



# TEXAS KNIGHTS

Official Bulletin of the Texas Chess Association

VOL. XVII, Number 3

Dec. - Jan., '75-'76

High-Rateds and Amateurs Head for Midland

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The 1976 Chess Championship of Texas will be decided by a closed tournament, for experts only, at the Midland Rodeway Inn, Jan. 31-Feb. 1.

The Midland Chess Club is to be commended for raising a \$3,000 Prize Fund. The Championship Section has an \$1,100 minimum guarantee while the Amateur Section (open to everyone rated below 1999) has \$1,900. A lot of work went into raising this money and it is hoped that the TCA membership will show appreciation by supporting the tournament organizers with a deluge of pre-entries.

Please note on the back page advertisement that pre-entries get a \$5 discount--very generous!

Once again there will be trophies for Texas residents. The most prized, of course, is the Gordon Bone Memorial Cup on which the State Champion's name is engraved annually. Do you rate this?

If so, be there!



USCF VOTING MEMBERS AND DELEGATES FOR 1976

T.C.A. President Larry Englebretson has announced the following appointments:

USCF Delegates - State of Texas - to Fairfax, Va. 1976 Convention

1. Larry Englebretson, 4633 Wild Indigo #532, Houston 77027
2. Tom Weaver, 4506 Carroll Lane, Corpus Christi 78415
3. Lindsay Phillips, 4621 Sun Valley, El Paso 79924
- 1st Alt: Bill Snead, 2111 Travis, Amarillo 79109
- 2nd Alt: Art Riley, 7223 Brookside Lane, San Antonio 78209

The five remaining positions as Voting Members are as follows:

6. Andrew Lattu, 1402 Murray, Midland 79701
7. John N. Jacobs, 3206 San Marcus Dr., Dallas 75228
8. Jerry Milburn, 5101 Winesanker, Ft. Worth 76133
9. Jim McKone, 412 Daffodil, McAllen 78501
10. John McGaughy, 3098 Crystal Creek Forest, Conroe 77301

Alternate Voting Members are as follows:

1. Pete Prattes, P.O. Box 7231, San Antonio 78207
2. John Dunning, 4237 Wyoming #161, Dallas 75211
3. Ken Smith, P.O. Box 21225, Dallas 75211

Mr. Englebretson's appointments were made in his words, "...in the interest of a well rounded program. In most cases I selected one person to be the TCA director and another person generally in the same city to be the USCF voting member. I desire that in every case the TCA and USCF representative work closely together in harmony with the idea that the more people who provide input into planning for Texas chess then the greater the whole state will benefit."

All TCA officers, directors, and USCF appointees should plan to attend a Policy Meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday night at the Flagship Marina Inn prior to the three-day tournament there Nov. 28-30. Interested T.C.A. members are also invited, especially if willing to serve the Association.

Areas for discussion will be Texas Knights, Junior Chess, Postal Chess, Tournament Calendar (Conflict Prevention), Gold Star Dates, Grande Prix, and general planning.

Gold Star Dates are weekends open to local events such as matches, city championships, one-day tourneys, training tourneys, and junior events; without having to gain clearance from the tournament calendar supervisor, Jack Taylor. The initial Gold Star dates are listed here with other definitely set dates for 1976:

T.C.A. CALENDAR

Jan. 17-18	TCA Gold Star	June 5-6	Houston Open
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	Texas Champ, Midland	June 19-20	TCA Gold Star
Feb. 14-16	El Paso Open	Aug. 3-8	Stillwater, Okla.
Feb. 28-29	H.S. Champ. (CCA), Houston	Aug. 14-15	TCA Gold Star
Mar. 12-14	Underwood Memorial, Lubbock	Sept. 4-6	S.W. Open, San Antonio
Mar. 27-28	Las Cruces, N.M.	Sept. 11-12	TCA Gold Star
Apr. 10-11	TCA Gold Star	Nov. 20-21	TCA Gold Star
May 1-2	Buc Days Open, CorpusC.	Nov. 26-28	Texas Open, CorpusC.



Ron Henley's Route to the 1975  
Grande Prix Pot of Gold:

1. El Paso Open, El Paso . . . . . 4th
2. Texas Championship, Houston . . . . . 1st
3. Fork 'em Horns, Austin . . . . . 1st
4. Buc Days Open, Corpus Christi . . . . . 1st
5. Houston Open, Houston . . . . . 1st
6. Southwest Open, San Antonio . . . . . 1st
7. Grimes County Open, Navasota. . . . . 1st
8. South Texas Open, Corpus Christi . . . . . 1st

Ron Henley of Houston has won the first TCA Grande Prix.

Ron lost only one TCA game all year--that was to Spencer Lucas of New Mexico at the El Paso Open. A fourth round game against former Texas State Champion John Bob Payne of Corpus Christi at the Buc Days Open was adjudicated a draw even though Payne was a pawn ahead in a rook and pawn endgame, but no win could be seen so Ron slipped by to a half-point credit. Ron drew with John Jacobs at the Texas Championship, and John Dunning actually won that tournament on tie-break.

