

124TH ANNUAL U.S. OPEN, PT. 1

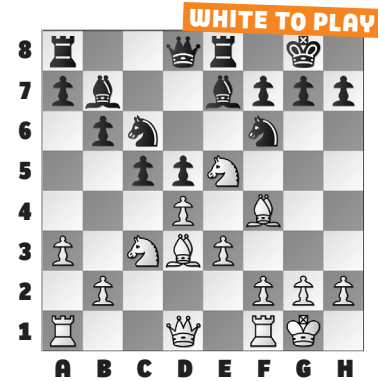
This week's exercises turn to the "main event" from Norfolk: the **124th Annual U.S. Open**.

In our **example**, Black has played

reasonable-looking moves against White's London System. But White has a trap with **12. Bb5** using the pin against the misplaced e8-rook. **12. ... Qc8** In the game, Black played 12. ... Nxe5 13. dxe5 and opted to keep the rook, but 13. ... Rf8 14. exf6 was winning in Zhou – Choate, Norfolk, 2024.

Instead, **13. Qa4** was best, when Black loses the knight unless they find **13. ... cxd4!** **14. exd4 Bd6!** with a pin against the knight. White has

to settle for a better position, but this was not easy for Black to find.!



1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. BLACK TO PLAY

4. BLACK TO PLAY

5. BLACK TO PLAY

6. BLACK TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 33. bxc4! White's bishop is pinned to the hanging d1-rook. But Black's bishop is pinned, too, and now it is attacked by a pawn! **33. ... Nxd5** This only delays the inevitable. **34. Rxd5 Rxd5 35. exd5** and Black resigned four moves later. (Gilruth – Hoffman, Norfolk, 2024)
2) 26. Bxe6 A nice overload of the f7-pawn. **26. ... fxe6 27. Qxg6+ Kd7 28. Nf4** keeping up the pressure. White won on move 56. (Keogh –

Larkins, Norfolk, 2024) **3) 8. ... dxe4** Yowza! White resigned, as there is no way to respond to the threat on the queen while defending the d4-knight from the uncovered second attacker. (Karell – Diaio, Norfolk, 2024) **4) 13. ... f4** White's bishop is suddenly out of squares! **14. Nxd5** White removes one of Black's defenders of the f4-pawn, but White only has two attackers on it and Black still has two defenders after **14. ... exd5** and White resigned nine

moves later. (Lebakken – Anand, Norfolk, 2024) **5) 24. ... Nc7** A subtle removing of the guard. White's queen has no squares that keep her on the e2-bishop. (Teitelman – Tang, Norfolk, 2024) **6) 31. ... Rxd2!** Black trades rooks in an equal position, and the only winning move. The obvious 31. ... Rdf8 is thwarted by 32. Rxd6+, of course. **32. Rxd2 Rf8 33. Kc1 Rf1+ 34. Rd1 Rf4 35. Re1 Rf2** Now, Black wins at least a pawn. (Kamath – Yedidia, Norfolk, 2024)