

FIDE WORLD RAPID & BLITZ, PT. 3

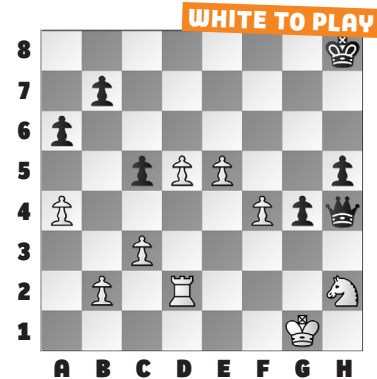
We continue our series on the **FIDE 2024 World Rapid & Blitz Championships** with another batch of games from the talented junior

trio of GM Andy Woodward, GM-Elect Brewington Hardaway, and FM Tani Adewumi.

In our **example**, played **36. Nf1!** rather than greedily pushing 36. d6?? when 36. ... Qg3+! 37. Rg2 Qe3+! 38. Kh1 Qe1+ 39. Rg1 Qe4+ 40. Rg2 Qd3! freezes White's pawns and threatens ... g4-g3 winning.

Did Tani calculate all this? Maybe! But, more likely, he just knew to prioritize defense over offense! **36. ... Kg7 37. d6 Kg6 38. d7 Qd8 39.**

Ng3 h4 40. f5+ Kg5 41. e6 and Black resigned in Adewumi – Andersen.



1. BLACK 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. ... Qf3+ Black forces mate, so **White resigned** before **35. Kg1 Qg2** mate. (Pichot – Adewumi, New York, 2024) **2) 35. Qh7+** Again, **Black resigned**, rather than face **35. ... Kf8 36. Qh8+ Kf7 37. Qxd8** winning a full queen. (Woodward – Onischuk, New York, 2024) **3) 32. Rd8+** and **Black resigned** before **32. ... Qxd8 33. Qf7** mate. (Woodward – Anton, New York, 2024) **4) 26. Bh3** A thunderbolt of a move. White threatens Nf5-

h6+, but most queen moves allow Nf5-e7+ too. **26. ... Qe8** The only safe queen move that covers the e7-square. Avoiding checks with 26. ... Kh8 27. Nxd6 still loses an Exchange and a pawn. **27. Nd6** And yet, White still wins an Exchange! (Hardaway – Kobalia, New York, 2024) **5) 56. ... Rh3** Not only is this mating net pretty, but it is also Black's only winning move! **57. a4 Rf3 58. Rg8** Wriggling away with 58. Kh2 runs into 58. ... Rf2+ 59. Kg1 Rf1+ 60.

Kh2 g3+ 61. Kh3 Rh1 mate. **58. ... Kg3** There is no way to stop mate. (Bilych – Adewumi, 2024, New York) **6) 39. c3** Essentially a queen trap! **39. ... Qb8** Safest, as 39. ... Qb3 40. Nxe5! discovers an attack on Black's queen while removing the guard of the f4-bishop! 40. ... Qxb2 41. Qxf4+ and Black can resign. **40. Ra8 Qxa8 41. Bxa8** With the advanced pawns, Black does not have any chances of holding and resigned soon after. (Hardaway – Kevlishvili, New York, 2024)