

124TH ANNUAL U.S. OPEN, PT. 2

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ SEPTEMBER 04, 2024

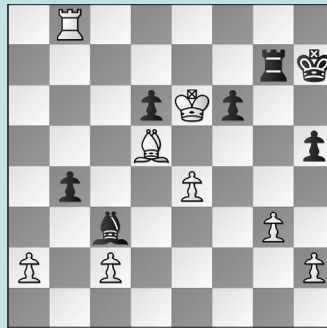
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



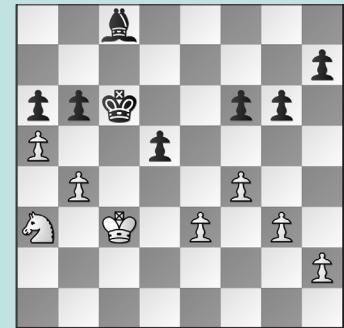
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



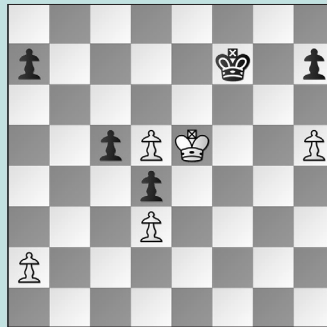
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



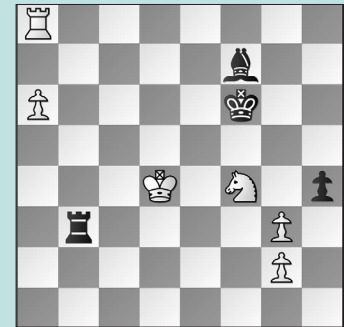
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 22. ... b4! 23. Ne4 The pawn is untouchable, as 23. axb4 Rxb4 traps the queen. 23. ... Qa6 24. a4 Saving the knight loses. 24. N4g3 bxa3 and now saving the queen loses the king: 25. Qd3 axb2+ 26. Kb1 Qa1 mate. 24. ... dxe4 and Black won 14 moves later. (Le-Tran – Adewumi, Norfolk, 2024) **PUZZLE 2.** 51. e5! Bxe5 Alternatives: 51. ... Kh6 52. exf6 Rg6 53. Rf8 is hopeless, as is 51. ... f5 52. exd6 when the pawn is too strong. 52. Be4+ Kh6 53. Rh8+ Kg5 54. Bf5! h4 55. Rxh4 Rc7 56. Rh8 Rc4 57. h4+ when Black resigned. (Corrales – Tang, Norfolk, 2024) **PUZZLE 3.** 48. ... bxa5 49. bxa5 Bf5! Positionally crushing. The knight is dominated on a3. 50. Kd4 Or

50. Nc2 Bxc2 51. Kxc2 Kb5 is a won pawn endgame. 50. ... h5 51. h4 Be4 Already in zugzwang, White resigned 15 moves later. (Kumar – Murali, Norfolk, 2024) **PUZZLE 4.** 19. Qf1!! White had already sacrificed material for the attack, but nothing else keeps an advantage. After 19. Rxe6? Qxc4 20. bxc4 Rb8, the game was balanced. 19. ... Qd6 Black should move the queen, as Nf3-e5 is coming. But now 20. d3! Another quiet move! 20. ... Nge7 Black finishes development, just in time for ... 21. Nd2! A third straight quiet move. Black can resign here, as either Nd2-c4 or Nd2-e4 would be fatal. (Ramer – Maridi, Norfolk, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 53. ... Ke8!! Black lost a heartbreaker after advancing a pawn with

53. ... h6?? 54. a3 a6 55. a4 a5 56. d6 c4 57. Kxd4 cxd3 58. Kxd3 Ke6 59. Kc4 Kxd6 60. Kb5 reaching a won position. 54. a3 Kd7 55. a4 Ke8 56. a5 Kd7 57. a6 Ke8 58. d6 c4! 59. Kxd4 cxd3 60. Kxd3 Kd7 Black draws. (Massey – Chetlapalli, Norfolk, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 6.** 56. ... Rxg3! The only move. After 56. ... hxg3? White could have won with 57. Nh5+! although White played 57. Nd3. Now, 57. ... Bxh5 58. a7 Ra3 59. Rf8+ wins Black's rook. 57. Nh5+ Bxh5 58. a7 Ra3 59. Rf8+ This appeared to be “too slow” for Black, as White's rook escapes. And yet, after 59. ... Kg5 60. a8=Q Rxa8 61. Rxa8 Kf4 62. Rg8 Bg4 Black grabs the g-pawn and, with it, the draw. (Khanin – Corrales, Norfolk, 2024, analysis)