

**Historical WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER recaps (in the pages of *Washington Chess Letter* and *Northwest Chess*) by Russell Miller**

*1949-1989 at ten-year intervals*

**April 1949 (WCL)**

Jack Finnigan of Seattle Washington has now taken over the editor chair for the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER (WCL).

He had help from Postal Editor: Neil Power of Snohomish, Associate Editors: Richard Allen of Seattle, T Patrick Corbett of Seattle, Jim Schmitt of Portland with Publisher/Circulation Manger: Peter Husby of Everett. Appears there were two chess clubs in Tacoma back in 49. This issue of WCL reports the election of officers of the South Tacoma CC which met at the Community Center at 4851 South Tacoma Way. 14 players elected Carrol Crain as the club president. Ray Hiscox was chosen as Sec/Tres.

30 players took part in a "B" tournament held by the Kitsap CC. C. S. Krehbiel won the event with 11-1 score.

Under "coming events" was listed Puget Sound Open to be held at the Everett Y May 29-30 with a \$1.50 entry fee for the 5 round Swiss.

Tacoma was listed on top of the Puget Sound League match play standing with 5.5-.5 score. Bellingham and Seattle were close behind with 5-1 scores. Crain of the Tacoma team had a fine 11.5-.5 score so far. Neale of Queen Anne team had scored 9-1.

The issue was 10 pages and gave a report on the Seattle CC Championship won by Ted Davidson 4.5-.5 in the "A" Section over 12 others. The "B" section of 18 players was won by Mr. Leonard, 5-0.

The Seattle CC hosted a simul by Olaf Ulvestad of 29 boards. The master won 26 and lost to the current state champion Charles Joachim, Richard Allen and Dean Bollman.

Plans were announced for a Radio Match between WSC and U of W.

Back in 1949 you could join the Washington Chess Federation for \$1.50 for a year and get a subscription to WCL.

News from other publications

From the April 1949 issue of CALIFORNIA CHESS NEWS and NEWS OF THE PACIFIC COAST. George Koltanowski was editor of this publication.

Harold McLaughlin of Port Angeles, Washington reported on a Roosevelt High School event won by Bill Enser. He won the 1948 Golden Queen Trophy. Don Wilbur finished second.

Rev. George H. Swift of Salem, Oregon reported on a Koltanowski visit to the Salem Chess Club. The chess master played three games blindfolded, losing one. The simultaneous was 18 boards in which the master lost one and drew one. Koltanowski also did his knight's tour bit and a lecture. This February 1949 visit was the third time Koltanowski had visited the Salem Club.

Ray Hiscox of Tacoma reported that two new chess clubs were being set up. T. Pat Corbert was getting one going at Seattle University. Hiscox was helping get a club started at the South Tacoma Community Center.

The full issue of this California magazine can be found at:  
<http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/ccn/april49v2>.

The April 1949 edition of CHESS REVIEW reports that Arthur Dake of Portland gave a 12 board simul in Astoria, Oregon. He gave knight odds to all opponents and won 9 and lost 3 at these odds.

### **April 1959 (WCL)**

For the April issue numbered 137 of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER we find Dan Wade of Seattle as editor and Washington Chess Federation President: Dr. G. H. Parker of Spokane. 18 pages were in this issue. Some upcoming events announced were: Annual WCF meeting, BC vs. Washington International Match at the Peace Arch, Inland Empire Open in Spokane, Puget Sound Open at Seattle U and Montana Open in Missoula.

Chess play was reported as taking place in Ferndale, WA at Shorty Currit's Eagles Roost Cafe. In Idaho Chess, Wallace High School topped Kellogg HS 9-3.

The Washington Junior for 1959 was held at U of W with 20 players. Bob Holzinger took top honors with 4.5-.5. Some of the players taking part that I know to still be active players are: Ric Jerome, John Braley, Peter O'Gorman, and Pat Hickey.

The University of Portland Pilot House was the site of the Pacific Northwest Open which attracted 34 players. Richard Schultz of Seattle won the event 5.5-.5. Ivars Dalbergs of Portland was second at 5-1. None of the players on the crosstable do I know to be alive today.

Roosevelt was leading the Portland HS Chess League with Clackamas in 2nd place. Six schools total were taking part. Lewis & Clark College won a match with Portland State 4.5-3.5 over four boards.

Buz Eddy reported on U of W chess results. 25 players were listed on the ladder standings with Tony Elezovic the list topper. Boyd Walther won a 20-player 7-round event held at the U with a 6-1 score.

