

Richard Shorman

Chess

BROWNE RETAINS U.S. TITLE

Passing undefeated through 13 rounds, Walter Browne successfully defended his title of United States Closed Chess Champion, earned \$2,300 first prize money and secured one of the two FIDE zonal tournament slots qualifying him for the next stage in the new world championship candidates' series. Ken Rogoff won the second zonal spot, finishing only a half-point behind after leading most of the way. Complete results:

1st, Walter Browne (2554), Berkeley, 8½-4½, \$2,300; **2nd**, Ken Rogoff (2453), Rochester, N.Y., 8-5, \$1,700; **3rd**, Milan Vukcevic (2469), Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 7½-5½, \$1,250; **4th-5th**, Robert Byrne (2618), Scarborough, N.Y., and Samuel Reshevsky (2510), Spring Valley, N.Y., 7-6, \$750 each; **6th-9th**, William Lombardy (2523), Ridgefield, N.J., James Tarjan (2489), Berkeley, Arthur Bisguier (2453), Rock Hill, N.Y., and Kim Commons (2437), Los Angeles, 6½-6½, \$481.25 each; **10th**, Lubomir Kavalek (2587), Reston, Va., 6-7, \$350; **11th-13th**, John Grife (2476), Berkeley, Edmar Mednis (2468), Woodside, N.Y., and John Peters (2438), N. Scituate, Mass., 5½-7½; \$158.33 each; **14th**, Pal Benko (2492), Jersey City, N.J., 5-8, \$200.

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Here are some action-packed games from the 1975 U.S. Championship, Oberlin, Ohio, June 7-30, recorded in USCF-sanctioned coordinate chess notation (files lettered "a" to "h," ranks numbered "1" to "8," always counting from White's lower left corner regardless of whose turn to move; pawn captures designated by file letters only).

White : Edmar Mednis (2468). **Black**: Walter Browne (2554). U.S. Championship, Oberlin, 1975. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 Nbd7 7 Be3 e6 8 a4 b6 9 f4 Bb7 10 Bf3 Rc8 11 0-0 Rc3 12 bc Ne4 13 Ne2 Qc7 14 31 d5 15 Bd4 Bc5 16 Ng3 f5 17 Qe3 0-0 18 Bc5 bc 19 a5 e5 20 Ne2 g5 21 fe f4 22 Qc1 Ne5 23 Rb1 Nc4 24 Qe1 Ned2 25 Rf2 Nb1 26 Qb1 Nd2 27 Bd5 Bd5 28 Qd1 Rd8 29 Qd2 Bg2 30 Qe1 Ba8 31 h4 Qc6 32 Kh2 Qh6 33 Ng1 g4 34 qe7 Rf8 35 Rd2 g3 36 Kh3 Qg6 37 Rd6 Qf5 mate.

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White: Milan Vukcevic (2469). **Black**: John Peters (2438). U.S. Championship, Oberlin, 1975. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 Nf3 e6 3 b3 d6 4 Bd2 Nf6 5 e5 de 6 Ne5 Nbd7 7 f4 Ne5 8 fe Nd7 9 Bd3 g6 10 Na3 a6 11 0-0 Nb6 12 Qf3 Qe7 13 Be4 Rb8 14 d4 Bg7 15 Qf2 0-0 16 dc Nd7 17 Nc4 Nc5 18 Ba3 b6 19 Bf3 Re8 20 Nb6 Nd3 21 Be7 Nf2 22 Bc5 Be5 23 Rae1 Resigns.

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White: William Lombardy (2523). **Black**: Kim Commons (2437). U.S. Championship, Oberlin, 1975. Queen's Gambit Declined 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 d5 4 d4 c5 5 cd Nd5 6 e4 Nc3 7 bc cd 8 cd Bb4 9 Bd2 Bd2 10 Qd2 0-0 11 Bc4 Nc6 12 0-0 Qd6 13 a3 Rd8 14 Rfd1 Bd7 15 h3 Rac8 16 Bf1 Rc7 17 Qe3 Ne7 18 a4 Rdc8 19 Ne5 Be8 20 Qb3 Ng6 21 Nc4 Qf4 22 g3 Qf6 23 e5 Qd8 24 Nd6 Rb8 25 Bb5 Bc6 26 Bc6 Rc6 27 Rac1 Qc7 28 Qa3 Ne7 29 Rc6 bc 30 Rc1 Qb6 31 Qf3 f6 32 ef Qd4 33 Ne4 gf 34 Nf6 Kh8 35 Rd1 Qb2 36 Nd7 Rd8 37 Qf7 Qg7 38 Qe6 Ng6 39 Rd6 Nf4 40 Qf5 Nd5 41 Ne5 Rd6 42 Nf7 Kg8 43 Nd6 Ne7 44 Qe6 Kf8 45 Qd7 Kg8 Qa7 Qe5 47 Qb8 Resigns.

