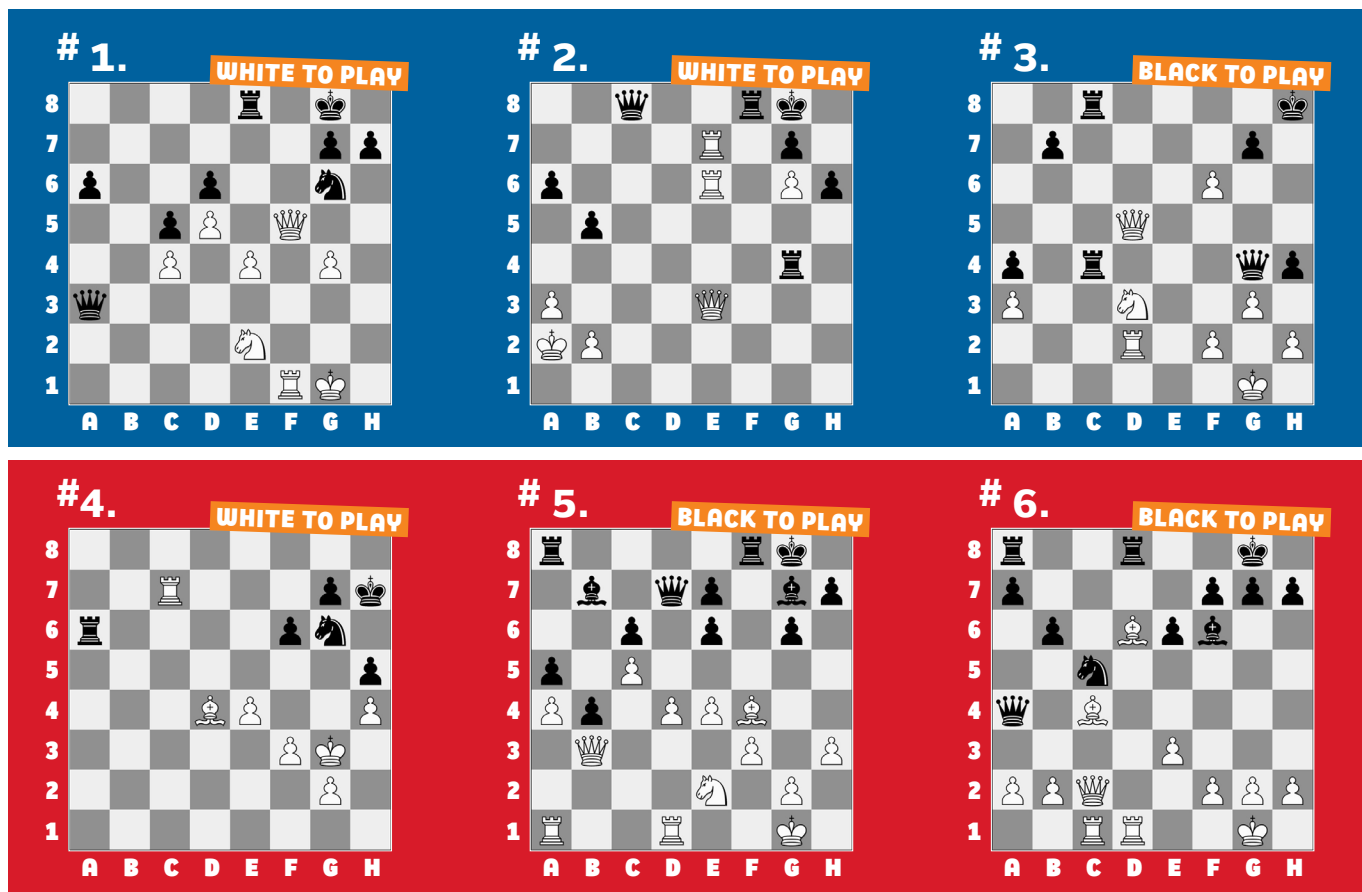
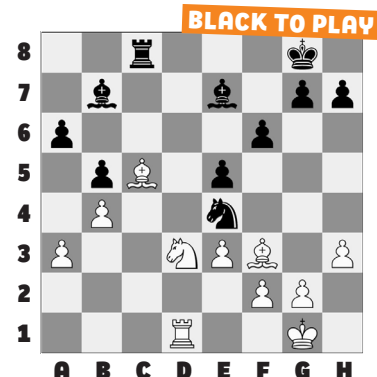


## WORLD RAPID & BLITZ, PT. 2

This week's puzzles continue our series on American players' games from last month's **2025 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships**.

In our **example**, we see that not every tactical sequence ends in a material gain. Instead, we can use tactical themes to reach a winning plan. Here, Black won after a series of pins and discoveries, beginning with **23. ... Nxc5** **24. Nxc5 Bxf3** with tempo on the rook, so **25. gxf3 Bxc5** would win a pawn if not for **26. Rc1** but now Black spotted **26. ... Kf7!** **27. bxc5 Ke6** when Black's winning plan is easy: Black will bring the king to c6 and then improve the

position of the rook to win the c-pawn in Sasikiraan – Dominguez.



## SOLUTIONS

**1) 33. Qf7+** and **Black resigned** in view of: **33. ... Kh8** **34. Qxe8+ Nf8** **35. Rxf8** mate. A typical puzzle rush/racer finish! (Krush – Zhapova, Doha, 2025) **2) 44. Rxc7+** Mate in five! **44. ... Kxc7** **45. Qa7+** and **Black resigned**. (Balakrishnan – Tissir, Doha, 2025) **3) 44. ... Rc1+** and **White resigned** due to: **45. Nxc1 Rxc1+** when **46. Rd1** is forced since **46. Kg2** runs into **46. ... h3** mate but **46. ... Rxd1+** **47. Qxd1 Qxd1+** and

White is a full queen down. (Li – Yu, Doha, 2025) **4) 46. Rc5** Winning a second pawn. Instead, the game saw **46. Bc3?? Rb6??** when Black gives up the chance one more time. Better was **46. ... Rd6** to control the d2-square: **47. Rc5 Kh6** and without **Bc3-d2+**, Black is only down one pawn. But now White played **47. Kh3??**, again missing **Rc7-c5**. The game later ended in a draw. **46. ... Kh6** **47. Be3+ Kh7** **48. Rxh5+** Winning. (Robson – Kosakowski,

Doha, 2025) **5) 24. ... Ba6!** When you see hanging pieces make sure you look around to deflect their protector! **25. Be3** Or **25. Re1 Bxe2** **26. Rxe2 Rxf4** wins the loose bishop. **25. ... Bxe2** and Black went on to win. (Aziz – Chasin, Doha, 2025) **6) 19. ... Qxc2!** Beware tactics following equal trades. The loose d6-bishop is pinned to the hanging d1-rook now after the simple **20. Rxc2 Ne4** when Black is winning. (Mamedov – So, Doha, 2025)