

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

1949-1989 at ten-year intervals

August 1949 (WCL)

Jack L. Finnigan of Gig Harbor, WA was the editor for this issue of WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER. There were 10 pages, one of which in my copy is blank.

An article on "Put 'Em Back Chess" by Charles Ballentine appeared.

Washington was the reported winner of the annual international match with British Columbia. The "A" section score was 17.5-12.5, and the "B" Section was also in Washington's favor, 18.5-4.5. Charles Joachim played and won on board 1 from Jursevskis. Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle was the tournament director of the event held in Seattle.

The Eugene CC won a match with Corvallis, 4.5-1.5.

The 1949 Portland Open ended in a tie at 3-1 between Alex Suchobeck, a recent arrival from Europe, and Jim Schmitt. Eight players took part. Arthur Dake was the TD. Schmitt won the Portland CC title with a 15.5-.5 score in a 9 player double round robin event.

Sgt. C. A. Williamson won a six player event of the South Tacoma CC.

August 1959 (WCL)

Buz Eddy of Seattle was the editor of the August 1959 WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER.

Gordon Gray was elected President of the newly formed South Seattle CC. Gray also won a club event 4-1. A tournament of seven players was held by the Seattle Junior CC. Bob Holziner won 5.5-5.

The full page ad for the 1959 Oregon Open appeared with a listing of \$3.00 entry fee for the event to be held on Labor Day weekend in seven rounds.

The 1959 Seattle Seafair had the largest single section turnout ever for a Pacific Northwest event with 62 players. The 1958 event was two sections with 63 players. Viktors Pupols of Tacoma and Viesturs Seglins of Seattle tied for 1st place at 5.5-.5. Pupols won the title by .5 point by Solkoff tie-break. These two were a full point ahead of James McCormick and David Grannis of Seattle plus David Groenig of Spokane and Seattle players Ed Diedrick, Richard Schultz and Daniel Wade. Pupols drew with Grannis and Seglins drew with McCormick. Al Livingston and Buz Eddy were the TDs.

The annual match between Washington and British Columbia was held at the Peace Arch. BC won the "A" section 20-10, with Charles Joachim of Seattle losing on board one to Elod Macskasy. BC also won the "B" section, 6-3. This was the third win a row for BC in the match.

Dave Grannis won a six-player Experts/Candidate event with 4-1.

The tournament announcement for the 1959 Washington Woodpusher appeared and also listed the previous winners: 1950 Carl Enz, 1951 Gerald Schian, 1952 Sheldon Rein,

1953 James McCormick, 1954 Kenneth Mulford, 1955 William Martin, 1956 Lt. Eugene Leininger, 1957 Fred Howard and 1959 Oliver LaFreniere. It was to be four rounds on one day.

A list of Washington Chess Federation members was printed. The issue was 14 pages.

August 1969 (NWC)

Your compiler living in Yakima at the time was editor of the August 1969 NORTHWEST CHESS.

Including the calendar there were two pages of tournament announcements. There were events in Wenatchee, Seattle, Portland, Walla Walla, New Westminster BC, Bellingham and Tacoma.

Ben Thurston provided Northwest Ratings for events in WA/OR and BC. He would even send you a copy of your rating card if you sent him \$.25 and SASE. Events rated in this issue were Boise CC Championship, Idaho Open, Boeing Swiss, Yakima Sunfair, NW Candidates Masters, Oregon Championship, BC Championship, Seafair and several two-player matches.

Joe Eggertsen's score of 5-0 won the 1969 Washington Junior of 15 players. Players who I know still play today, 40 years later are: Marvin Hayami, Pat Herbers, Dave Rupel and Tim Kauppila.

The eight-player Candidates Masters was won by Peter O'Gorman. Mike Murray and Michael Schemm are players in the event who still play today.

