TACTICS TUESDAY
CHESS LIFE Kids ONLINE

SUBJECT HEADLINE ECT

This week's exercises turn to the Under-8 and Under-10 open and girls sections of the **2024 FIDE World Cup** for ages 12 and under. Three
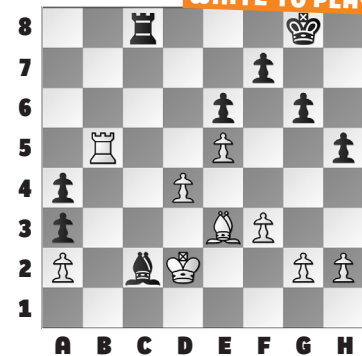
Americans earned second-place finishes across the six sections!

In our **example**, White combines the theme of "loose pieces" with the theme of simplification to force a winning endgame. The threat on the c2-bishop means after **33. Rc5! Rxc5** is forced, when **34. dxc5 Bb3** can simply be captured, as **35. axb3 axb3 36. c6 a2** Or 36. … b2 37. Kc2 freezes the pawns, too. **37. Bd4** and the c-pawn is just quick enough to promote. The game Chen – Yan,

ended with **37. … Kf8 38. c7 Ke7 39. c8=Q h4 40. Bc5** mate.

WHITE TO PLAY

1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. WHITE TO PLAY

#4. WHITE TO PLAY

5. BLACK TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 29. Bh6+ Kh8 30. Bxf8 White wins a clear piece. (Xin – Yan, Batumi, 2024) **2)** **34. Rf4+** There has to be a mate here, right? **34. … Kh3** Or 34. … Kh5 35. Rh4+ Kg5 36. Nf3+ Kf5 37. Rf4 mate. **35. Rh4** mate. (Milner – Babazade, Batumi, 2024) **3)** Loose pieces drop off! **30. Re1+ Kd6 31. Rxd5+ Kxd5 32. Rxe7** winning. (Khuduzade – Li, Batumi, 2024) **4)** White forces the pawn through. **47. Rb8+** The important thing was

to avoid 47. f7?? Kg7 when Black wins. **47. … Kh7 48. f7 Rh1+ 49. Kc2** and the checks will run out. (Li – Kapelinsky, Batumi, 2024) **5)** How should Black respond? **42. … g6!** It is essential in king-and-pawn endgames to reserve "tempo moves." In the game, Black lost after 42. … g5?? 43. Kc5 f5 (while *43. … Kc8* draws if the c-pawn were the only pawn, here *44. Kb6* wins) 44. gxf5 h5 45. f6 when White promotes first. **43. Ke6** White no longer wins

with 43. Kc5 because 43. … f5 (or *43. … h5 44. gxh5 gxh5 45. Kd5 f5* transposes) 44. gxf5 gxf5 45. Kd5 h5 is drawn (prove it yourself for homework!). **43. … Kxc6 44. Kxf6 g5 45. Kg6 Kb5 46. Kxh6 Kxa5 47. Kxg5 Kb4 48. Kf5 a5 49. g5** with a drawn endgame. (Joseph – Wee, Batumi, 2024, analysis) **6)** **10. e5! Bxf3 11. exd6 Bh5** Alternatives: 11. … Be2 12. Re1; 11. … Bd5 12. dxe7. **12. Qh4**! **Be2 13. Re1** winning. (Protopopescu – Joseph, Batumi, 2024)