

FIDE WORLD RAPID & BLITZ, PT. 1

We begin our series on the **2024 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships** with IM Carissa Yip's highlights. Yip was the only

American to qualify for the blitz knockout, winning \$10,000 before losing in 2½-1½ to GM Kateryna Lagno in a nail-biting match that could have gone either way.

Our **example** comes from that match, where Yip defended excellently with **22. ... Ne5!** preventing e4-e5. White continued with **23. Qh5** but Yip was unbothered, finding **23. ... Bg8** After **24. Bc3 Qc5+ 25. Kh1**. She could continue with ... Rf8-f6-h6 and begin to take control. Instead, **25. ...**

Nxc4?? proved how fickle blitz can be. Now Lagno won with **26. e5**.



1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. BLACK TO PLAY

4. WHITE TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 33. Bf6 Pin and win! Note this is better than 33. Bh6, as it prevents ... f7-f5. **33. ... Qf8** White has no checks or captures, but she has another piece to add to the attack. **34. Re5 Rc8** Or 34. ... Kh8 35. Rh5+ walks Black back into the pin. **35. Rg5** There's no defense, so **Black resigned**. (Yip – Sahithi, New York, 2024) **2) 29. Qd3** That's that *intermezzo!* The c4-knight is defended and the d8-bishop comes

under fire. Not 29. bxa4 Qxc4 as Black intended. **29. ... Be7 30. bxa4** White won. (Yip – Lagno, New York, 2024) **3) 38. ... Nxd5** A thematic response with a hanging piece on the h4-square! **39. Qxe7+ Nxe7** With an extra piece, Black went on to win. (Mou – Yip, New York, 2024) **4) 32. g4** Black's rook is trapped! In the high-pressure time scramble, White mixed up her move order with 32. Bxf6+ Kxf6 33. Rxh5 gxh5 34. Kf4 h6 35. Ke4 and had to settle

for a draw. (Yip – Lagno, New York, 2024, analysis) **5) 23. Bd3!** Overload! **23. ... Qh6** Not 23. ... Rxd3 24. Rxd3 Qxd3 25. Qxg7 mate. **24. Qg4!** Now, Bf6-g5 threatens to corner Black's queen. (Yip – Jarocka, New York, 2024) **6) 20. Ng5** The g7-square is defended thrice, but not for long. **20. ... Ne5** If, e.g., 20. ... Rf8 then 21. Nxe6 wins, as Qg3xg7 is mate if Black recaptures. **21. Nxf7 Bxf7 22. c5** No mercy, no time for Black to develop! (Yip – Lee, New York, 2024)