

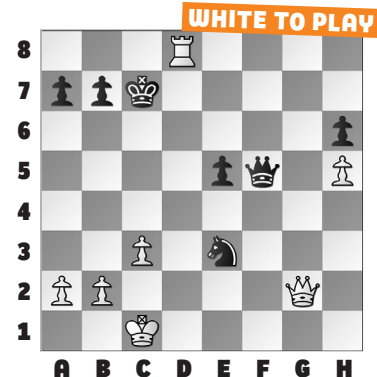
MATING NETS FROM BUDAPEST

This week's exercises begin a series on the **45th FIDE Olympiad** and **Women's Olympiad**, held last month in Budapest, Hungary. The

American teams had their best-ever tandem finish, earning silver in the Open and bronze in the Women's.

The theme of this week's exercises is checkmating attacks and counterattacks. In our **example**, White saw an opportunity to threaten mate **35. Qd2??**. But after **36. Qf1+**, White realized his queen no longer defended the f1-square and, even worse, took away the king's only escape with Kc1-d2, so **White resigned** in Burovic – Anton.

Instead, with **35. Qe2!** Kxd8 **36. Qxe3** the game would have been equal.



1. BLACK TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. BLACK TO PLAY

4. BLACK TO PLAY

5. BLACK TO PLAY

6. BLACK TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 31. ... Nc2+! White's king is toast!
32. Ke2 f3 mate! There's nothing like winning an Olympiad game by checkmating with a pawn. (Hryzlova – Divya, Budapest, 2024) **2) 36. Qxh7+!** How many grandmasters have you checkmated with a queen sac? The Romanian WIM can now boast at least one victim. **Black resigned**, due to 36. ... Kxh7 37. Rh3+ Qh5 38. Rhxh5 mate. (Ciolacu – Khotenashvili,

Budapest, 2024) **3) 27. ... Qa2+** Another queen sac, another mate! **28. Kc1 Qa1+ 29. Nxa1 Rxa1** mate. (Maharaj – Fitzsimons, Budapest, 2024) **4) 19. ... Be3+!** After 19. ... Rxe2?! Black still wins, but misses a forced mating sequence. **20. Kh1** If White interposes, then 20. Rf2 Qxg2 mate is mate, thanks to the pin, and 20. Qf2 is no different. **20. ... Qxg2+** Now, Black forces mate! **21. Qxg2 Bxg2** mate. (Kebede – Postny, Budapest, 2024) **5) 36. ... Rd2!** Fatal

deflection. While 36. ... Qxh3+ runs into 37. Nh2 when Black is better, here **White resigned** due to 37. Qxd2 (or 37. Nxd2 Qxh3 mate) 37. ... Qxf3+ 38. Kh2 Qg3+ 39. Kh1 Qxh3 mate. (Fawzy – Abdusattorov, Budapest, 2024) **6) 31. ... Rd1** A bolt from the blue in Iran – India. **32. Rb3 Qf1+ 33. Kf3 Qh1+ 34. Kf4 Rd5** Not the only move, but the cleanest, as 35. Qe2, covering the h5-square, loses to 35. ... Nh5+ 36. Qxh5 Qe4 mate. (Maghsoodloo – Gukesh, Budapest, 2024, analysis)