

Historical WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER recaps by Russell Miller January 1955

J.S. DeWitt continues in the Editor Chair with help from R. R. Merk for Circulation, K.W. Mulford for Publisher, contributors: J.N. Nourse, F.H. Weaver, Viktors Pupols, Dan Wade, Ollie LaFreniere. Round 6 of 1954-55 Puget Sound League play was reported upon. Latvian Club Team downed Kitsap group 6.5 to 3.5. Elmars Zemgalis downed Jack Nourse 2-0 on 1st board. Tacoma CC lost to Seattle CC 9-1. Olaf Ulvestad topped Vernon Holmes 2-0 on board 1. U of W downed West Seattle 6-4 with G. Patterson topping Cowan 2-0. Seattle YMCA visited McNeil Island and won 6-4. William Bills on board 1 could only win 1 and lose 1 to Mr. Berg.

1955 Washington State Speed Championship of 11 players was won by Russell Vellias with a perfect 10-0. 2nd was Viktors Pupols at 8-2 and third Olaf Ulvestad 7.5-2.5. Event was held Jan 22 at Seattle Chess Club. WCL Editor John DeWitt was the TD.

One of the articles this month was BIG CHESSBOARDS, HOW TO MAKE.

42 names on the crosstable for Spokane City Championship but only 39 played any games. The top gamers were Leon Svensson (a newcomer to Spokane from Sweden) and Gordon Cornelius (two time city champ) at 5.5-.5 with a 3.5 tie break ahead win for Leon but a play-off match was scheduled. The article said this was the 3rd tourney.

For the fifth year Dr. Griffith Parker was re-elected president of the Spokane CC. H.L. Herigstad is president of the Pasco CC. William Hoge continues as president of Yakima CC.

Ted Davidsen was reelected President of Seattle CC. They need 72 paid members to cover their rent. Out of town players, women, and students can join for \$7.50 per year with others at \$10.00. The club recently got a chess library donated by Dr. Seering. Zemgalis and Ulvestad are honorary members of the Seattle CC.

Puget Sound Open for 1955 rated a full page of information in advance of the tournament. Was to be 7 round Swiss, 2 Sat, 2 Sun, 1 on Monday and 2 on Tuesday. Was to be a 100% USCF rated event, with entry fee of \$10.00. Time control of 40/2 and 20/1. The past winners were listed in the ad, 1933-Olaf Ulvestad, 1948-Jim Schmitt, 49-Jim Amidon and Richard Allen, 50-Robert Stork, 51-Alex Suchobeck, 52-Dan Wade, 53-Jim Schmitt, 54-Viktors Pupols. It was thought that Pupols, Wade and possibly Amidon would play in 1955.

Article was about a league of the Eastern Washington Chess Clubs (Pasco, Spokane, Yakima and Milton-Freewater) being formed and the issues on the ballot to be mailed to the clubs.

Viktors Pupols played a two board blindfold simultaneous at U of W and won both games. Same result, same place for a three board exhibition.

Washington Chess Federation only welcomed one new member this month.

Olaf Ulvestad authored a column called: THE UGLY MOVE.

The following listed games were printed in the issue and had been played in the Washington State Closed Invitational Tourney. R. Edberg-G.S.G. Patterson, Olaf Ulvestad-William Bills, Russell Vellias-George Bishop, F.H. Weaver-Viktors Pupols, Alan Clark-Jim McCormick, G.S.G. Patterson-George Bishop.

Another VOX PUPOLI column by Viktors Pupols on the 1955 State Championship game Russell Vellias-Olaf Ulvestad.

NOURSE 'AD' NAUSEAM this month was about "The Hobby of Collecting Chessmen."

One of the games from the Ted Warner-William Bills 10-game match was given. Warner won the match 6-4.

Alan Clark annotated his game with V. Grinhagens from the U of W-Latvian recent Puget Sound League match.

Greene and Mulford top the postal rating list.

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John G. DeWitt continues as Editor with helpers R. R. Merk-Circulation, K.W. Mulford-Publisher and contributors: J. N. Nourse, F. H. Weaver, Victor (sic) Pupols, D. E. Wade, O.W. LaFreniere. Washington Chess Federation officers: K.W. Mulford-President, Leslie Coubrough-Vice President, Peter Husby-Secretary, W.H. Raleigh-Treasurer, John S. DeWitt-Tournament Director, O.W. LaFreniere-Publicity Director.

Seattle Open Championship set for March 20 and March 27 at the Seattle Chess Club. During the past two years this event was held as “a tourney within a tourney.” Annual meeting of Washington Chess Federation will be held April 17 at Student Union Building at U of W.

Round 7 results for Puget Sound League play were reported. Kitsap Club with C. Magerkurth on 1st board beat West Seattle 7-3. Max Mage lost twice to Magerkurth.

