

# HOLT VERSUS MAMEDYAROV!

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JANUARY 24, 2024

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

## SOLUTIONS

Enjoy a fraction of the fireworks from Holt – Mamedyarov that left GM Vishwanathan Anand speechless during round three of the 2023 FIDE World Rapid Championship.

**PUZZLE 1.** 25. ... Ne4! 26. Nxe4 fxe4 Not 26. ... Bxc1?? 27. Nf6+ Kf7 28. Rxc1 Rh8 29. d5 and White wins. 27. Bd2 Rf8! Black wins the d4-pawn. (analysis after 25. e5) **PUZZLE 2.** 29. ... Bxd7 30. Qxd7+ For 30. Nxd7 see **Puzzle 3.** 30. ... Qxd7 31. Nxd7 Rf5!! Necessary prophylaxis, covering the f6-square. The impatient 31. ... exd2? loses the advantage to 32. Nf6+! Kg7 (not 32. ... Kh8?? which loses to 33. Rxe8+ Kg7 34. Ne4+ Kf7 35. Nd6 mate) 33. Nxe8+ Kg8 34. Bxd2 Nf3+ 35. Kf2 when White is equal. 32. Nxc4 For

32. Rcd1, see **Puzzle 4.** 32. ... Nf3+ winning. (analysis after 28. ... e3 29. d7) **PUZZLE 3.** In the previous exercise, 30. Nxd7 loses to 30. ... exd2 when 31. Nf6+ Qxf6 32. Qxf6 dxc1=Q 33. Rxc1 Rf5! is a massive reversal of fortune. Black could have instead played 30. ... Rf5 and avoided some of these complications, but that's no fun! (analysis) **PUZZLE 4.** After 32. Rcd1 in **Puzzle 2**, Black should play 32. ... Bg7! Of course, taking on d2 simply hangs the e8-rook. 33. Re2 This is the only way to cover the f2-square, but now the f5-rook again shows its vesatility. Instead 33. Bxg7 Kxg7 is simply winning, with the unstoppable threat of ... Rf5-f2 and ... Ng5-f3 with a mating net. 33. ... Rd5 and a fatal pin on the back rank.

(analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** Back to the actual game! 31. dxe8=Q! Not 31. Rxe8?? dxc1=Q+ 32. Kf2 (or 32. Be1 Nf3+ winning) 32. ... Qc2+ 33. Re2 Rxc5! 34. Rxc2 Bxc2 with the point that 35. Qxc5 loses to 35. ... Ne4+. 31. ... Qxe8 32. Rxe8 was played in the game, see **Puzzle 6** for an improvement. 32. ... dxc1=Q+ 33. Kf2 Qg1+! Oh, come on, did you really anticipate this? 34. Kxg1 Nf3+ 35. Kf2 Nxd4 36. Bxd4 Bg7! Black is still lost, but creates maximum confusion. 37. Re7! The only win, Black resigned seven moves later. **PUZZLE 6.** 32. Re7+!! Nf7 33. Rxf7+ Kg8 34. Rg7+ Or the more workmanlike 34. Qh8+ Kxf7 35. Qh7+ Kf8 36. Qxh6+ Ke7 37. Qxd2 34. ... Kf8 Or 34. ... Kh8 35. Re7+ is no different. 35. Qf6+ and mate follows. (analysis)