

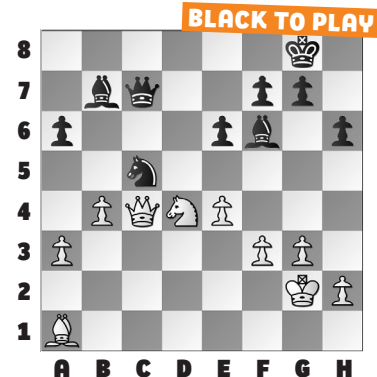
FIDE WORLD RAPID & BLITZ, PT. 8

This week's puzzles come from 13-year-old WFM Megan Althea Paragua's games at the **2024 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championship**.

The New York native won gold medals in the FIDE Cadet World Rapid & Blitz last year, and had stellar results against adults in December.

In our **example**, Paragua wriggled out of danger with **40. ... e5!** clearing the e6-square for her pinned knight with tempo on the d4-knight. Now **41. bxc5** is best, since 41. Ne2 Ne6 breaks the pin. But Black remains ahead materially: **41. ... exd4 42. Bxd4 Bxd4 43. Qxd4**

Bc6 when White is down a piece for two pawns in Nutakki – Paragua.



1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. BLACK TO PLAY

3. WHITE TO PLAY

4. WHITE TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. BLACK TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 60. Rhxf6+ White is winning, but it's nice to have technique. **Black resigned** and 60. Rxf6+ was equivalent. (Paragua – Zhu, New York, 2024) **2) 59. ... Qxf1+** The most precise. Black played 59. ... Qe7 and won later. **60. Qxf1 a1=Q 61. Qxa1 Rxa1+** Black's rook-up. (Munkhzul – Paragua, New York, 2024) **3) 66. Rc7+ Kg8** Black played 66. ... Ke8 when Ke5-f6 still wins, but White has more options here,

and chose **67. Rg7 Ne4 68. Rxc6** when Black's pawns fall. **67. Kf6** White wins: **67. ... f4 68. Kxc6** The mate threat forces **68. ... Kf8** when **69. Rf7+** nabs the f-pawn. (Paragua – Stanford, New York, 2024) **4) 34. Be5** White uses all her pieces. **34. ... Bg7 35. Bxf6** Here, **Black resigned**, as **35. ... Bxf6 36. f8=Q+** wins Black's queen. (Paragua – Mammadzada, New York, 2024) **5) 56. Qf5+** A less trivial simplification. **56. ... Qxf5+ 57. Kxf5** With a pawn on the fourth

rank, opposition in front of pawn wins. **57. ... Kf8 58. Kf6 Kg8 59. Ke7 Kg7 60. f5 Kh6 61. f6** when **Black resigned**. (Paragua – Kaliakhmet, New York, 2024) **6) 23. ... Ne3** Black demolishes White's kingside. **24. fxe3 Bxe3+ 25. Nf2 Ne4** Pin and win! **26. Rf1 Nxf2 27. Rxf2 Qe4** Black's precision continues: **28. Nf3 Rc2 29. Qd1 h6 30. Qd8+ Kh7 31. Bd4 Bxf2+ 32. Bxf2 Qxe2** Black broke through, and **White resigned** here. (Javakhishvili – Paragua, New York, 2024)