

# Rodriguez Takes Top Chess Prize

## Philippine Strategist Scores Major Upset In People's Festival

By Alan Benson

Ruben Rodriguez, a Philippine Chess Master, won an upset victory in the 1st California People's Chess Festival last weekend. On his way to the top prize of \$450, Rodriguez scored a surprise win against International Grandmaster Walter Browne of Berkeley. (See game, below)

Browne, considered one of the top 25 players in the world, had been favored to win the tournament. He faltered in the fourth of six rounds, though, achieving only a draw against Larry Gilden, and again in the fifth round, in which he lost to Rodriguez.

Rodriguez' tournament record was 5-1. Browne and Gilden tied for second place in the open division, with records of 4½-1½, and each won \$195 in prize money. Berkeley's John Grefe captured fourth place.

Winners in the other divisions were as follows:

**Expert Division:** 1st: Jeremy Silman, Jim McCormick (tie), \$180 each; 3rd: Ziad Barouli, \$60.

**Class A:** 1st: Antonio Saguisag, \$210; 2nd-3rd: Reynauldo Johnson and Daniel Siwtkes (tie), \$105 each;

**Class B:** 1st: Richard Dorn, \$210; 2nd-4th: Greg Hoyal, John Pope, Richard Lew (tie), \$70 each.

**Class C:** 1st-5th: Kip Brockman, Thomas Willis, Steven Bell, Craig Squire, John Dwyer, (Tie), \$70 each.

**Class D-E Unrated:** 1st: Wayne Smith, \$210; 2nd: Johnathan Devereux, \$150; 3rd-4th, Ruben Catig, Gary Luke (tie), \$30 each.

Tournament Directors were Guthrie McClain, assisted by Alan Benson and Ed Delgado. 200 persons participated. The following game was chosen by Rodriguez as his best.

### SICILIAN DEFENSE

White: Ruben Rodriguez; Black: Walter Browne

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|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. P-K4 P-QB4       | 31. RxNP RxP(1)  |
| 2. N-KB3 P-Q3       | 32. P-KR4 R-B5   |
| 3. N-B3 N-KB3       | 33. P-R5 P-N5    |
| 4. P-Q4 PxP         | 34. K-B2 PxP     |
| 5. NxP P-QR3        | 35. KxP P-R3     |
| 6. B-KN5 P-K3       | 36. R-N6 K-R2    |
| 7. P-B4 B-K2        | 37. RxKP RxP     |
| 8. Q-B3 Q-B2        | 38. RxQP R-N4    |
| 9. O-O-O QN-Q2      | 39. R-KN6(m) RxP |
| 10. B-K2 P-N4       | 40. R-N3 R-B4ch  |
| 11. BxN NxB(a)      | 41. K-N4 R-B7    |
| 12. P-K5(b) B-N2    | 42. K-N3 R-B8    |
| 13. PxN(c) BxQ      | 43. P-R4 P-R4    |
| 14. BxB BxP         | 44. K-N4 K-R3    |
| 15. BxR P-Q4        | 45. K-N5 P-R5    |
| 15. BxR P-Q4        | 46. R-N8 R-B2    |
| 16. BxP(e) BxN(f)   | 47. P-N4 R-KN2   |
| 17. RxB PxB         | 48. R-QB8 P-R6   |
| 18. R-Klch K-B1     | 49. R-B3 R-N4ch  |
| 19. NxQP(g) Q-B4    | 50. K-R6 P-R7    |
| 20. P-B3 P-N3(h)    | 51. R-R3ch R-R4  |
| 21. R-K5 K-N2       | 52. RxP RxR(n)   |
| 22. P-KN4 Q-QB1(i)  | 53. P-N5 K-N4    |
| 23. P-B5 R-K1       | 54. P-N6 R-R3    |
| 24. P-B6ch K-R1(j)  | 55. P-R5 K-B4    |
| 25. R-K7 K-N1       | 56. K-R7 K-K3    |
| 26. N-B7 R-B1       | 56. K-R7 K-K3    |
| 27. R(4)-Q7 P-N4(k) | 58P-N7 R-R2      |
| 28. N-K6 QxR        | 58K-R8 R-R4(o)   |
| 29. RxQ PxN         | 59. P-R6 Resigns |
| 30. R-N7ch K-R1     |                  |

(a) Not 11 . . . BxB 12. BxP! Or instead 11 . . . PxB 12. Q-R5 is very strong.

(b) White must continue to play sharply as 12. P-QR3, R-QN1 followed by 13 . . . P-N5 with good play.

(c) After 13. Q-N3, PxP 14. PxP, N-Q2 (Not 14 . . . N-K5 15. NxKP, PxN 16. B-R5 ch, K-B1 17. KR-B1 white is winning as confirmed in Velimirovic-Bronstein, Vinkovic, 1970) 15. QxP, QxP and Black is all right.

(d) Not 14 . . . R-QB1 15. PxB, QxP 16. N-B5 or instead 15 . . . P-cN5 16. N-Q5 and in both lines White has a strong attack.

(e) If instead 16. B-B6 ch, K-B1 17. QN-K2, K-K2 followed by 18 . . . R-QB1

(f) Not 16 . . . QxP ch 17. K-N1 BxN 18. B-B6 ch K-K2 19. N-K2.

(g) Also to be considered was 19. R-K5, P-N3 20. NxQP and now 20 . . . Q-N1! 21. R(4)-K4, K-N2 22. P-B5, PxP 23. RxP, R-Q1 drawn on the 100th move as in Anderson-Donner, Berlin, 1971.

(h) This move is a suggestion of Vajic Pirc. However in the original game with this line, Keres-Fischer, Candidates 1959, Fischer played 20 . . . P-KR4 and won.

(i) Perhaps it would have been better to play 22 . . . R-QB1.

(j) If 24 . . . K-R3 25. N-K7 followed by 26. R(4)-Q5 with an unstoppable threat of 21. R-R5 ch, PxR 28. RxP mate. This could only be prevented with material loss for Black.

(k) The best chance was not to allow 28. P-N5 followed by 29. N-K6 as in the game with no chance for Black.

(l) This ending is won for white. Grandmaster Browne continues the struggle but there is no hope.

(m) A good move as to keep the Black King out of the game as long as possible.

(n) GM Browne has a rook for two pawns but Rodriguez' pawns are too far advanced.

(o) One last chance. For if 59. P-N8 (Q), RxPch followed by R-N4 ch and RxQ with a draw.