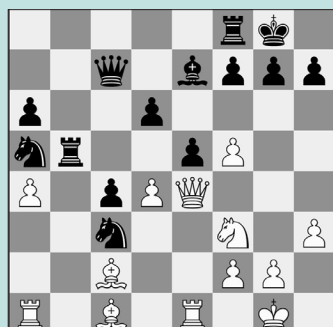


U.S. SENIOR WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ NOVEMBER 19, 2025

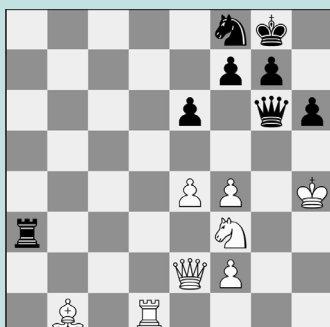
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



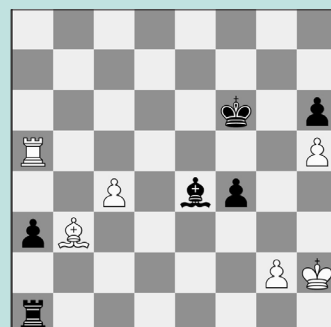
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



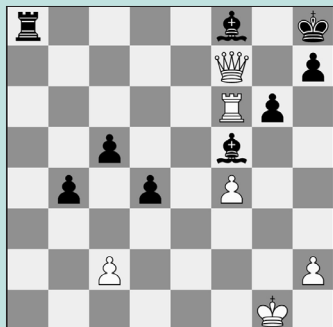
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



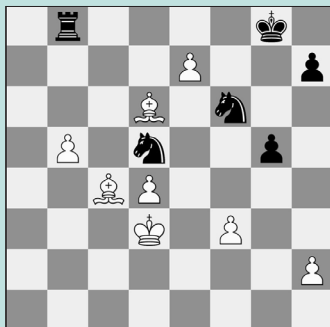
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



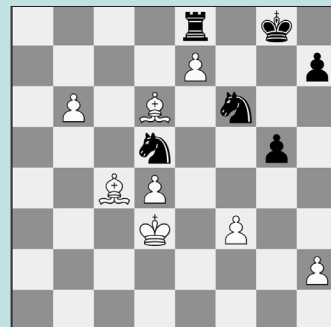
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 22. Qg4 Stepping out of the attack, leaving Black's b5-rook *en prise*, and eyeing the g7-weakness. 22. ... Rb7 23. Bh6! g6 If 23. ... Bf6, 24. Bxg7! Bxg7 25. f6 was the point. 24. fxf6 fxf6 25. Bxg6 and White went on to win. (Tsodikova – Airapetian, Murray, 2025) **PUZZLE 2.** 38. ... Qg2 Threats on the loose f3-knight combine with ... Nf8-g6+ to do too much damage. Black played 38. ... Qf6+ and won after 39. Kh3?! Ng6 but 39. Kg3 was more testing, although Black is still better. Also, 38. ... e5! with the idea of ... Nf8-e6, was good, too. (Kennedy – Cabrera, Murray, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 3.** 53. ... Rb1! Using a tempo on the bishop to switch targets.

54. Rxa3 Rb2 55. Bd1 Or 55. Kg1 Ke5 won prosaically. 55. ... Rxc2+ 56. Kh3 Rg1! Tempo on the bishop and also preparing a mating net. 57. Ra6+ Kg5 58. Ra5+ Bf5+ and White resigned soon. (Cabrera – Sagalchik, Murray, 2025) **PUZZLE 4.** 53. Ra6! A fantastic decoy, and the cleanest win. After 53. Rc6 Black lost with 53. ... b3?? but 53. ... Bg7! 54. Rc7 Rg8 was more stubborn. The game ended: 54. Rc7 g5 55. Qf6+ Kg8 56. Qxf5 Bg7 57. Qf7+ Kh8 58. Qxg7 mate. 53. ... Rb8 54. Ra7 Black is not in time to both interfere with ... Bf8-g7 and defend with ... Rb8-g8. (Airapetian – Skidmore Smith, Murray, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 45. ... Rc8 Black is up material, but only this move keeps her in the game. Instead, 45. ... Re8?! 46. b6

reaches the next puzzle. The point is that now 46. b6? is a mistake. Instead, 46. e8=Q+ Rxe8 47. b6 is better, deflecting the rook first, but 47. ... Kg7 48. b7 Nf4+! is enough to hold, untangling the knights to play ... Nf6-d7 next. But, after 46. b6, Black has: 46. ... Rxc4! 47. Kxc4 Nxb6+ 48. Kc5 Nc8 when Black is winning. (Tsodikova – Sagalchik, Murray, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 6.** 46. ... Kf7 The right square. Instead, 46. ... Kg7?? 47. b7 Nf4+ 48. Kd2 N4d5 49. Bb5 and Black resigned. 47. b7 Ke6 The knight is still pinned on d5, but now it's protected. After 48. b8=Q Rxb8 49. Bxb8 Kxe7 White is pawn-up with two bishops against two knights, but Black still has practical drawing chances. (Tsodikova – Sagalchik, Murray, 2025, analysis)