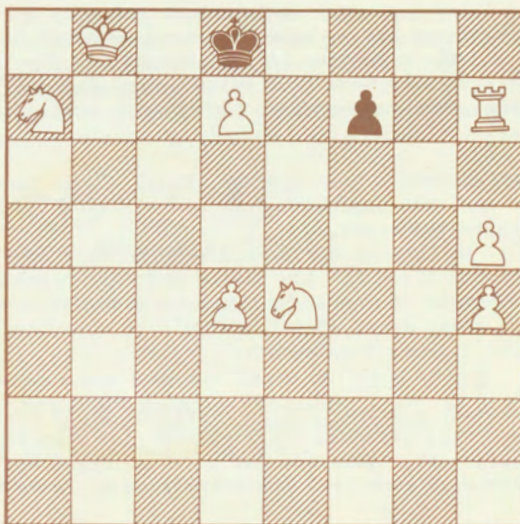
But Dunning and Jacobs, both of Dallas, didn't play in enough TCA Grande Prix tournaments to seriously challenge Henley even though their 1975 winning percentages were very impressive. North Texas organizers will have to get on the ball in 1976 or Ron, who is still improving as a player, will run off and hide from everyone again.

As for what Ronald will do with his \$275 jackpot--I don't know for sure, but am willing to bet that he puts it to good use. The money is intended to serve as a passport (expense money) to a major national or international tourney. Wherever Ron goes, he will represent Texas well--good luck, Ron!

'WHITE MATES IN THREE'

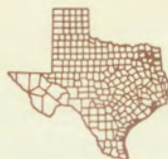
says

**ROBERT  
BRIEGER**





## LONE STAR ROUNDUP



**PUBLIC NOTICE** - The Cleveland Public Library wants to collect back issues of Texas Knights from the beginning of our publication up through December of 1971. Anyone having copies of back issues should send them to Bill McCarty, 2615 Buchanan, Odessa 79763. Bill will reproduce them and send the reproduction to the library while the original will be returned to the owner.

The Cleveland Public Library is the home of "The John G. White Collection" (title of an excellent article by Alice Loranth and Don Thackrey, containing many photographs, which appeared in Michigan Chess, Aug/Sep '75, pages 3-10). This is the largest collection of chess books in the United States. A recent exhibition at the Grolier Club in New York entitled "Chess, The Bibliophile's View," which was the largest showing of chess books, manuscripts, and memorabilia ever held in the U.S.A., was drawn mostly from the John G. White Collection.

Texas Knights probably was upgraded in the library's eyes by its appearance at the Association of U.S. Chess Journalist's Publications Display during the 1975 U.S. Open. The AUSCJ took a poll of its members which indicated that of the 150 or so publications on display at Lincoln the top five were Overboard (Ray Leight), Atlantic Chess News (Glenn Petersen), Chess Horizons (George Mirijanian), Michigan Chess (Don Thackrey), and Texas' own Chess Digest (Ken Smith). Honorable mention went to Chess Life and Review, Chess Arts, Chess Voice, Northwest Chess, Ohio Chess Bulletin, and Pennswoodpusher. Texas Knights was among 17 other journals receiving mention according to Bobby Dudley, Chairman, Committee on Journalistic Awards.

**REGION VII** - Michael J. Rice III, U.S.C.F. Region VII Vice-President, wants to improve intercommunications between southwestern state chess organizations. He writes, "With this in mind I am setting up a region VII News Clearinghouse. With no other choice, I will compile and mail to the state associations. If you are interested let me know, and send me stuff."

Mike's address is 2514 Monroe St., New Orleans, La. 70118. We anticipate getting more news from neighboring states into Texas Knights and more publicity about Texas events into neighboring states' bulletins if this clearinghouse idea works.

**SAN ANTONIO** - Pete Prattes, P.O.B. 7231, San Antonio, 78207, has made a crosstable of the 1975 Southwest Open and will send it to anyone that is willing to pay for its reproduction.

W. Poundstone Jackson held another non-TCA, seniors only, Alamo Open on October 4 and 5. Ron Henley and Bill Patteson scored 4-1/2 to tie for first at the 34-player tourney. Mr. Jackson plans to hold one more event before retiring from the chess wars. But I wouldn't be surprised if the old boy finds enough energy to host 20 more tournaments.

**LONGVIEW** - Former T.C.A. President Billy Patteson (1955) tied with Tom Amburn (2095) for first place at the 17-player 1st Pumpkin Open, Oct. 11 & 12, directed by Jim Westbrook. This was not a T.C.A. event but it is hoped that the new Longview Chess Club will soon join the mainstream of Texas Chess.



LUBBOCK - The Lubbock Chess Association's 'Jaws Closed' tournament, held Sept. 30, Oct. 7, and Oct. 14, finished with Cecil Simpson in first place on the basis of three straight wins. Marvin Wynn took a clear second with 2-1/2 pts. at the 16-player Swiss directed by Phillip Childress.

The Texas Tech University Womens' Chess Championship was held Oct. 18, 1975. A T.C.A. member, Andrea Myers, won the event, which was the first of its kind held at Tech. Susan Yarbro took second place in the non-U.S.C.F. three-rounder. Seven women competed in the tourney directed by David Thomas.

