

section, and many other Americans performed well. Enjoy some of their tactical highlights below!

In our **example**, from Krastev – Kamsky (analysis), Black is down roughly a billion pawns, but could have forced a draw with the very cool **120. ... Kf2!** using the threat of ... Rg4xh4 mate to force a draw: **121. Rh5** is the only way to stop mate, but it allows a perpetual check with **121. ... Rg1+ 122. Kh2 Rg2+**. In the below puzzles, we use

some similar themes of creating mating nets to win material.

BLACK TO PLAY



GRENKE OPEN HIGHLIGHTS

This week's puzzles all come from the **Grenke Chess Open** played earlier this month in Germany. **GM Hans Niemann** won the open

1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. WHITE TO PLAY

4. BLACK TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) White wins a piece in style with **41. Qh8+** and **Black resigned** due to **41. ... Kxh8 42. Nxf6+ Kg8 43. Nxf4** when White is up a knight. (Yoo – Kurmangaliyeva, Karlsruhe, 2024) **2)** White creates a mating net with **32. Rxh6+ Kg8** The rook is invincible: **32. ... Kxh6 33. Qg6** mate; **32. ... gxh6 33. Qg6** mate. **33. Rg6** There is no defense: **33. ... Qb3 34. Rxf7+ Kf8 35. Rxe7 Qxd1+ 36. Re1** and **Black resigned**. (Svane – Hong,

Karlsruhe, 2024) **3)** White wins via constructing a mating net: **28. Rxe7! Nxe7** No better was **28. ... Qxe7**, as after **29. Rf5**, the rook is coming into the h-file. **29. Rf6** The rook again finds a way onto the h-file. (Yoo – Cukrowski, Karlsruhe, 2024, analysis) **4)** **18. ... Bxg3! 19. fxf3** Not **19. hxg3 Qh1** mate. **19. ... Qe4 20. Re2 Nc5!** Cold-blooded. **21. Bc4** If **21. Kf2**, then **21. ... Nxa6** simply wins. **21. ... Qh1+ 22. Kf2 Ne4** mate. (Backhaus – Mishra, Karlsruhe,

2024) **5)** White came close to making a fortress with **37. Ne4! Qe3 38. Rg5!** And the rook comes to g4, defending the b-pawn. (Dobrikov – Mishra, Karlsruhe, 2024, analysis) **6)** White breaks through with **32. Nxf7 Rf8** and **Black resigned** before White could move. Note that **32. ... Qxg7** lost to **33. Qxg7+ Kxg7 34. Nf5+ Kf6 35. Nxd6**. After the text, White's cleanest win was **33. Ne6+ Kh8 34. Ng6+ Kg8 35. Nxe5+** winning. (Kamsky – Kilic, Karlsruhe, 2024)