

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

1949-1989 at ten-year intervals

May 1949 (WCL)

Editor Jack Finnigan of Gig Harbor; Washington's second effort in the editor chair. Postal Chess section was under the leadership of Neil Power of Snohomish. The listed feature editors: Richard Allen of Seattle, T. Patrick Corbett of Seattle, Jim Schmitt of Portland. Peter Husby of Everett was the circulation manager.

Arthur Dake of Portland won the Pacific Northwest Masters-Experts held in Tacoma with a 5-0 score. Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle scored 3.5-1.5, Charles Joachim of Seattle and Carrp Crain of Tacoma won 2 and lost 3, George Reddington was 1.5-3.5 with fellow Portland, Oregon player Jim Schmidt at 1-4. The Seattle CC hosted the Washington State Speed Championship which was won by Glen Muller; 13 players took part and Muller's score was 11-2. Richard Allen was close behind at 10-3. That event proved to be so much fun they did it again the next Saturday with the same result: Muller won eight and drew one. Kitsap club played speed also; a report said Nourse was the winner of the A section, 4-0.

Jim Schmitt won the Portland CC championship for 1949 with 12.5-.5.

In the Puget Sound League report, Tacoma downed Seattle 8-2, Everett scored over YMCA 6.5-3.5. Bellingham drew with Kitsap 5-5. Tacoma was leading the league.

The Washington State College CC was trying to arrange a radio match with U of W in Seattle.

May 1959 (WCL)

16-page issue done by Editor Dan Wade of Seattle. He announced Buz Eddy of Seattle was going to take over the editor slot with the next issue. Wade had been editor for the better part of the previous seven years. Dan said he was planning on playing more chess after he no longer had to spend 40-50 hours of each month putting out the chess news.

In a playoff match Dr. David Groenig downed Gordon Cornelius for the 1959 Spokane CC title.

The report of the annual meeting of the Washington Chess Federation was given. Election of officers was the main business with Max Mage elected President, Dan Wade V.P., W.H. Raleigh Treasurer, Buz Eddy WCL Editor, Fred Howard Publicity Director, Al Livingston Tournament Director, R.R. Merk Circulation Director, Robert Karch Rating Director, and in a contested vote for the office of Secretary, Charles Joachim defeated Dr. A. A. Murray.

Eight teams were taking part in the Seattle High School League with Lincoln on top after six rounds.

Deane Moore of Portland gave a report as Oregon Editor. Ivars Dalbergs was atop the Portland CC Ladder. In Portland High School league play John Bell of Roosevelt was the best board 1 player, board 2: Frank Nettleton of Clackamas, board 3: Jerry Uyena of

Roosevelt, Board 4: John Davis of Clackamas and Board 5: Dave Paproff of Roosevelt. Roosevelt is leading the league at the halfway point in play.

The Portland CC took on a group from Eugene and won the match 7.5-4.5.

Buz Eddy of Seattle won the Panhandle Jr held in Sandpoint Idaho. Willy Brandal won the West Seattle Chess Club championship 9-0.

14 players took part in the Wallace High event won by Stephen Sala, 11-2.

The Seattle CC championship of 10 players was won by Viesturs Seglins, 8-1.

35 players took part in the Puget Sound Open this year. Top score was 5.5-.5 by Olaf Ulvestad. Jim McCormick was second at 5-1 as was Clark Harmon but Harmon had fewer tie-break points.

171 players were listed in the Northwest Ratings report in this issue of WCL.

In his monthly "10 years ago in Washington Chess" column, R. R. Merk noted that of the 55 postal chess players listed in 1949, 7 were still active in 1959. Weaver was the top of the postal rating list in this May 1959 issue.

May 1969 (NWC)

The May 1969 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS was put out by your writer then living in Yakima, WA. My wife and I also mailed out the issues which were printed in Yakima by Shields Bag and Printing.

The issue had a big strawberry on the cover but of course it was in black and not red since we did not have the funds for color printing of the magazine.

Some helpers on this issue were: Tim Kauppila - Washington Tournament News, Ben Thurston - Ratings, John Ward - Postal Chess, Richard Vandenburg - Idaho Chess, Harry Glidden - Oregon Chess, Bob Eldridge - BC Chess, Clark Harmon - Games Editor.

Jerry Larkin of Marysville was Washington Chess Federation President way back then and the main organizer of the 2nd Annual Strawberry Open which was to be held June 14-20 in Marysville. The full page ad for the event listed \$3,500.00 in prizes. The Marysville Jaycees were the sponsors. It was an eight-round one-game-a-day event except for rounds 2 and 3. Grandmaster Larry Evans was going to take part plus put on a simul on June 21 at the Seattle Chess Club.

