

The Chess Column

Young Newcomer Is Imaginative Strategist

By R. E. Fauber with
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Special to The Bee

The newest U.S. Chess Federation master is Marcel Sisniega, a native of Mexico who is temporarily sojourning in Sacramento and gaining chess experience in tournaments around the state. Sisniega's accomplishment is noteworthy because he is only 15 years old and has developed his skills without the benefit of competition in a major metropolitan chess center such as New York, Belgrade or Moscow.

His brain functions with marvelous rapidity, and his style at the board emphasizes a facility for rapidly calculating the tactical elements of the position. Yet, unlike most youngsters, Sisniega does not go all out to crush his opponents from the opening move. The double-edged positions of the Sicilian Defense make him uncomfortable as Black. Sisniega also has trouble finding appropriate plans in unclear quiet positions, while endings where there are no thunderous tactical strokes frequently find him drifting from the indicated plan.

What Sisniega does best is to build up a solid, well-developed position with a space advantage. Then his imagination blossoms with decisive attacking lines.

Sicilian Defense

M. Sisniega vs B. Zapata

1. P-K4, P-QB4; 2. P-Q4, P-K3; 3. N-KB3, PXP; 4. NXP, N-QB3; 5. N-QB3, Q-B2; 6. P-KN3, P-QR3; 7. B-N2, N-B3; 8. 0-0, P-Q3.

(This variation was very popular in the early 1950s. Fischer used it to beat Tal at Bled, 1961, and Tal got the better of Najdorf in this position by 9. R-K1, B-Q2; 10. NXN, PXN; 11. N-R4, P-K4; 12. P-QB4 at Belgrade, 1970.)

9. N/B-K2, B-K2.

(This is too routine. Preferable was 9. . . ., NXN; 10. NXN, B-Q2. 10 P-QB4 will create a bind.)

10. P-QB4, B-Q2; 11. P-N3, R-Q1.

(Black has some weird ideas. Better was 11. . . ., 0-0—KR-Q1.)

12. N-B2, 0-0; 13. B-N2, B-B1; 14. R-B1, P-QN3; 15. N-K3, B-N2; 16. N-Q5!

(This frustrates all Black's preparations for . . ., P-Q4 and secures White a healthy advantage.)

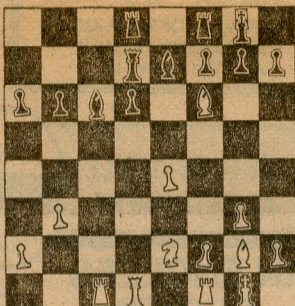
16. . . ., PXN; 17. BPXP, Q-Q2; 18. PXN, BXP; 19. BXN!

See diagram.

(This fine move grants either a winning positional advantage or a material edge. Black would have been better off now replying 19. . . ., BXB; 20. RXB, QXR; 21. P-K5, P-Q4 when White still has to win a lengthy ending.)

19. . . ., PXB; 20. N-Q4, B-R1; 21. N-B5, K-R1; 22.

Zapata
BLACK



WHITE
Sisniega

Q-R5, R/Q-K1; 23. RB3!, B-Q1; 24. P-KN4, R-N1; 25. QXPch, Resigns.

(Otherwise 25. . . ., KXQ; 26. R-R3ch, K-N3; 27. R-R6ch, K-N4; 28. P-B4ch, KXNP; 29. P-KR3 mates.)

Sisniega will return to Mexico this summer, which is Sacramento's loss and Mexico's gain.

Contest In Cuba

Ulf Andersson, fueled by his match victory over Bent Larsen, continued his winning ways by capturing the Capablanca Memorial Tournament at Cienfuegos, Cuba, in solid style with 13½-3½. His chief competition was the Russian contingent. Yuri Balashov and Evgeny Vasiukov tied for second and third at 12½, while Yuri Razuvaev was clear fourth with 11½.