Big Al's Jack-O-Lantern Open, Nov. 8, saw David Thomas and Bill Wheeler go 3-0. The 18-player meet was directed by Mike Burns. Mike Mathews, Philip Childress, M. R. Hakimi, R. P. Daugherty, Sammy Hitt, and Don Day scored 2 pts.

The First Annual Ralph S. Underwood Memorial Chess Tournament is coming to Lubbock in March. This will be the city's premier chess event, so mark your calendar accordingly for the second weekend in March. The Lubbock Chess Association is working hard to secure a large guaranteed prize fund.

HOUSTON - The HCC Closed Amateur Championship drew an unusually high attendance-- 75 players, more than double last year's field. After five rounds, Cliff Jewell (former Houston & Corpus Christi City Champ), Warren Brown, and Nelson Ford all emerged with perfect scores. This assured them a subscription to Overboard and a berth in the club finals.

All Houston area Masters, Experts, and Class 'A' rateds were automatically eligible to play in this year's championship which started Oct. 19. At last word, everyone, including Henley, had suffered at least one draw after only three rounds.

Lynne Babcock is planning a strong program for attracting young people to chess in Houston. On Feb. 28 and 29, Bill Goichberg of the Continental Chess Association will be in town to run his Southwest H.S. and J.H.S. Championship (see Chess Life & Review for details). In late spring or early summer, it will be the official Texas Junior Championship; and finally, the annual Houston Jr. Championship will top off everything.

The H.C.C. recently received an invitation from Uncle Sam to talk with his Internal Revenue Service. Club representatives spent an engaging afternoon learning that the Houston Chess Club had filed as a non-profit organization way back in 1950. It was suggested that a Board of Directors be produced in order that the H.C.C. might once again be granted non-profit status (a euphemism for the actual state of affairs there). Lynne Babcock, Larry Englebretson, Steve Moffitt, and Charles Stallings were chosen and I.R.S. has approved.

Most of the above material about Houston came from 'a sporadic publication from the HCC' named the Houston Knight Letter. My thanks to its unnamed editor.

WE ELECTED THEM PRESIDENT &  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE TEXAS  
CHESS ASSOCIATION; LARRY  
ENGLEBRETSON & JACK TAYLOR.

*.... yes, but would you buy  
a used chess clock  
from those guys??*

A late breaking rumor from Houston is that a major oil company there is ready to sponsor a +\$20,000 tournament!

A game and photo of Ron Henley appear in the November issue of Chess Life & Review's report on the U.S. Junior Team's expedition to Sweden. This issue of CL&R shows improvement in several ways, but whoever put together the Region VII Tournament Life section apparently doesn't know 'Tex.' from 'Cal.'!

AMARILLO - The Amarillo Fall Open, Oct. 18 & 19, drew only 16 players but Mike Burns reports that play was keenly competitive. Bill Wheeler of Plainview won on tiebreak over Brad Webster, a fast rising junior out of Amarillo. Brad, rated 1596 at the time, drew Wheeler (1887) in the third round and they both finished at 4-1/2 - 1/2.

The highest class prize, 'B,' went to M. R. Hakimi of Amarillo at 3-1/2, while Webster took 'C.' Jim Hopkins of Amarillo scored a fine 3-1/2 for class 'D' and Larry Cooper's 2-1/2 was sufficient for class E-Unrated.

Write to M. Burns, 2319 47th Street, Lubbock 79412 if you wish for a tournament crosstable.

CORPUS CHRISTI - The 1975 South Texas Open, Oct. 25 & 26, was held at the new Hilton Inn out by C.C. International Airport. Forty-four players were attracted to the TCA Grande Prix tournament directed by Tom Weaver and Dennis Steinmetz.

Two of the crowd from Houston, Ron Henley (2327) and Larry Englebretson (2043), drew in the last round to tie for first at 4 1/2-1/2. Each won \$100 but Henley won the trophy on tiebreaks. Ron also won enough Grande Prix points to clinch the Grande Prix Prize worth \$275.

Class 'A' was split by Luis de la Rosa of Mexico and Glenn Escovedo of Corpus Christi at 4-1. Lou Thurston of Kingsville and Mevis Smith, former Houston City Champ, also scored 4-1 and tied for 'B.' Class 'C' was a four way tie at 3-2 between Folk Weaver of Corpus C., George Abood of Beaumont, Joe Ray of Orange, and Richard Palter from Michigan. Class 'D' saw a 2 pt. logjam composed of W. P. Jackson, John Reuthinger, Joe Lucke, Annie Broeker, and Mike Rogers. Robert Bradley and Del Cerrillo scored 2 each to tie for the unrated prize.

Poundstone Jackson won the upset prize of a 1976 Chess Calendar for his second round defeat of Rod Broeker. Rod and Annie are a recently married pair of engineers from Alvin; they played each other in the first round--Rod won that game but Annie bounced back to win prize money.

