

BULLETIN
South Dakota Chess Association
August 1, 1950

The 1950 state chess tournament was conducted April 21 and 22 at the Hospitality Room of the Montana-Dakota Utilities Company in Rapid City. A five round Swiss System meeting was the basis of play, and at the conclusion a new champion, Don Emigh of Pierre, was crowned. Emigh nosed out M. H. Semrau, Rapid City, and B. W. Holmes, Sioux Falls, defending champion, by one-half point. Here is the tabulation:

	Won	Drew	Lost	Points	Rating
1. Don Emigh, Pierre	4	1	0	4½	12.50
2. M. H. Semrau, Rapid City	4	0	1	4	9.50
3. B. W. Holmes, Sioux Falls	4	0	1	4	8.50
4. Bertin Goddard, Hot Springs	3	1	1	3½	9.50
5. M. F. Anderson, Rapid City	2	2	1	3	7.00
6. Dr. Geo. D. Shaw, Tripp	3	0	2	3	3.00
7. C. R. Stearns, Rapid City	2	1	2	2½	3.25
8. Irving White, Tripp	2	1	2	2½	3.25
9. O. H. Ellison, Rapid City	2	0	3	2	3.50
10. E. N. Welling, Rapid City	2	0	3	2	1.00
11. A. W. Abel, Esmond	1	0	4	1	1.00
12. Dr. Leo Dobler, Redfield	1	0	4	1	0.00
13. H. A. Sullivan, Rapid City	1	0	3	1	0.00
14. K. E. Althoff, Rapid City	0	0	4	0	0.00

Round 1: The feature match of the opening round was the 4½ hour battle which Semrau won from White. The other favorites came through as expected -- Anderson defeating Abel, Emigh downing Welling, Goddard winning from Ellison, Holmes defeating Sullivan, Shaw beating Althoff, and Stearns scoring over Dobler.

Round 2: Semrau again furnished the excitement by producing a pretty win over Holmes. Emigh defeated Stearns' French Defense with the Alekhine-Chatard Attack. Shaw mated Dobler in 13 moves. Goddard and Anderson drew. Ellison scored over Sullivan, Welling won from Althoff, and White beat Abel.

Round 3: Goddard won a king and pawn ending from Semrau. Holmes went into an unsound combination with Stearns, and narrowly escaped his second loss, but managed to save the point. Emigh went into the lead with his third win when Shaw exchanged pieces too soon in a drawn ending, and found his king too far from the scene of battle. Anderson smashed Welling in thirty minutes. Ellison won from White, Abel defeated Dobler, and Althoff defaulted to Sullivan.

Round 4: Emigh and Anderson drew in a fighting 3½ hour draw, one of the best games of the tournament. Goddard pulled into a tie for first place by defeating Shaw. Holmes scored a revenge win over Ellison, and Semrau had little trouble with Abel. Stearns again threw away a material advantage, this time against White, and finally drew against a rook's pawn. Welling beat Sullivan and Dobler scored by default over Althoff.

Round 5: Emigh and Goddard went into the ending with a bishop and four pawns apiece, and Emigh proved himself the better endgame player to take the title. Semrau scored easily over Ellison. Anderson was too aggressive and lost to Holmes. Shaw beat Welling, Stearns won from Abel, and White scored over Dobler. Sullivan and Althoff defaulted.

A rapid transit tournament, held the evening of the 20th after the business meeting, was won by Stearns with 5 wins, 1 loss, and 17 rating points. White also had a 5-1 score, but only 14 rating points to take second. Others competing were Holmes 4-2 and 14, R. B. Denu 4-2, 12, Sullivan 3-3, 8, Welling 3-3, 6, Shaw 3-3, 5, Semrau 3-3, 4, Ellison 3-3, 3, Dobler 2-4, 1, Abel 1-5, 0, and H. N. Stevens 0-6, 0.

Dr. Shaw was selected as president for the ensuing year, and Anderson was renamed secretary-treasurer.

