

IQP THEMES PT. 1: Nxf7 SAC

Our aggressive Alapin repertoire aims at achieving isolated queen's pawn (IQP) positions. So, this month, we'll look at a different

IQP attacking theme each week. In these positions, **Ne5xf7** is a common idea both for attacking the king directly and for weakening it to win material, as we'll see.

In our **example** Botvinnik - Vidmar (1937), White won with: **20. Nxf7! Rxf7 21. Bxf6 Bxf6 22. Rxd5!** ... Qc6 and **23. Rc5** was decisive, though White still won after 23. Rd6.

The puzzles this week are hard. It's okay if you can't solve all of

these. The goal is to familiarize yourself with the themes and ideas!



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) 19. Qe6 A satisfying forced mate! (Graf - Guliyev, Warsaw, 2005) **2) 17. Nxf7!** The e6-pawn is weak and now the d5-knight will be pinned, too. **17. ... Rxf7** Or 17. ... Kxf7 18. Qxe6+ Kg6 19. Bxd5 wins. **18. Qxe6** Any knight moves surrenders the f7-rook, and after **18. ... Bxd4 19. Bxd5** White has regained the piece, but must have anticipated **19. ... Bxf2+ 20. Kh1 Qf8** Thankfully, there is no time for 20. ... Bxe1? due to 21.

Qxf7+ winning. **21. Rf1** and Ra1-c1 will be decisive. (Rubinstein - Burn, Ostend, 1906) **3) 17. Nxf7! Kxf7** Black played 17. ... Qc7, and 18. Qxe6 Rf8 19. Nd6+ won shortly. **18. Qxe6+ Kf8 19. Ba2!** A key switching of diagonals! (Brostrom - Stenborg, Schweden, 1967) **4) 24. d5** White threatens to capture on f6. **24. ... Ne5** The trickiest move, revealing an attack on White's queen. **25. Qxf6+** induced resignation. White is ahead an Exchange and two pawns

after: 25. ... Qxf6 26. Bxe5 Qxe5 27. Rxe5 Bd6 28. Re2. (Taimanov - Ostojic, Reykjavik, 1968) **5) 24. Nxf7** is certainly strongest, using the pin on the d5-knight! **24. ... Qxf7 25. Qxe7** Or 25. Bxd5 Nxd5 26. Qc8+ Kg7 (or 26. ... Qf8 27. Re8 wins) 27. Qxa8 wins. **25. ... Nxe7 26. Rxe7** White is ahead. (Botvinnik - Batuyev, Leningrad, 1930) **6) 15. Nxf7! Kxf7 16. dxe6+ Kf8 17. Bd6+ Re7 18. exd7 Ba5** Look familiar? See **Puzzle 1!** (Graf - Guliyev, Warsaw, 2005)