Another interesting occurrence in the first round saw Ken Sund (1552), an excellent postal player, fail to claim a win against Ron Steensland (1919) even though Ron's flag fell on move 42, so the 45/2 time limit hadn't been met. Unfortunately for Ken, in a scramble, he didn't call for a forfeit until move 45 had already been made! The game was adjourned but Ken decided to forfeit without opening the sealed move. If you aren't sure about such rules, buy the excellent new USCF rulebook (\$1.50).

Wendle Scott brought in a Sunday School class to tour the tournament--I'm glad they didn't see me trying to explain things to Sund. For that matter I'm even glad they didn't see me, as T.D., trying to make the fifth round pairings while a newspaper reporter harassed me. I said something unkind in both instances.

Overall the tournament was a success--I did lose about \$120 but this loss wasn't nearly so bad as it would have been if Mevis Smith and Billy Patteson hadn't each contributed \$50. My special thanks to them; they are the kind of people our association is proud to have as members.

BRONTE - Raymond Smith of San Antonio scored 3-0 to win first place at the Coke County Open held Nov. 1. Odessan Nathan Cypert and Abilene's Andy Lumpkin followed at 2-1/2. The group of players at 2-1 included Frederick Speck of Menard, James Jackson of San Angelo, and Bill McCarty of Odessa. Class 'D' honors were shared by Charles Hale of Tennyson, Craig Holcomb of San Angelo, Bill Thomas and Pat Hamilton, both of Bronte. The tourney was hosted by the San Angelo Chess Club and was directed by Charles Hale.



LAKE BROWNWOOD - The Texas Team Chess Congress and 1975 Texas Open were hosted by the Abilene Chess Club, Nov. 28-30. Since Texas Knights was printed Nov. 15, the results will have to wait till the Feb. issue.

WICHITA FALLS - The Kibitzer lists Dec. 1 as the date for the Club's annual banquet.

Joe MacNamara and Tommy Cole scored 4-1 to tie for first at Midwestern University recently. Royal Smith of Altus, Okla. took 'B' and Larry Rice was top 'C.'

EL PASO - The Saturday Tournado held by the El Paso Chess Club recently saw Don Thompson, an expert from Anthony who hadn't played tournament chess for 14 months, come back to battle with a vengeance. Thompson was held to a draw by Dr. Eric Slud of N.M.S.U. but his 3 1/2-1/2 score was still good enough to win first on tiebreak at the tournament Lindsay Phillips called 'the strongest of the year.'

The event drew 32 players with an average rating of 1616--considerably above the USCF national average of 1362, and especially impressive for a one-day local event.

Tom Alston of El Paso and Salt Lake City was the guy who tied with Thompson for first. He earned the tie by beating Slud in the last round. Other winners were Frank Harrison, Arturo de la Garza, and Zigmant Bliznikas at 3-1 in class 'R'; Manlio Lopez and Charles Rainville in 'C'; and Armando Moreno, John Stiff, and Robert Hampton in 'D-E-Unr.'

Tom Keffer, now rated expert and 1975 U.S. Amateur Class A Champion, suffered through one of his worst tournaments in years. He lost two games, including the biggest upset of the day--his defeat by class 'C' player Manlio Lopez.

Lindsay reports in the Knight Beat that Grandmaster Walter Browne will visit El Paso for a simultaneous exhibition on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1975 at the Airport Hilton Inn at 7 p.m. Persons wishing to play should send \$7.50 to L. Phillips, 4621 Sun Valley, El Paso 79924, as soon as possible as number of entries is limited by space to about 60 boards. Browne is currently recognized as being the strongest active American chessplayer.

On December 18 there will be a General Membership Meeting and Team League Organization Meeting. The CCEP Octal Swiss #1 and CCEP Jr. Rating Tournament will occur on Dec. 20 while Jan. 17 will see the advent of CCEP Octal Swiss #2. Lindsay will give a series of lectures entitled 'The Official Rules of Chess.'

Interested persons are invited to the Chess Club of El Paso's weekly Thursday meetings at the Central YMCA, 701 Montana, from 6:30-10 p.m. Dr. Phillips is especially interested in hearing from chess players 17 years of age or under. As director of Junior Chess for the TCA, Lindsay Phillips intends to organize a number of events for school-age players. Don't hesitate to write if you are interested in junior chess anywhere in the states of Texas or New Mexico.

NACOGDOCHES - TCA Postal Chess Director Ken Hackney needs just about five more players to complete a fourth section in the 1975 Texas Correspondence Chess Championship. Hurry up before it's too late!

Ken urges everyone now playing not to forget that game results should be sent to Robert Cross, P.O.B. 4344, Fullerton, CA. 92631, for rating by the Correspondence Chess League of America. Ken is running for a CCLA Directorship.

VICTORIA - Jim Martin has resigned as TCA Grande Prix Director due to the pressures of business--lack of time, especially.

Robert Orsak, 205 N. Avenue D, Victoria 77901, writes that the Chamber of Commerce there is interested in bringing a big tournament to town. Victoria has a 'great Community Center which would be an acceptable site.'

