

Philippine Grandmaster Wins Big Chess Tournament in S.F.

3/15/91
One of the most prestigious international chess tournaments ever held in San Francisco was won last night by the champion of the Philippines, Eugenio Torre.

The PanPacific Grandmaster match featured 11 grandmasters from around the world, including the legendary Mikhail Tal of Latvia, world champion in 1960, and the world's top woman player, 21-year-old Zsuzsa Polgar of Hungary. Polgar was the only woman competing.

Torre clinched the title last night after tying Tal in a closely watched game at the Holiday Inn on Kearny Street. He scored eight out of a possible 11 points, and took home \$3,500. Second prize of \$2,500 went to Patrick Wolff of Boston.

"This is the biggest and strongest round-robin chess tournament ever held in San Francisco," said Neil Falconer, chairman of the tournament's organizing committee.

The match, sponsored by the Mechanics Institute, drew grandmasters from Australia, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia and the United States, as well as the Philippines, Latvia and Hungary.

In Spain yesterday, Vasily Ivanchuk of the Soviet Union won the Linares international chess tournament after defeating favorites world champion Garry Kasparov and challenger Anatoly Karpov in earlier rounds.

Ivanchuk, 21, won \$7,500 in prize money and a car. He was the only player undefeated in the tournament.

Gata Kamsky of the United States, at 16 the world's youngest grandmaster, beat Jan Ehlvest of the Soviet Union after 46 moves but ended last in the final standings.