The Seattle Seafair was run in three sections. The open ended in a tie between John Braley and Viesturs Seglins at 5.5-.5. They drew with each other and Braley took the title in the 30-player section on tie-break. Robert Michell of Klamath Falls took the Amateur Section, also at 5.5-.5 over 22 players. The same score won the Novice section of 23 players and it was Marvin Hayami on top.

Eugene, Oregon was the site of a 37-player youth event. David Jones and Rick Haynes both scored 5-1.

Four players took part in the Oregon Women's Championship, and Esther Schrader won 3-0. Clark Harmon of Portland won the 1969 Oregon Championship with more details next month, the magazine said.

Computer chess was played by the Queen Anne High School team. The boys won 3-2 over the Machack program.

Tim Kaupplia was the top player on the Seattle CC rating ladder.

Esther Schrader of Salem, Oregon was doing a Problem section of NWC in August of 1969.

The High School in Chess section of this issue by Howie Chin covered his plans for the 1970 high school chess season. John Ward was the Postal Chess League director and he reported Richard Schultz as the top rated player.

On the top of the crosstable of 36 members of the Boeing CC was Al Clark at 6.5-.5. Clark was number two on the Boeing ratings ladder, with Angus Pitt as number one.

August 1979 (NWC)

Robert Karch of Kenmore, WA was able to produce 32 pages for the August 1979 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS.

The chess club directory listed clubs in Washington: Ballard, Bellevue, Boeing in Seattle, Kenmore (to start in fall 1979), Lynnwood Library, Mercer Island, Port Angeles, Seattle CC, Seattle Public Library, Tacoma CC, Cowlitz County CC, Tri-Cities CC, Wenatchee, Yakima. The Oregon list: Lincoln City CC, Oregon City CC, Portland CC, Rogue Valley CC. The British Columbia ones: Burnaby CC, Dawson Creek CC, Kerrisdale CC, New Westminster CC, Vancouver Central CC, Vancouver CC and West End Community Center.

The Washington Chess Federation annual meeting was going to be held August 19 during the Puget Sound Rating Swiss in Lake City.

Karch reports that the Exec Director Richard Meyerson had resigned and been replaced by Gerard Dullea, with Peter Prochaska continuing as Associate Director and Burt Hochberg as Editor of CHESS LIFE.

The 1978 BC Champion, Bruce A. Harper, was interviewed in this issue of NWC. He beat Keres in a simul when he was 13. His most memorable event was the 1975 Canadian Championship. There are many other interesting bits to this interview.

Hanniegn Pitre reported on the Mayflower Summer Limited event which was won by Mark Willey and Cliff Pappas when both scored 3-0.

Glen Bixler of Yakima scored 3-0 to top the Yakima Grand Prix #4 over 15 other players.

Plans were announced for the 1979-80 Central Washington Grand Prix Chess Association. Plans called for events to be held in Wenatchee, Yakima, Ellensburg and Tri-Cities. There was a 1978-79 season.

Robert Karch reported on the Seattle Summer Open – a trophy only event, no cash prizes. 52 players took part with no masters or expert rated players entered. Scoring 4.5-.5 were Jerrold Prothero of Mercer Island and Carl Haessler of Lake Oswego to place themselves on top of the crosstable.

Harry Bell of Portland won the third annual Oregon City Open on tie-break when he and Carl Haessler, William Lapham of Portland plus Karl Schoffstol of Troutdale all scored 4-1. 36 players were in the top section. The 16 player Novice was won by Ron Jackson of Portland at 4-0. Ralph Hall was the TD. He won the recent Oregon Chess Club championship. Ralph's report on his two visits to England, which included some chess play, was printed.

The magazine gave a report on the Corvallis High School team winning a national high school team championship held in Philadelphia. Team members were: Jay Collins, Chris Eisgruber, Mike Ferries, Arne Larson and Craig Flowers. A team from Garfield in Seattle also took part in the event.