# Games

Austin Chess League, Summer '75  
Alan Laverty (1980) - Michael Condon (2048)  
Catalan System

1. d4 Nf6  
2. c4 c5  
3. Nf3 cd  
4. N:d4 e6  
5. g3 d5  
6. Bg2 Bb4+  
7. Bd2 Be7  
8. O-O O-O  
9. cd ed  
10. Nc3 Nc6  
11. N:c6 bc  
12. Be3 Be6  
13. Na4 Qa5  
14. Rc1 Rab8  
15. a3 d4!?  
16. b4 Qh5  
17. B:d4 Rfd8  
18. Nc5 Bh3  
19. f3 Rd5  
20. e3 R8d8

21. Qc2 B:c5  
22. bc Qh6  
23. Rfd1 Rh5  
24. B:h3 R:h3  
25. B:f6 Q:f6  
26. Qf5! and won.

Actually, Alan's flag fell before he reached the time control but Mike didn't have a complete score sheet so couldn't claim the forfeit.

This game gave Alan the best record on board one of the eight teams. But Mike, formerly Champion of Arkansas, teamed with Parreiras, Sansing, James, and Elota Condon to win the team championship.

This news was furnished courtesy of the Armadillo Gambit.

'75 South Texas Open  
G. S. Wren (1660) - Robert Bradley (Unr.)  
Joke-O-Pianissimo

1. P-K4 P-K4  
2. N-KB3 N-QB3  
3. B-QB4 N-Q5?!  
4. NxP? Q-KN4  
5. NxBP QxNP  
6. R-B1 QxKP Ch.  
7. B-K2 N-KB6 Mate

Bradley won 3 out of 5 games with his tricky style--this is one of the oldest traps in the book! None of his games lasted much over an hour.

Kansas City Airport Skittles  
Mike Rice (1588) - Tom Weaver (1822)  
Larsen's Opening

1. P-QN3	P-K4	7. O-O	B-K2	13. QN-K2	Q-B1
2. B-N2	P-Q3	8. P-KB4	P-K5	14. R-B2?	N-N5
3. P-K3	P-QB4	9. N-N3	P-Q4	15. R-KB1	B-R5
4. B-N5 Ch	N-B3	10. P-QB4	O-O	16. R-B1	BxN
5. BxN Ch.	PxB	11. PxP	PxP	17. PxB	Q-B4
6. N-K2	N-B3	12. N-B3	B-R3	18. Resigns (a)	

(a) This was played while sipping whiskey sours and waiting for plane rides home from the USCF Business Meeting. Mike, who resides in New Orleans, was elected Region 7 Vice President--he would like to hear from Texans with suggestions about the proposed re-arrangement of USCF regions.

Aside to Henry Flusche of Dallas = I personally prefer Descriptive Notation but



'75 Grimes County Open, Navasota  
 Billy Patteson (1955) - Alan Laverty (1973)  
 Kings Gambit Declined

1. e4	e5	16. a4	N:b3+	31. Ra7	R:c2+
2. f4	Bc5	17. cb	Qb6	32. K:c2	Rb5
3. Nf3	Nc6	18. e5	de	33. d4	g6(d.)
4. Bc4	Nf6	19. Q:e5	Bd4	34. Kc3	Rg5
5. Nc3	d6	20. Qe4	Rab8(c.)	35. g4	h5
6. d3	Bg4	21. ab	B:c3	36. gh	R:h5
7. h3(a.)	B:f3	22. bc	Q:b5	37. Kc4	R:h3
8. Q:f3	Nd4	23. b4	c5	38. R:a5	f5
9. Q g3	O-O	24. Qc4	cb	39. d5	f4
10. Bb3	Nh5	25. Q:b5	R:b5	40. Kd4	Re3
11. Qg4	N:f4	26. cb	Rc8+	41. d6	Rel
12. B:f4	ef	27. Kd2	R:b4	42. Rg5	Kf7
13. Q:f4	C6	28. Rc1	R8b8	43. d7	Rdl+
14. O-O-O(b.)	b5	29. Re7	Rb2+	Agreed draw.	
15. Rhe1	a5	30. Rc2	Kf8		

(a.) 7. Na4, Nd4;8.c3 is probably white's best line.

(b.) Dangerous, but if now 14. Na4, Qa5+, 15. C3, N:b3; 16. ab,Qb5; 17. N:c5, dc.

(c.) First 20....ba, appeals to me, for instance if 21. Na4, Qb4; 22. Kbl, Rab8; 23. Rc1, Qb6; 24. Q:d4, Rb4; 25. Qc3, Q:a4; 26. Q:c6?, Rb7+.

(d.) Patteson showed coolness under time pressure to hold this endgame.

Billy had a bad run of three straight losses at the Southwest Open which dropped his rating to 1819. But he bounced back strong by going 23 straight USCF games without defeat!

Eleven of the 23 games were versus class 'A' or stronger players--probably a record streak for a Texas class 'A' rated player.

It took our State Co-Champion to finally derail Billy in the following game.

