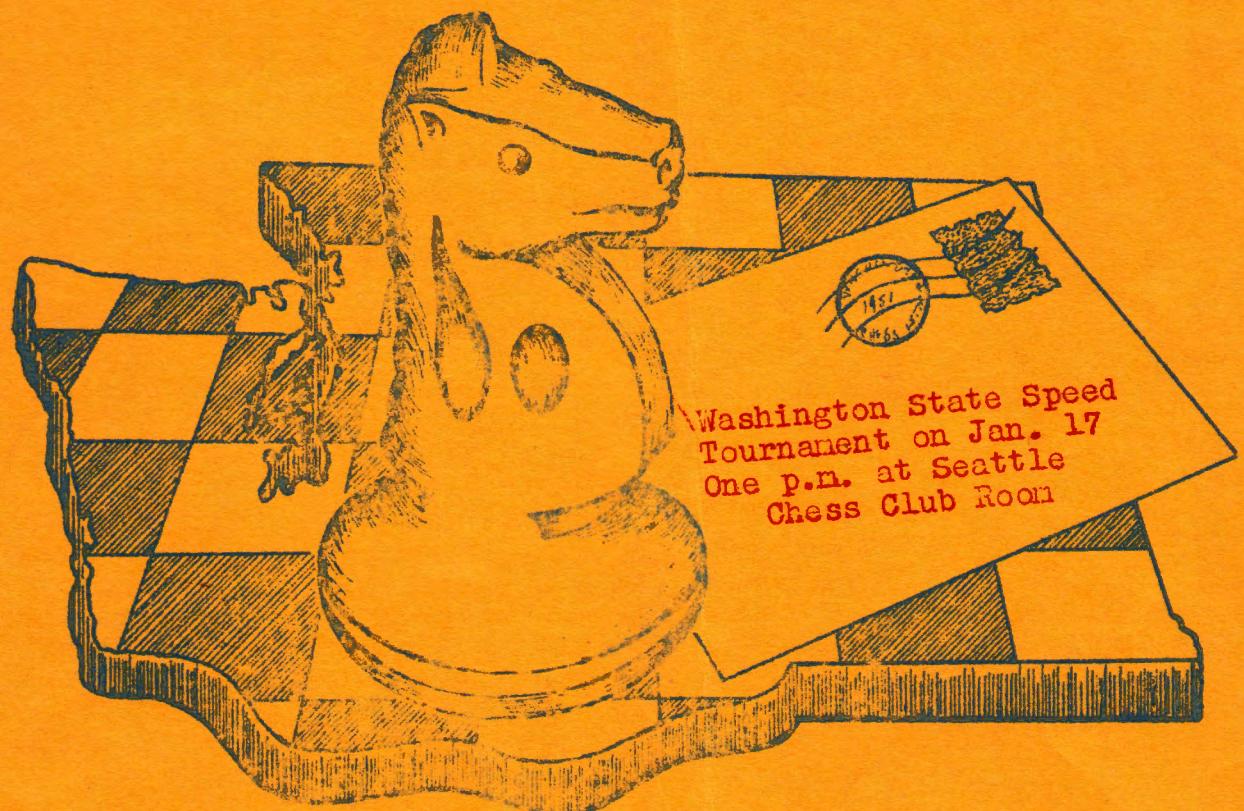


WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER



DECEMBER 1953

WASHINGTON

Chess Letter

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We are willing to work without pay giving up many hours every month just to put out this magazine. Your \$2 per year is the minimum support needed.

Recently we received a Christmas card and letter from Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stork. Bob Stork, it will be recalled, was WCL editor for many issues of our magazine before the current editor took the job.

Bob writes that we are doing a fine job and asks for more of Mrs. Wade's stuff. He also praises Mulford's cartoons and hopes the absence of the printed problem page will not be permanent.

My wife does not play chess and would be hard put to find enough material for another article. This does not mean she will never write for us again. Just don't try holding on to your breath while waiting.

It is hoped that Mulford's cartoons continue as long as the WCL.

Our continuing the problem page meant gradually sinking financially & finally plunging into the red. Add to this the fact that neither Manney nor LaFreniere were willing to tackle the job again and you have the story. The page added much to our magazine. That is as far as appearance. It is doubtful that a very large percentage made any effort to solve the problems.

At one p.m. in the Seattle Chess Club on January 17th will be a chess tournament calculated to appeal to advocates of fast chess. This is the annual WASHINGTON STATE SPEED TOURNEY.

PUGET SOUND LEAGUE NEWS

Leslie Coubrough writes that the score of the Kitsap-Tacoma match is in error as to the 4th and 5th boards. In the November WCL we had it Coubrough 2-0 over Magerkurth on 4th and Hultman and Blakefield 1-1 on 5th. Actually the summary should have read as follows below and apologies to all concerned.

<u>Kitsap</u>	6.	<u>Tacoma</u>	4.
E. Zemgalis	2	V. Holmes	0
Dr. Almond	1	V. Fupols	1
J. Nourse	2	R. Collins	0
C. Magerkurth	0	C. Hewitt	2
F. Blakefield	1	L. Coubrough	1

If team captains care to see FSL results in the Washington Chess Letter, perhaps they had better send results in to the editor! His crystal ball is in poor working condition.

Alan Clark visited Bremerton on Sunday, Dec. 13th and defeated Frank Blakefield. This result completed the Kitsap vs. University of Washington match making the final score 5 to 5.

<u>Kitsap</u>	5.	<u>Washington</u>	5.
Zemgalis	2	Warner	0
J. Nourse	0	Rosburg	2
Dr. Almond	2	Edberg	0
Magerkurth	1	Dr. Michael	1
Blakefield	0	Clark	2

According to "Chess Life", a group of chess players in Albany Oregon are going to put out a printed chess magazine to take care of the Northwest. No comment! Speaking of Oregon, perhaps now is as good a time as any to slap the Portlanders in the face with a hankie (not a white one!) and challenge them to a match. With strong newcomers popping up such as Fupols and Rosburg and the fine showing of some others, who knows, perhaps we could give them a good thrashing. Besides, Portland lost the services of Schmitt and Turner.

In the West Seattle vs. Tacoma match (see Puget Sound News on next page) Manney and Fupols adjudicated the fifth board second contest in favor of the West Seattle player making the result 1 to 1. Judging from the results sent in by Don Kendall of Tacoma this was not understood. He thought the game was a draw. That would bring the score of the match up to 6-4 instead of $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$. As far as the WCL knows, the correct version was printed.

