

PAN-AMERICAN JUNIOR CHAMPS

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JUNE 25, 2025

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 39. ... Be4 The only defense. Instead, 39. ... Rc6?? allowed 40. Qb2+ Qf6 41. Rg5+ with a winning attack. Alternatives: If 41. ... Kh6 42. Qh2+ Kxg5 43. Qh5 mate; or 41. ... Kh8 42. Qh2+ Qh6 43. Rh5 42. Rf5 wins. **40. Qh6+ Kf7 41. Qf4+** The only try for an edge. **41. ... Kg6 42. Rxc5 Qxc5 43. Qxe4+** White still has the winning chances, but no forced mate. (Ticona Rocabado – Liang, Paraguay, 2025) **PUZZLE 2. 21. ... Nxe4!** Luring the queen to the e4-square. **22. Bxe4 d5** Including 22. ... axb3 first is fine. **23. cxd5 exd5 24. Bh7+** Black has significant pressure after 24. Bg2 axb3 25. axb3 Re8 26. Rf3 Ra2 when White is frozen. **24. ... Kh8** An important point, keeping

White's queen overworked. **25. Kh2 Ba6** Winning material. (Cherukuri – Chasin, Paraguay, 2025) **PUZZLE 3. 26. Qg4!** Very resourceful! White's mate threat combines with Qg4-f4 to force a trade of queens. **26. ... Rd3 27. Rf2** Covering ... Rd3-d2+ first. (Hebbbar – Sathish, Paraguay, 2025) **PUZZLE 4. 29. ... Nf4+ 30. Kg1 Qg4! 31. Bf1 Nf5** Black's attack continues. **32. Kh2?** Accelerating the end. While 32. Kh1 is better, 32. ... Re3! is one of many ways to make progress, after e.g. 33. Nxe3 Qxf3+ 34. Kg1 Nxd4 35. Qd1 Nfe2+ 36. Bxe2 Nxe2+ 37. Kf1 Nxe3+ 38. Ke1 Qh1+ 39. Kd2 Qh2 winning. **32. ... Re2** Threats of ... Nf5xg3 and ... Re2xf2 are too much to handle. Starting with 32. ... Nxe3 was also fatal. (Johnson – Mou, Paraguay, 2025) **PUZZLE**

5. 28. ... Rxe1+! More precise. Black's **28. ... axb3?!** could have been punished by 29. cxd6!, when 29. ... Rxe1+ 30. Rxe1 bxa2 is not enough, as 31. Ra1 cxd6 32. Kf1 Ra4 33. Ke1 d5 34. Kd2 prepares Kd2-d3 and Nc6-d4, corralling the pawns. Note: 28. ... Nb5 allows 29. Rxe1 Rxe8 30. bxa4. White played **29. axb3?! Rxa1 30. Rxa1 Nb5 31. h3**, allowing White to continue pushing for a win. **29. Rxe1 Nb5** Black should be equal. (Lopez Rayo – Park, Paraguay, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 6. 35. ... Rf8!** An astute defense before Rf6-f5. Black's 35. ... Qg5?? allowed 36. Kf1 Qg7 37. Rf5 Kg8 38. f4 winning. After **36. Kg2? Kg7!** Black was in trouble, but 36. ... Qg7 37. Rf5 Kg8 was better, since 38. f4?? Qxg4+ wins. (Ticona Rocabado – Liang, Paraguay, 2025, analysis)