Clay Kelleher reported on his Portland June Amateur. Karl Schoffstoll won the "section Y" of 16 players with 4-0. Scores of 3.5-.5 by Larry Musa of Coos Bay and Manuel Joseph of McMinnville took the "section Z." 15 players took part in this grouping. John Hatala scored 13.5-1.5 to win the five-minute tournament.

A multi-simul event was given at UBC in Vancouver. Gordon Taylor (Sat am), John Donaldson (Sat pm), Duncan Suttles (Sun am) and Bruce Harper (Sun pm) all played simultaneous exhibitions against 14 other players. Yves Fargas beat Taylor, Donaldson and Harper losing to Suttles for the best score among the 14 players. Taylor scored 6.5 from 14, Donaldson 9.5 from 14, Suttles and Harper both 13 of 14.

Postal Director Larry Swan of Seattle reported that Richard Schultz was the top rated player. 125 players were listed with ratings.

August 1989 (NWC)

Ralph Dubisch then living in Bellevue, WA was the editor of NORTHWEST CHESS for August 1989. The issue is 24 pages on nice white paper.

Richard Roy did a report on Wilson High School of Portland, OR winning the 1989 National High School Chess Team championship held in Knoxville, TN. The team had also won the Portland Metro League with a 12-0 score and the Oregon State Team Championship in 1989. They also won the annual Interstate Match with three Washington State schools. Teams members were Jeff Hardin, 1989 Oregon Junior Champion, Board 2 was Jon Gassaway and Board 3 Bobby Anderson. These two had tied for 1st in the 1989 OMSI Individual High School Championship with Sam Hamilton. There were 850 players in the National event. Rommel Dizon, Erick Niemi, Dave Penn, Matt Johnston, Mike Massey and Rocardo Ochoa were the other Wilson team members.

Wilson took the National Team title with 21 points to 20 points for George Washington High of Philadelphia. Team points come from the score of the top four players for a high team. The points for the Wilson players were: Gassaway 5.5 (finished 9th in individual standings), Hardin 5.5 (19th), Dizon 5, Niemi 5. Senior Master Alex Sherzer won the tournament 7-0.

Editor Dubisch did a report on the 1989 BC Open in which he played. Dave Ross and Gary Basanta tied for 1st place.

The Postal Chess Director at this time was Kristen Dietsch. He reported that John Penquite and Stan Vaughan were the top rated players on the list of 85 people. Kristen also supplied a book review of *Bishop vs. Knight Endings* by Yuri Averbakh.

The full page ad for the Oregon Open offered a \$5,000 prize fund for a \$48 at-site entry fee. They would increase the fund if more than 180 attended.

Jay Collins supplied a report on the 1989 Oregon Closed won by Richard Wood and Thomas Crispin with 5.5-1.5 scores. They got \$200 each and had drawn with each other in round 7.

Keith Yamanaka provided five book reviews on endgame books. Jay Kurzel did an article on the London 1862 tournament won by Adolf Anderssen over Paulsen, Owen and Stenitz plus Blackburne and Mongredien. Drawn games in this event were replayed.

The report on the 1989 Washington State Championship by Joel Barnes continued covering weekend two.

Ed Griswold played in the 1989 National Open in Las Vegas and gave a fine report on the event. Walter Browne and Gata Kamsky tied for 1st place in the Thursday night blitz event. He watched the top players some and gave a report such as “Kamsky is a cool as ice” and Walter Browne “displayed lots of emotions.” Griswold enjoyed the large vendor bookstore.

The USCF crosstables in the issue included the 21-player top section of the Washington Open won by Ken Tomkins at 4.5-.5, the Premier Section of 43 players won by the same score but equaled by two players, Randy Kaeche and S. Somasundaram. 5-0 took the Amateur Section of 39 players, and that was by K. Natarajan.

Bruce Kovalsky won the Tacoma Pierce County Open with 3.5-.5, which had 13 players. The reserve section had 10 players and was won by Corey Russell.