'75 South Texas Open, Corpus Christi  
 Ronald Henley (2327\*) - Billy Patteson (1819)  
 Benko Countergambit

1. d4	c5	9. h3	ab	17. R:a1	Ra8
2. d5	d6	10. Bb5	Na6	18. R:a8	B:a8
3. c4	g6	11. O-O	Nd7	19. B:g7	K:a7
4. Nc3	Bg7	12. Be3	Nc7	20. Qc1	Bb7
5. e4	Nf6	13. Qd2	N:b5	21. Qa1	Bc8
6. Nf3	b5(a.)	14. ab	Bb7	22. b3	f6
7. cb	a6	15. Bh6	Qc7	23. Nd2	Nb6
8. a4	O-O	16. Qf4	R:a1	24. Nc4 and white's passed pawn won routinely.	

(a.) Billy knew that Ron plays very well against the Benko--guess he just felt this was the best move, anyway.

\*The 49th highest rating in the U.S.A.

it is fairest to simply print the games in whichever system they are sent to me.

THE ROYAL GAME  
By Kenneth Hackney  
An Intermission--Some Chess Philosophy

To win with modesty, to lose with graciousness, and to draw with regret; these are the hallmarks of the true chess player.

Winning with modesty does not mean acting modestly, while feeling like a conqueror. What the phrase does mean is an awareness that winning a game of chess has not made you a conqueror. You have won a game, nothing more. Naturally one may be pleased at winning, but there is nothing inherent in winning that should cause one to feel that he is a better man or has greater playing potential than his opponent. The next time you play the same person, it may be you who are on the losing end. Certainly, if you are playing for points, the points themselves have little meaning, nor does an increase in rating from say class C to class B, because of a win, necessarily make you a better player. Yet countless chess players regard both points and ratings as something which have extrinsic value, like money in the bank, so to speak.

When points and ratings take precedence over playing the game per se, much of the fun, the spirit of exploring new avenues of play, and trying out new combinations are lost because the individual feels that his prestige comes before playing chess. It is for this reason that championship play is normally so dull to follow. Master players, whose livelihood depend on winning or placing high in a tournament, may be excused for their careful, tedious and laborious games, but why should the run-of-the-mill player feel the same way? If he fails to win or even wind up among the top players in a tourney, nothing is lost. He has had the fun of playing, he has learned, and now he can play again, perhaps even better as a result of his strong competition. Yet countless players, for whom chess is nothing more than in interesting hobby, act as if they had lost something of great value if their ratings drop a bit or if their cherished points are no longer as high as they once were. What of it? It's not that important.

A player who wins with modesty simply enjoys a good chess game. Nothing else matters. The points and ratings, the prizes and honors are but icing on the cake. They should not be mistaken for the cake itself.

To lose with graciousness does not mean outwardly showing good sportsmanship toward your winning opponent, if in your heart you feel that you would like to sock him in the nose for winning. Chess is played among friends, and you do not lose to a friend; you merely learn from him.

The writer knows of a correspondence player who prints on his cards: "It is better to lose a chess game than a chess friend." I am inclined to agree with this, save for the fact that winning a chess game should under no circumstances cause the loss of a chess friend. If your opponent is truly a friend, he will enjoy playing you, win, lose or draw. Nor is it necessary to "explain" how you might have won the game if only...something or the other. This is not only tiresome; it shows that you do not know how to lose. You have to rationalize that you really should have won the game. Why? Who cares? No one but yourself, and if you are a true chess player, you will take your losses in stride without rancor or pain. The fun is in the playing. The winning or losing is incidental.

To explain "drawing with regret" is more difficult. The average player will say: "What's wrong with pulling a lost game out of the fire and making a draw out of it? That's something you should take pride in." And so you should. No, what I



have in mind by "drawing with regret" relates to those players, particularly tournament players, who try to draw rather than try to win. And even worse, it refers to those tournament players who, in order to qualify for a prize in a tournament, make prearrangements with another player to "draw" a game after a certain number of moves. This is not chess; it is plain out and out cheating, and deserves nothing but the contempt of fellow chess players. Finally, one may "draw with regret" because one may feel that he was not really making an all out effort to play his best but was willing to settle for something less. Parenthetically (playing your best) means concentrating; not of necessity winning.

Understand, I do not say you should continue to play against an evident draw; just that you should be sure the draw is evident.

(Reprinted from the Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel with Ken's permission. The column's title was originally used by Ken's old buddy, a TCA refounding father, J. C. Thompson, in the Dallas Morning News.)

#### SOUTH TEXAS OPEN



Mevis Smith, Houston Champ in the '40's



Luis Medina de la Rosa of Nuevo Laredo



Ron Steensland, gambiteer from McAllen



Englebretson vs. Escovedo, Larry won a rook & pawn endgame.



Henlev vs. Campos-Lopez, blitz after the I.M.'s Simul.

## POSTAL CHESS GROWS . . . EXPENSIVE

The cost of mailing a first class letter will probably jump 30 percent, to 13 cents, early in January. Since postcards figure to go up to 10 cents, one can reasonably expect postal chess to go down. But at various times it's been much more, and much less, expensive to communicate by mail.

The world's first postage stamp cost just a penny, and carried a half-ounce letter anywhere in the British Empire as it existed in 1840.

When the private Pony Express started in 1860 it cost \$5/half-ounce to get a letter rushed to the West Coast in eight days. And those were preinflation dollars.

