

between four of the world's best players taking place in person in Paris, France.

In our **example**, Black only has one undefended piece (the b4-bishop). But, with the control of the center and open d-file, this is enough to create a tactical shot with **19. Bxe4 Bxe4** when the bishops can now be skewered on the fourth rank, but the e4-bishop is still defended, right? After **20. Rd7**, White says "Not for long!" since **20.**

... **Qc8 21. Rd4** nabs a clean piece in Nakamura – Niemann.



### PARIS SPEED CHESS CHAMPS, PT. 1

This week's puzzles all come from the *Chess.com* **2024 Speed Chess Championship** "Main Event," with online blitz and bullet games

**# 1. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 2. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 3. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 4. WHITE TO PLAY**

**# 5. BLACK TO PLAY**

**# 6. WHITE TO PLAY**

### SOLUTIONS

**1) 34. Qf6+** Black resigned, as **34. ... Qxf6** is forced, when **35. Re8+ Qf8 36. Rxf8** is mate. (Niemann – Nakamura, Paris, 2024) **2) 31. Nxc6** A discovered attack on Black's oddly placed c7-rook. Loose pieces drop off! **31. ... Rfc8** If **31. ... Kxg6** **32. Qxc7** is the point. Also note that the queen covered the c1-square, so Black did not have a tempo-gaining escape with ... **Rc7-c1+**. **32. Nh4** Winning. (Carlsen

– Niemann, Paris, 2024) **3) 33. Rb8** White goes for the mating net. **33. ... g5** Creating *luft* on g6. **34. h5! g6** If **34. ... Qxh5**, then **35. Rh8+ Kg6 36. Qe8+ Rf7 37. Rf8 Kf6 38. Qd8+ Kg6 39. Qxd6+** wins the c5-knight. **35. Rh8+ Kg7 36. Rbb8 Qxc4 37. Rbg8+** and **Black resigned**, with mate-in-one to follow. (Niemann – Carlsen, Paris, 2024) **4) 23. g4** The knight is trapped! **23. ... b6 24. gxf5** and White converted. (Carlsen – Firouzja, Paris, 2024) **5)**

**41. ... c2+** The only win. **42. Ka1** Or **42. Kc1 a2 43. Kb2 c1=Q+** uses the discovery to force **44. Kxc1** when **44. ... a1=Q** mates. **42. ... Rd2** There is no stopping Black's next move. **43. g7 Rd1+ 44. Ka2 c1=Q** Black has too many threats. **45. Rxd1 Qb2** mate. (Carlsen – Niemann, Paris, 2024) **6) 26. Nf5+** Launching a serious attack. **26. ... Kg8** Or **26. ... Kh8 27. Bxf7** was just as bad. **27. Nd6!** And **Black resigned**, as **27. ... Bxd6 28. Qxg6+** wins. (Firouzja – Carlsen, Paris, 2024)