

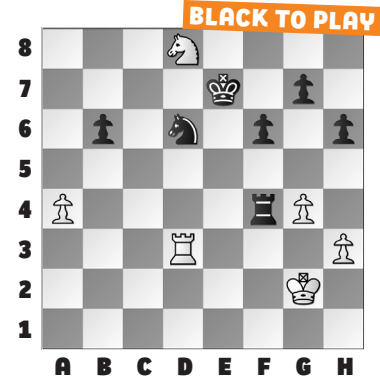
WORLD RAPID & BLITZ, PT. 4

We continue our series on the **2024 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz** by highlighting a pair of talented juniors: 16-year-old WIM Iris Mou

and 19-year-old FM Rochelle Wu. Mou went 6/11 in the Rapid and Wu went 6/11 in the Blitz, gaining 39 and 89 FIDE points, respectively, due to the strength of their opponents.

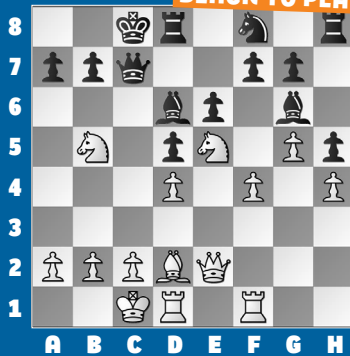
In our **example**, Black could trap White's misplaced knight with **41. ... Rc4!**. Black wanted to avoid **41. ... Kxd8** **42. Rxd6+** as rook-and-pawn endgames are more drawish without other pieces; Instead, **41. ... Rxa4** **42. Nc6+** prolonged the game, but Black won in Bulmaga – Wu.

Now, after **42. Kf2 Rc8** there is no way to stop ... Rc8xd8 next turn.



1.

BLACK TO PLAY



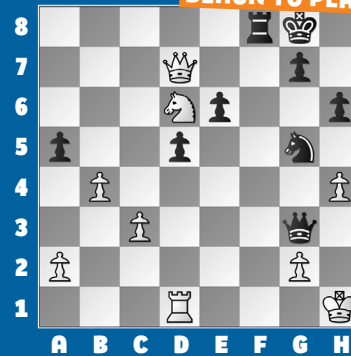
2.

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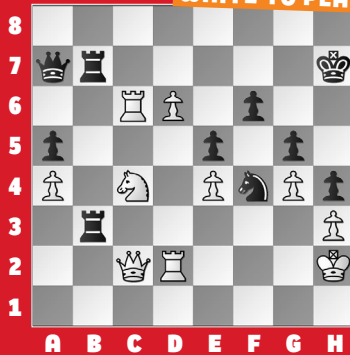
3.

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4.

WHITE TO PLAY



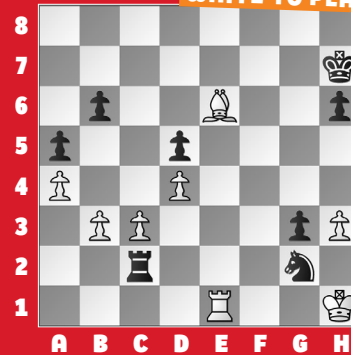
5.

BLACK TO PLAY



6.

WHITE TO PLAY



SOLUTIONS

1) 19. ... Qxc2 mate. Did you see the g6-bishop? White's previous move, 19. Nb5, was too good to be true. (Muzychuk – Mou, New York, 2024) **2) 20. ... Qh4** Overload! White can capture the g4-knight or blunt the d6-bishop, but she cannot stop both pieces from backing up Black's queen's mating threat. Don't fall for 20. ... Bxh2+? because the threat is more forcing than the check here! **21. Be5 Bxe5** The same problem

remains, and **White resigned.** (Guichard – Mou, New York, 2024) **3) 29. ... Rf2** In the game, White resigned before Black could play this move! **30. Rg1** The checks run out, and the only defense against mate on g2 allows **30. ... Qxh4** mate. (Zhu – Wu, New York, 2024) **4) 47. Qxb3** A very temporary queen sac! **47. ... Rxb3** **48. Rc7+** White regains her material. **48. ... Qxc7** **49. dxc7** With interest: the c-pawn promotes. (Wu – Sultanbek, New

York, 2024) **5) 21. ... Nxc3!** Equal trades must still be calculated! **22. bxc3 Ne4** The point: Black discovers an attacker on White's h4-bishop. **23. Qe1** Maybe 23. Bxe7 was better! **23. ... Bxh4** and **White resigned.** (Kashlinskaya – Mou, New York, 2024) **6) 51. Bf5+ Kg7** **52. Re7+!** Not 52. Bxc2? Nxe1 when Black has chances. **52. ... Kf6** **53. Bxc2** Only now, when the g2-knight hangs. **53. ... Kxe7** **54. Kxg2** and **Black resigned.** (Mou – Lesbekova, New York, 2024)