

TACTICS FROM THE NMS, PT. 2

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JUNE 05, 2024

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



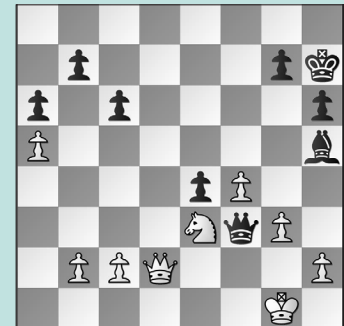
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 50. Rf2+ Black's last move was to put the queen on h3, where it's defended, but not after 50. ... Bf5 Any king move gets mated, e.g.: 50. ... Kg8 51. Qxg5+ Kh7 52. Qg6+ Kh8 53. Rf8 mate. 51. Qxh3 Rxe1+ 52. Kg2 and **Black resigned.** (Harish – Santiago de Jesus, Atlanta, 2024) **PUZZLE 2.** 31. ... Ne2+! Black has more than enough material for the queen. But move order matters. Black lost with 31. ... Rd7?? 32. Qxd7! Ne2+ 33. Kf2 Rxd7 34. Kxe2 when White still has a winning endgame after 34. ... Bd3+ 35. Ke3 Bxf1 36. Rxf1 with two extra pawns. 32. Kh1 R2d7 33. Qa4 Or 33. Qxd7 Rxd7 34. Rcd1 Nd4 is better for Black. 33. ... Nxc1 34. Rxc1

Rd1+ 35. Rxd1 Rxd1+ 36. Bf1 Rxf1+ with three pieces for the queen. (Yue – Chaudhury, Atlanta, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 3.** 41. Qf2! A positional puzzle! Black's endgame is lost without queens, due to the fixed weak queenside pawns. 41. ... Kg6 42. Qxf3 Bxf3 43. Kf2 Kf6 44. Nc4 Ke6 45. Nd2 Bd1 46. c4 and **Black resigned** on move 65. (Liu – Wang, Atlanta, 2024) **PUZZLE 4.** 36. ... Rb2+ 37. Kh1 Rh2+! Instead, Black played 37. ... Rb1? and won after White erred by capturing. 38. Rxb1?? (however, 38. Qc7+ is apparently equal) 38. ... Qxf3+! 39. Kh2 Qf4+ 40. Kg2 Qe4+ 41. Kf1 Qf3+ 42. Ke1 Bc3+ winning. 38. Kxh2 and Black wins with 38. ... Bg1+! Of course, not 38. ... Be5+?? 39. Nxe5 when

the queen is defended. 39. Rxc4 Qxc4 winning the queen. (Kaul – Rao, Atlanta, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 29. Bxf6 gxf6 Now, where's the knockout blow? 30. Qxh6+ Kg8 31. Rb2!! Instead, White played the "obvious" 31. Rxe1?? and after 31. ... Qg7 the position was equal, although Black went on to win. 31. ... Bh4 32. Qxh4 and Black is out of answers. (Patel – Guo, Atlanta, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 6.** 28. ... hxg3+ In the game, 28. ... Nf6? was a step in the wrong direction. 29. c4 hxg3+ 30. fxg3 Rh8 31. b5! (not 31. Rad3?? Ng4+ winning) with equality. 29. fxg3 Nxc3 30. Rxc3 If 30. Nxc3 Rd2 is the point. 30. ... Qc1! Hitting the rook while preserving the pin. 31. Ra2 Rd2 Winning. (Naushad – Williams, Atlanta, 2024, analysis)