Bruce Fredstrom of Sandpoint High School in Idaho gave a full page report on Inland Empire Junior Chess. Sandpoint HS topped Coeur d'Alene HS 6.6-3.5, Wallace HS topped Lewis & Clark, Coeur d'Alene downed Spirit Lake 7-3 and Wallace beat Coeur d'Alene 8.5-1.5, plus Wallace beat Spirit Lake 7-3. Wallace is on top of the league standings.

Oliver Morris won a four-player N.E. Seattle event 4.5-1.5.

A number of games (some with notes) from the recent Washington Closed were printed in this issue.

## **April 1969 (NWC)**

The April 1969 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS (NWC) had the writer of this report, Russell Miller of Yakima, as editor. The issue was 24 pages on newsprint type paper. Richard Schultz was listed on the top of the postal chess rating ladder. Postal Director John Ward of Tacoma reported on the lineup of the Washington vs. Oregon postal match. Washington Players: John R. Ward, Ronald Norman, Eino Moks, Mel Leonard, Russell Miller, Gene Webb, J.E. Running and John David Miller. The Oregon team: Jack Schrader, Phillip McCready, Rodney Espey, Mal Skarsten, Don Hagan, Harry Glidden, Steve Hendricks, Elberta Denison. Washington won a previous match 6-4.

Peter Biyiasas scored 6-0 to win a 40-player Vancouver, BC Open Junior Championship over 40 other players. Bob Eldridge was the editor for the B.C. Bulletin section of this issue of NWC. Bob Zuk won the BC Speed Championship over 15 others 14.5-.5. Elod Macskasy and Peter Biyiasas tied for second, 13-2.

Norm Hardy gave a report on the Seattle Metro High School League play. Garfield was leading the championship section after four rounds of play. The alternates section had O'Dea on top.

Howie Chin did "High School in Chess" for this issue. He announced the Washington State Team event would be held at Seattle U. Terrace HS was leading in Western Conference league play. O'Dea was topping the Seattle Catholic League. Interlake was on top of the King County League standings. Tacoma League had Auburn at the top of the list.

Oregon Chess News reporter for this issue was Harry Glidden. Dave Jones of Cascade Junior High in Eugene won the 39-player 3rd Annual Spring Vacation scholastic event held in Medford. Joe Brandenburg submitted an article to Harry on an Arthur Dake Simultaneous held at Mt. Hood Community College. The grandmaster scored 26.5-4.5. Those making Dake tip his king were: Andrew McLenna, Owen Dvorshak and Steve Strong. Splitting the point were Leon Sage, Svante Eikram and Jack Strong.

Part II of A HISTORY OF ORGANIZED CHESS IN WASHINGTON STATE by Jack Nourse appeared in this issue.

Ben Thurston of Seattle was doing Northwest Ratings for this issue of NWC.

Viktors Pupols wrote a letter to NWC saying his game scores were copyrighted and he did not want them printed in NWC.

This was an issue in which members were to vote on officers and issues.

## **April 1979 (NWC)**

For the April 1979 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS (NWC) we find Robert A. Karch of Kenmore WA as editor. He printed a list for the NWC tournament director recognition program. For events of 39 players or less a TD got one point. For 40-79 players the TD got one point, but there could be an assistant TD who got 1/2 credit. There were to be awards made in August. The three on top of the list so far were Robert Karch, Clay Kelleher and Oliver LaFreniere.

This was a 32 page issue. Some circulation figures were reported. There were about 400 in Washington, 280 in Oregon. Larry Swan of Seattle was doing the NW Postal Chess section. Dick Stewart did the Northwest Ratings for this month but it was reported the Ed Kivi of Lacey would take over the job in May. Part of the rating directors job produced crosstables of all the events rated in a format that was possible to print in the magazine.

The Hobgoblin Hectic 24-player crosstable shows Kevin Casey the winner with 4.5-.5. Bill McGeary downed Hanniegn Pitre in a match 4-0. David Collyer won the Wenatchee Grand Prix No. 2 with 2.5-.5 that had only 4 players. The Open Section of the Portland Winner Open was a tie between Dr. Richard Banner of Portland, Joel Barnes of Mt. Vernon and Ben Bednarz of Corvallis, all at 4-1. 29 players took part. The reserve section had 38 players with John Goodale of Seattle and Richard Henry of Camas scoring 4.5-5 to tie for first place. Harvey Sanden of Seattle won the 42-player Amateur Section of the Christmas Congress 4-0. Jack Grigsby of Pasco won the Moses Lake Grand Prix #1 over six others 3-0. Mikel Bidwell of Roseburg, Michael Vaughan of Eugene and Debra Kitchen tied at 3-1 in the 10-player Willamette Valley Open. The Tacoma Winter Open drew 32 players with Neil Salmon of Tacoma coming out the winner at 5-0. Tri-Cities Grand Prix #3 drew six players and Eugene Warner of Kennewick won it with 2.5-.5. Twenty-five players took part in the Northwest Junior Team Championship won with 3-0 scores by two players, Kirk and Kevin Radeck of Bothell.

