

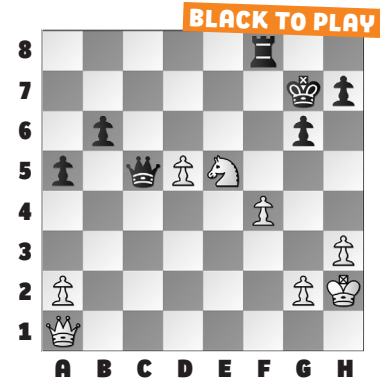
FIDE WORLD CADET CHAMPS, PT. 1

This week's puzzles begin a series featuring American players' games from the **FIDE World Cadet Championship** U-8, U-10, and U-12

Open and Girls, held last month in Italy. Enjoy an assortment of forced mates and forks!

Our **example** shows the importance of calculation. Black played **43. ... Rxf4!** ignoring White's eight (!) discovered checks, such as **44. Nf3+** While 44. Nd3+ forked Black's queen and rook, 44. ... Qd4! solved the problem. Now, after **44. ... Rf6** Black's rook is pinned, but there is no "pin and win" as 45. g4 would be met by 45. ... Qf2+. Safe

from danger after **45. Qd1 Qd6+**, Black went on to win in Zhang – Li.



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) 19. Qxg6+ The f7-pawn is pinned!
19. ... Kh8 20. Qh6+ Kg8 21. Nf5 Threatening Qh6-g7 mate now that the queen is not *en prise*. (Xia – Kaloh, Italy, 2024) **2) 30. Rxh6+** White threatens Qf2-h4 mate if Black captures. **30. ... Kg8 31. Qh4** White threatens Rh6-h8 mate, and, after a few spite checks, **Black resigned**. (Zhou – Namuun, Italy, 2024) **3) 20. gxf7+** White lures Black's king onto the open f-file!

20. ... Kxf7 After 20. ... Kh8 White had an opportunity for a rare type of mate with 21. Qxc3+ e5 22. dxe6 mate. **21. Bh6+ Bf6** The f6-bishop is pinned, so now White mates: **22. Qg7** mate. (Balamurugan – Ramraj, Italy, 2024) **4) 20. Rd7** White forks the queen and hanging b7-bishop. The d1-rook is protected, so the d7-rook is not pinned along the d-file. **20. ... Rxd7 21. Rxd7 Qh4 22. g3** White played 22. Rxf7! and was still better. **22. ... Qf6 23. Rxf7** White

x-ray defends the f2-pawn. (Xin – Chau, Italy, 2024) **5) 25. ... Rd3** Black forks White's queen and f3-knight. **26. Qc2 Rxf3!** Overload! The h3-pawn hangs now. **27. gxf3 Qxh3+ 28. Kg1 Rc5** Black is still down material, but has too many mate threats for White to survive. **29. Qe4 Rh5 30. f4 Qh2** mate. (Badescu – Xia, Italy, 2024) **6) 54. Qb3** This begins forced mate-in-three. **54. ... g4 55. Qc2 g3** The only legal move, and now: **56. Qc1** mate. (Li – Mani, Italy, 2024)