

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

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ AUGUST 28, 2024

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



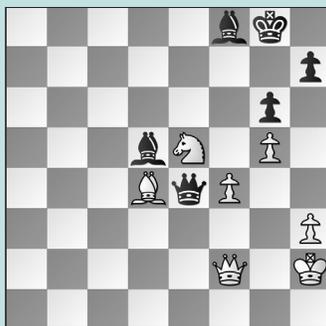
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



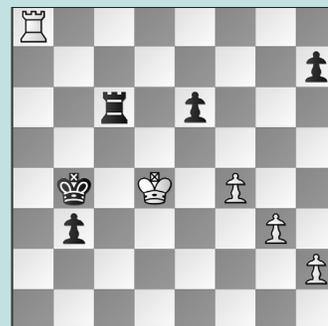
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 10. cxd5! Or, 10. Nxd5! also cleanly picks up the pawn: 10. ... cxd5 11. Qa4+ Bd7 12. Qxb4 Rb8 13. Qd6 when Black is busted. **10. ... Bxc3** The point is 10. ... cxd5 11. Qa4+ wins the bishop. **11. bxc3 cxd5 12. Ba3** Black's unsafe king portends doom. (Gilruth – Forsythe, Norfolk, 2024) **PUZZLE 2. 29. Nb6 Rc7 30. f4!** The only winning idea. Instead, **30. Nc4** led to a draw by repetition. Note that 30. e4?! Be5! was the wrong move order. **30. ... f5** Or 30. ... h6 31. e4 h5 32. e5 is the point. **31. Kf3 h5 32. e4 fxe4+ 33. Kxe4** White wins with Ke4-f5-g6 and liquidating from there. **33. ... g6** The only defense allows a new resource: **34. Nc4 Rcd7 35. Nxd6 Rxd6 36. Bf6+!** when

Black can resign. (Terrie – Leighton, Norfolk, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 3. 30. Nxb5+ Rxb5 31. Na6+** The point! Instead, **31. Ne6+? fxe6 32. Rxb5 d5 33. Bxc2 Nd4** was roughly equal, and Black won later. **31. ... Kb6 32. Rxb5+ Kxb5 33. Nc7+** and Black can resign. (Chu – Ladan, Norfolk, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 4. 16. Rb1** In the game, White “flinched” with **16. Bd6??** allowing **16. ... bxc3 17. Bxf8 Kxf8 18. Rb1 Nc6 19. Rb6 Bd7 20. Rb7 Ke8** when Black's advantage is decisive. Black won 11 moves later. **16. ... bxc3** Or 16. ... a5 17. e4! actually gives White the edge, since White's rook escapes to the e3-square. **17. Rxb8 Rxb8 18. Bxb8 Bd7 19. Bd6** Black is a bit better after **19. ... Rd8 20. a5 Ba4 21. Bc5 Bxc2** with chances.

(Rymuza – Wan, Norfolk, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 5. 56. ... Bb4** The intermediate check with 56. ... Qh1+? 57. Kg3 goes nowhere. **57. Ng4** White's knight is trapped. **57. ... Qh1+ 58. Kg3 Be1** and Black wins. (Kunchanapalli – Poliseti, Norfolk, 2024) **PUZZLE 6. 53. Rb8+** Instead, **53. Ra7?? b2 54. Rxh7** might work if Black allows Rh7-b7+, but Black simply played **54. ... Rb6** and **White resigned**. After **53. ... Ka3** White has a save: **54. g4! Ka2 55. f5 exf5** Or 55. ... b2?? 56. f6! Rc7 57. Ke5 winning: 57. ... b1=Q 58. Rxb1 Kxb1 59. Kxe6 Rc6+ 60. Ke7 Rc7+ 61. Ke8 Rc8+ 62. Kd7 Rf8 63. Ke7 winning. **56. gxf5 b2 57. Kd5 Rc1 58. f6 b1=Q 59. Rxb1 Kxb1 60. f7 Rf1 61. Ke6** The king is too far offside. (Chu – Ladan, Norfolk, 2024, analysis)