

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NO. 51

DECEMBER, 1946

ACES TEAM WINS IN KANAWHA CHESS LEAGUE

The Aces team, with former state champion William F. Hartling playing first board and Frank Branner as captain, won the Kanawha Valley Chess championship, which ended early this month. The Aces had a score of 7-0, two points ahead of the Marshalls, headed by Eddie Foy with Bill Truslow as captain.

Members of the championship aces and their individual scores (disregarding forfeits and absences) were: Hartling 4-2, Branner 4-2, John Wiles 6-1, T.A. Snyder 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2, Fred White 6-1; total team score, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ -6 $\frac{1}{2}$, truly a real indication of the combination's superiority.

All-Star teams, selected by Eddie Foy for the Charleston Gazette, included:

FIRST TEAM

Board

- 1 Hal Liggett, Instruments (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$)
- 2 Allen Du Vall, Monarch (7-0) (capt)
- 3 A.B. Gilliland, Marshall (6-0)
- 4 T.A. Snyder, Aces (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2)
- 5 Fred White, Aces (6-1)

SECOND TEAM

Board

- 1 Wm. F. Hartling, Aces (4-2)
- 2 Ray Martin, Chemicals (5-2)
- 3 John Wiles, Aces (6-1) (capt)
- 4 Frances Hughes, Chemicals (3-4)
- 5 Hugh Allison, Labs (3-4)

Foy commented: "Dependability during the past season of play was a most important factor in making these selections--dependability of attendance as well as dependability of performance. The championship Aces placed Snyder and White on the first team and Hartling and Wiles on the second. Monarch placed Du Vall, who won 7 straight games, alternating between first and second boards, on the first team. Instruments' top-board Liggett headed the first team while Marshall's dependable Allen Gilliland gained third-board position on the same team. Ray Martin, of Chemicals, perhaps the most underrated player in the league, made the second team. A most important factor in the selection of Frances Hughes and Allison for the second team was the fact that they took part in every one of their teams' matches; of 49 players in the league, only 9 others played in all matches."

Final standings in the league, including forfeits and absences:

Team	Matches		Games	
	W	L	W	L
Aces	7	0	26	9
Marshall	5	2	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Monarch	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shah Mat	4	3	18	17
Chemicals	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Instruments	2	5	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Labs	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	22
Vinylite	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	24

Individual records, excluding forfeits, absences:

Player	W	L
Du Vall, Monarch	7	0
E. Foy, Marshall	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Gilliland, Marshall	6	0
White, Aces	6	1

Player	W	L
Wiles, Aces	6	1
Snyder, Aces	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Hurt, Monarch	5	2
Martin, Chemicals	5	2
Liggett, Instruments	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Zopp, Instruments	4	1
Branner, Aces	4	2
Hartling, Aces	4	2
E. Holt, Shah Mat	4	2
McGrew, Instruments	4	2
J. Schilling, Labs	4	3
R. Brenneman, Shah Mat	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Church, Marshall	3	1
B. Marples, Vinylite	3	1
Parker, Chemicals	3	1
R. Fields, Vinylite	3	2
Mrs. Snyder, Monarch	3	2
R. Holt, Shah Mat	3	3
Schoenfeld, Monarch	3	3
Allison, Labs	3	4
F. Hughes, Chemicals	3	4

Player	W	L
A. Brenneman, Shah Mat	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mrs. Walter, Labs	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Mrs. Frank, Monarch	2	1
Huffman, Marshall	2	2
D. Marples, Vinylite	2	4
Truslow, Marshall	2	4
K. Hughes, Chemicals	2	4
Bingamon, Shah Mat	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fales, Chemicals	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Walter, Labs	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Arnold, Shah Mat	1	0
G. Schilling, Shah Mat	1	1
W. Farley, Instrument	1	2
Kinnaman, Shah Mat	1	2
Swarbrick, Vinylite	1	4
Whitman, Labs	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cook, Instruments	0	1
A. Farley, Vinylite	0	1
King, Instruments	0	2
Simms, Marshall	0	2
Thabet, Chemicals	0	3
Ankeney, Labs	0	5
Harris, Vinylite	0	6

Since the end of league play, the two Charleston groups continue to meet on their respective evenings—Monday in South Charleston (the Carbide Chess Club) and Wednesday in Charleston. Each club plans to start a championship tournament after the first of the year.

