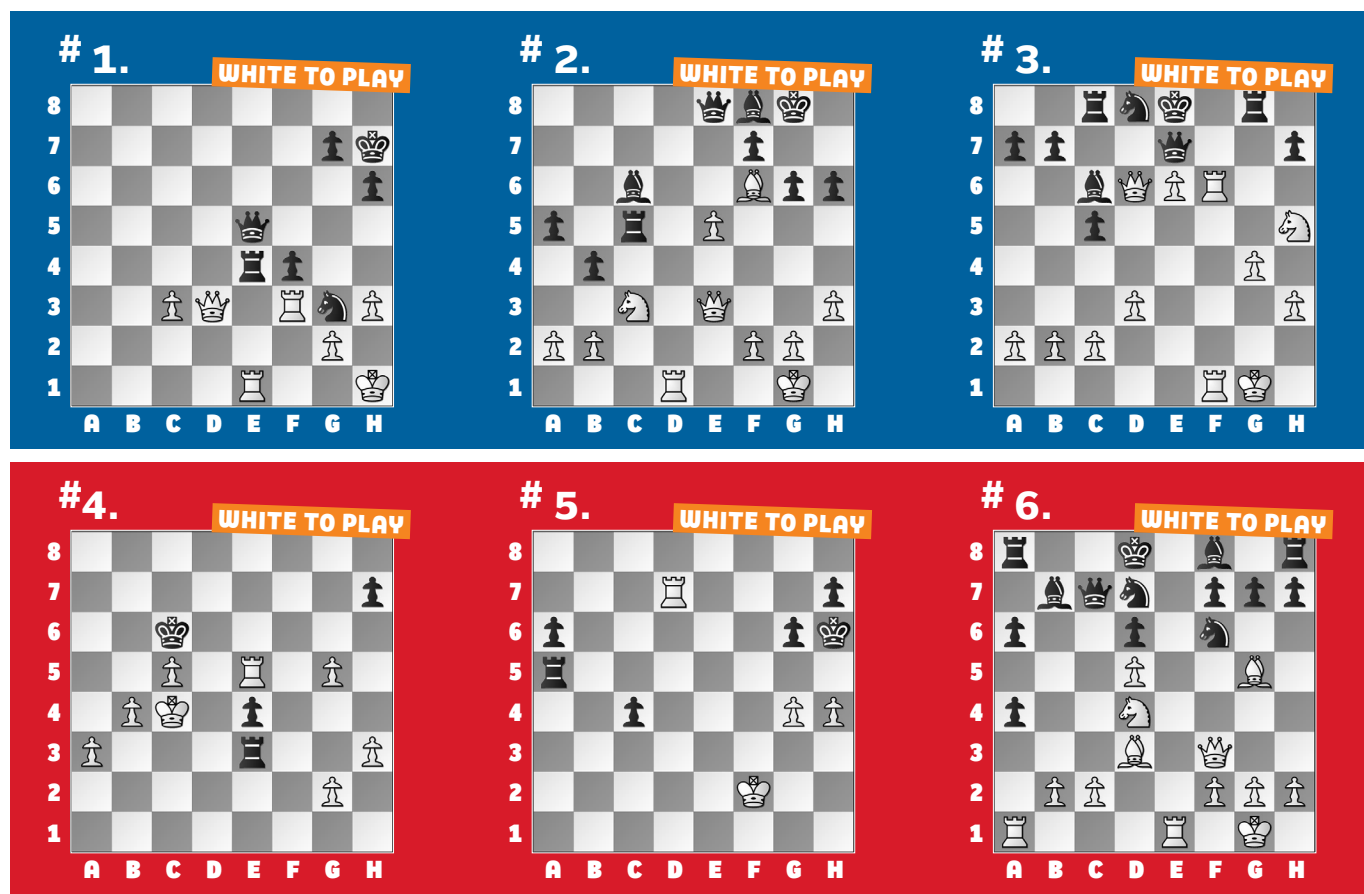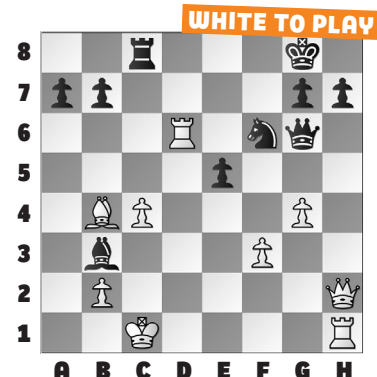# TACTICS TUESDAY

CHESS LIFE KIDS ONLINE

WORLD CADETS CHAMPS, PT. 2

Today's puzzles continue our series on the **2025 FIDE World Cadets Cup** from earlier this month, where defensive technique was crucial.

In our **example**, White needed to focus on defense rather than attack. By playing **27. Qd2??**, White neither closed down the c-file nor kept White's d2-square free for the king! Instead, 27. c5! was necessary, putting the burden on Black. Black can try 27. … e4 28. f4, but now White can play for Qh2-d2 and a back rank attack without fear of counterplay along the c-file. But after the game move, **27. … Rxc4+ 28. Bc3 Ra4!** must have come as a shock, finding a new line of attack in Guntaka – Manchanda.

WHITE TO PLAY

1. **WHITE TO PLAY**

2. **WHITE TO PLAY**

3. **WHITE TO PLAY**

4. **WHITE TO PLAY**

5. **WHITE TO PLAY**

6. **WHITE TO PLAY**

SOLUTIONS

1) 51. Rxg3 Removing the guard! The e4-rook is pinned, crucially. (Paragiri – Elemes, Batumi, 2025)

2) 36. Rd8 Removing the guard through an X-ray! Black's only queen move was 36. … Qe6 when 37. Qxc5 wins, so **Black resigned** soon. (Guo – Yang, Batumi, 2025)

3) Black resigned, as: **27. Rf7 Qxd6 28. Nf6** is mate. (Manchanda – Turdybay, Batumi, 2025) **4) 42. Re7!** Suddenly, b4-b5+ is mate. **42. …**

Rc3+ Nothing else avoids mate, and **Black resigned** shortly. (Aravinthan – Samanta, Batumi, 2025) **5) 46. g5+ Kh5** If not for the g4-square, Rd7xh7+ would be mate. **47. Kg3** But now mate is threatened! **47. … h6** What else? Likely, Black was banking on 47. … Ra3+ to remove the king's defense of the h4-pawn. However, 48. Kf4 does not remove the mate threat, and 48. … Kxh4?? 49. Rxh7 mate is no better. **48. Rh7 Rxg5+** Nothing else stops mate! In

the game, **Black resigned** after 48. … Ra3+ 49. Kf4 with mate to follow. (Ioseliani – Paragiri, Batumi, 2025)

6) 14. Nc6+ A thematic attacking sequence after a Nc3-d5 sac in the Najdorf Sicilian. **14. … Kc8** This doesn't work, but neither did 14. … Bxc6 15. dxc6 Ne5. **15. Bxf6 Bxc6** Black tries to keep material. Or 15. … Nxf6 16. Bf5+ forces 16. … Nd7 17. Re8+ wins. **16. Re8+ Kb7 17. dxc6+ Qxc6 18. Be4** Winning! (Bulgak – Sawhney, Batumi, 2025)

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