

### PUSHING d4-d5 WITH AN IQP

This week we continue exploring themes in **Isolated Queen's Pawn (IQP)** positions, when White often pushes d4-d5 to open the center.

In our **example**, this is the perfect time for a d4-d5 break. White's rooks are on half-open files. The light-squared bishop opens up against f7. The weakened dark-squares give White tactical chances, as well: **18. d5! exd5 19. Nxd5 Nxd5 20. Bxd5 Nd8** and White won in Olafsson – Thorhallsson, 1995, with: **21. Qd4 Bf8 22. Rxe8 Ne6 23. Rxf8+!**

In these exercises, you'll try to make d4-d5 work, or jump in after it's been played. These are hard.

The goal is to learn the themes, not solve them all on the first try.



**# 1. WHITE TO PLAY**

A B C D E F G H

**# 2. WHITE TO PLAY**

A B C D E F G H

**# 3. WHITE TO PLAY**

A B C D E F G H

**# 4. WHITE TO PLAY**

A B C D E F G H

**# 5. WHITE TO PLAY**

A B C D E F G H

**# 6. WHITE TO PLAY**

A B C D E F G H

### SOLUTIONS

**1)** White uses the open center to conduct a swift mating attack: **22. Qd7! Ba8 23. Qh3 h5 24. g4!** and **Black resigned.** (Ribli – Wells, Szeged, 1997) **2)** **21. Nxc6!** White likes the e5-knight, but here the trade forces a d4-d5 break. **21. ... Bxc6 22. d5 Ba8** Or **22. ... Nxd5 23. Nxd5 Bxd5 24. Bxd5** wins. **23. Qe5!** White prepares Nc3-e4, using the d5-pawn as interference. **23. ... Kf8 24. Ne4! Ng8 25. Ng5** A new

mating threat, and **Black resigned.** (Suba – Barcelo, Mallorca, 2000) **3)** **25. Ne5** Note that 25. Re5 is also winning: **25. ... Qd1+ 26. Kh2 Qd6 27. g3!** unpinning. **25. ... Be8 26. Re3 Qd1+ 27. Kh2 Rd4** when **28. f4!** is an improvement on the game's **28. Rg3+?!** (Gipslis – Borrer, Berlin, 1991) **4)** **23. d5!** White is going to break through on the dark squares. Alternatives: **23. ... exd5 24. Nxf6** wins material; Or **23. ... Nxd5 24. Bxd5 Bxd5 25. Rxd5 exd5 26. Nf6+**

wins; Finally, **23. ... Bxd5 24. Bxd5 Nxd5 25. Rxd5** wins. **24. dxe6! f5 25. Rxd8 Rxd8 26. Rd1** winning. (Kamsky – Short, Linares, 1994) **5)** **16. d5! Nxd5** Or **16. ... exd5 17. Nxd5 Nxd5 18. Bxd5 Na5 19. Bxb7!** wins material; **17. Bxd5 exd5 18. Nxd5 Bxg5 19. hxg5** winning. (Ribli – Wells, Szeged, 1997) **6)** **20. d5** Theme: lateral mobility! **20. ... exd5 21. Qb4 Qd7 22. Qh4 Kg7 23. Nd4** Now White dominates the kingside. (Browne – Ljubojevic, Tilburg, 1978)