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In addition to taking the state title across the board, Don Emigh is the apparent victor in the state postal chess tournament which started last autumn. Complete results should be available for the next bulletin. Shall we have another postal tournament? The Correspondence Chess League of America conducts the official national postal tournament, beginning in September of each year, and if eight or more indicate a desire to play in this, we can hold our state tournament as a first round in this tournament. The winner would be eligible for the second round of the CCLA tournament. Entry fee \$1 to CCLA members, \$1.50 to others. If you are interested in this please notify M. F. Anderson, Box 1466, Rapid City, before August 15, so that arrangements can be completed with

the CCLA.

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Does anyone have any suggestions regarding the conduct of future state crossboard tournaments?

As a start of a discussion, here is a plan proposed for the Cleveland City Chess Tournament.

"There should be two types of tourneys. One a 10 man Championship Round Robin composed of players who have qualified in previous years tournaments. Simultaneously, a Candidates Tournament should be held to see who would qualify for the Championship Tourney. The last two rated players in the Championship Tourney would be taken out and placed in the Candidates section, and conversely the highest two of the Candidates Tourney would be eligible to compete in the Championship section." Under this plan, as adapted for South Dakota use, only the high men from the 1950 tournament (for instance) could compete for the 1951 title. However, all other entries in 1951 would play in a candidates section, and the high two (or other number) would replace the low two (or other number) from the championship section in the list of those eligible for the 1952 title play. After the first year, a player would have to attend two successive meetings to win the state title. Of course, we could vary from ten in the top class. Six would allow a round robin to be played off in two days.

Some other thoughts that have been suggested are (1) one long game can create a lot of delay in a Swiss System tournament; (2) a two day or possibly a three day tournament will attract the widest entry list; (3) not more than three games per day should be scheduled; (4) regional qualifying tournaments are a possibility; (5) the more players we have at state tournaments, the more chess interest in the state. While you are writing to the secretary on the above subject, also let him know your ideas as to the time and place for the 1951 tourney. So far we have no bids, although Rapid City is very happy to entertain the meeting at any time.

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Probably the best game of the 1950 state tournament was the following, between R. W. Holmes, White, and M. H. Semrau, Black.

1 P-K4, P-QB4; 2 N-KB3, N-QB3; 3 P-Q4, PXP; 4 NXP, N-KB3; 5 N-QB3, P-Q3; 6 B-QN5 (the B is misplaced here. B-K2 is most usual), B-Q2; 7 O-O, P-KN3; 8 B-K3, B-N2; 9 P-B4, O-O; 10 BxN, BxB; 11 NxB, PxN; 12 Q-B3, N-Q2; 13 QR-Q, BxN; 14 PxB, P-B3; 15 P-KR4, R-B2; 16 P-N4, P-R3; 17 Q-N3, Q-R4; 18 P-B5 (Holmes says this is the wrong pawn to push), P-N4; 19 PXP, RPXP; 20 R-B2, R-R2; 21 R-R2, RxR; 22 QxR, K-N2; 23 Q-R5, N-K4 (not R-R; 24 Q-N6ch, K-B; 25 B-Q4, P-QB4; 26 BxP!); 24 Q-R3, R-R; 25 Q-N2, R-R5; 26 K-B, RxP; 27 Q-Q2, RxP; 28 BxP (about all he can hope for now is a perpetual check), Q-N4ch; 29 P-B4 (White's King cannot go to B2 while Black's Queen is on her fourth rank, because of the Knight check, so he draws the Queen to the fifth rank), QxPch; 30 K-B2, Q-B4ch (but White has only two squares for his King, while Black has checks from three squares. Semrau demonstrates that three times two is six, and in six moves eliminates all defenses.); 31 K-B, Q-N4ch; 32 P-B4, QxPch; 33 K-B2, Q-B4ch; 34 K-B, Q-N4ch; 35 K-B2 (he has run out of pawns to interpose), N-N5ch; 36 K-B3, QxPch; 37 B-B4, P-K4; 38 Resigns. Semrau's combination is simple when you see it, but how many of us would have seen it?

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Don't forget that the dues in the South Dakota Chess Association are still two dollars a year. Promotion of chess in the state deserves that much from you.