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White: Robert Byrne (2618). **Black**: Walter Browne (2554). U.S. Championship, Oberlin, 1975. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 e6 7 Be2 Nbd7 8 g4 h6 9 f4 b5 10 g5 hg 11 fg Rh3 12 Bf4 b4 13 Nd5 ed 14 gf Nf6 15 Nc6 Qb6 16 ed Ne4 17 Qd4 18 Nd4 g5 19 Bc1 Bg7 20 Nc6 Ng3 21 Rg1 Ne2 22 Rg5 Nd4 23 Rg7 Nc2 24 Kd1 Na1 25 Rg8 Kd7 26 Rf8 Rd3 27 Bd2 Rd5 28 Nb4 Rf5 29 Bc3 a5 30 Nd3 a4 31 Resigns.

**AN EPISODE IN THE
CAREER OF PAUL MORPHY**

(Conclusion)

By PHILIP SERGEANT

Perhaps Morphy's attitude toward Paulsen's challenge to a match may seem to savor of haughtiness. But it must be borne in mind that he had, immediately after his lightning victory in the First American Congress, offered the odds of Pawn and move to any American player, and that after his triumphal progress in Europe he had no reason to modify, and had not modified, his terms. Moreover, his curious distaste for chess had beyond doubt attained a certain growth by 1860. He had already practically retired from all public connection with the game, though he did indulge in a little play — at odds only — on his visits to the New York Chess Club in 1860, and later in 1863-4 played both in Havana and in Paris, even giving a last exhibition of his scarcely diminished blindfold skill in the former place. He had somehow lost interest in the game, and would only consent to pursue it further on his own terms. Paulsen endeavored to vary these terms; and, whatever sympathy may be felt with him over his ambition to prove that his five to one defeat in the American Congress was not a true test of his skill compared with Morphy's, we cannot wonder that the fastidious and sensitive genius that Paul Morphy was should "get heartily tired of the subject."

BENSON'S BLINDFOLD BLITZ

During a recent visit to the Cherryland Cafe in Hayward, blindfold chess expert Alan Benson of Berkeley played two clocked five-minute games simultaneously without sight of the board, winning one against David Brooks and drawing the other versus Pete Hyatt. Brief notes by Alan Benson.

White: Alan Benson.

Black: David Brooks.

Cherryland Cafe, Hayward, June 21, 1975.

Vienna Game

1 P-K4	N-KB3	13 NxQ	NxQP?!(h)
2 N-QB3(a)	P-K4	14 PxN	BxP
3 P-B4(b)	P-Q4	15 N-B3!(i)	BxKP
4 PxKp	NxP	16 0-0	B-Q2
5 Q-B3(c)	B-QB4?(d)	17 NxB	RxN
6 NxN	PxN	18 B-KB4	R-B4
7 QxKP	O-O	19 QR-B1	RxR
8 N-B3	N-B3	20 RxR	P-B3(j)
9 P-B3!(e)	R-K1	21 B-B4ch	K-R1
10 P-Q4	B-N3	22 R-Q1	B-K1
11 B-Q3	P-B4	23 B-K6	Resigns(k)
12 Q-R4(f)	QxQ(g)		

(a) Also played by me against IM Julio Kaplan in a Berkeley masters' tournament in 1971.

(b) The Benson — Kaplan game continued as a Four Knights, but here, blindfold, with my opponent rated 1735, why not the Vienna?

(c) You never know! . . . In memory of Julius Bryer.

(d) The refutation of Black's pawn sac.

(e) The refutation of Black's pawn sac.

(f) Easing all the pressure and simplifying.

(g) Black had better chances with 12 . . . Q-Q4, keeping queens on the board.

(h) Otherwise it is slow death.

(i) Allowing White to castle safely and bring his pieces into play.

(j) Unfortunately . . .

(k) If 23 . . . P-KN3 follows 24 B-K5mate, of course, but 23 . . . B-N3 also loses to 24 R-Q7 R-K1 (Hopeless, too, is 24 . . . P-N3 because of 25 B-K5.) 25 B-KB7.