Charles Rosburg heatedly protested the tie break for 4th place in the State Tournament. His claim is the rules stated the system used was for breaking ties between TWO and not for ties among four. Believe me, the WCF needs a good lawyer to draw up the rules for our tournaments and matches! We have had plenty of arguments over rules in past affairs resulting in the breaking of friendships etc.

This changes the individual scores of Coubrough and Hultman from those listed last month. We had Coubrough at $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$. It is corrected to $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$. Hultman was listed at $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$. His record is actually $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$. A new man has increased our individual standing list to 51 players. Add Mr. Charles Hewitt of Tacoma with a perfect 2-0 record.

Anyway, we had the match score correct!

This result boosts Clark up to a 6-0 record after 3 rounds of match play. Blakefield's record is changed to 3-3. At the close of the FSL season we will attempt to rate the players with points scored and percentage and caliber of opposition to be figured in. Any ideas????? The five most valuable men will make the 1953-1954 FSL All Star team. Letters on this and also on other chess matters welcomed.

The fourth round of Puget Sound League play on December 20th scrambled the league standings in such a manner that no less than five teams now have golden opportunities to finish in first place! The Seattle YMCA visited Bremerton and smashed the previously unbeaten Kitsapers, the University of Washington squeeked by Olympia $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ and Tacoma edged past West Seattle by the same score. The Seattle Chess Club was unable to get a team together to visit McNeil Island and that match has been postponed two weeks.

League Standings after 4 rounds.

Team	Won	Lost	Drawn
1-2 Seattle YMCA	2	0	2
1-2 U. of Wash.	2	0	2
3-4 Kitsap County	2	1	1
3-4 Tacoma YMCA	2	1	1
5th Olympia	2	2	0
6th McNeil Island	0	0	3
7th West Seattle	0	3	1
8th Seattle C. C.	0	3	0

Seattle YMCA $7\frac{1}{2}$

Kitsap $2\frac{1}{2}$

The Seattle YMCA chess team clicked smoothly on all five cylinders and swamped the Kitsap club $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$. Russell (David) Vellias slew Elmars (Goliath) Zengalis in their second game to make the victory very sweet.

The match started out like it would be a close one. Bader and Joachim marked up points for the YMCA and Nourse and Zengalis did the same for the host team. Then Bader drew Almond and Wade won one to put the Y ahead $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$. After that it was a rout as the Y won all of the remaining games.

Joachim's second win and DeWitt's first gave the Y the necessary $5\frac{1}{2}$ points to win the match. However, the high point of all was when Vellias dumped Zengalis. Wailing, the gnashing of teeth and the heaping of ash on the head were then the order of the day for the defeated!

Seattle YMCA $7\frac{1}{2}$

Kitsap $2\frac{1}{2}$

R. Vellias	1	E. Zengalis	1
C. Joachim	2	George Roats	0
Dan Wade	1	Jack Nourse	1
Max Bader	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Dr. Almond	$\frac{1}{2}$
J. DeWitt	2	C. Magerkurth	0

U. of Wash. $5\frac{1}{2}$

Olympia $4\frac{1}{2}$

The University of Washington's three whiz kids scored all of their team's points to win an exciting $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ victory over the Olympia club. The match was at the Seattle Chess Club as the U. is closed for Xmas vacation.

Olympia nearly won the match as their 4th and 5th board players won all four games. However, Clark's $1\frac{1}{2}$ and Rosburg's 2 built the score to $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ in Olympia's favor.

The next day (Monday, Dec. 21st) Ted Warner downed Mulford 2 to 0 giving the University the match. The win put the U.W. into a first place tie with the YMCA.

U. of Wash. $5\frac{1}{2}$

Olympia $4\frac{1}{2}$

Ted Warner	2	Ken Mulford	0
C. Rosburg	2	Ellis Ayers	0
Alan Clark	$1\frac{1}{2}$	J. Cerretelli	$\frac{1}{2}$
H. Sanden	0	H. E. Yocom	2
Doug Gorton	0	J. Butterfield	2

Tacoma YMCA $5\frac{1}{2}$

West Seattle $4\frac{1}{2}$

Tacoma used a couple of new players, possibly taking the West Seattle team too lightly, and almost lost the match. The win plus Kitsap's defeat put Tacoma back into the race as a red hot title contender.

The match was held at the YMCA in Tacoma. Feature of the match was the Manney-Pupols even-break on first board.

Tacoma YMCA $5\frac{1}{2}$

West Seattle $4\frac{1}{2}$

V. Pupols	1	O.W. Manney	1
L. Coubrough	2	Max Mage	0
V. Hultman	$1\frac{1}{2}$	F.M. Howard	$\frac{1}{2}$
Tom Dolle	0	E. Vukonich	2
Den Kendall	1	Ben Weisscher	1

P.S.L. RECORDS

Player	W	L	D	Pt.
1. C. Rosburg	8	0	0	8
2. A. Clark	7	0	1	7½
3. E. Zemgalis	7	1	0	7
4. C. Joachim	6	1	1	6½
5. D. Wade	5	2	1	5
5. L. Coubrough	5	2	1	5
5. Dr. Almond	5	2	1	5½
8. O.W. Manney	5	1	0	5
9. M. Bader	4	1	2	5
10 V. Pupols	4	2	2	5
10 H.E. Yocom	5	3	0	5
12 J. DeWitt	4	2	1	4½
13 V. Hultman	3	1	2	4
14 J. Cerretelli	3	3	2	4
14 J. Nourse	4	4	0	4
16 E. Vukonich	3	4	1	3½
17 D. Reveal	2	0	2	3
18 F. Blakefield	3	3	0	3
18 R. Vellias	2	2	2	3
20 C. Magerkurth	3	5	0	3
20 T. Warner	3	5	0	3
22 J. McCormick	2	3	1	2½
23 F.M. Howard	2	5	1	2½
24 J. Butterfield	2	0	0	2
24 C. Hewitt	2	0	0	2
24 E. Carlson	2	0	0	2
24 Wood	2	0	0	2
24 O. LaFreniere	2	0	0	2
29 Cox	2	2	0	2
29 Berg	2	2	0	2
29 Schrank	2	2	0	2
29 Schram	2	2	0	2
33 V. Holmes	2	4	0	2
33 E. Ayers	2	4	0	2
33 R. Collins	2	4	0	2
33 T. Davidsen	2	4	0	2
37 K. Mulford	2	6	0	2
38 Chappel	1	2	1	1½
39 Shapera	1	3	1	1½
40 M. Mage	1	6	1	1½
41 J. Bader	1	0	0	1
42 Dr. Michael	1	1	0	1
42 D. Kendall	1	1	0	1
42 B. Weisscher	1	1	0	1
45 Raya	1	2	0	1
46 V.W. Bever	1	5	0	1
47 M. Bader Jr.	0	1	0	0
48 R. Edberg	0	2	0	0
48 W. Kemp	0	2	0	0
48 F. Weaver	0	2	0	0
48 D. Nagel	0	2	0	0
48 G. Roats	0	2	0	0
48 D. Gorton	0	2	0	0
48 T. Dolle	0	2	0	0
55 Dr. Shephard	0	4	0	0
55 H. Sanden	0	4	0	0
55 C. Harmeson	0	4	0	0

