

4. Jacqueline Participates in her First Women's United States Chess Championship

Jump in the Waves Chapter 30: "Starting to Achieve"

Page 140

I started to study with Herman Steiner and spent many hours trying to improve my game. One day he told me that he had recommended that I be invited to play in the Women's U.S. Invitational National Championship. It was played in the Manhattan Chess Club in New York. Losing my first game was so traumatic that I wanted to thrash, beat, slash again. But there was nothing to slash. I had to be polite. So I left the club in Greenwich Village in the middle of the night, walked back alone to the Windsor Hotel on 58th Street. I didn't win the championship, but I held my own. So without realizing it, I had become one of the ten best women players in the United States. It did not mean enough to me. I hadn't won the tournament. I kept playing for the next three years.