Seattle Club lead by Olaf Ulvestad downed McNeil Island 9.5-.5. Ulvestad played 4 games in this match. U of W with G. Patterson on 1st board downed Tacoma CC 5.5-4.5. Patterson drew with Vernon Holmes 1-1. Latvian Club downed Olympia 5.5-4.5. Elmars Zemgalis and Viktor Pupols were the top two boards for Latvian team going 3-0 against Charles Joachim and Ken Day. In round eight, U of W traveled to McNeil Island for a 5.5-4.5 victory. Seattle YMCA beat Seattle CC 7.5-2.5. On 1st board William Bills and Olaf Ulvestad played two draws. Olympia topped West Seattle 8-2. Charles Joachim took measure of W. B. Cowan on 1st board 2-0. Kitsap came out on top in the match with Tacoma CC 5.5-4.5. R. Collins of Tacoma downed C. Magerkurth twice on 1st board.

U of W teams leads the league at this point with 7-0 match score.

1955 Puget Sound Open of 14 players was won by Elmars Zemgalis 6.5-.5. Hugh Noland was 2nd 5-2 and Olaf Ulvestad and Viktor Pupols were next at 4.5-2.5. Pupols had won the event in 1954. The entry fee for the event was \$10.00 and 1st prize was \$100.00.

State Champion William Bills won a 9 player speed event at the Seattle CC.

Leon Svensson downed Gordon Cornelius 1.5-.5 to win the Spokane City Championship. This was a playoff of their tied in the regular tournament.

The CHESS IN ‘REVIEW’ reports Paul Keres and Vassily Smyslov as winners of annual Hastings Congress. Top three in US Championship Reshevsky, Evans, Bisguier. In Montana Gerald Moore and John Barto tied for 1st place. Vancouver BC City Championship was won by Eugene Butkov 7.5-1.5 and 2nd place to M. Zursevskie. Tennessee Open drew 24 players and Norman Whitaker won.

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March 1955

The University of Washington team won the 1955 Puget Sound league. Their match score was 8-0 with a game score of 46 1/2-32 1/2. Next were the Latvian Sportsmen. Elmars Zemgalis of the Latvian team playing first board scored 15 wins and 1 draw in league play. Olaf Ulvestad won the Seattle Open 5.5-.5. Jerry Schain and William Bills tied for 2nd in the 12 man field. It was played on two Sundays. 18 pages were in WCL this month. Dan Wade topped the postal chess rating list. G. S. Schain was editor for this issue. Annual Washington Chess Federation meeting agenda was published.

April 1955

G.B. Schain was the editor of this 18 page issue. Ted Warner won the 2nd annual Inland Empire Open with 5.5-.5. Robert Oycus was 2nd with 5-1 and Dan Wade was the top of the 4.5 score group. This is the event that Dan Wade would have won on a tie-break had he accepted the offer of a draw from Ted Warner in the last round. Warner made the offer because he thought he would win on a tie-break. Wade thinking so also refused, but they were wrong. 40 players took part. The minutes of the 1955 WCF annual meeting were printed. Ken Mulford was elected President. Dr. Parker V-P. Peter Husby Sec., W.H. Raleigh Treasurer, Gerald Schain editor, and Viktors Pupols tournament director. Franklin High of Seattle defeated both Cleveland and Lincoln Highs of Seattle in matches.

May 1955

It was announced that a Junior Tourney would be held in Yakima with a \$2.00 entry fee. Robert Edberg won the Montana State Championship with 4-1/2 -1/2. He was a resident of Tieton, Washington at the time. Dan E. Wade was the top postal player in this issue. 15 pages were put out by Editor G. B. Schain. As of this issue there had been 91 issues of The Washington Chess Letter with following Editors for the listed number of issues, Larry Taro 17, Jack Finnigan 14, Robert Stork 25, Dan Wade 21, John DeWitt 11 and Gerald Schain 3. Cost for a WCF membership was then \$2.00 per year.

June 1955

Washington would be trying for its third straight win of the International Match to be held July 24 at the Peace Arch in Blaine. Bob Edberg of Tieton won a Yakima CC RR 24-1-2. There were 18 pages in this issue. William Bills current State Champion won a 10 man speed tournament at the Seattle CC. USCF Ratings were printed in this issue. Some that might be of interest to current NWC readers were: Arthur Dake 2400, Victor Pupols 2027, Ivars Dalbergs 2014, Dan Wade 1909, Jim McCormick 1900, Ken Mulford 1733, Oliver LaFreniere 1719, Vince Bricher 1600, Joe Bricher 1550. This issue says Jim McCormick is retired from chess at age 18. Issue says American Chess Foundation Inc. was formed this year to provide sound financing for chess in the USA. Fred Howard won the West Seattle CC Championship.