

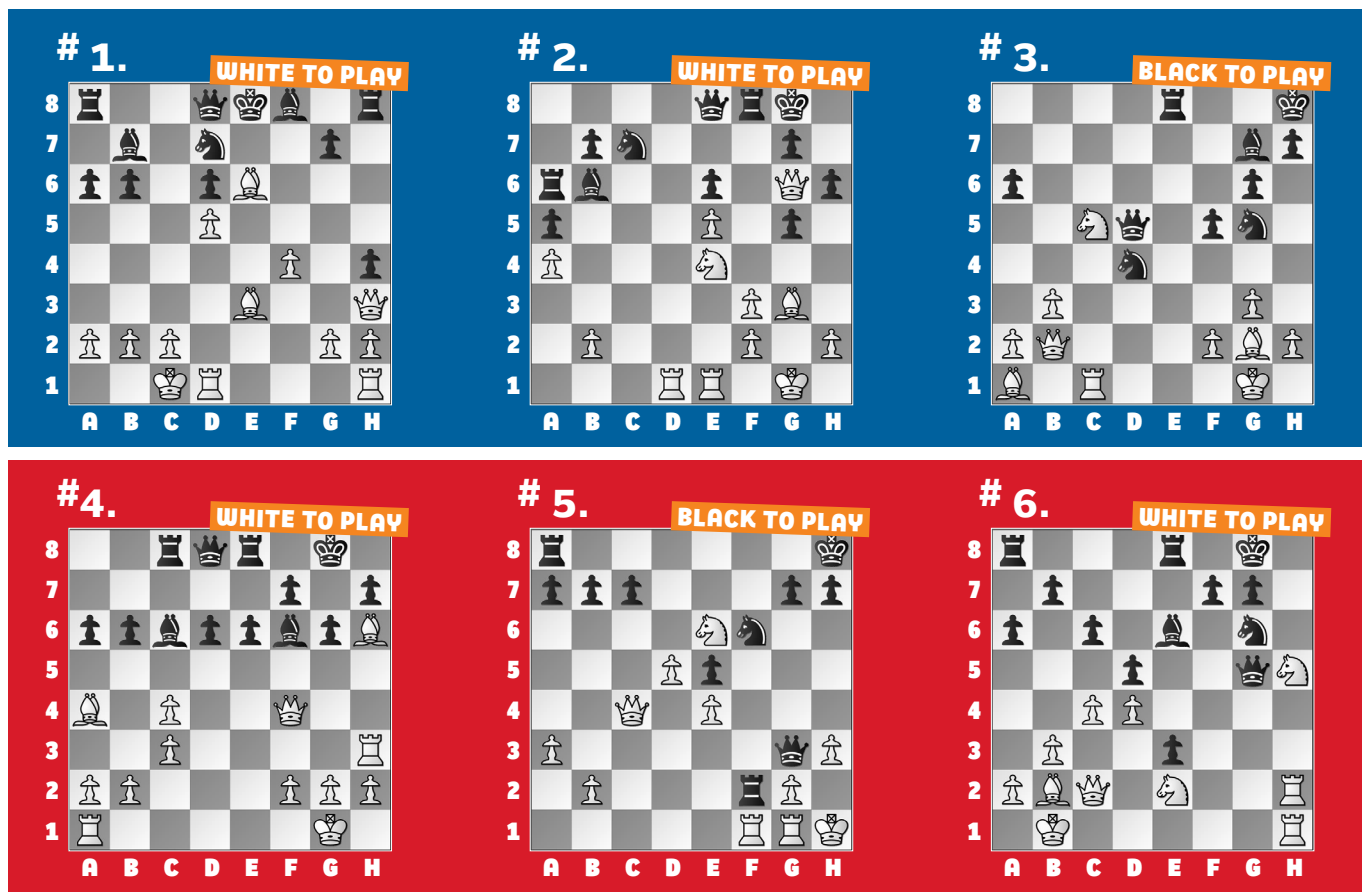
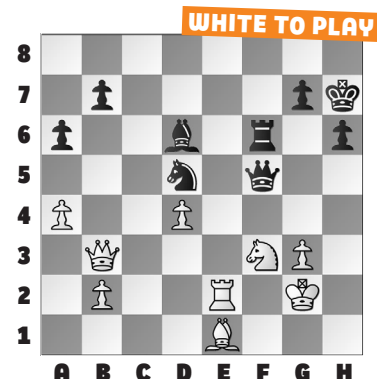
## CHICAGO OPEN HIGHLIGHTS

This week's puzzles come from the **32nd Annual Chicago Open**. The tournament was won by reigning U.S. Open champ GM Semen

Khanin, and there were fireworks in many of the top games.

In our **example**, White charged ahead with **31. Re5??**, forcing **31. ... Bxe5** when **32. dxe5** seems to regain the knight after any safe rook move. But White overlooked that **32. ... Qe6!** sets up ... Ne6-f4+ winning the queen via discovery. Even after **33. Qd3+** Black saves the rook with **33. ... Rg6!** as **34. Nh4??** is met by **34. ... Nf4+** using the pinned rook's pinning power! Instead, White

played **34. Kh2** and lost shortly in Aaron – Bruzon.



## SOLUTIONS

**1) 18. Bf7+** Know your mating patterns! **18. ... Kxf7** Or **18. ... Ke7** **19. Qe6** mate. **19. Qe6** mate. (Liang – Patel, Chicago, 2025) **2) 29. Nf6+ Rxf6** Forced, but **30. Qxe8+ Nxe8** **31. exf6** wins an Exchange, and after **31. ... gxf6** **32. Rd7**, White went on to win. Just avoid **32. Rxe6?? Bxf2+** when Black wins the rook. (Burke – Wan, Chicago, 2025) **3) 35. ... Ndf3+!** Black wins material. Not **35. ... Ne2+** **36. Qxe2! Bxa1** **37. Qxe8+** when

White is ahead. **36. Bxf3 Nxf3+** More tempi, with ... Bg7xb2 next. (Alonso – Atwell, Chicago, 2025) **4) 20. Bxc6 Rxc6** **21. Rf3** After removing the guard, White dominates the f-file. **21. ... Be5** **22. Qxf7+ Kh8** **23. Bg5** Not the only winning move, but an emphatic one, so **Black resigned**. (Deviprasath – Nguyen, Chicago, 2025) **5) 34. ... Ng4!! White resigned**, as **35. hxg4** is forced, since nothing else stops ... Qg3-h2 mate, but now Black has **35. ... Qh4** mate. (Wang –

Blanco, Chicago, 2025) **6) 26. Nf6+!! gxf6** Or **26. ... Qxf6** loses similarly after **27. Rh8+ Nxh8** **28. Qh7+ Kf8** **29. Ba3+!** when White cuts off the e7-square. **27. Rh8+ Nxh8** Or **27. ... Kg7** **28. R1h7** mate. **28. Qh7+ Kf8** **29. Ba3+!** The point, cutting off the e7-square. **29. ... Re7** **30. Qxh8+ Qg8** **31. Qxg8+ Kxg8** **32. Bxe7** While material is equal, Black's pawns are ripe for picking, so White is essentially piece-up and went on to win shortly. (Cordova – Sivakumar, Chicago, 2025)