KOLTANOWSKI AT CHARLESTON

Playing 34 opponents, World Blindfold Champion George Koltanowski scored 31 wins and 3 draws in a simultaneous exhibition at the South Charleston Chess club Nov. 20.

Mrs. T. A. Snyder, whom Eddie Foy refers to as the "W.Va. women's chess champion," and former State Champions Harold Liggett and John F. Hurt, Jr., got the draws.

Losing boards were played by Du Vall, Zopp, Huffman, Allison, J. Schilling, Smith, K. Hughes, Frances Hughes, Grimm, C. Brenneman, R. Brenneman, Martin, Holt, Foy, Hartling, D. Marples, B. Marples, Hafris, T. Swarbrick, Mrs. Walter, Walter, R. Swarbrick, Parker, Ankeney, Fales, Snyder, Mrs. Frank, McGrew, Simms, Whitman and Church.

We suspect the "C. Brenneman" listed is our friend, Arthur, and although the Holt is unidentified, we suspect it was either Reid or his son, Eddie.

It was Kolty's third pleasurable appearance in Charleston. The Charleston players are expecting a visit from I. Horowitz, editor of Chess Review, soon after the first of the year. Horowitz finished in a tie for fifth in the 1946 U.S. Championships.

RESULTS OF U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP

Likely everyone has the results of the U.S. championship in New York by now but just to make sure, we'll summarize briefly, from the current issue of Chess Life. (Which is the official USCF magazine, \$2 a year and your best bet for keeping abreast of American chess news, \$3 with your USCF membership for 1947, including Yearbook. Address Edward I. Treend, Secy. USCF, 12869 Strathmoor Ave., Detroit 27, Mich.)

The title was won once again by Samuel Reshevsky, undoubtedly the top American tournament chess player, with a demonstratively superior score of 16-2. Isaac Kashdan had 13½-4½, Tony Santasiere 13-5, Jacob Levin of Philadelphia, a newcomer to the big joust, 12½-5½, 1944 champion Arnold Denker and I. Horowitz 12-6, Pinkus 11½-6½, Steiner 11-7, Kramer 9½-8½, Sandrin 8-10, Ulvestad 7½-10½, Rubinov 7-11, Adams 6½-11½, DiCamillio 6½-11½, Rothman 6½-11½, Suesman 6½-11½, Drexel 5-13, Fink 4-14, Kowalski 3½-14½.

Friends of 17-year-old George Kramer, the New York State champion, considered his showing very fine considering the tough field he was playing in. His points included draws with Reshevsky (!) and Santasiere and wins over Denker and Horowitz. We'll be hearing more from this lad in future years, we predict!

Judged from this distance, the results of the first U.S. championship meet under the new regional plan were eminently satisfactory, bringing in players from all over the U.S. and leaving no doubt that the tournament champion is the U.S. champion! As Chess Review points out, only a few of the regions held qualifying tournaments, most of them relying on the wisdom of chess leaders in their area to pick their best players. This is bad, of course, and defeats the purpose of the plan. It might be pointed out that our own area winner, Jacob Levin of Philadelphia, got there the hard way by winning a qualifying tournament in Cleveland last August, and that he finished fourth. Let us have qualifying tournaments in every area in 1948!

We were happy to see our old friend, Tony Santasiere, whom the authorities decided not good enough to be ranked among the seeded players for the tournament or to play on the U.S. team at Moscow, finish THIRD in the U.S. championship, ahead of a number of the favored world travelers. We are not saying this in criticism of any of the members of the Russian team but we do believe a good, stiff competition to select the U.S. team members might result in a better score for the American team next year in New York. Failing this, the "powers that be" should at least give some hint that they have noted the scores of recent tournaments before they pick the team members. If this be treason, we ask only a final cigarette before the dawn!

DECLINE OF THE "LITTLE CHESS PAPER"

WHILE COLLECTING MATERIAL for a bibliography of amateur chess papers in the United States, similar to the one published in our July, 1945, issue, we could not help noting there are now about a half dozen fewer such paper in the field than there were 12 months ago. And this is true despite the fact that a number of new ones have been started during the period, indicating an even higher mortality.

