



SKITTLES ROOM

From the Archives

Hosted by
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From the Archives...

Since it came online many years ago, ChessCafe.com has presented literally thousands of articles, reviews, columns and the like for the enjoyment of its worldwide readership. The good news is that almost all of this high quality material remains available in the [Archives](#). The bad news is that this great collection of chess literature is now so large and extensive – and growing each week – that it is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate it effectively. We decided that the occasional selection from the archives posted publicly online might be a welcomed addition to the regular fare.

Watch for an item to be posted online periodically throughout each month. We will update the ChessCafe.com home page whenever there has been a “new” item posted here. We hope you enjoy *From the Archives*...

The first official World Championship match took place in 1886 between Wilhelm Steinitz and J.H. Zukertort. Split playing sites are not unique to the modern era. The rules for the 1886 match provided that the match would be played in New York, St. Louis and New Orleans. The match arrived in St. Louis with Zukertort holding an apparently commanding 4-1 lead. The two main newspapers, *The St. Louis Globe Democrat* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* both covered the St. Louis leg. Robert Sutter has been kind enough to go through the archives and dig up all thirteen articles that both papers published. Together they represent a fascinating chronicle of championship play a century ago. We have arranged the articles chronologically and, because of their length, divided the full presentation into six parts. We have also converted all game notation to English Algebraic and inserted diagrams where appropriate. We are pleased to present Part 3 of...

Steinitz vs. Zukertort – 1886

Match for the World Chess Championship Part 3

The St. Louis Games

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Thursday, February 4, 1886, Page 5

SECURED BY STEINITZ
THE SIXTH GAME IN THE CHESS TOURNAMENT
RESULTS IN ZUKERTORT'S DEFEAT
A Rattling Contest Opens the St. Louis Series
Great Interest Among Local Players
The Official Record of the Moves
Steinitz Getting Into His Old Form
Notes

The morning papers, in their report of the Steinitz-Zukertort chess match at the Harmonie club yesterday, differ so materially in respect to several moves that the following record of each move, compiled from the official score taken from Mr. S.M. Joseph, is here presented as the correct account of this brilliant game.

As was stated in the *Post-Dispatch* last evening, in announcing the first sixteen moves, the opening by Steinitz was the well known Ruy Lopez which, though considered a very safe one, was handled in a masterly manner by the white, who began to drive his opponent toward the wall by the sixteenth move. The game was played at the Harmonie club until 7 p. m. when, after recess, an adjournment was taken on the forty-sixth move to the rooms of the Chess, Checker, and Whist club at Eighth and Olive Streets, owing to the previous engagement of the rooms at the Harmonie for the evening. the games hereafter will be played entirely at the Harmonie club. The next contest will take place tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock and the third in the series on Monday. The conditions of the match require that one of the players shall win in St. Louis at least three games.



Zukertort vs. Steinitz

Notes

Steinitz has played chess the longer. Max Judd thinks Zukertort is still a pretty sure winner. Four ladies were present at the afternoon session at the Harmonie. Zukertort admitted that he lost the game on the twenty-fifth move. When Zukertort gets deeply absorbed, he puts on a pair of eye-glasses. In just an even hour after the start, Zukertort got up and began to pace the floor. Wallace Delafield kept order by cautioning excited players against talking too loud. The only stimulant the champions take is coffee which they sip from a stand at their side. After the game last night, Zukertort was crusty and went home, but Steinitz stayed and played whist. S.M. Joseph was the pink of courtesy and earned the title of "daisy." He kept the *Associated Press* bulletin, and kept it straight. Both men are under 5 feet 5 inches tall and when they sat down at the high table, the spectators said, "The table's not too big, the men are too small." Neither champion can give Max Judd a single piece and beat him. In fact, Max beat Zukertort several games when the latter was here a year ago. "A boss move," said Mr. Joseph as Steinitz played his twenty-sixth. "And another boss," he continued as the white checked with the knight on the fifty-seventh. Max Judd, the local champion, would give no running commentary. "The game's too deep. No good chess player will express an opinion as yet," he remarked on the thirty-seventh move. The numerous checks of Steinitz, beginning on the twenty-first move were compelled by the fact that his time was nearly exhausted, as the rules require thirty moves in the first two hours. Steinitz generally keeps his hands on his lap under the table, but Zukertort often leans his head on his left hand. This

been done so much that his right shoulder has got a decided hump. Steinitz said yesterday that he had learned the intricacies of the queen's gambit by recent analysis and was now so well posted on it that if Zukertort opens his next game with pawn to queen's fourth, he (Steinitz) will surely beat him or make a draw. Steinitz has been attacking Zukertort bitterly in his chess magazine the past six months, but since they have been playing in this match they have been growing more friendly, and Joseph says that Steinitz called his opponent "Zukey" yesterday. The score now is Zukertort 4 games, Steinitz 2 games. It is pretty generally believed that Steinitz is getting back into his old form and is going to defeat the doctor. The only previous match the two ever played together was in London in 1878 when Steinitz won seven in a series of eight games.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Friday, February 5, 1886, Page 2

STEINITZ GETS IT
Zukertort Gives Him the Opening for Which
He Was Yearning

The second St. Louis game in the great chess match between Zukertort and Steinitz began this afternoon at the Harmonie Club. The time set for the beginning of the game was 2 o'clock, and long before that hour about a half dozen gentlemen gathered in the hall and looked expectantly at the big board placed before them. In the room where the players sit, Mr. S.M. Joseph, C.F. Wadsworth, chess editor of the *Auburn Citizen*, Auburn, Ill.; Max Judd, and the seconds of the players stood around and discussed the merits of the last game and the probability of the winning man in the game today. The seconds remained the same as in the first game, viz.: Messrs, Duncan and Foster, and Dr. Campbell and Isador Judd as substitutes. As the hand of the clock approached the hour the audience began to increase perceptibly and those gentlemen whose perspectives to chess are well known began to stroll in by the twos and threes. Amongst those present were Albert Blair, Rudolph Koerper, C.M. Tucker of Pittsfield, Ill., Dr. L. Haydel, Mr. Wetherall, Fred Gabel, I.B. Pachall, and Col. R. G. Rowley. Steinitz arrived early and seemed confident and serene. He employed himself by pacing up and down the players' room with his eyes fixed on the floor and a very meditative aspect on his face. Promptly at 2 o'clock the players took their seats at the table, Zukertort leading. The colors today were Zukertort white, Steinitz black. The game ran as follows, Zukertort having the right to move first.

The opening above is the one that Steinitz declared he wanted, and it will be remembered that he said he would "do up" Zukertort if he resorted to it.

Checks

"St. Louis is a Steinitz town, you can bet on that," said a chess player today. "You see, it's a matter of patriotic pride. We want to make this country the leading one in chess. We don't want to see Zukertort go back across the water with all the laurels. Steinitz is going to live in this country after this, and we ought to give him a lift." Steinitz is troubled with insomnia and complained yesterday of being unable to woo the drowsy god. "The last game was the best in the series so far. It was well contested throughout," is the general verdict. A.H. Robbins, the best problemist in the city, calls off the moves for the official scorer. He keeps his eye on every move but keeps mum at the same time. He always stands ready to courteously explain the last move. The Chicago and Cincinnati papers come to hand, had a correct score of the game and S.M. Joseph, the official scorer, is tickled to think the Associated Press sent the same accurate score all over the world. Some think that Steinitz is the better analyzer but that Zukertort carries the game along the better. Others however, deny it. Steinitz is a good whist player but Zukertort can beat him. When either plays, nobody reneges.



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