The results of the mail ballot were reported. One item passed was to raise the dues to \$4.00.

The tournament announcement for the Interstate Open to be held in Portland called for a seven-round Swiss to be held May 30-31 and June 1 at the Oregonian Hostess House in downtown Portland. Entry fee was \$6.50. Another seven-round event announced in this issue was the Sunfair Open on July 4, 5 and 6 in Yakima.

The crosstable for the 34th Annual Montana Open listed 39 players in two sections with Dr. Peter Lapiken of Missoula the top section winner with 5-0.

Mike Murray of Renton, Dave Enghard of Connell and Vic Keiser of Walla-Walla all scored 4-1 to top the 25-player Inland Open crosstable. The Ruse de Guerre open held in

Washougal, WA ended in a tie between Mike Montchalin of Happy Valley, OR and Stephen Strand of Centralia, WA at 4.5-.5 in the 28 player event.

The Northwest Ratings list had 6 masters, 25 experts, 108 Class A, 135 Class B, 110 Class C and 56 Class D players. Ivars Dalbergs of Portland was the top rated player on the list at 2312.

Six games of the Petrosian-Spassky World Championship match were printed.

An article by Tony Marsland about computer chess was printed including a game the computer played.

53 players took part in the Marysville Junior High Invitational. Ed Weigelt of Madrona Jr High scored 6.5 of 7 to edge out Ben Baker of Marysville Jr High at 6.

There was a Portland Metro League of mostly adult players reported upon. Black Knights and Dark Avengers drew their reported match and Bookends downed Rocky Butte Raiders.

Jana Wilson won a seven-player Oregon Jr. Miss event with 6-0 score.

The Oregon State High School Team Championship was won by Corvallis with David Douglas, and Hillsboro tied for 2nd. 16 teams took part.

Richard Schultz and Oliver Morris were the top rated players on the postal rating list in this issue.

48 names appear on the BC Open crosstable in which Robert Zuk and Duncan Suttles both scored 6-1 with Zuk taking the title on tie-break. Zuk beat Suttles in round 7. Zuk had drawn with Viktors Pupols and Elod Macskasy.

The 3rd Annual Washington State High School Chess Team Championship was won by Queen Anne of Seattle. 16 teams took part in four rounds. The event was held at Seattle U. Queen Anne also won the Seattle Metro League in 1969.

May 1979 (NWC)

Robert A. Karch living in Kenmore, Washington was in the editor chair for this issue of NORTHWEST CHESS. It was 40 pages. He put material content even on the cover, a story about Yasser Seirawan's play in the 1979 Lone Pine event including the score of Yasser's 2nd round defeat of GM Bent Larsen.

A report on Larry Christiansen's simul appearances in the Northwest was given: Portland 18 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses; Tacoma 19 wins, 2 draws and 0 losses; plus Seattle 20 wins, 2 draws, 2 losses. In Seattle Austin Pearlman and Nicholas Hoffman won while Steven Fress and Mark E. Willey got draws. He played in Medford also and lost to Randy Svedbeck.

Russell Miller directed and reported on the Yakima Grand Prix No. 3 which was won by Robert A. Karch to win \$18.00.

An interview by Daniel A. Baily of W. John Donaldson filled five pages of the issue. John talked about his 45-day tour of Europe, some of it with Yasser. Dan had known

John since 1974 and had watched his chess progress. There is advice for players in the interview and much more.

The games section of this issue has games from Washington and Oregon closed events. There was a fine report from the Tri-City Herald newspaper in Kennewick on a 23-board simul given by Eugene Warner.

The BC section of the magazine had the tournament announcement for the Keres Memorial with \$45 at site entry fee, and if 150 players took part first prize would be \$1,000.00. Gordon Taylor won the 16-player Abbotsford Open with 4.5-.5 score. The full-page ad for the 1979 Canadian Open in Edmonton, Alberta ran once again.

The Oregon Chess News section had a picture of the Christiansen simul in Medford. Corvallis won the Oregon High School Team Championship. 16 teams took part.

Greg Vitko won the Portland Spring Open with a 5-0 score. 76 players took part. Vitko won \$100.00 and 2nd place Ralph Hall won \$60.00. The Grants Pass Open held the same weekend was won by Richard Fouson and John Studley at 5-0 in the 50-player event.

The "Breaking into the Arena" article by Yasser Seirawan, started in the March issue of NWC, continued in this issue. The full article can be found on the present NWC website at http://www.nwchess.com/articles/history/1979_0306_Seirawan.pdf

Richard Schultz was listed on the top of the postal chess rating list. Larry Swan of Seattle was the postal chess director.