57 players so far.

STATE SPEED TOURNEY

JAN. 17 1 P.M.
HELD AT SEATTLE C.C.

Jack Nourse really master-minded the Kitsap - YMCA match recently. He scored diplomatic victory after diplomatic victory in developments a few days before the crucial match.

However, the YMCA managed somehow to get a team across on the day of reckoning (or should it read the day of wrecking?)

The day finally arrived and the bitter rivals faced each other in the narrow confines of the Kitsap Chess Club. Here Jack really took over and before the bewildered Wade could figure out what was going on, Jack had not only lined up his own team but had lined up the YMCA team as well! Wade had intended to play Dr. Almond and give his arch rival Nourse to the tender mercies of one Charles Joachim!

Jack Nourse pulled a surprise on the visitors by producing a new man, George Roats, champion of Panama and Hawaii! He placed this man on second board thus enabling him to place Dr. Almond (good enough to get an even split with Pupols and winner of 5 out of 6 league games) on fourth board.

With this pat hand Nourse was set to sit down and proceed to beat the visiting YMCAers to a frazzle!

It did not work that way though. Jack could only turn up one ace and Wade let fall four aces from Vellias down to DeWitt to turn the cup of victory in Nourse's hand to a bucket of sand.

Seriously, it is hoped that the lop-sided defeat will not completely demoralize the Kitsap Club. Look at the standings. You still have good chances.

There are still three more hard rounds of action left. Big matches ahead are U. of Wash. at Tacoma and YMCA at the U. of Washington.

U.S.C.F. RATINGS

Horace Greeley said, "Go West, young man, go West!" If you hoped to gain fame and fortune it was a good idea to go West.

Dan Wade, another editor (but not as well known) says "Go East, young chess player, go East!" Our Washington Junior Chess Champion rated "a nothing" when he traveled back to the U. S. Open at Milwaukee last summer. After he started playing (they laughed when I sat down to play!) heads began to roll as he beat or at least drew, with several of the masters and experts. This unknown from the great back woods of the Northwest, Eugene (Ted) Warner, it appears made quite an impression in the Open.

Warner now sports a flossy USCF rating of 2150-EXPERT, second only to Zengalis in the state of Washington and third only to Dake and Zengalis in these Northwestern United States!

Dake received a 2400-Master rating while Zengalis has until April 1st, 1954 to prove he is still a master. His rating is at the moment 2281 and he needs 2300 by the 1st of April to retain his master standing.

Frankly, it is next to impossible for most of us to travel back East or even to California to earn our spurs. However, it should be obvious to Mr. Harkness, USCF rating statistician, that there is something wrong! Warner, one of our better rank and file players, does great back East and earns his 2150. In his Washington State efforts, both before and after the US Open, he is just able to hold his own.

He breaks even in our State Tourney (played too late to be included in the USCF ratings) which is filled with 19, 18 and 1700 rated players. We suppose now Warner's rating will be reduced because he did not walk off with our state crown playing such lowly rated opposition!

The truth, however, is either the players back East are incredibly OVER RATED or our Northwestern players are terribly UNDER RATED! This writer is inclined to cling to the latter belief. It is not understood how a player such as Sheets, our State Champion, acquired his 1939-A rating in the first place. Sheets should have a rating of at least 2200-Expert. Manney, Pupols, Joachim and a few others are at least 200 points below their real strength. Jim Schmitt, formerly of Portland but now of San Francisco, has a lowly rating of 2078-A. It is predicted here that he will shortly show how ridiculously low his rating is when he clashes with a few of the highly rated California players.

We are friendly toward the efforts of the USCFederation believing a start must be made some time. We think time enough has elapsed for the USCF rating system to now be up to date. Too long have Northwestern players been rated far below most other regions. All that needs to be done is a little addition. C from Northwest defeats A, Expert and Master from mid-West or East equals Expert. Next, add Expert loses to or draws with A or B from Northwest puts Expert back into A or B class and you are traveling in a circle!

It seems to this writer that if a player is an Expert in Milwaukee, he is an Expert in the state of Washington also. If he is unable to subdue the class A and B players here, then these players are at least Experts too? Below are the ratings. Judge for yourself.

Elmars Zengalis.....2281-Master on thin ice.

Eugene (Ted) Warner..2150-Expert An up to date rating.

O. W. Manney.....1993-A Under rated by about 200 points.

J. L. Sheets.....1939-A About 260 points below the truth.

Viktor Pupols.....1935-A Should be classed as an Expert.

Russell Vellias.....1860-B 200 points too low.

Charles Joachim.....1806-B He lost terribly from last time the rating list was published. He lost to too many under rated players and the same can happen to Warner if the rest of the Northwest players do not have their ratings brought up to date. Joachin rates a 2100 at least. Others listed: John DeWitt 1767-B, Charles Rosburg 1764-B (Much too low but if known he would have been ineligible for the recent State Tournament!), F.H. Weaver 1709-B, O. LaFreniere is 1608-C, R. Collins 1512-C (ridiculous!), Don Kendall 1500-C. Where is Jim McCormick's rating? Terry Nelson of Yakima is rated 1550-C, Dean Bollman, now of Juneau, Alaska has a 1770 rating and last, but not least, Sheldon Rein of Minneapolis, former Woodpusher Champion, has a rating of 1872-E.