But the U.S. Post Office carried mail, except for temporary emergency increases in 1918 and 1933, at the rate of 2 cents for a one-ounce letter until 1944. The price went from 3 cents to a nickel in 1963, 6 cents in 1968, and then to 10 cents in 1974.

Obviously postal chess has never had to put up with surges in mailing costs comparable to the present. Can 'off-the-board' play survive?

The Director of TCA Postal Chess, Ken Hackney, writes that "with both the cost of membership in CCLA and the rise in postage . . . it is getting a little hard for folks to afford the expenditure."

Ken's first idea to solve the problem was to have Texas social quarterlies--no CCLA membership required. There would be four players in each group. Each "groupie" would play two games with his three opponents. Player Number 1 would make his moves for white and pass on all the game sheets (provided blanks by TCA) to player No. 2 who makes his answer to Number 1, writes down his white moves, and passes all the game sheets in one envelope on to Number 3, etc. Since this would cost the players 13 cents per move rather than 30 cents (three postcards at 10 cents each), a considerable saving would occur for games of average length.

After contacting various TCA members around the state, it became apparent to Ken that:

"1. Postal players do not favor social quarterlies. They do favor postal inter-city and inter-state matches.

"2. Fees should be charged for postal programs carried on by the TCA. The most regularly suggested amount is one dollar. This should go to the TCA and for prizes.

"3. Postal members apparently favor TCA carrying on its own postal program in 1976, including the State Championship (so that TCA members would not have to pay dues to the Correspondence Chess League of America).

"4. TCA could use USCF ratings for initial pairings and keep up to date evaluations for postal chess, using formulas now in existence.

"5. Fees from postal chess be extended to Texas Knights in appreciation of its carrying TCA postal programs and games.

"6. The state could be divided into postal chess regions for match play. The current seven regions run by TCA Directors would work nicely.



"7. The above matters must be approved by the officers and board of the TCA.

"8. The membership is dissatisfied with the CCLA prizes under Proposition F of the CCLA."

Therefore, Ken recommends that the TCA should terminate its relationship with CCLA as of 1976, but carry on the 1974 and 1975 State Championships under CCLA jurisdiction; start a 1976 State Championship and possibly inter-city, inter-state, and inter-Texas-regional matches; and maintain a Texas postal point system. Ken is willing to do the volunteer work necessary to start these improvements in Texas Postal Chess once he gets the approval of the TCA.

Unfortunately, 1975 is nearly over and this year's State Championship has been largely ignored. As of October 16, Ken still had not quite gotten enough entries to finish section three. Since there are seven persons to a section, two of whom qualify for the finals, it is obvious that at most, only 20 TCA members had yet sent their CCLA dues (\$10/year) and tournament entry fee (\$5) to Secretary-Treasurer Bill McCarty. But it's not too late--and if you haven't tried postal chess you should--it has some definite advantages when compared to the hassle of OTB play.

The success or failure of TCA Postal Chess, and postal chess in general, depends in the long run on the people who play it. The postman may give the game some hard knocks but if enough people want to play, a way will be found.

Ken needs more entries in the 1975 State Championships, volunteers to arrange teams for match play, and a tournament director or two to help with ratings and pairings. How about you?

\*\*\*\*\*

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM TCA SECRETARY

Due to the ever increasing rate of first class postage, individual expiration notices of TCA memberships are no longer being mailed out. If your name is on the following list of names, then you should renew at once. Failure to remit before the next issue comes out will mean that you will have your Texas Knights subscription revoked. Please examine this list carefully!

\*\*\*\*\*

Allred, John; Ames, L.; Babcock, L.; Beacham, C.; Bearce, B.; Bell, John; Bowen, J.; Bustamante, R.; Cooper, L.D.; Cory, Wm.; Cummings, S.; Escovedo, G.; Fender, D.; Fox, C.; Frenzel, Wm. Y.; Gardner, J.; Goins, D.; Hadley, Tim; Hamilton, Billy; Hamilton, Bobby; Hansen, Tim; Hitt, Sammy; Ivie, Ottis; Ivie, Wm. B.; Jacquez, R.; Jones, Robt.; King, Calvin; Lasseter, Gary; Lewkowski, B.; McKinney, M.; Marchbanks, J.N.; Mohr, Robt.; Norton, A.N.; Ohlweiler, J.H.; Palmer, L.; Rubey, B.; Sappenfield, J.; Seguirra, Robt.; Sheiness, L.; Shupe, R.D.; Skinner, H.L.; Smith, Mevis; Snyder, R.; Somers, G.; Spitz, Dan; Stidham, D.; Stufflebeme, G.; Swisher, Jack; Taylor, A.L.; Temple, B.L.; Tobolowsky; Wood, W.H.



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Grande Prix!  
Jan. 31 - Feb. 1  
1976 Texas Championship  
Midland

\$3,000 Prize Fund Guaranteed. Details not listed in the advertisement on opposite page: TL 45/2 (Championship Section) and 50/2 (Amateur Section); USCF-TCA required (NMSA or LCA may be substituted for TCA); RDS for Championship will be announced at the site but are set for the Amateur at 10, 2, 7:30, 9, 2:30; and TDS will be Andy Lattu and Bill McCarty.

