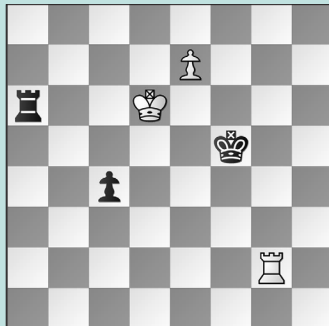


2024 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS, PT. 2

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ NOVEMBER 13, 2024

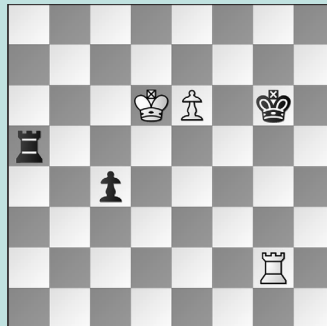
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



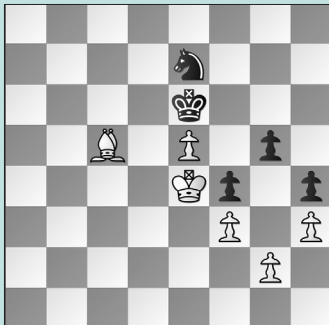
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 70. Ra5+ 71. Kd4 Not 71. Kxc4?? Re5 drawing. 71. ... Ra8 If 71. ... Re5 72. Rf2+ wins. 72. Rf2+ Ke6 73. Rf8 Black resigned. (Niemann – Mishra, St. Louis, 2024) **PUZZLE 2.** 68. ... Kf6 Instead, 68. ... Kf5 69. e7 Ra6+ reached the position in Puzzle 1. 69. Rf2+ Now, 69. e7 Ra6+ 70. Kd5 allows 70. ... Kxe7. 69. ... Kg7! If 69. ... Kg6?? 70. e7 Ra6+ 71. Kd5 Ra5+ 72. Kd4 Ra8 then 73. Rf8 wins. 70. e7 Ra6+ 71. Kd5 Ra5+ 72. Kd4 Ra8! Black catches the pawn. (Niemann – Mishra, St. Louis, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 3.** 29. ... Nxf4 30. Qxf5 Nxf3 31. Rxf4 Or 31. Qxg4 Nxf5 is no different. 31. ... Qe7! Necessary prophylaxis that happens to threaten ... Qe7-e1+. Note that

31. ... Re8? is too slow: 32. Rh4 Nxf5 33. Qxg5 Bxf3+ 34. Kg1 is level. 32. Rg3 Now, 32. Rh4 Nxf5! defends the h7-square. 32. ... Qe1+ 33. Kg2 Qe2+ 34. Kxh3 Bc8 Winning the queen. (Sevian – Dominguez, St. Louis, 2024) **PUZZLE 4.** 69. ... Nf5 Racing to the g3-square. 70. Bb6 Note that 70. Bf2 Ne3 is playable, as 71. Bxe3 fxe3 72. Kxe3 Kxe5 is a draw. 70. ... Ng3+ 71. Kd4 Nf5+ 72. Kd3 Kxe5 73. Bd8 White wins the g5-pawn, so Black had to have seen: 73. ... Ne3 74. Bxg5 Nxf2 with a draw. (Krush – Paikidze, St. Louis, 2024) **PUZZLE 5.** 45. ... Nb4!! Yip's most spectacular move of the tournament. White played 46. Rxa6?? If 46. cxb4 Rxb6, then 47. Qxa5 cxb4+ 48. Rxb4 Qg3+ 49. Ka2 Qf2+ 50. Ka3 Qe3+ 51. Ka2 Qd2+ 52. Ka3 Qxb4+ wins; To

stay in the game, White had to find either 46. Rb8 or 46. Rf1 to maintain the balance. 46. ... Bxa6 47. Qxa5+ Kd7 48. cxb4 Qg3+ Black won shortly. (Krush – Yip, St. Louis, 2024) **PUZZLE 6.** 43. ... Re3 A clever move, preparing ... Re3-f3. After 43. ... Rxc1 44. Rxc1 Rf3 45. Rc7, White won a piece with 45. ... Rxf6 46. Bh7+ Kf8 47. Rxb7 Rf7 48. Rb8+ Kg7 but failed to find 49. Bg8 to meet ... Rf7-f3 with Bg8xe6. Instead, after 49. Bd3 Rf3! 50. Be2 Rxa3, Black went on to win. 44. Red1 Now that White's rook is off the e-file, Black goes after the f6-pawn. 44. ... Rf3 45. Rxc6 Bxc6 The key point is: 46. f7+ Or 46. Rc1 Rxf6 saves the bishop. 46. ... Kf8 47. Rc1 Rf6 48. Bh5 e5! Again, Black saves the bishop. (Aronian – Liang, St. Louis, 2024, analysis)