616 MADISON ST.

Jumping to the Seattle Chess Club situation, this writer believes Davidsen and Bever are doing an excellent job with what they have to work with. If chess players give little or nothing, they will receive the same. We feel we have the right to criticize the club on matters concerning us to some degree but unless we are willing to give the money and time to better the club, then we had best keep silent!

This writer is willing to pay twice the present annual dues in quarterly payments if this will enable the club to find better quarters and make our club a really good one. We do not expect a swank joint, however! We are not willing, however, to go along with the proposal that several chess players loan as much as they safely can and build a new club house. After the experiences we have had just trying to pry two dollars annually from players for WCF membership and 12 issues of this magazine, you can imagine how much chance we would have building a new club.

ANNUAL W.C.F. MEETING

The Washington Chess Federation should be run by those who do the work and not by the onlookers. We are willing to listen to a man ready and willing to do things. We have no patience with the characters who give us only wind.

At the last WCF annual meeting there were a few in attendance with votes who kept throwing sand into the gears everytime some of those who had been working for WCF attempted to make any change.

One character continually jumped to his feet and filibustered so long and often that very little could be done. Incidentally, his membership expired not too long afterward and he never bothered to renew it. There have been others who have criticized quite vigorously but when asked to help they became strangely silent.

NOURSE AD NAUSEAM

The list of people who felt that chess lacked intricacy includes many of the most learned and intelligent names in history. As early as 1350 A.D. the conquering Tartar, Tamerlane, known as Timur the lame or Timur of the twisted leg, favored a game in which two camels moved like knights, but with three squares forward and one to the side, instead of the two and one move of the knight. He also wanted to add two giraffes moving three and two squares in the same pattern. Also to avoid being on the stuffy side, he introduced an extra queen. Timur was famous for his successful conquests. Less well known are his statesman-like traits, he being an able administrator, and a patron of science and art - including chess.

Alfonso X. King of Castile, in 1250, introduced a councilor having the moves of knight and king, two unicorns combining the moves of bishop and knight and four extra pawns. It is interesting to note that both these two makers of history bore a reputation for great intelligence. Alfonso was rated the most learned prince of his age. Under his direction and superintendence were drawn up a celebrated code of laws, and valuable astronomical tables which still go under his name, the "Alfonsine Tables". Also to his credit was the first general history of Spain in the Castilian tongue, and a Spanish translation of the Bible.

Naturally, such a mind would feel that chess needed further complication.

Carrera, in 1617, inserted two new pieces, a Campione having the moves of rook and knight, to be placed between the king's rook and the king's knight; and a centaur combining the moves of bishop and knight and placed between the rook and the knight on the queen's side. His was to have 10 X 8 squares.

In 1747, the Duke of Rutland used a board of 10 squares by 14 and introduced two new pieces - a concubine having the moves of rook and knight, and a crowned rock having the powers of both king and rook.

Tressan of Leipzig, in 1840, played on a board 11 X 11 with three additional pieces - an adjutant moving as knight and bishop combined, and a general with the power of queen and knight, and a marshall having the moves of rook and knight.

And more recently, H.E. Bird, the veteran chess master, suggested a board 10 X 8 with two new pieces - a guard, (rook and knight), and e quarry, (bishop and knight), the former placed by the side of the queen and the latter by the king, all other pieces remaining in their original positions.

While the game was taking hold in the west, the imaginative and inventive minds occupied their genius with the perfecting of opening play, Seattle's Dickey and Case also making a bid, with the result that there was little agitation for changes catering to the more agile mind.. However, in 1839, Ben R. Foster brought out an expanded game which he called "Chancellor Chess". He increased the board to 81 squares and added a new piece with the moves of rook and knight. This game was evidently tried out in the San Francisco Chess Club, as while there, I was shown a set in which the rooks were capped with a knight head, making them slightly taller than the queen.

DAWN AT ETAMPES

BY SYDNEY GOODMAN

Should the Player decline to enforce
a legal penalty against his Opponent, he
may not claim it later in the game, nor
is he entitled by reason of this declina-
tion to a similar concession at any time."

—The Laws of Chess

NOTHING WOULD SATISFY THEIR INJURED HONOR
BUT LOADED PISTOLS AND THE PROMISE OF DEATH

In the southern portion of Paris, in the section known as Montrouge, where the Avenue Juan Jaures expands into the Place des Etats-Unis, stands the Cafe des Echecs. It is not the least bit distinctive. Outside its doors is the usual cluster of tiny round tables where men of substance are wont to sip their vermouth and talk of Life and Love. Inside is a small bar where workmen drink their good French beer (which is superior to the highly publicized German beer, as any Frenchman will tell you) and discuss Politics and the Colonial Situation. Deep within, against the far wall, are several tables devoted exclusively to the royal and ancient game of Chess. Here the conversation deals mystically with the Ruy Lopez and the Queen's Gambit, and the comparable merits of Botvinnik and Alekhine.

The habitual chess player lives in a world of his own, more remote than the murky world of the inveterate gambler or the glary green world of the golf addict, for it is peopled by strange characters with curious attributes, and it is always the scene of a tense, titanic struggle. In no other game has the element of chance been so completely eliminated, so that the player must bring to the contest a fierce intensity of purpose and the purest concentration. It is understandable, then, that the loss of a game is a tragedy, since the inferiority of the vanquished is so nakedly exposed.

Acknowledged champion of the little circle at the Cafe des Echecs was Charles Marchand, a youngish-man still in his thirties. As he lived on the income from a small inheritance, he had many leisure hours to devote to Chess and was a constant visitor.

One afternoon, surrounded by a knot of interested spectators, he was engaged in analyzing a game from the tournament for the championship of France, which was then in progress, when a small, elderly man pushed his way to the table. It was the old lawyer Laffitte, a well known figure in the cafe.

"Marchand, Monsieur Marchand, I have someone here you must meet." He pulled forward a young man who had followed a few paces behind him. "This is Pierre Dumont," he announced proudly. "He is the nephew of my partner, on a visit here to see the tournament. He is the champion of Morbihan."

Marchand looked up, smiling. He was very fond of the old man although he often wondered how a man could be a successful lawyer and a queen-odds player at Chess. He shook hands with the newcomer, making the appropriate remarks. Then, for politeness' sake, "Would you care for a game?"

