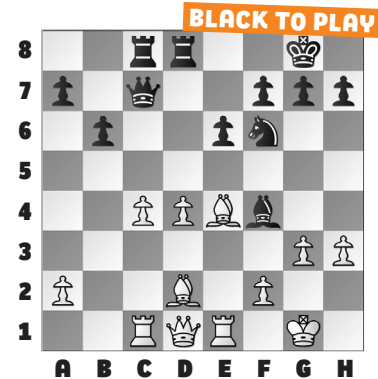


PAN-AMERICAN YOUTH, PT. 2

This week's puzzles again come from the **Pan-American Youth Championships XXXIV**, held last month in Orlando, Florida.

In our **example**, Black found an effective “in-between move” before responding to the threat on his dark-squared bishop. **20. ... Rxd4!** **21. gxf4** If 21. Bxf4, then 21. ... Rxd1 22. Bxc7 Rxe1+ 23. Rxe1 Rxc7 leaves Black with active pieces and an extra pawn. **21. ... Nxe4** **22. Qe2** Defending the pin was no better: 22. Re2 Qd6 23. Rc2 Rd8 wins. **22. ... Nxd2** **23. Rcd1 Qxf4** **24. Qe3** and **White resigned** before Black could trade queens and play ...

Nd2-f3+, winning a rook in Polanco Fernandez – Deng, Orlando, 2024.



1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. BLACK TO PLAY

3. BLACK TO PLAY

4. BLACK TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 49. f4+ The h1-rook was poorly placed, especially with an exposed king! (Vikas – Bian, Orlando, 2024)
2) 40. ... Qg3+! The flashiest win. While 40. ... Rf8 is also good, what's the fun in that? **41. Kf1** Or 41. Kh1 Qxh3+ 42. Kg1 Bh2+ 43. Nxh2 Qxf5 was the point. **41. ... Qxh3+** **42. Kg1 Bh2+** **43. Kh1** Again 43. Nxh2 Qxf5 wins. **43. ... Bg3+** **44. Kg1 Bxf2+** and **White resigned**. (Luo – Hebbbar, Orlando, 2024) **3) 26. ... f6!** Pin and

win! White's queen is loose, but Black's is protected. After **27. Ng6** White nabs the knight with **27. ... Kxg6** **28. Qg4+ Kh7** **29. Rxe6 Nd6** **30. Qf4 Rcd8** and Black remains up a piece. (Zheng – Xia, Orlando, 2024) **4) 30. ... Rxc2+!** The c1-rook is overloaded! **31. Kf3** Or 31. Rxc2 Qxg1 leaves Black piece-up. **31. ... Rxc1** Or 31. ... Qh2 32. Rh1 Qc7 and Black is still up a piece. **32. Rxh1 Rxh1** Black has more than enough material for the queen, especially

with such a safe king. (Nguyen – Zhou, Orlando, 2024) **5) 16. Nxe4! Qxe4** **17. Bg5** The point! Black lacks squares that defend the e7-bishop. **17. ... Qg6** **18. Bxe7** Winning a piece. (Namala – Qi, Orlando, 2024) **6) 30. Qxe5!** Flashy, and effective. **30. ... Rxe5**. In the game, Black lost after 30. ... Qb5 31. Qh5, but capturing the queen lost by force after: **31. Rc8+ Re8** **32. Rxe8+ Rf8** **33. Rxf8** mate. (Garzon Zapatanga – Qiao, Orlando, 2024, analysis)