

FROM THE EDITORS

Sir:

Firstly, allow me to congratulate your periodical for its excellent Master's Corner by Marty Appleberry series as well as its general quality; James Little and Gary Pylant did a fine job inaugurating the ADVOCATE, and with you on the masthead its success is certain to continue.

However, I would like to register a complaint concerning inaccurate reporting of local games. For example in the last issue, which carried the Hunter Weaks Memorial results, numerous games (for example Ruth Orton-Mahlon [Scott] Smith), were arbitrarily shortened. The Orton-Smith partie was reported in your own column as going 18 moves with the note, 1-0. In actuality, the game went on until move 48!

This particular game was picked up from the ADVOCATE by the TENNESSEE CHESS NEWS and of course was published as an 18 move miniature. This is unfair--apparently your reasoning was that after move 18, when Ruth picked up the exchange, the continuation was either technique or folly; however an equally valid appraisal might have been that the rook was a sacrificial lamb as Mr. Smith carried on a ferocious attack that took 30 moves to resolve itself: I am not attacking your editorial prerogative or your chessic judgement, if you did not deem the rest of the game publishable, so be it. However, in the interest of accuracy, if not fairness, would it not be possible to, (as is accepted practice in many chess periodicals) give the last move number after the result? (i.e. after the 18th move, Orton-Smith, the note: 1-0, 48).

Jack Smith, Secretary
PILLSBURY CHESS CLUB

Ed.--It is unfortunate that other publications care to publish copies of games without the knowledge of this editor. It has been our policy to cut games short because of blunders that have occurred and resulted in an eventual loss. The remaining portion, however, has publication merit. I do not think that by establishing the number of moves that actually occurred will have that much bearing on the use of a game as an example of playing skill, only on the tenaciousness of the oponent to avoid being defeated sooner. A loss is still a loss at move 20 or move 40. Almost all games that are published are played through completely by me and/or members of the publication staff. Games are selected on merit or submitted for publication by the players themselves. We make it a policy to publish games from all rating levels, if possible, with as many different people highlighted.

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