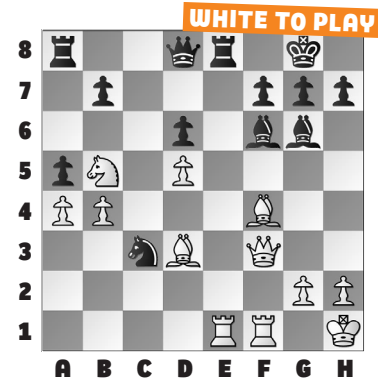


PAN-AMERICAN YOUTH GAMES

This week's puzzles begin a series from the **Pan-American Youth Championships XXXIV**, held earlier this month in Orlando, Florida.

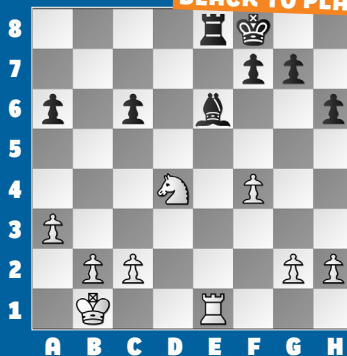
Move order matters! In our **example**, White wants to take on c3 and, after Black recaptures, take on g6 to discover a second attacker on the hanging c3-bishop. To make this work, she must begin with **24. Rxe8+!** Not 24. Nxc3?? Rxe1 25. Rxe1 Bxc3 comes with tempo on the rook! Black is winning now, with the b4-pawn about to fall. **24. ... Qxe8 25. Nxc3** Only now, with nothing on e1. **25. ... Bxc3 26. Bxg6 Bxb4** If 26. ... hxg6 27. Qxc3 is the point. **27. Bc2**

and **White won** with her extra piece in eight more moves in Yan – Wang.



1.

BLACK TO PLAY



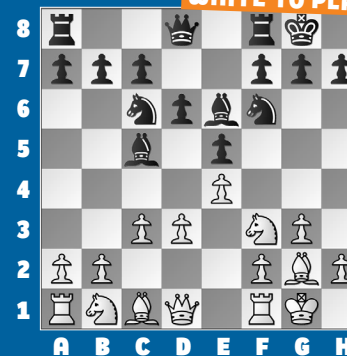
2.

BLACK TO PLAY



3.

WHITE TO PLAY



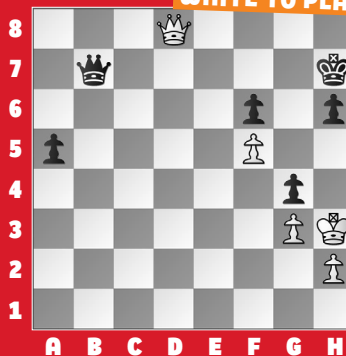
4.

WHITE TO PLAY



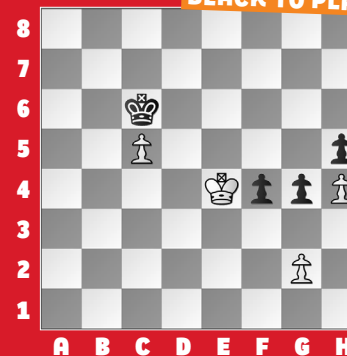
5.

WHITE TO PLAY



6.

BLACK TO PLAY



SOLUTIONS

1) 25. ... Ba2+! Loose pieces drop off! **26. Kxa2 Rxe1** Black went on to win. (Zhou – Deshpande, Orlando, 2024) **2) 27. ... Nc1** A hard fork to spot, but only one rook guards the c1-square and Black's queen guards it safely. **28. Qc2 Nxd3 29. Rxd3 Rxd3 30. Qxd3 Rd8** and Black went on to win with the extra material. (Shergil – Lin, Orlando, 2024) **3) 8. d4!** A famous fork in the Italian game and, with colors reversed,

the London System. Instead, with 8. Nbd2? White gave Black time to play 8. ... Bb6. **8. ... exd4 9. cxd4 Bb4 10. d5** White wins a piece. (Chan – Zhou, Orlando, 2024, analysis) **4) 33. Bxb7** Loose pieces still drop off. Black cannot recapture because 34. Qc6+ wins the e8-rook. **33. ... Reh8 34. Bd5** White prepares Qc4-c6 and went on to win. (Liu – Zaragoza, Orlando, 2024) **5) Can White take the pawn? 48. Kxg4** Not only could she, but she had to! In the game,

she played 48. Kh4?? allowing 48. ... Qg7 to defend the g4-pawn and threaten mate on g5. **48. ... Qg7+ 49. Kh3** With an equal position. White is also fine after 49. Kf3. (Zhuge – Li, Orlando, 2024, analysis) **6) White is about to clean up Black's pawns and win. Unless... 59. ... f3!** Liquidation! Instead, Black played 59. ... Kxc5?? and lost. **60. gxf3 gxf3** Or 60. ... g3 holds. **61. Kxf3 Kxc5 62. Kf4 Kd6 63. Kg5 Ke7 64. Kxh5 Kf7** Black's king is in time. (Li – Zhang, Orlando, 2024)