### January 17 - Gold Star Events

1. Big Al's 2nd Jan. Chess Nut, 3-SS 45/90, EF: \$1, Mike Burns, 2319 47th St., Lubbock 79412.
2. TCA Gold Star Open, 5-SS, 30/30, Room 107 of Odessa College Comp. Tech. Bldg. (\$15 with USCF, \$9 jr.), trophies to winners, REG: 8-8:45, RDS: 9-11:15 - 1:30-3:45-6, TD: Bill McCarty.

To show our Christmas Spirit, here is a list of non-TCA tournaments coming up in Texas.

Maybe these directors will return the favor by collecting some TCA memberships--remember, most Texans want to receive Texas Knights and can well afford it.

Dec. 26-28  
Memorial Tournament  
Ft. Worth

6-SS, 45/2, Blackstone Hotel, 5th & Main, Ft. Worth. EF: \$18 if mailed by 12/13; \$23 at site. PRIZES: (based on 70 entries) \$250-150, A, B, C, D/E/Unr. each 80-40. Trophies to first and top in each group. REG: 8-9 a.m., 12/26. RDS: 10-4, 10-4, 9-3. Hotel rates start at \$12.50. ENT: R. Lutz, P.O.B. 6218, Ft. Worth 76115.

Dec. 27-28  
5-Round Swiss  
Dallas

5-SS, 45/2, Dallas C.C., 5513-1/2 E. Grande, Dallas 75223. EF: \$15, D.C.C. members \$10. Prizes per entries. REG: 8-9 a.m., 12/27. RDS: as completed. ENT: James Campion c/o D.C.C.

Jan. 3-4  
Alamo C.C. Winter '76 Sr. Open  
San Antonio

5-SS, 45/2, Travel Lodge Motel on Courthouse Sq., San Antonio. Open to age 18 and over. EF: \$12 if rec'd by 12/10; \$15 at site. PRIZES: \$100, more cash if entries permit. Trophies to 1st, A, B, C, D/E, Unr. REG: 8-9 a.m., 1/3. RDS: 9:30-2:30 - 7:30, 9-2:30. Hotel Rates \$15-20. ENT: W. Poundstone Jackson, 506 Walton Ave., San Antonio, TX 78225.

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A last minute phone call from L. Phillips: The tourney will be at the new Downtown Holiday Inn, 113 W. Missouri, El Paso 79924. Rates are \$16-20-24. There will still be a reception and a free Sunday night expedition to the Juarez Dog Races has been added. Tours and special events will be held for ladies and children. Several strong out-of-state players are expected.



**The**

# TEXAS



**CHESS**

# TOURNAMENT



**\$3000 GUARANTEED**



The 1976 Texas Championship Tournament  
31 January, 1 February, 1976

CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION ( rated 2000 and above ) \$1100  
ROUNDS TBA

**USCF Rated**

First \$500 + Trophy  
Second \$300  
Third \$150  
Expert \$100, \$50

AMATEUR SECTION ( rated 1999 and below ) \$1900

ROUNDS 10:00, 2:00, 7:30, 31 January  
9:00, 2:30, 1 February

*Trophies  
Cash Prizes*



First \$300 + Trophy  
Second \$200 + Trophy  
Third \$100 + Trophy  
Fourth \$50  
Upset \$50



B \$200 + Trophy, \$100, \$50  
C \$200 + Trophy, \$100, \$50, \$25  
D/E \$200 + Trophy, \$100, \$50, \$25  
Unr. \$50 + Trophy, \$25  
Woman \$25

Out of state players eligible for cash prizes only,  
titles and trophies will go to Texas residents.  
Unrated may not win over \$100.

Entry fees: \$20/25. Championship  
\$15/20. Amateur

Pre-entries by 15 January, 1976

Site: Rodeway Inn, Rankin Hwy. and I-20

Entries and inquiries to: Andrew Lattu  
1402 Murray  
Midland, Texas 79701

Registration: 8:00-9:30 January 31, 1976  
At tournament site

U S C F & T C A Required



Texas Chess Association

The T.C.A. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of Texas Chess. It is an affiliate of the U.S. Chess Federation and the only statewide chess organization in Texas. Its official publication is called Texas Knights.

Membership in T.C.A. is available to any Texas resident and gives the member voting rights and a subscription to Texas Knights. Associate membership, without voting rights, is available to non-residents. Dues are \$4/year except \$3/year for juniors (persons under age 18) or just \$1/year to those members of a family that already have one or more T.C.A. members. Those joining under the Family Plan do not receive a Texas Knights subscription but do have the right to vote and play at T.C.A. events.

Please send all membership requests, renewals, and changes of address to the Secretary-Treasurer, address below.

Contributions of chess material to the Texas Knights are encouraged. Advertising should be sent directly to the editor, address below. Rates are \$25 half page, \$45 full page. Deadline for next issue is January 12--the issue will cover February and March events.

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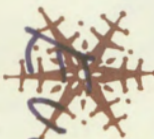
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