From crosstables printed in this issue we learn that Gerald Van Deene of Portland won the Class A section of the Oregon Class 4.5-.5. Preston Polasek won the Kelso High School Championship. The Washington Woodpushers drew 48 players and was won by Karl Schoffstoll, Northwest rated 1822, 5-0. Some of the players still active today to my knowledge who took part in that event are: Ralph Dubisch rated then 1787, Michael Mulford rated 1802, Norman Abrahamson 1768, Russell Miller 1605, Jack Le Moine 1716, Dennis Ambler 1765, Alexy Rudolph (now Root) 1551, Paul Zurybida 1338. Most of those people today have higher USCF ratings but not me!

Dennis Ambler of Everett won the Seattle Rating Tournament #1, 3-0. 12 players in this section and 12 in Section #2 won by Robert McCurdy and Dennis Amber, 2.5-.5.

Tri-Cities Grand Prix #4 was won by Dennis Wilson with 3-0. 16 players took part.

May 1989 (NWC)

An editorial team put the 24-page May 1989 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS together: Ralph Dubisch, Robert A. Karch, Fred Kleist and Russell Miller. The cover photo was of Yurl Vetemaa of Estonia. Page 3 contains pictures of Tom O'Donnell, Ralph Dubisch and several players at the Vancouver Invitational Championship, a ten player round robin, held April 15-24, 1989. Vetemaa won the event 8.5-.5. O'Donnell was second at 6.5-2.5 and Dubisch third with 5.5-3.5. Others were Harry Moore 5-4, Lionel Joyner 4.5-4.5. Others taking part in the futurity were Nigel Fullbrook, Gary Basanta, Elod Macskasy, Glenn Morin and Paul Brown. Several games with notes were given in the issue in a report by Ralph Dubisch.

Games from the Washington Closed with notes by John Braley were given. Jay Collins gave some notes to games from the Eugene Open.

The Linn-Benton Open was won by an exchange student from Singapore, Yew Chiang Ong with 4.5-.5. He won \$96.00. 28 players took part including two masters and five strong experts.

Minutes of the Oregon Chess Federation general membership meeting were given by Lewis Richardson.

Kristen Dietsch was the postal chess director at this point in NWC history. John Penquite was at the top of the postal rating list.

Many crosstables were printed, lots of OMSI scholastic events tables. The 1989 Russian Match Qualifier was won by Nick Raptis, an eighth grader 4-0 over four others; he also won the 8th grade OMSI finals 5-0. Wilson A team won the 1989 Oregon High School Team Championship, top section of 16 teams.

The Oregon Junior Open drew 31 players and ended in a tie between Randy Dunn and Kevin Dunn at 5.5-.5. They drew with each other.

Daniel Marshall topped 65 other players directed by Fred Kleist in the Seattle Chess Club Championship at 5.5-.5. The Washington Action Chess Championship of 55 players was won by Yasser Seirawan at 4.5-.5 with Edudard Gufeld, Stefan Djurich, Elliott Winslow, Matthew Beeley, Ken Tomkins, Gary Basanta, Floren Campmanes, Inna Izratlov and Paul Eggers all tied for second at 4-1.

The Washington High School Individual directed by Ollie LaFreniere drew 41 players and ended in a tie at 4-0 between John Kenny and Gin Yee. Neil Salmon won the 14-player top section of the President's Congress held in Tacoma with a 4-0 score. At the same score Michael Oshiro won the 14-player section 2; a Gary Dorfner directed event.

Clay Kelleher directed the several-section 1989 Oregon Class Championship. The top section of 10 players was won by William Kiplinger 4-1. Michael Morris and Brian Donnell scored 3.5-1.5 to tie for second. Class A section had 15 players and ended in a three-way tie at 4-1: Mikeal Davis, William Rodgers and Peter O'Gorman. A 4.5-.5 score of Mikel Bidwell won the B section, in which 20 players took part. The C section drew 23 players and a 4.5-.5 score by Thomas Robinson won the section. 20 players entered the D section, and it ended with a perfect score of 5-0 of Nathan Bridges. 10 Novice players were topped by David Bannon at 5-0.

The Spring Open in Tacoma was run by Gary Dorfner in two sections. Neil Salmon of Tacoma and Keith Yamanaka of Seattle both scored 3.5-.5; they drew with each other in the top section. L.W. Porter won the second section with 4.5-.5.

Allen Reiter with 4.5-.5 won the Seattle Spring Open directed by Fred Kleist with 32 players.

248 elementary school players took part in the 1989 Washington State Elementary Championship held in Onalaska. Kweilln Moore won the event with a perfect score including the five-minute tie-breaking playoffs. 21 schools sent players. Riverside Elementary in Vancouver, WA had the top team.