ch 6.K-B1, Q-R8 mate.

4. Schnieder. This problem has a dual solution, pointed out by Peter Husby, which voids it as a problem. Both 1.K-R1 and 1.N-Q6 force a mate in three.

FROM

# POSTAL CHESS

R. R. Merk  
Postal Chess Editor  
1026 E 71 St., Seattle 5, Wash.

Results of games completed

	Section 52A-3A	Points		Section 52A-3B	Points
Bever	1 Husby	0 46	Bever	1 Allen	0 56
Bever	Section 52A-1B		Bever	Section 52A-4A	
Bever	1 Yocom	0 52	Yocom	1 Husby	0 44
Coubrough	Section 53A-1A		Coubrough	Section 53A-4A	
Wade	1 Kaffenberger	0 38	Husby	1 Knapp	0 66
Wade	1 Kaffenberger	0 28	Almond	1 Knapp	0 26
Almond	Section 54A-2B		Wade	Section 54A-3A	
Almond	1 Howard	0 58	Wade	1 Bever	0 44
Coubrough	Section 54A-3B		Weaver	1 Coubrough	0 54
Weaver	1 Weaver	0 46	Bever	1 Weaver	0 54
Weaver	1 Bever	0 44	Vellias	Section 54A-4A	
Vellias	Section 54A-4B		Vellias	1 Nourse, J.	0 50
Vellias	1 Nourse, J.	0 50	Wade	Section 54A-5A	
Wade	Section 54A-5B		Wade	1 Yocom	0 38
Wade	1 Yocom	0 38	Wade	1 Farry	0 30
Luters	Section 53B-1A		Luters	Section 53B-1B	
Luters	1 Leonard	0 0	Luters	1 Leonard	0 0
	Section 53B-4A		Dickson	1 Merk, F.E.	0 22

Sections completed as shown below entitle Greene and Bever to a year's subscription. Coubrough and Mulford divide the prize in their section with 5½ points each.

	52B-1A	52B-1B	W L D		52A-3A	52A-3B	W L D
Yocom	x 0 ½ 1 1 1	x 0 0 1 1 1	4 3 1	Cairncross	x 0 1 0 1 1	x 1 1 0 1 1	5 3
Greene	1 x 1 1 1 1	1 x 1 1 1 1	8	Allen	1 x 1 0 0 0	0 x 1 0 0 0	3 5
Bever	½ 0 x 1 1 1	1 0 x 1 1 1	5 2 1	Hardinge	0 0 x 0 0 0	0 0 x 0 0 0	8
Hardinge	0 0 0 x 1 1	0 0 0 x 1 1	2 6	Bever	1 1 1 x 1 1	1 1 1 x 1 1	8
Norman	0 0 0 0 x	0 0 0 0 x	8	Husby	0 1 1 0 x	0 1 1 0 x	4 4

	52A-4A	52A-4B	W L D
Howard	x 0 0 1 0	x ½ 1 0 1	3 4 1
Coubrough	1 x ½ 0 1	½ x ½ 1 1	4 3
Husby	1 ½ x 0 0	0 ½ x ½ 1	2 3 3
Mulford	0 1 1 x 1	1 0 ½ x 1	5 2 1
Yocom	1 0 1 0 x	0 0 0 0 x	2 6

NEW POSTAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

Starting May 1, 1955 a championship postal chess tournament begins with a time limit of 1 year for the first round. We hope to get at least 30 entries for an A tournament and a B tournament. Anyone is eligible. Entry fee is \$2.00. All of entry fees except \$5.00 for postage and stationery will be divided into a first, second and third prize. 30 entries will produce \$60.00 of which \$30 will be first prize, \$15.00 for second and \$10.00 for third prize. If more than 30 entries are received the total will be divided in a similar manner. Players will be divided into sections of 6 players each and the winner of each section will play off for the prizes in a round robin play off section which will follow the completion of the first round. We will try to match players of equal strength in the first round sections. Send your entries in now to your postal chess director. Games not completed in one year will be adjudicated. If you do not now have a rating with us, let us know with your entry whether you are entering the A or the B tournament.



POSTAL CHESS TOURNAMENTS

New postal chess tournaments are being formed all of the time. Get your entries in now at 50¢ per section of five players each. You play two games with each of four opponents. One game as white and one game as black. Postal chess is an excellent way to improve in chess strategy and thus improve your game because of the uninterrupted opportunity to study out your plan at leisure.

Send entries to  
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 1026 E 71  
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Class A Players

Greene	1653
Mulford	1586
Wade	1562
Baron	1558
Cervetelli	1549
Iuturs	1502
Coubrough	1498
Almond	1496
Weaver	1460
Howard	1454
Taro	1410
Mage	1386
Bever	1377
Vellias	1350
Magerkurth	1344
Cairncross	1330
De Witt	1302
Kaffenberger	1286
Mc Fatterson	1250
Nourse, Sidney	1250
Roats	1250
Parry	1220
Knapp	1202
Husby	1194
Yocom	1190
Sams	1173
Nourse, John	1150

Class B Players

Roberts, Don	1304
Dickson	1282
Skarsten	1268
Youngman	1250
Merk, R.R.	1223
Falk	1184
LaFreniere	1170
Southerland	1138
Moore	1137
Rauen	1100
Dickey	1094
Holland	1086
Winters	1056
Carpenter	1050
Carter	1050
Davidson	1050
Laine	1050
Meliza	1050
Nichols	1050
McNeas	1050
Persons	1050
Reed	1050
Schrank	1050
Tressider	1050
Vukonich	1050
Waldron	1050
McDonald	1050
Pifley	1050
Hart	1050
Engstrom	1044
Raleigh	1017
Nelson	1000
Merk, F.E.	950

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW POSTAL CHESS TOURNAMENTS. SEE

INSIDE OF BACK COVER

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FROM  
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Sidney Nourse  
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