

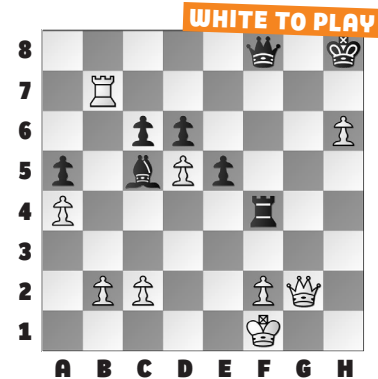
WORLD RAPID & BLITZ, PT. 6

We continue our series on the **FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championship** with a look at two prominent online players who shined “OTB.”

GM Daniel Naroditsky is a famed teacher and commentator who finished in a ten-way tie for first in Blitz. GM Brandon Jacobson, who gained some internet fame for playing 1. a4 and 2. Ra3! in a series of online games against Naroditsky, gained 48 points in Rapid.

In our **example**, White missed the crushing **46. Rb8!!** when there is no way to save the queen and the mate on g7. Now **46. ... Rxf2+** is easy to over-estimate in a blitz game, but

47. Qxf2 wins, as Black's queen is pinned in Jacobson – Tari!



1. BLACK TO PLAY

2. BLACK TO PLAY

3. WHITE TO PLAY

4. BLACK TO PLAY

5. BLACK TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 54. ... Rf2 mate. A strong start for Jacobson against one of Carlsen's seconds. (Van Foreest – Jacobson, New York, 2024) **2) 26. ... Ne2+** The knight clears way for the mate on h2 with tempo. **27. Qxe2 Qxh2+** With mate to follow. (Meier – Jacobson, New York, 2024) **3) 71. Rd6** The mating net has been woven! Black resigned after 71. ... Ra5+ 72. Ke4, although apparently 72. Kf6 was an even faster forced mate, trading

Rd6-h6+ for Bb1-g6+. (Naroditsky – Fressinet, New York, 2024) **4) 31. ... Rxf2!** A strong deflection. Instead, after 31. ... Rf4!? 32. Qd3 h4 33. Qxa6 Rf3!?, White erred with 34. Qb7+?? (the last chance was 34. Qc4! regrouping) 34. ... Kh6 35. Qc8 Qf4 when Black mates. **32. Kg1** Or 32. Rxf2 Qc1+ leads to mate. **32. ... Rd2 33. Qf3 Qf6** The superior bishop gives Black a won endgame. (Bjerre – Naroditsky, New York, 2024, analysis) **5) 45. ... Rg4!** Deflecting

White's queen while anticipating the threat of Rb7-b8 to deflect Black's queen. **46. Rb8** Or 46. Qh2 Bxf2 is decisive. **46. ... Qxb8 47. Qxg4 Qf8!** The only safe square. Not 47. ... Qg8?? 48. Qxg8+ Kxg8 49. dxc6 when the pawn queens. (Jacobson – Tari, New York, 2024, analysis) **6) 29. Nf4** Black's queen is short on squares. **29. ... Qa6** Or 29. ... Qf6 30. Nxd5 Qe6 31. Ne7+ is no better. **30. Bf1!** Look at those gorgeous bishops! (Naroditsky – Jacobson, New York, 2024)