

championships. Enjoy a collection of mating tricks, clever pins, and careful combinations.

In the **example**, we see the importance of continuing to look for checks, especially when loose pieces are involved. White played the clever **36. h3!**, which looks like a simple blunder, but Lee has seen ahead. After **36. ... Rxh3 37. Rxe8+ Kxe8 38. Rb8+**, we now see that the rook and the game will fall at the end of the line. As a **bonus**, can you

calculate to the end? Remember, your own pieces are loose too.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

With school starting back up, it's a good time to reflect on what we learned this summer from the 2023 U.S. Junior and Girls' Junior

1. BLACK TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. BLACK TO PLAY

4. WHITE TO PLAY

5. BLACK TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 43. ... Kg3! 44. Rh5 Re2! 45. Rg5+ Rxg5 46. Nd2 Re1+ 47. Nf1+ Rxf1 mate. (Xu – Wang, Saint Louis, 2023)
2) 21. Bc7! Qxc7 Hitting the rook fails: 21. ... Qa2 22. Rxe8 Qxb1+ 23. Bf1 Bd7 24. Rd8 with a winning position. **22. Rxe8** winning an Exchange. (Mishra – Wang, Saint Louis, 2023) **3) 53. ... Qf3+!** What a spectacular blow! **54. Kg1 Rxf2 55. Qe8+ Kh7** and White soon won. (Atwell – Prasanna, Saint Louis,

2023) **4) 26. Qxc8** Watch the back rank! **26. ... Rxc8 27. Rxc8+ Rd8** and **Black resigned** before White could play either 28. Ng5 or 28. Bxd8 h6 29. Be7+ Kh7 with a material advantage. (Tang – Wu, Saint Louis, 2023) **5) 37. ... Rxc7!** Knowing when to go for the draw is important. **38. Qxc7 Qe1+ 39. Kg2 Qe4+ 40. Kg1** Other attempts to avoid the perpetual also fail: 40. Kh3 Qf5+ 41. Kg2 Qe4+ holds; 40. f3 Qe2+ 41. Kh3? Qxf3 is worse for White; 40. Kf1

Qh1+ 41. Ke2 Qe4+ 42. Kd2 Qxb4+ 43. Kc2 a3 also holds, although it is less clear. **40. ... Qe1+ 41. Kg2 Qe4+ 42. Kg1 Qe1+** (Guo – Stearman, Saint Louis, 2023) **6) 28. Nf6+ Bxf6** Worse is 28. ... gxf6 29. exf6! with impending mate. **29. exf6 Nd7 30. fxf7 Qg5 31. Qxg5** Instead, White played **31. Qxb4** and went on to **win**. **31. ... hxg5 32. h6** (Yip – Mou, Saint Louis, 2023) **Bonus) 38. ... Kf7 39. Rb7+ Kf6 40. Rxg7 Rxe3 41. Kf2!** (Lee – Tang, Saint Louis, 2023)