Dumont assented readily and there was a buzz of excitement.

They sat down at a central table and the crowd closed around them. On the choice for first move, Marchand won and began to set up the white pieces.

Dumont said, "Would you care to make a wager?"

"Of course, Shall we say five hundred francs?"

"That is agreeable."

Marchand regarded his opponent curiously. The champion of Morbihan, eh? It might mean a great deal as far as playing strength was concerned, and it might mean nothing. The caliber of the players in any particular Department was extremely variable. The man was quite young—about twenty-three, he judged—blond, slim, shorter than average, with a lean, intelligent face decorated by an elegant, wispy mustache. A dangerous combination. The youngster must be aggressive, as most short men are, and too conceited, as the tiny mustache proclaimed, to admit defeat easily. Marchand sighed and opened his queen's pawn, a conservative choice, and was soon pleasurable immersed in the intricacies of a Gruenfeld Defense.

He played in his usual style, with deliberation but without undue delay. Dumont, on the other hand, seemed anxious to impress his audience. He moved quickly and energetically. He thumped the pieces on the board with an exaggerated flourish of the wrist, accompanied by an extra twist of the hand as if

to screw them in to place.

Your impulsiveness will cost you five hundred francs, my friend, thought Marchand.

A few minutes later, in reply to an apparently innocuous pawn move, Dumont scooped up one of his knights with characteristic speed. When he grasped the full implications of the maneuver, his hand froze in mid-air. To move the knight was to lose a piece—and the loss of the game would follow most certainly. His face flushed and he dropped the knight on its original square as though it had burned his fingers.



A hum spread through the cluster of spectators.

"Piece touchee," said someone.

There was a general murmur of assent. The rule was specific on that point: "Should a Player, at his turn to move, touch any of his own pieces, that piece shall be moved if it can be moved legally. If a piece requires adjustment on the board, the Player shall announce, 'J'adoube,' or 'I adjust,' before touching said piece."

The murmur increased in intensity, Red-faced and silent, Dumont had his head bent over the board. Marchand regarded him sympathetically. What a way to lose a game! The young man's embarrassment was projected across the table so acutely that Marchand could not bear it. Besides, he had an excellent position.

"Make any move you like," he said expansively.

There was a chorus of approbation and applause.



For a time everything went well—very well indeed. Marchand's prospects improved steadily and he had no reason to regret his generous gesture. It was a curiously small thing that forced the contest to an abrupt finish. The crowd watching the game was three deep. Monsieur Brulet, the photographer, who had a studio nearby, was unwittingly the moving factor, for, as he craned forward to watch the action, a few drops of beer from his glass spill-

ed upon the shoulder of Monsieur Rosenthal, the jeweler, who stood in front of him. The fastidious Monsieur Rosenthal jumped and turned with an exclamation of annoyance. His forearm hit Marchand's head, and the chess player's hand, poised to move his queen, upset his king instead.

"Messieurs, messieurs, control yourselves, please," he chided as he raised the fallen monarch.

"The king moves," said Dumont. Marchand looked up, shocked for a fleeting instant. Then he relaxed. The man was joking, of course.

"J'adoube," he said, smiling.

"Piece touchee—the king moves."

"But my friend—someone pushed my arm!"

"The king moves."

"I merely picked it up..."

"The king moves."

"It means the loss of my queen!" Dumont shrugged. "It is the Law."

"Law? Law! Were you concerned with the law when I gave you back your knight?"

"I am under no obligation."

The young man's face was impassive.

"No—no obligation, of course," said Marchand sarcastically. His anger was getting the best of him. "Neither has a dog obligations! Neither has a pig obligations!"

The corners of Dumont's mouth curled. His expression said plainly, "Who is the better man now? See—you have lost your temper, like a child."

Marchand might have heard him, so instantaneous was his reaction.

"You insolent, conceited puppy!" he shouted. And he slapped wildly at the sneering face.

All the clamor ceased abruptly. Dumont rose slowly, a bright-red patch on his pale cheek.

"Monsieur is very brave," he said in a small, tight voice. "I wonder, would he be quite as brave under other circumstances?"

"Any time!" shouted Marchand, beside himself. "Anywhere!"

"Let it be pistols, then. Monsieur Laffitte will act for me." He extracted a white card from his breast pocket and dropped it on the table with a flourish.

"At your pleasure," said Marchand with mock formality. He swept up the card and stormed out of the cafe. "Damned theatrics," he muttered.

Seething, he walked without direction for five minutes. Then he stopped and looked down at the crushed card in his palm with distaste. Pierre Dumont. it read, Auray, Morbihan. What an egotist! His face became thoughtful. I will need seconds, too. Now who—of course! Robert! And, for the first time in many years, he turned his steps purposefully toward the neighborhood primary school.

The office of the maître d'école looked smaller than he remembered it. As a schoolboy, he had sat in the very same chair awaiting disciplinary action, shifting about uncomfortably, feet dangling, dwarfed physically and mentally by the magnitude of adult authority. To Charles Marchand now, the room seemed ordinary—the usual subdued business office, conservatively furnished in mahogany and brown leather. And the chair was now quite comfortable.

It was not long before the elderly spinster who was the typical civil-service secretary came out of the inner office.

"Monsieur Beaufort will see you now."

Beaufort greeted him effusively.

"Charles," he cried, "what are you doing here? Emile was asking after you only yesterday. It must be two weeks since we saw you last!"

Their handshake was not the perfunctory clasp of continental etiquette; it had a warmth that revealed a strong bond.

"Your charming wife must have someone for me to meet again."

The other laughed. "No. After all these years, I'm afraid she has given you up as a confirmed bachelor. Now, come to the point. What brings you to my office, of all places?"

Marchand laid his hat and gloves on the massive desk.

"Sit down first, Robert," he said. "I do not know whether the matter is comical or serious. I have been challenged to a duel. I

want you to act for me."

"A duel! In this day and age!" Beaufort leaned back in his chair. "Tell me what happened."

Marchand recounted his experience.

"And here is the fool's card," he concluded, tossing it on the desk. "Pistols at dawn! What melodrama!"

"Good heavens, Charles! You treat Chess as passionately as most men do their mistresses!"

