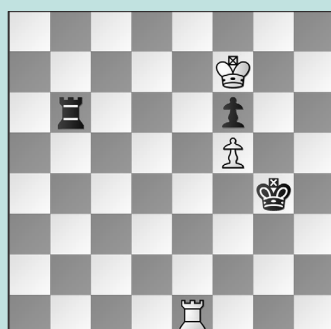


125TH ANNUAL U.S. OPEN

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ AUGUST 20, 2025

BY WGM SABINA FOISOR

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 130. Kg6! The right way to win the game. The attempt to win the f6-pawn with 130. Re6?? allows Black to draw after 130. ... Rb5! when the f-pawns are traded off. **130. ... Kf4 131. Re6!** Now that the f-pawn is protected, White cuts off Black's king and wins. (Kaplan – Scott, Middleton, 2025) **PUZZLE 2. 25. Rxd5!** The queen infiltrates on f5 and it was just a matter of time for White to convert. **25. ... exd5 26. Qf5 Rc7 27. Ne6+** and, while material is equal here, White is crushing. (Akobian – Gustafson, Middleton, 2025) **PUZZLE 3. 30. ... Nc3!!** It's all over for White. **31. bxc3 Qxc3+ 32. Ka2 Qxa3+** and **White resigned.** (Matviishen – Kostolansky, Middleton,

2025) **PUZZLE 4. 20. Rdd1** White is still struggling, but could find some active ideas. Instead, **20. Rd3??** looked similar, and more natural (to double on the d-file). But after **20. ... Ng5 21. e4 f5!**, Black is cruising. **20. ... Ng5 21. e4! Nxe4 22. Rd3 f6** White gives up a pawn but can now attempt the doubling on the d-file considering that Black's queen and knight coordination has been stopped with h4. (Fishbein – Zhou, Middleton, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 5. 14. ... Rc8!** The right choice for Black. There is no need to hurry and check. But ... a6 wins the d3-bishop. Now, it is difficult to come up with a defense for White. After Black's 14. ... Qe7+?? 15. Kf1! Rfe8 16. Be2? d4, White was in trouble. But 16. b4 seems to be holding (barely

after 16. ... Nce4 17. Bxe4 Nxe4 18. Nxe4 Qxe4 19. f3 Qd4 20. Re1 Rxe1+ 21. Kxe1 Qc3+ 22. Kf2 Qd4+ with a perpetual. **15. Bc2** While 15. Be2?? may seem natural, it loses on the spot after 15. ... a6 16. Qb4 Bxe2 when White's king is doomed. **15. ... d4!** Black's advantage is massive. (Hong – Pyrih, Middleton, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 6. 23. ... Qa8!** Walking into the discovery! **24. 0-0?** Best was 24. Bb4, but now the c6-rook is misplaced and Black gains the initiative: 24. ... Bb7 25. Qxd7 Rfd8 26. Ra6! Rxd7 27. Rxa8 Rxa8 28. Bxb7 Rxb7 29. fxe5 Bg7 and White's minor pieces can't do much. **24. ... b4! 25. Bxb4 Rxb4 26. Rb6 Qa5!** From here, Danya converted his advantage to finish in a tie for second. (Peddi – Naroditsky, Middleton, 2025)