Among those from which we have not heard recently and which are either moribund or in hiding are:

THE DIVAN NEWS, official organ of the Washington (D.C.) Chess Divan, edited by our good friend, N. P. Wigginton. Last issue we received was February, 1946. A letter from Wig (dated Nov. 22) said: "I still insist the News is not dead! But, of course, actions speak louder than words." The News was a swell paper and we hate to see it go.

THE FEDERAL CHESS CLUB NEWS LETTER, organ of the Federal Chess Club, Washington, C., sent us a June, 1946, issue, published by a gentleman referred to as the "extemporary editor." Since then, silence.

CHESSFULLY, formerly the Indiana Chess News. News of its demise (Dunkin postcard to us his Dec. issue would be his last) came as no surprise and we had not received a copy since July. And still haven't.

THE READINGER CHESS-NUT and the RED ROSE CLATTER, those Pennsylvania publications from Reading and Lancaster, which always seemed like twins to us, have not published so far as we know, since September, 1946, although this is hardly a sufficient interval to warrant a presumption of death. We note that Chuck Hardinge in the current (Dec. 15) issue of The Pawnshop says: "The Red Rose Clatter, published by the Red Rose Chess Club of Lancaster, Pa., to hand. 'Tis good to see this 'little bunch of clatter again.'" All we can say is, not a clatter here. Have we been taken off the list?

WISCONSIN CHESS LETTER. Last issue we saw was August, 1945, surely long enough to assume that something had happened. Also we have never seen a copy of "Global Chess Digest" which Fritz Rathmann promised away last year. What gives, Fritz?

The July, 1945, list did not contain the name of THE AUSTIN CHESS & CHECKER CLUB NEWS of Chicago because it hadn't started publishing then. The boys seem to have got out about three issues only, the last in March, 1946. Finis, boys?

A similar situation may exist with regard CHESS NOTES of Philadelphia, unreceived since September, 1946, though we cannot say definitely.

The Chess Federation of Canada still gets out an occasional news release on its events. Last we saw was one in July, 1946. But no regular bulletin. We thought for a time our good friend J.C. Thompson was going to publish a Texas bulletin but he contented himself with an occasional news letter, mainly dealing with the Southwestern Texas tournament. The USCF CLUB BULLETIN got out two issues (the last in June, 1945) but will publish no more, its function being taken over by Montgomery Major's CHESS LIFE. The same applies to USCF president's monthly letter, now being published in C.L. THE OHIO CHESS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN appeared twice, in April and August, 1946. We do not assume it has been discontinued because it apparently is being issued only IF AND WHEN NEEDED.

Going strong at last reports were these "little papers": CLEVELAND CHESS BULLETIN, CHESS CHAT (Providence, R. I.), the two EN PASSANTS (Detroit and Pittsburgh), the FIRESTONE CHESS & CHECKER CLUB BULLETIN (Akron, O.--formerly the Checker Club Weekly), the LANSING CHESS CLUB BULLETIN, the PAWNSHOP (formerly the Minneapolis Chess & Checker Club News), the PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHESS FEDERATION BULLETIN and the SOUTH DAKOTA CHESS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN. The R.I. and S.Dak. papers are 1946 arrivals.

We will appreciate any correction of the above data and any new material for use in a formal bibliography in an early issue of the WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN.

I. HOROWITZ WILL GIVE A CHESS LECTURE AND SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITION at 7:30 p.m. Friday Jan. 10 in Charleston Catholic high school auditorium, corner Broad & Virginia Sts.

POETICA REGUM

Problem Department Edited by
Francis J. C. DeBlasio
358 Irving Av., Brooklyn 27, N. Y.

No.142 Original
Dr. Albert C. Neisser
Dedicated to F.J.C. DeB.

