

46TH OLYMPIAD: U.S. NATIONALS

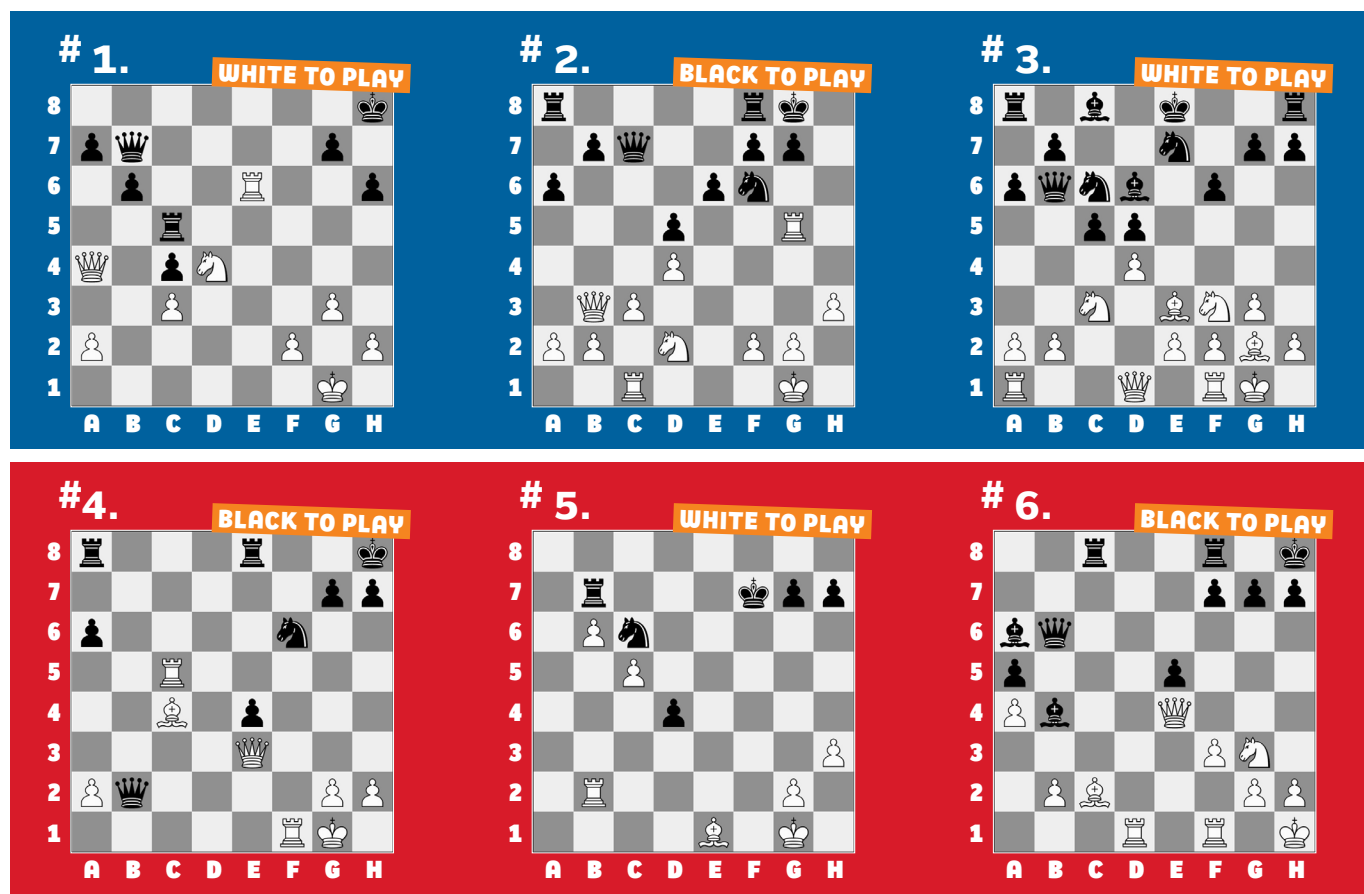
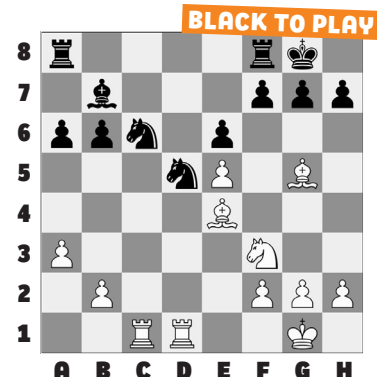
Today's exercises conclude our series on U.S. Nationals at the **46th Olympiad**, focusing on the women's teams from Guam, U.S. Virgin

Islands, and Puerto Rico.

In our **example**, Black tried to force things with **23. ... Nxe5??** relying on **24. Nxe5 f6** to win back the piece, missing **25. Nd7** when **25. ... fxg5 26. Nxf8 Rxf8 27. Bxd5 Bxd5** allowed White to simplify into an endgame where the extra Exchange was clearly dominant in Rivera Negron – Krasnova.

Instead, **23. ... h6** or other simple moves would have prevented White from gaining anything. The lesson:

Don't try to force a tactic to work when your position is fine.



SOLUTIONS

1) 30. Qe8+ A geometric mating net. In the game, 30. Re8+ Kh7 31. Qc2+ g6 32. Qe4 still won. **30. ... Kh7 31. Qg6+ Kg8 32. Re8** mate. (Benzon – Manichith, Samarkand, 2026, analysis) **2) 18. ... Qf4** Loose pieces drop off! **19. Re5** White might have intended 19. Nf3 forgetting the third loose piece on c1. **19. ... Qxd2** and Black won. (Sam – Benzon) **3) 11. dxc5! Bxc5** The game continued 11. ... Qxb2 when 12. cxd6, with tempo

on the e7-knight, won, and 12. Na4 would have also won. **12. Na4** White wins a piece with a familiar fork. (Benzon – Zakari Abdou) **4) 26. ... Ng4!** The game continued with 26. ... Qb6?? which was too slow, especially after 27. Be2 Nd7?! as maybe 27. ... Nd5 would have held some edge, but now, 28. Rc3 holds everything together for White, who later won. **27. Qg5** White needs to defend the c5-rook. **27. ... Qd4+** Still, Black wins: **28. Kh1 Nf2+ 29.**

Rxf2 Qxf2 And Black wins. (Sun – Vera Perez, analysis) **5) 37. Re2!** White cuts Black's king off. Instead, 37. Rb3 Ke6 38. Kf1 Kd5 equalized. (Wrensford – Kudafa, analysis) **6) 23. ... f5** Everything with tempo! After 23. ... Rxc2 24. Qxc2 Bxf1 25. Nxf1, Black barely had an advantage. **24. Nxf5** Other moves allow ... Rc8xc2. **24. ... Bxf1** After 25. Rxf1, moves like 25. ... g6 or 25. ... Qg6 hold, as does 25. Nxg7 Qg6!. (Almeida – Alvarado Perez, analysis)