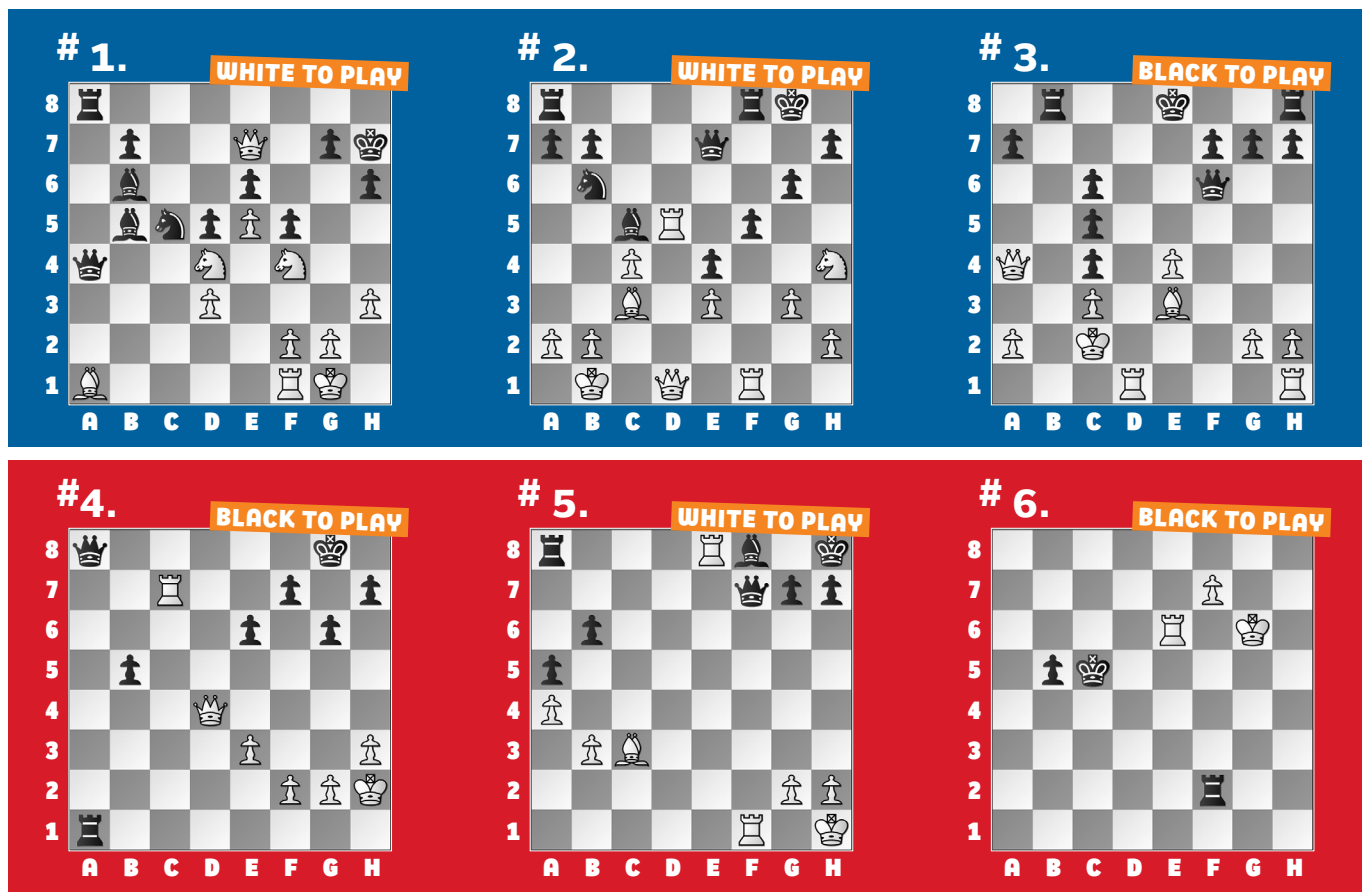
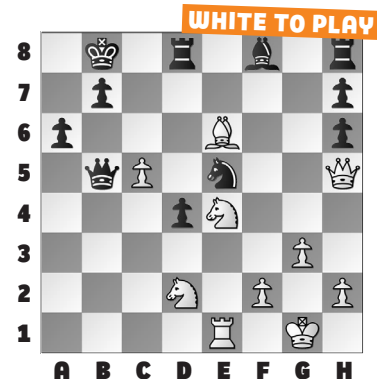


WOMEN'S WORLD CUP, PT. 2

We continue our series from the **FIDE Women's World Cup**, with more highlights from WGM Sabina Foisor's annotations for CLO.

In our **example**, Black reaches a better position after accurate defense, beginning with activating her bishop and connecting her rooks via **25. ... Bg7** but, instead, she erred with **25. ... Ng6??** allowing **26. Rb1! Qc6** **27. Rb6 Qe8** **28. c6!** and White won shortly in Gunina – Zahedifar. But, after the correct move, **26. Rb1 Qe8** is a different story: Black retreats with tempo, offering a queen trade, and there is no Be6-f7 as the knight still guards

f7. These nuances can be the difference between a win and a loss!



SOLUTIONS

1) 33. Nh5 Rg8 The only way to stop mate, but it loses too much material. **34. Nf6+ Kh8** **35. Nxg8 Kxg8** **36. Nxe6 Nxe6** **37. Qxe6+ Kh7** **38. Qxb6** and **Black resigned.** (Kamalidenova – Vaishali, Batumi, 2025) **2) 23. Nxf5** White crashes through and is already threatening Nf5-h6 mate! **23. ... Rxf5** **24. Rxf5** Either recapture is fine. **24. ... gxf5** **25. Rxf5** Saving the rook. White plans Qd1-g4 with a decisive

advantage! (Khotenashvili – M. Muzychuk, Batumi, 2025) **3) 19. ... Qe6!** Black only has two pawns for the piece, yet White has no defense! **20. Kc1 Qxe4** Black forks the e3-bishop and the b1-square, and would be winning. (Shukhman – Lee, Batumi, 2025) **4) 44. ... Qf8!** The only defense! Black lost after 44. ... Ra6?? 45. Qd7 Qf8 46. Rc8 winning the queen. **45. Qxa1** Black likely missed: **45. ... Qd6+** regaining material! (Humpy – Lei,

Batumi, 2025) **5) 36. Bxg7+!!** What a humdinger! This deflection buys some key tempi. **36. ... Qxg7** Or **36. ... Kxg7** 37. Rxf7+ Kxf7 38. Rxa8 wins. **37. Rxa8** White regains the piece, as trading into a pure pawn endgame loses. (Cervantes – Mungunzul, Batumi, 2025) **6) 58. ... Rxf7!!** The only draw! **59. Kxf7 b4** **60. Re8 b3** **61. Rb8 Kc4** **62. Ke6 Kc3** **63. Kd5 b2** **64. Ke4 Kc2** and White is not in time. (Goryachkina – Kamalidenova, Batumi, 2025)