

2025 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS, PT. 2

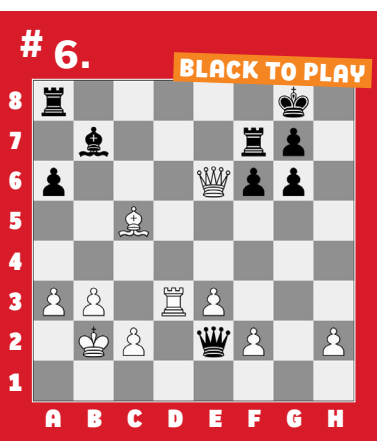
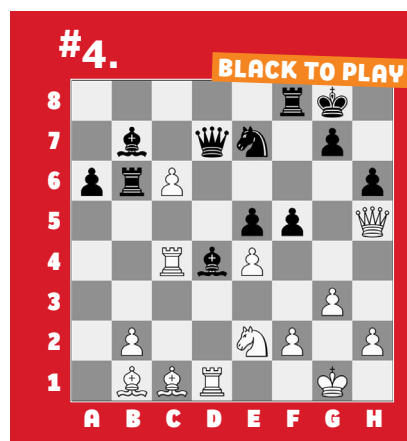
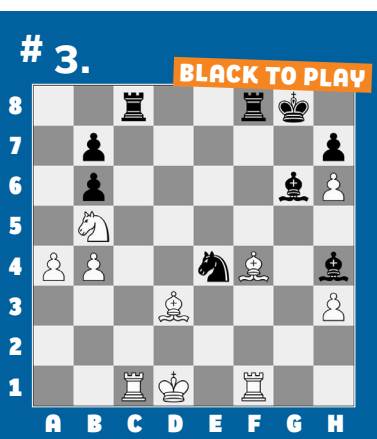
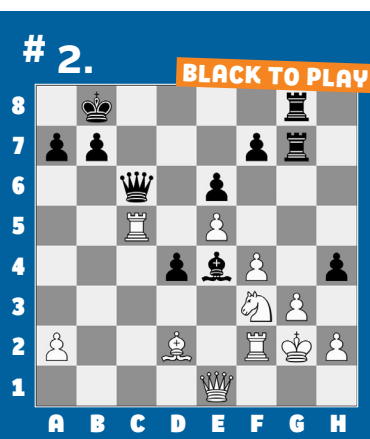
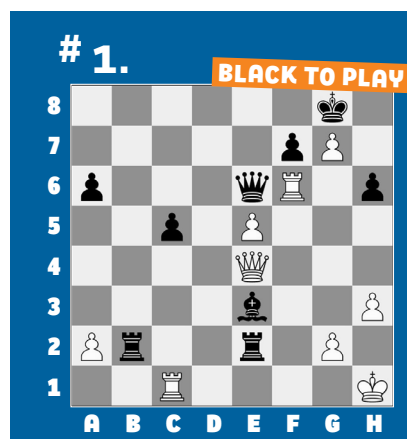
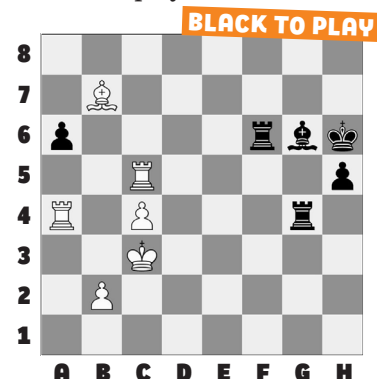
This week's puzzles continue the theme of looking at variations from the **2025 U.S. Chess Championships**, won by GM Fabiano Caruana and

IM Carissa Yip. When reviewing games, it's important to look at the moves that aren't played. The further ahead you can spot the tactical flaws, the sharper you'll be!

In our **example**, we see why White avoided putting their king on c3, as Black would win with **40. ... Rg3+!**

41. Kb4 or **41. Kd4 Rd3+ 42. Ke5 Rf5+** wins the full rook. But still, **41. ... Rb6+** would win a bishop in Shankland – Caruana. This is the sort of “invisible” calculation that

goes on behind the scenes, since White never played **40. Kc3**.



SOLUTIONS

1) 36. ... Qxh3+ and **White resigned** due to **37. gxh3 Rh2** mate. (Lee – Sargsyan, St. Louis, 2025) **2) 35. ... hxg3** A queen sac! **36. Rxc6 gxf2+ 37. Kxf2 Rg2+** Here, **White resigned** due to **38. Kf1 Bd3+ 39. Qe2 Bxe2+ 40. Ke1 Bxf3** putting Black up a fatal amount of material and keeping mate threats alive, too. (Pourkashian – Abrahamyan, St. Louis, 2025) **3) 29. ... Bh5+ 30. Be2 Rfd8+** White's king is

hopelessly exposed, and material has to go, so White could easily just resign here. (Yu – Atwell, St. Louis, 2025, analysis) **4) 27. ... Bxf2+** With three ways to capture on c6, and the queen under fire, did you remember your tactical fundamentals? Now, the d1-rook falls and Black wins material! (Lee – Abrahamyan, St. Louis, 2025, analysis) **5) 33. Qh7+ Kf7** A logical start, of course, but what is the winning follow-up? **34. Bg6+! Rxc6**

35. Rf3+ With the point that the f8-rook falls after **35. ... Rf6 36. Rxf6+ Kxf6 37. Rf1+ Ke7 38. Qxg7+** Winning the rook at last, and with it, the game. (Lee – Abrahamyan, St. Louis, 2025, analysis) **6) 26. ... Qh5** A defensive tactic! It looked like White's next move was unstoppable, and that's sort of true, however, **White resigned** anyways, since **27. Rd7** runs into **27. ... Qe5+** breaking the pin by forcing a queen trade! (Paikidze – Lee, St. Louis, 2025)