

CHECKMATE ENDS THE GAME

This week, we return to Samarkand for the 2023 FIDE World Rapid and Women's World Rapid championships. With seconds on

the clock, it's easy to calculate your opponent's checks. This is a great way to lose a game of chess.

In the **EXAMPLE**, Black wants to attack on the h-file. There is no time to stack rooks slowly with ...Rh8-h7 and ...Rc8-h8, so Black instead begins with **33. ... Rh2+!** **34. Kxh2** The rook must be captured, as **34. Kg1** is decisively met by **34. ... Qxf2** mate. **34. ... Qxf2+ 35. Bg2** Or **35. Kh3 Qxg3** mate; **35. Kh1 Nxg3** mate. **35. ... Rh8+ 36. Qh5 Rxh5** mate.

As a **BONUS**, would Black still be winning after 35. ... Ne3, or not?



1. BLACK TO PLAY

2. BLACK TO PLAY

3. BLACK TO PLAY

4. BLACK TO PLAY

5. BLACK TO PLAY

6. BLACK TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) Black forced mate with **41. ... Rf2+ 42. Ke1 Re2+ 43. Kd1** Or **43. Kf1 Ng3+** **44. Kg1 Rg2** mate. **43. ... Ne3+ 44. Kc1 Rc2** mate. (Yakubbaeva – Velpula, Samarkand, 2023) **2)** Black used a twist on the same pattern with **45. ... Rf2+ 46. Kg1 Rg2+ 47. Kf1** Or **47. Kh1 Nf2** mate. **47. ... Kh2!** Now, whatever White plays gets mated, as in: **48. h4 Rf2** mate. (Suleymanli – Niemann, Samarkand, 2023) **3)** The bishop is

stunning! **23. ... Ba6+ 24. b5 Qxb5+ 25. Rd3 Qxd3+ 26. Qxd3 Bxd3** mate. (Khamrakulova – Kaliakhmet, Samarkand, 2023) **4)** This time, Black needed to remove White's shield on the h-file first. **44. ... Ng4+ 45. hxg4** Alternatives: **45. Kg3 Rxe3** mate; **45. Kg1 Rc1** mate; **45. Kh1 Rc1** mate **45. ... Qh4+ 46. Kg1 Rc1** mate. (Krush – Hajiyeva, Samarkand, 2023) **5)** If only there weren't a rook on c1. **39. ... Ne2+ 40. Rxe2** Or **40. Kh1 Rc1+ 41. Nf1 Rfxf1**

mate. **40. ... Rc1+ 41. Re1 Rxe1+ 42. Nf1 Rxf1** mate. (Begmuratov – Hong, Samarkand, 2023) **6)** This one is a little tricky. **29. ... a5+** Instead, after **29. ... Rc4+** **30. Kb5** there is no immediate mate, as ...Rd1-d5+ leaves the c4-rook hanging. **30. Ka3 Ra1+ 31. Ra2 Rxa2** mate. (O'Gorman – Van Foreest, Samarkand, 2023) **Bonus)** No! **35. ... Ne3?? 36. Na6** mate shows the importance of forcing moves. (Kakabayev – Gorovets, Samarkand, 2023)