"That is not so," said Marchand defensively. "If you would like me to show you a certain apartment in the Rue Victor Hugo—"

"Yes, Yes—I know all about your charming Madame Courtois—to your surprise, no doubt." Suddenly serious, Beaufort leaned across the desk and grasped Marchand's arm. "Charles....my friend....my good friend....let me give you the best of all possible advice. Go to this young idiot, apologize. After all, you did strike him. Call off this nightmare. Charles....do it for mefor us....your friends."



Marchand was moved. Such a display of emotion was rare between them. And what a relief it would be to be rid of the whole business. He could still see the shocked faces of the onlookers at the cafe—faces that he knew well, men with whom he had shared many a pleasant evening. He saw the faces turn questioning... .incredulous....contemptuous.

"I cannot do it, Robert. I should like to—truly—but I cannot. Besides," he added drily, "Dumont is not the type of man to accept such an offer. It lacks drama."

Beaufort sighed. "I did not think you would. So it is a duel then. I can remember thirty years ago—but that was another generation...." His manner became more brisk and businesslike. "Tell me one thing, Charles. How are you fixed financially?"

The other stared. "What a strange question! Has it any bearing?"



—continued next issue—

CHASES

The 'game of the month' for December, 1953 was the shocking win by Russell Vellias over Elnars Zengalis in the Seattle YMCA vs. Kitsap match. Since many readers may be curious about how the job was accomplished, here it is. Seeing is believing!

R. Vellias

White

E. Zengalis

Black

(Notes by Vellias)

1. P-K4 I-K4
2. N-KB3 N-QB3
3. P-Q4 PxP
4. NxP N-B3
5. N-QB3 B-N5
6. B-KN5 I-KR3
7. B-R4 P-KN4

This appears risky but perhaps Black has a trick or two up his sleeve.

8. B-N3 NxP
9. NxN NxN
- 10 Q-Q4 BxNch
- 11 IxB O-O
- 12 B-Q3 I-Q4
- 13 0-0-0 Q-K2

A subtle move threatening-- Q-R6 ch., etc.

- 14 BxN FxB
- Q-R6ch first appears better to these rheumy old eyes (ye Ed)
- 15 Q-QN4 I-QB4
- 16 Q-QR5!

A strong post for the Queen also defending the RF.

- 16 B-K3
- 17 BxP KR-B1
- 18 B-N3 Q-QN2
- 19 R-Q2 K-R2

To avoid any exchanges. It looks like Black is playing for a win at all costs.

- 20 P-KR4 F-K6

The beginning of a deep sacrificial - positional combination which is not too sound. However, at 40 moves per hour, the burden is on the defender.

- 21 PxI

Now Black's QB can cut down like a knife on White's King.

- 21 QR-N1
- 22 BxR RxR

- 23 R(Q2)-Q1

The only move.

- 23 Q-N7ch

24 K-Q2

25 Q-R4!

Simultaneously guarding the QBF and prevents check at KN5.

- 25 R-Q2ch
- 26 K-K2 B-B5ch
- 27 K-B3 If 27 QxB, QxPch; 28 K-B3 , RxR; 29 RxR, QxRch.
- 27 RxR
- 28 RxR QxP(B3)
- 29 PxP PxP
- 30 Q-B6 P-N5ch
- 31 K-B4 B-K3
- 32 Q-K4ch K-N2
- 33 Q-K5ch QxQch
- 34 KxQ BxP
- 35 R-QR1

Black then moved B-Q4 giving away his Bishop and resigned. He was lost anyway, of course. If 35...B-K3; 36 RxP, I-B5; 37 I-K4, K-N3; 38 R-R6, K-N2; 39 RxP etc. or something similar.

WARNER WINS 30 - 30 TOURNAMENT.

Some of the boys got together at the Seattle Chess Club on Sunday, Jan. 3rd and played a 30-30 chess tourney. Ted (Eugene) Warner defeated all of his rivals to win.

The time control of 30 moves per half hour enabled the players to start playing at 2 pm and finish at 8.

Another 30-30 tournament is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Sunday, February 7th. Entry fee will be only 50 cents and if enough enter it can be a Swiss. You can have all of the fun of playing tournament chess without the agony you suffer spending an entire weekend on the game in an ordinarily conducted tournament. The only thing wrong with chess is in this way eliminated.

Summary of the 30 - 30 Tournament

Ted Warner	X	1	1	1	1	4	-	0
C. Rosburg	0	X	1	1	0	2	-	2
O.W. Manney	0	0	X	1	1	2	-	2
A. Clark	0	0	0	X	1	1	-	3
R. Vellias	0	1	0	0	X	1	-	3

Hope to see all of you guys who fancy themselves good players in quick-time on Sunday, Feb. 7.

LATE SCOOP: SEATTLE CHESS CLUB 5 WINS FIRST MATCH! DEFEATS MCNEIL TEAM 6 to 4

A Seattle Chess Club team, in a post-pone match on January 3rd, defeated McNeil Island 6 to 4 in games at McNeil.

The Seattle squad was greatly strengthened by the addition of Glenn Muller, who won both of his games on first board. For the McNeils it was their first defeat. McNeil had previously played two 5-5 and one 4-4 drawn matches.

The summary as called in by Ted Warner:

<u>Seattle C.C.</u>	6.	<u>McNeil</u>	4.
G. Muller	2	Simmons	0
J. McCormick	1	Raya	1
F. Weaver	0	Berg	2
Dr. Shephard	1	Schram	1
T. Davidsen	2	Cralle	0

Remaining F. S. L. Schedule.

Round 5. Played January 10th 1954

Round 6. Jan. 31st. Kitsap at McNeil, Tacoma at Olympia, W. Seattle vs. Seattle at Seattle Chess Club and Soattle YMCA at U. of Wash.

Round 7. Feb. 21st. Kitsap at W. Seattle, Olympia vs. Seattle YMCA at Seattle Chess Club, Seattle C C at U. of Wash. and Tacoma goes to McNeil Island.

McNeil paid its Washington Federation dues and Puget Sound League entry fee and is now a full-fledged member.

