

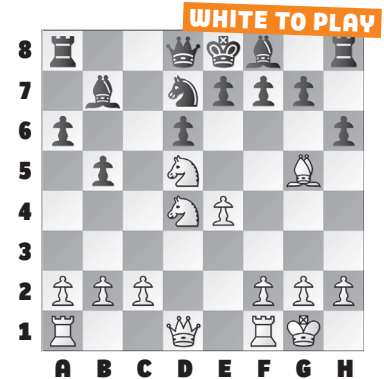
### K-12 GRADE CHAMPS, PT. 2

This week, we return to the K-12 Grade Championships from last month in Orlando. We see a number of mating nets and remove-the-

guard exercises this week, so let's see one nice position where these two themes converge in a dangerous opening trap from the deadly Najdorf Sicilian.

In our **example**, Black fell into a deep opening trap with their last move (10. ... h6). Now, White wins with **11. Ne6!** trapping the queen, since **11. ... Bxd5** (or **11. ... fxe6** **12. Qh5+ g6** **13. Qxg6** is mate; as a **bonus**, if Black tries **11. ... Qa5**, how should White respond?) **12. Nxd8**

**hxg5 13. Qxd5 Rxd8** nets only two pieces for the queen. Nice, right?



**# 1. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 2. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 3. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 4. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 5. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 6. WHITE TO PLAY**

### SOLUTIONS

**1)** Again, we kick things off with two forced mates. **33. Qg8+** Here, **Black resigned**, rather than face 33. ... Rxg8 34. Nxf7 mate. (Hyatt – Baalla, Orlando, 2023) **2)** A nice “clearance” sacrifice: **21. Ne7+ Nxe7** Note that 21. ... Rxe7 makes no difference: 22. Bh7+ Kh8 23. Bg6+ Kg8 24. Qh7+ Kf8 25. Qh8 mate. **22. Bh7+ Kh8 23. Bg6+** when **Black resigned** due to 23. ... Kg8 24. Qh7+ Kf8 25. Qxf7 mate. (Liu – Vemparala, Orlando, 2023) **3) 26.**

**f5** Cutting off the queen's defenses with tempo! After **26. ... Qa6 27. Qxg4 Kh8** Or 27. ... Qxa2 28. Bxh6 winning. **28. Qf3 Qxa2 29. Qd1**, White was up a clean piece and won shortly. (Katta – Xin, Orlando, 2023) **4) 17. Bxh7+ Kxh7 18. Qh5+** Here, **Black resigned**, due to 18. ... Kg8 19. Qg5 g6 20. Qh6, with mate to follow. Black's queen has a few spite checks, but nothing more. (Casares Contreras – Hua, Orlando, 2023) **5) 27. Nb5!** Lovely interference! The

b-pawn has broken through! (Lu – Scanlon, Orlando, 2023) **6) 40. b6!** If 40. a5, then 40. ... Bc5! 41. b6 and Black meets b6-b7 with ... Bc5-a7. **40. ... Ke7** Not 40. ... Bc5, when 41. b7 Ba7 42. b4 is winning. **41. a5 Kd7 42. a6 Kc6 43. a7 Kb7 44. Bd5+** when White is winning. (Ayyappan – Wu, Orlando, 2023) **BONUS)** Simplest is **12. Ndc7+**, when Black's only legal move is **12. ... Qxc7** and then **13. Nxc7+ Kd8 14. Nxa8** is materially crushing. (Wang – Ji, Orlando, 2023)