

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS...

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JUNE 20, 2023

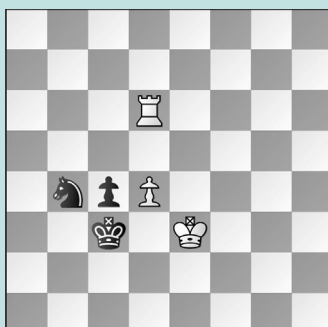
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



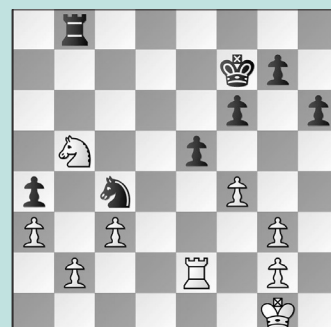
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



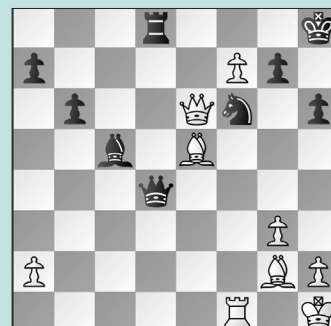
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 38. Bxf5! exf5 39. Qxf6+! Calculate everything! 39. ... Rxf6 40. Rxe8+ Rf8 41. Rxf8+ Kg7 42. Rfe8 Less effective was 42. Ree8, as the rooks do not make sense patrolling the empty back rank and **White went on to win.** (Quesada – Matviishen, Las Vegas, 2023) **PUZZLE 2.** 49. ... Kb2 Instead, 49. ... Nc2+? was played, losing. 50. Ke4 Kd2 51. Rh6 Nb4 (not 51. ... c3 52. Rh2+ Kd1 53. Kd3 winning) 52. Rh2+ Kd1 53. Rb2 and **Black resigned** on move 60. 50. d5 c3 51. Rd8 Nxd5+! 52. Rxd5 c2 53. Rb5+ Kc1 54. Kd3 Kd1 55. Ra5 c1=N+ with a draw. (Niemann – Stearman, Las Vegas, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 3.** 35. Re4! The notoriously tricky IM found the move that

gave him the most practical chances. 35. ... Nxb2?? Black falls for it! 36. Rb4 and Black resigned, since any knight move is met by 37. Nd6+. (Rosen – Mikaelyan, Las Vegas, 2023) **PUZZLE 4.** 26. ... Re8! Black strongly considered “playing for a win” with this move, despite being down a piece, but elected to “force the draw” instead with 26. ... Qf5+?! when a comedy of errors ensued: 27. Kg2! Re8?? Reasoning that Bc1-e3 is no longer possible, Black now pins the bishop. 28. Qxd6? (White missed 28. Bg4! Qc2+ 29. Kh3 Rxe1 30. Qd8+ and now 30. ... Bf8 31. Bh6 is lights out) 28. ... Qc2 29. Qa6 c4! and **Black won** on move 37. 27. Be3 The problem with this move is that now after 27. ... Bxb2! 28. Qxd6 Rxe3 29. Kxe3 Bd4+ 30. Kf3 Qc3+!

Black picks up the rook, **winning.** (Yanayt – Lang, Las Vegas, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 13. Bxe7! Qxa1 14. Qd2! A very important point: Black’s queen is trapped! Black likely anticipated 14. Bxf8? Bxf8 winning. 14. ... Be6 15. Na3 Qxf1+ 16. Kxf1 and **Black resigned** on move 30. (Antipov – Mikaelyan, Las Vegas, 2023) **PUZZLE 6.** 25. ... Qg4! White played 25. ... Qd7?? and was met with 26. Qxf6! gxf6 27. Bxf6+ Kh7 28. Be4+ **winning.** 26. Qc6! Qg6 27. Qe6 Qg4 28. Qc6 Qg6 and White can avoid the repetition, but only with 29. h4!! White should still be better after 29. ... Qxf7 30. Bxf6 gxf6 31. Rxf6 Rd1+ 32. Kh2 Bg1+ 33. Kh3 Qd7+ 34. Qxd7 Rxd7 35. Rxh6+, but there’s still a chance. (Lang – Bist, Las Vegas, 2023, analysis)