Puget Sound League - Dec. 20, 1953

Max Bader
White

Dr. Almond
Black

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1. P-K4 | P-K3 |
| 2. P-Q4 | P-Q4 |
| 3. N-Q2 | N-KB3 |
| 4. P-K5 | KN-Q2 |
| 5. KN-KB3 | P-QN3 |
| 6. P-QB3 | P-QB4 |
| 7. B-N5 | B-R3 |
| 8. Q-R4 | BxR |
| 9. QxB | P-QR3 |
| 10. Q-K2 | B-K2 |
| 11. P-QN2 | O-O |
| 12. B-N2 | N-QB3 |
| 13. O-O | R-K1 |
| 14. QR-QB1 | N-KB1 |
| 15. P-QB4 | QPxP |
| 16. QPxP | BxP |
| 17. NxP | N-N3 |
| 18. KR-Q1 | Q-B2 |
| 19. N-N5 | QR-Q1 |
| 20. RxR | RxR |
| 21. N-K4 | QNxP |
| 22. NxR | NxN |
| 23. NxKP! | PxN |
| 24. QxPch | K-R1 |
| 25. QxN | QxQ |
| 26. PxQ | R-Q7 |
| 27. R-N1 | R-QB7 |
| 28. B-Q4 | RxQBP |
| 29. BxQNP | K-N1 |
| 30. P-N3 | N-K4 |
| 31. R-N3 | R-B7 |
| 32. P-QR3 | N-B5 |
| 33. B-Q4 | R-R7 |
| 34. R-N8ch | K-B2 |
| 35. R-N7ch | K-N1? |
| 36. RxPch | K-B1 |
| 37. RxP | RxRP? |
| 38. B-B5ch | Resigns! |

Black could have played K-N and 39 BxR, KxR; 40 B-B5, P-R4; 41 K-B1, P-R5; 42 K-K1, P-R6; 43 K-Q1, P-R7; 44 B-Q4, and Black would be wise if he resigned.

Alternative plans find Black at too great a disadvantage with White having three King-side P's.

We hope to start running the State Tourney games in our coming issue. We hope tournament players will help out by sending annotated games our way. Mr. Zemgalis has promised us his U. S. Open games. Look for them soon!

Winning the Woodpusher Championship

K. Mulford

White

J. McCormick

Black

1. P-K4 F-K4
2. N-KB3 N-QB3
3. B-B4 B-B4
4. P-QB3 N-KB3
5. P-Q4 PxP
6. PxP B-N5ch
7. N-B3 NxKP
8. Q-N3? BxNch
9. PxP 0-0
10. B-Q5 N-B3
11. B-N5 R-Klch
12. K-Q2 R-B1
13. N-K5 N-K5ch
14. BxN QxBch
15. K-B2 NxN
16. PxN QxKF
17. QR-K1 Q-QB4
18. KR-B1 P-QB3
19. P-KB4 P-Q4
20. B-Q3 P-Q5
21. P-R4 R-B4
22. R-K5 BxBch
23. QxB Q-N5? (?)

What is wrong with Q-Q3?

24. QxP QR-Q1

Black gave up the QF so he can trade off the queens.

25. Q-B3 (forced) QxQch
26. KxQ KR-K1

Remember, all Black needed was a draw to win the 'champeenship'.

27. R(1)-K1 K-B1
28. P-KN4 RxR
29. RxR R-K1
30. R-QR5 P-QR3
31. K-Q4

White must abandon purely defensive measures and try for a win even though down one pawn.

31. R-K7
32. P-KR3 K-K2

Black plays it safe and makes it impossible for White to get away with any tricks.

33. K-B5 R-QN7
34. R-R3 K-Q2
35. R-Q3ch K-B2
36. R-K3 P-N3ch
37. K-Q4 K-Q3
38. P-R3 P-B4ch
39. K-K4 R-Q7
40. R-QN3 K-B3
41. K-K3 R-KR7
42. K-K4 R-K7ch
43. K-B3 R-KR7
44. K-N3 R-K7

45. P-B5 P-QN4
46. K-E3? PxP
47. R-B3 R-QN7
48. RxP R-N6ch
49. K-B4 RxQRF
50. P-R4, K-Q4; 51. R-K4, K-Q3; 52. P-R5, R-QN6; 53. R-K8, R-N5ch; 54. K-N3, P-B5; 55. R-KR8 P-B6; 56. R-QB8, R-N6; 57. K-R4, P-KR3; 58. P-N5, R-N5ch; 59. K-R3, R-N6; 60. PxP, PxP; 61. K-N4 P-R4; 62. R-B4, R-N5 and wins.

Do you notice how small the Washington Chess Letter is getting? Well, the editor can't do it all. He needs help. Instead of more help from my recent editorial wherein it was stated that only by COOPERATION could the WCL continue, the editor has received less help. It can be guaranteed here and now that when the annual election is held, a new man will have to be found for the job.

Ken Mulford saved this issue with his four interesting pages.

Jack Nourse sends in a page EVERY month. If only more would do the same.

The OSCAR for 1954 should go to R. R. MERK. He has faithfully come up with a back cover for our magazine for years. Way before the current editor took over. He does all of the addressing and he also does the stamping. On top of that he has taken care of our Postal Chess for an awfully long time.

F. H. Weaver has helped out a lot in recent months and prior to that came up with a page each month.

It was hoped that Mr. Falk of Yakima would be a regular contributor but nothing has been coming from out his way for some time.

LaFreniere advises us he may be too busy to help because class work at the University takes care of his time.

O. W. Manney doesn't have as much time as he'd like either so has been unable to help lately.

U.S. TOURNAMENTS

The National Chess Ratings which appeared in Chess Life last week are apt to mystify, mortify, or gratify.

Ted Warner has won Expert standing. Arthur Dake and Elmars Zengalis lost ground but still made the Master list. Jim Schmitt whose only published effort was a 7-0 sweep of the 1953 Washington Open was strangely dropped from Expert to Class A. Larry Remlinger, 12-year old Long Beach expert is now a recognized Expert.

National rating is published for members of the United States Chess Federation who have competed in either local or national tournaments during 1953. Because the ratings are gaining acceptance for selecting teams, and to qualify players for championship tournaments, Rating Statistician Kenneth Harkness has revised his method, and instead of being based on a two-year average the new system reflects only the last semi-annual performance.

Northwest players whose ratings appear in the list include: Zengalis, Warner, Manney, Sheets, Bollman, DeWitt Joachim, Rosburg, Vellias, Weaver, Collins, Kendall, Nelson, and LaFreniere.