Yasser Seirawan of Seattle scored a 5-0 win in the 76-player Washington Open. At 4.5-.5 were Kenneth Chun of Seattle and William Schill II of Kirkland. Scoring 2.5-.5 topped the crosstable of the Yakima Grand Prix #2, a three-way tie between David Klinetobe of Yakima, William Horton of Ellensburg and Jack Grigsby of Pasco. 16 players took part.

The crosstable of the 1979 Oregon State Championship shows Jame Bricher as number one with a 6-1 score. Eight players took part. The Get Rich Quick in Medford event drew 26 players with Richard Foutzon winning with a 4-0 score. The Kent Library rating tournament had 18 players with two perfect 3-0 scores: Gary Holmquist and Jack LeMoine, both of Seattle.

The 1979 Washington Championship crosstable has W. John Donaldson of Seattle scoring 5-2 to top seven others.

David Dawson of Madras, Oregon won the Prineville rating tournament with 4-0 over nine others. The Junior Section of nine players was won by Michael Wallace 6-0 over eight other players. Sixteen players took part in the Medford City Round Robin Part I of eight rounds, and Jerome Lee of Medford won with 8-0. Part II was won by Richard Fourzon of Medford, Gilbert Encinas of Shady Cove and Jerome Lee, all with 7-0. (Or should that be 7-1?) Twenty-six players turned out for the Inland Empire Open in Spokane. Cliff Pappas of Kirkland took home top honors 5-0; beating second place Jim Hanlen of Kelso in the last round. Hanlen and Andy Schuck of Whitehall, MT plus Gornd Schuck also of Whitehall all scored 4-1. The ACU-1 Region XIV event drew 28 college students to Corvallis. The winner on tie-break when both scored 4.5-5 was Lorne Yee from Canada (a grad student at WSU) over Ben Bednarz of Oregon State U. The crosstable for the 1979 Idaho State Championship with 23 players has Larry Parson of Boise as the winner. Parsons scored a perfect 6-0 in the 1979 Boise Chess Club Championship over 27 others.

In British Columbia news Harold Brown reports on two wins by Sergey Mikhailov, the 19-player Mary Hawkes Memorial and the 22-player George Bryant Memorial. The second event was directed by GM Peter Biyiasas and his wife Ruth Haring (nowadays she is running for the USCF Exec Board) scored 2-2. The other woman in the event, Alexey Rudolph (now Root of Texas) of Tacoma had a rough time going 0-4.

30 teams took part in the 1979 Washington High School Team Championship, which was won by Garfield from the Seattle Metro League. Team members were: Andy Simkin, David Baker, Steve Jones, Hal Nguyen and David Fidler. Second place went to Inglemoor of the Kingco League with David Zick on top board. Some other players who readers of NWC today might know: Stadium of Tacoma players: Eric Tangborn and Robert Allen, Shorecrest: Paul Zurybida.

Angus Pitt reporting for the Boeing Chess Club gave a list of the club ladder, G. Alan Clark was top of the list.

The last game of the Bobby Ferguson vs. Alexey Rudolph Washington Junior Challenge Match was given in this issue. Ferguson won the match 2.5-1.5.

#### **April 1989 (NWC)**

The April 1989 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS was only eight pages. This was the fifth issue under James Blackwood as editor. He wrote about the lack of support to carry out his job.

On the top of the crosstable of the 1989 Washington State Championship one finds Viktors Pupols. He scored 7.5-1.5. He drew with Paul Eggers and lost to Clark Harmon. His wins were over: Ken Tomkins, David Weinstock, Matt Edwards, Hugh Tobin, John Brayley (sic?), Mike Franett and John Graves. Tomkins was second at 6-3. The event was held in Olympia at Dean Securities. Jorstad Jewelers donated a silver ring to be awarded to the champion.

Washington Chess Federation President Robert Karch reported on those who helped out with the chess events held during the Karpov-Hjartarson FIDE candidates match. He also wrote about plusses and minuses ("Lessons Learned" was the article heading) around the event like the bad weather, the media saying events were canceled when they were not, lack of publicity in CHESS LIFE and even in NORTHWEST CHESS.