

# Tactics Tuesday

CHESSLIFE KIDS ONLINE

## 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**.

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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 Sasikiran – Dominguez.

**BLACK TO PLAY**



**# 1.**

**WHITE TO PLAY**



**# 2.**

**WHITE TO PLAY**



**# 3.**

**BLACK TO PLAY**



**# 4.**

**WHITE TO PLAY**



**# 5.**

**BLACK TO PLAY**



**# 6.**

**BLACK TO PLAY**



## 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 – Zhadova, Doha, 2025)
- 2) **44. Rxe7+ Mate in five!** **44. ... Kxg7** **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)