2025 US CADET CHAMPIONSHIP

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JULY 02, 2025

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.

WHITE TO MOVE

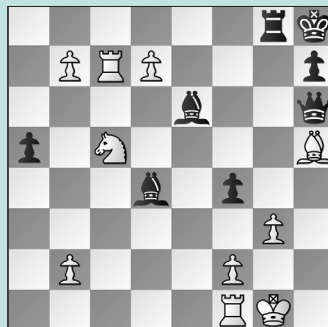### PUZZLE 2.

BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.

BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.

BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.

WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.

WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 65. Bxf7! Rb1 If 65. ... Nxf6+ it would be easy to stop here because the rook hangs, but 66. Kxf4 escapes check, defends the rook, leaves the f6-knight *en prise*, and threatens Re5-e6+ to trade rooks and promote the outside passer. **66. Re4 Nxf6+** Anything else loses material. **67. gxf6** White wins. (Lin – Deng, Schaumburg, 2025) **PUZZLE 2. 6. ... f5** The fork clearly gets broken with tempo. But that doesn't matter! Black chose **6. ... g6** and won the hard way. **7. Qxg7 Qd4!** Defending the rook via an X-ray. **8. Qxd4 cxd4** Spectacularly, the knight is trapped. (Rao – Deng, Schaumburg, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 3. 33. ... Bxg4+ 34. Kxg4** Or 34. Kh4 Qd8+ 35. Kxg4 Rxe4+!

wins similarly, with ... Qd8-g5 mate next. **34. ... Qd7+** Or 34. ... Rxe4+ transposes, and 34. ... Qc8+ is equivalent. **35. Kh4 Rxe4+!** The key move. **36. dxe4 Bf6+ 37. Kh5 Qh3+ 38. Kg6 Rg7** mate**.** Or 38. ... Ne7 mate. (Deng – Adewumi, Schaumburg, 2025) **PUZZLE 4. 31. ... Bxe1!** The rook looked poisoned, but it wasn't! After **31. ... Nc2 32. Re5 Nd6 33. Qg4**, White went on to win. **32. Rxe1 Nc2 33. Rc1** Probably, Black stopped calculating here, thinking White was better. **33. ... Nd6!** The f7-square is defended with tempo, and Black is level after capturing the a1-bishop next. (Adewumi – Colville, Schaumburg, 2025) **PUZZLE 5. 41. Rc8** Preventing ... Rg8xg3+. **41. ... Qg5** Now, 41. ... fxg3 is too slow: 42. Rxg8+ Bxg8 43. d8=Q

gxf2+ 44. Rxf2! and White retains a material plus. **42. Rxg8+** Or 42. Ne4 defending the g3-pawn with tempo on the queen. **42. ... Bxg8 43. Ne4!** The only winning move. After **43. b8=Q?? Qxg3+ 44. Kh1 Qh3+ 45. Kg1 Qg3+ 46. Kh1**, Black had the draw by repetition. **43. ... Qd8 44. Rc1** Winning. (Lin – Adewumi, Schaumburg, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 6. 39. Bf7!** The game continued with **39. d7? Rxc5 40. Nxc5 Bd4??** reaching the previous puzzle. **39. ... Rxc5** If 39. ... Rxf7 then 40. Rxf7 Bxf7 41. d7 wins. **40. Bxg8** The b-pawn is unstoppable. **40. ... Bxg8 41. Rxc5!** Removing threats of ... Re5-g5. Careful: 41. b8=Q? fxg3! 42. Nxg3 Rg5 manages to draw. **41. ... fxg3 42. Nxg3 Qxd6 43. Rc8** Winning. (Lin – Adewumi, Schaumburg, 2025, analysis)