TOP-RANKING U.S. MASTERS

1	Samuel Reshevsky
2	Robert Byrne
3	George Kramer
4	Donald Byrne
5	Arnold Denker
6	N. Rossolimo
7	Max Pavey
8	Arthur Bisguier
9	Isaac Kashdan
10	Larry Evans
11	Herman Steiner
12	H. Berliner
13	James Sherwin
14	H. Seidman
15	Elliot Hearst
16	Arthur Dake
17	I. Horowitz
18	Dr. P. Schmidt
19	Alex Kevitz
20	Eugene Levin
37	Elmars Zengalis

A Chess Players Wives Club has been organized in Fort Worth, Texas. The purpose of the club is to sponsor sending two high school boys to the 1954 U.S. Junior, to assist in promotion of the Southwestern Open Championship in Fort Worth Sept. 4-6, 1954 and to arrange social events for the bereft families of chessplayers.

NORTH CAROLINA

1	Norman Whitaker	5 - 0
2	Lanneau Foster	3½-1½
3	Rupert Worthington	3½-1½
4	Norman Hornstein	3 - 2
5	George Harwell	3 - 2

QUEBEC PROVINCE

1	Marcel Dion	4 - 1
2	Ignas Zalys	4 - 1
3	Jules Therien	3½-1½

TRI-STATE

(Ohio, W. Virginia, Penn.)

1	Walter Mann	4 - 1
2	Allen DuVall	3 - 2
3	Dr. Werthammer	3 - 2

Mann who is the ranking negro player of the USA also won the Columbus Ohio title 4½-½,

NEW ENGLAND

1	James Bolton	5½- ½
2	Siff	5 - 1
3	Strazdins	4½-1½
4	Wolk	4½-1½
5	Book	4½-1½

WICHITA OPEN

1	Lee Magee	5½- ½
2	Carl Weberg	5 - 1

E. TENNESSEE

1	John Penquite	5½- ½
2	Kimball Nedved	5 - 1
3	Martin Southern	5 - 1
4	Jack Mayer	4½-1½

POSTAL CHESS

R.R. Merk
Postal Chess Editor
1026 E 71 St., Seattle 5, Wash.

Games completed to Jan. 5, 1954

Section 53A-3A		Points		Section 53A-3B		Points	
Almond	1 D.Roberts	0	16	Almond	1 Howard	0	42
Almond	1 Howard	0	32	Howard	1 Bever	0	70
Section 51B-13A		Section 51B-13B		Section 51B-13B		Section 51B-13B	
Howard	1 Dickey	0	36	Howard	1 Dickey	0	36
Section 52B-1A		Section 52B-1B		Section 52B-2B		Section 52B-2B	
Luters	1 D.Roberts	0	24	D.Roberts	1 Luters	0	66
Section 52B-2A		D.Roberts 1 F.E.Merk		D.Roberts 1 F.E.Merk		Allen 1 Thomas	
D.Roberts	1 F.E.Merk	0	46	D.Roberts	1 F.E.Merk	0	40
Section 53B-2A		Section 53B-2B		Allen 1 Thomas		Allen 1 Thomas	
Allen	1 Thomas	0	32			0	32
Kendall	1 Allen	0	62				
Section 53B-1B							
Luters	1 Schrank	0	34				
Luters	1 Leonard	0	34				

Section 51B-13A and 51B-13B finished with Fred Howard being $\frac{1}{2}$ game ahead of Dickey for first place and Howard wins a 6 month subscription to the Washington Chess Letter. Standings in this section are shown below.

	51B-13A				51B-13B				W	L	D
	x	0	0	0	x	0	0	0			
A. C. Norman	1	x	1	1	1	1	x	$\frac{1}{2}$	8		
F. M. Howard	1	0	x	0	1	1	0		6	1	1
M. O. Skarsten	1	0	1	x	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	2	2
R. A. Dickey	1	0	1	x	1	1	0	1	6	2	
F. E. Merk	1	0	0	0	x	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	4	1

Don Roberts has returned to the Far North. His present address is Kotzebue, Alaska which is up beyond the Arctic Circle. He spent a few days in Seattle on his way north just before Christmas and visited with Don Luters and Henry Kaffenberger in the home of Don Luters. According to reports reaching us it was quite a chess session which lasted until the early hours of the morning. It is reported that the two Dons tied with $2\frac{1}{2}$ games each.

Don Roberts also spent an evening with your postal director and we learned about gill net fishing under the ice in the frozen north. Hardly a sport for a timid soul. The fish are stiff as a board a few minutes after coming out of the water. We also had a few games of the Noble Sport of Kings and Queens. No record was kept of the games but Don left well pleased.

POSTAL CHESS TOURNAMENTS

Enter our Postal Chess tournaments any time. New sections are formed as soon as five new entries are received. 50¢ per section of five players. Each player plays two games with each of four opponents, one game as white and one as black.

Send entries to

R. R. Merk
Postal Chess Director
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Seattle 5, Washington.

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POSTAL CHESS RATINGS

Class A Players

Greene	1683	1719 1739
Mulford	1590	
Cerretelli	1547	1511
Cairncross	1534	1460 1484
Almond	1518	
Bever	1453	
Dolle	1445	
Yocom, H. E.	1402	
Wade	1392	1372
Coubrough	1380	1408
Husby	1350	
Howard, F. M.	1340	
Magerkurth	1294	1344
Kaffenberger	1292	1342 + 360 1798
Sams	1277	
Knapp	1250	
Baron	1250	
Naas	1226	
Hellums	1190	
Harmeson	1136	
Yocom, C. L.	1035	991 953

Class B Players

Luters	1410	
Winters	1302	
Skarsten	✓1268	
Merk, R. R.	✓1219	
Allen, W. P.	✓1218	1282 1252 1244 1368
Kendall	✓1212	
Engstrom	✓1208	1044
Dickey	✓1136	
Roberts, Don	✓1150	1122
Southerland	✓1150	
McCarthy	✓1148	
Moore	✓1137	
Emerson	✓1126	1184
Schrank	✓1116	
Leonard	✓1116	
Holland	✓1086	
LaFreniere	✓1054	
McCormick	✓1050	
Dickson	✓1050	
Falk	✓1050	
Vukonich	✓1050	
Merk, Fred	✓1038	
Parry	✓1012	
Martin	✓997	
Baker	✓964	
Thomas	✓950	
Raleigh	✓883	965
Cox	✓742	