B	B			Q	
	R	S			P
P			D		S
R	P		K	S	B
			P		P
	P	P	P		
K	S				

Mate in 2 11 / 13

No.143 Original
Fondly dedicated to
Frank J. C. Neisser

			K		*
		G			
			G		
			G	K	
G					

See nursery rhyme 5 / 1

No.144 Original
Geno Mentasti
Genova, Italy

		R			B
	K			B	
P		P	S		
S		K	P	B	
Q	P				Q
S			R		

Mate in 2 11 / 6

No.145 Original
Irvin F. Meyer
Norwood, Ohio

			P		
	P				P
P	P				P
P				P	B
P	P			P	P
	P			P	P
K	B	K			S

Mate in 5 11 / 9

No.146 Original
A. Karlstrom
Rindal, Norway

					B
				R	B
		P			P
		P		P	
	P	P		P	
B	P		P		
P	P	K			
K					

Mate in 9 11 / 6

No.147 Original
D. Svozilek
Moravia, Czechoslovakia

B					
S	P				
K	Q	R	K	P	P
R	R			P	
	P			P	
S					

Selfmate in 2 11 / 4

No.148 Original
D. Svozilek

Q				R	
	P	K	P		P
S		S			S
		R	K		

Selfmate in 2 6 / 5

No.149 Original
Francis J.C. DeBlasio

				R	
			K		K
					S
B					

See text 3 / 2

No.150 Original
Francis J.C. DeBlasio

			S	K	
				K	

See text 2 / 1

B O U N D

The land of good elves
Once had a small band
Of bright and gay fays
Who loved all things grand.

They say would take sides
In plays of great skill
In which they would bring
All ills to the kill.

The ones in the dark
Would take a wrong leap
For those in the light
To right in one sweep.

There came a sad day
When each missed his cue
And much to their woe
They wound in a stew.

But ought did them move
Right back to the start
And each set once more
To right play his part!

--F.J.C.DeB.

Examples (sketched by yours truly): A: 32-Q-10-k-17-RK-1. Conditions: White to retract and mate in one. Solution: Retract O-O, then Rh3 mates. B: 24-S-2-k-32-K-3. Conditions: Black to retract and help-mate in one. Solution: Retract Kd4xQ, then 1...Kc3, 2 Qd2 mate. C: 30-kq-30-K-1. Conditions: White to retract, then Black to retract and help-mate in one. Solution: Retract (White) Kh2xR, (Black) Kh4xSch. Then 1...Bg4, 2 Sf3 mate.

IMPORTANT NOTE: NOS. 149 (both versions), 150 (both versions) and 143 have the conditions given for A, B and C (above), respectively.

ABBREVIATING THE FORSYTHE: For readers who have not previously encountered the Forsythe notation in the streamlined form given in the paragraph headed "Retractor," it might be well to explain that the numbers simply indicate blank spaces, reading from left to right and beginning at the top (Black side) of the board. The example "A," for instance, in normal Forsythe would read: 8-8-8-8-Q7-3k4-8-5Rk1.

SOLVERS' LADDER (July-August Problems): Gene Collett 90, Bertrand Mulligan 71, Victor Shortino 26.

SOLUTIONS TO SEPTEMBER PROBLEMS: No. 124, Qa1. No. 125, Rb4. No. 126, Bc4. No. 127: 1 Ka1 (a) 1...Sa4, 2 RXP, (b) 1...SxP, 2 Rc5, (c) 1...Pd2, 2 Sc3. No. 128: 1 Se2 (a) 1...Kd3, 2 RB2ch, (b) 1...Eb3, 2 Rc5ch, (c) 1...Bb1 (or Pc2), 2 KRd5, (d) 1...PxB, 2 Rd6, (e) 1...PxR, 2 Sc1, (f) 1...Pf3, 2 Rd6. No. 129: 1 Bf1 (a) 1 threat, 2 Rel mate, (b) 1...SxB (or Pd6), 2 Pd4, (c) 1...Se5, 2 Pd3ch, (d) 1...Sd4, 2 Re1 ch, (e) 1...Sb4, 2 BxS. No. 130, Sa6. No. 131, Pa4. No. 132, Rg5.

SEND YOUR SOLUTIONS to problems in this issue to Francis J. C. DeBlasio, 358 Irving Avenue, Brooklyn 27, N. Y., in time to reach him by Feb. 10.

ORIGINALS ARE NEEDED! Your problem editor solicits original problems from all members of the West Virginia Chess Association and other readers of the West Virginia Chess Bulletin. Full credit will be given for all problems used.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A TRULY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

CHRISTMAS SOLVING TOURNEY.—Here are your special Christmas Problems, boys. Go to it and let's see how many of you can score the maximum: 34 points!

