

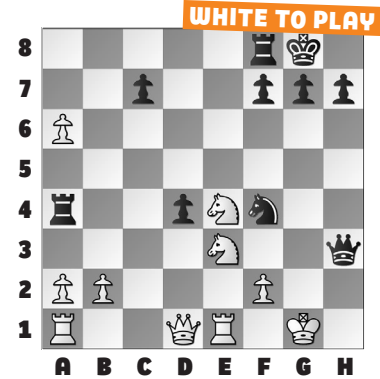
1000GM INVITATIONALS, PT. 2

This week's exercises go back to the 1000GM Norm Invitationals held earlier this month in Las Vegas. As mentioned last week, these events

were held without a second time control, meaning that many games ended with players in mutual time trouble, blitzing out game-winning tactics with only the 30-second increment on their clock.

In our **example**, White appeared to walk right into Black's mating trap with **31. Qxa4** allowing **31. ... dxe3** But then she uncorked the winning **32. Nf6+!** forcing a trade of knights. **32. ... gxf6** **33. Qxf4** when White is simply up a rook and

went on to win shortly in Atwell – Andrews, Las Vegas, 2024.



1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. BLACK TO PLAY

4. BLACK TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 37. Rf6+ White forces mate. **37. ... Kg5** **38. Bxf4+** and **Black resigned**, as **38. ... Kh5** **39. Re5+ Kh4** **40. Bg3** is mate. (Stearman – Kunka, Las Vegas, 2024) **2) 31. Nxc6** White removes the defender of the back rank. **31. ... Qxc6** Worse is **31. ... bxc6??** **32. Qe8+ Bf8** **33. Qxf8** mate. **32. Bxd5** Claiming an important pawn. (Kevlishvili – Sivakumar, Las Vegas, 2024) **3) 44. ... Qf1+** Black exploits the pin on White's bishop.

45. Kg3 Qe1+ 46. Kf4 If **46. Kf3**, then **46. ... Rf1** mate was the point. **46. ... Qf2+ 47. Bf3** If **47. Qf3 Qh4!** and the hunt goes on; If **47. Rf3 g5+ 48. Kf5 Qxe2** wins. **47. ... g5+! 48. Kf5 Bc2** wins the queen. (Zuluaga – Yanayt, Las Vegas, 2024) **4) 13. ... Na5** There goes the queen! The game continued with **14. Nh4 Nxh4** While **14. ... Bxb5** is also fine, of course. (Zaloznyy – Nagy, Las Vegas, 2024) **5) 45. Bc6+** White unleashes a zig-zagging sequence to corner

Black's king. **45. ... Qf8** If **45. ... Kg7** **46. Qxc7+** and the queenside pawns collapse. **46. Bd5+ Kg7** While **46. ... Be6** **47. Bxe6+ Kg7** **48. Qg5+ Kh8** **49. Qe5+ Qg7** was the only way to stop mate, the endgame is winning. **47. Qg5+ Kh8** **48. Qe5+ Qg7** **49. Qe8+** winning. (Nagy – Atwell, Las Vegas, 2024) **6) 53. Rh7+** Black gets mated if they do not give up the queen. **53. ... Ke6** **54. Qc8+ Kd5** Or **54. ... Kd6** **55. Qc6** mate also mates. **55. Qc6** mate. (Cervený – Tao, Las Vegas, 2024)