

DENKER DOMINANCE

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ SEPTEMBER 06, 2023

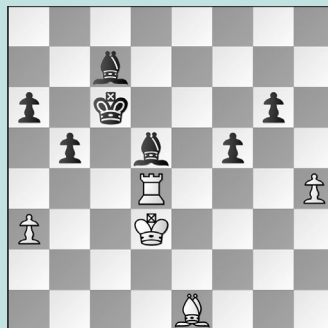
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



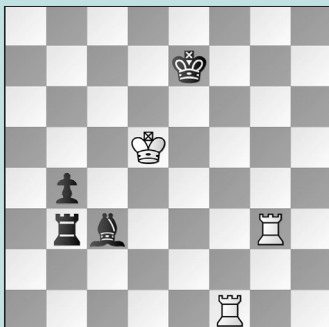
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

This week concludes our four-part series on tactics from the state invitational held alongside the 2023 U.S. Open in Grand Rapids, MI. This week's batch comes from the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, won by Georgia's IM Arthur Guo with a remarkably rare 6-0 score, thanks in large part to the key moment in **Puzzle 3**. **PUZZLE 1**. 38. Ba6! A clean removing of the guard. 38. ... Nb7 39. Bxb7 Rxb7 40. Rxc6 and White won. (Vanapalli – Ye, Grand Rapids, 2023) **PUZZLE 2**. 57. ... Be5 58. Rb4 a5! The rook is trapped! 59. Rd4 Or worse, 59. Rb1 Be4+ wins the full rook. 59. ... Be4+ 60. Ke3 Bxd4+ 61. Kxd4 Kb6 When the extra pawn

on each side of the board was enough to say that eventually **Black won**, despite the dreaded bishops of opposite colors. (Park – Lu, Grand Rapids, 2023) **PUZZLE 3**. 44. Rc5! Nxc5 Instead, 44. ... e3 was how play continued, but White was winning after 45. Rxc5+ Kxc5 46. Ne5 and **Black resigned** on move 60. 45. Qxd4 is winning, as any knight move allows 46. Qh8+, mating. (Guo – Lu, Grand Rapids, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 4**. 58. ... Ra3! In the game, 58. ... Rb2 was played, when Black lost after 59. Re3+ Kd7 60. Rf7+ Kd8 61. Kc6 when Black does not have a “tempo move” on White's king because the rook is misplaced on b2, rather than on a3: 61. ... Rd2 62. Rf8 mate. Instead,

59. Re3+ Kd7 60. Rf7+ Kd8 61. Kc6 Ra6+! 62. Kc5 Ra5+ 63. Kc6 Ra6+ 64. Kb5 Rd6 would be enough for a draw. (De La Colina – Tang, Grand Rapids, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 5**. 25. ... Nde5! A nice temporary sacrifice: 26. fxe5 Bxf1 27. Rxf1 Nxe5 28. Rxf8+ Rxf8 29. Qh5 Rf5 30. Qe2 Qd3 with a winning position. (Huston – Guo, Grand Rapids, 2023) **PUZZLE 6**. 45. Bb3!! In the game, 45. Qxb8?? was losing after 45. ... Qe4+ 46. Kf2 Qe2+ 47. Kg3 Nh5+ 48. Kh4 Qe4+ when **Black won** on move 56. 45. ... Nd3+ 46. Kd2! A key point: not 46. Ke2? Nc1+ 47. Ke1 Nxb3 48. Qxb8 Qe4+ winning; or 46. Kd1?? Qf3+ 47. Qe2 Nb2+ 48. Ke1 Qxc3+ 49. Qd2 Nd3+ winning. 46. ... Bf4+ 47. Ne3 Qf5 48. Bc2! with a draw. (Vanderhoek – Luo, Grand Rapids, 2023, analysis)