WE GRATEFULLY DEDICATE this issue to Dr. and Mrs. Albert C. Neisser of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., for the great honor they have conferred upon us! On last Oct. 5 they had a Blessed Event—they named him Frank J. C., and, in addition, little Frank's proud pater decided to overwhelm us completely by composing and sending us No. 142! As a small token of our appreciation, we present our namesake with No. 143 and its symbolic nursery rhyme, "Bound"—and may he truly ascend the pedestal which his parents are mistakenly putting us!

NOTE—"BOUND" DESCRIBES and gives the conditions and stipulations of solution of No. 143. No. 144 has three White Bishops. Nos. 145 and 146 are simpler than some three-movers. Nos. 147 and 148 are also very simple. No. 149 has two versions: (a) as shown, and (b) shift from e7 to e6. No. 150 has two versions: (a) as shown and (b) shift S from e8 to g8. For the conditions of these last two problems, see "Retractor", below:—

"RETRACTOR"—THIS IS a composition in which the supposed last move of the side named has to be taken back so that the problem can be solved as per stipulation.

NEW CHESS BOOKS

David McKay Co., Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa., Zone 6, has just issued new editions of three popular and worthwhile chessbooks.

We recommend to the attention of Ray Griffin, "The Principles of Chess," by James Mason, edited and revised by Fred Reinfeld, \$3.00. The text has been completely re-set with clearer type and much better diagrams. And, for the first time, the old illustrative games have been discarded and Fred Reinfeld, famous for his annotations of master contests, have chosen an entirely new set from his collection. As the publishers say, "They exemplify the styles of the leading contemporary masters, and shed light on the leading problems of present-day opening theory." There are 50 of these games, peppered with names like Flohr, Capablanca, Lasker, Menchik, Euwe, Mises, Reti, Botvinnik, Spielmann, Lilienthal, Alekhine, Kasdan, Kupchik, Fine, Steiner, Colle, Steinitz, Santasiere and many others familiar to chess players of today. And a total of 366 pp., including the Laws of Chess.

"Modern Ideas in Chess," by Richard Reti, 181 pp., \$2, is one of the most beautifully written chess texts we have ever read, and full of little surprises, like this one: "The layman thinks that the superiority of the chess master lies in his ability to think out 3 or 4, or even 10 or 20, moves ahead. Those chess players who ask me how many moves I usually calculate in advance, when making a combination, are always astonished when I reply, quite truthfully, 'as a rule, not a single one.'" And his explanation of "Positional Play" almost makes one believe him! It sounds so simple one thinks he can go right out lick Sammy Reshevsky! Anyway, it's a swell book.

Also fascinating is Rudolf Spielmann's "The Art of Sacrifice in Chess," 216 pp., \$3. Spielmann attempts, in this book, to make a start at classifying and explaining the various types of sacrifice—everything from the one where you give the other fellow your queen and mate him next move to the "pure positional sacrifice," where you give the other fellow a pawn or maybe even a minor piece to disrupt his lines of communication or to open him up for an attack which may (or may not) carry you through to victory. Pretties sacrifices, says Spielmann, are those which the player makes simply because he likes the resulting position, without any certainty he can recover the sacrificed material or enforce immediate mate. Thirty-seven games, liberally annotated, each game usually with several sacrifices, are included.

Any or all of these books may be obtained by sending the purchase price to David McKay Co. at the address given above.

ARE YOU READING?—

"Chess Review," monthly, \$3.75 a year, 250 W. 57th St., New York 19, N. Y.

"American Chess Bulletin," 10 issues a year, \$2; 150 Nassau St., New York 7, N.Y.

"Chess Correspondent," 8 issues yearly, \$2; 723 South Main St., Newark, N.Y.

IN "CHESS NEWS FROM RUSSIA"

DR. Albrecht Buschke, 80 E. 11th St., New York 3, N.Y., announces that the holiday issue of Chess News From Russia will contain more than 30 games played by Russian masters at Groningen. This will be a special issue, with single copies 25 cents each. Or you may have it included in your year's subscription at \$2.

THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

President: William F. Hartling, 1979 Benedict Circle, Belvil Park, St. Albans, W. Va.

Secretary-Treasurer: H. Reid Holt, 164 Sunset Drive, Charleston 1, W. Va.

(All membership fees—\$1 a year—and communications regarding the Association should be addressed to Secretary Holt.)

THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

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