

FIDE WORLD RAPID & BLITZ, PT. 7

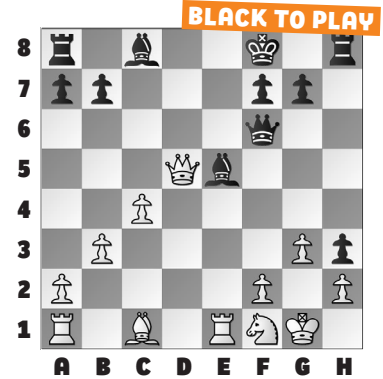
This week's puzzles come from **FIDE World Rapid & Blitz** games of three American regulars at Saint Louis Chess Club events: WGM Sabina

Foisor, WGM Atousa Pourkashiyan, and WGM Thalia Cervantes.

In our **example**, White (Foisor) already has Black on the ropes. Yet, Black played **21. ... Bxa1?**. Instead, 21. ... Bd4 covered the c5-square, and 22. Ba3+ Kg8 23. Re8+ Kh7 24. Qh5+ Qh6 is shaky for Black, but not losing outright. But after grabbing the rook, White's bishop could stay on the c1-h6 diagonal after **22.**

Qc5+! Kg8 23. Re8+ Kh7 24. Qh5+ when Black was left with only **24. ...**

Qh6 when **25. Rxxh8+ Kxh8 26. Bxxh6** won in Foisor – Lesbekova.



1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. BLACK TO PLAY

4. BLACK TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 30. Bxf5+ White's queen needed a new entry point. **30. ... exf5 31. Qxf5+ Kh6** Or **31. ... Kh8 32. Qxf6+ Kh7 33. Qf5+ Kh6 34. Qh3+ Qh4 35. Qxh4 mate. 32. Qxf6+ Kh7 33. Qf5+** Here, **Black resigned**, as **33. ... Kh8 34. Qh3+ Qh4 35. Qxh4** is mate. (Foisor – Munkhzul, New York, 2024) **2) 28. Qxe6+** White sets up a smothered mate situation. **28. ... Kh8 29. Nf7+ Rxf7** Or **29. ... Kg8** allows the classic double

check with **30. Nh6+ Kh8 31. Qg8+ Rxxg8 32. Nf7 mate. 30. Qxc8+** when **Black resigned**. (Pourkashiyan – Sevcikova, New York, 2024) **3) 45. ... Rb1+** Black missed a powerful deflection! Instead, after **45. ... Rd7? 46. Qf8** White's attack continued and she later won. **46. Rxb1 Bxe8** Winning. (Cervantes – Machlik, New York, 2024, analysis) **4) 41. ... Nxd3+! 42. Ke2** Or **42. cxd3 c2** and the pawn runs through. **42. ... Nxb4.** (Stanford – Pourkashiyan, New

York, 2024) **5) 35. a6** Passed pawns are dangerous. White calculated that after **35. ... Rxe6 36. a7**, Black loses material after **36. ... Re8 37. a8=Q Rxa8 38. Rxa8+ Kf7 39. dxe5**. (Pourkashiyan – Kosteniuk, New York, 2024) **6) 22. Nf5** White's knight runs interference. **22. ... Qh2** Or **22. ... exf5 23. Rxf2** wins an Exchange. **23. Rxf2 Qxf2 24. Rf1 Qxf1+** If **24. ... Qh2**, then **25. Ne7+** wins. **25. Qxf1 exf5 26. gxf5** Winning. (Cervantes – Tokhirjonova, New York, 2024)