

46TH OLYMPIAD: PUERTO RICO

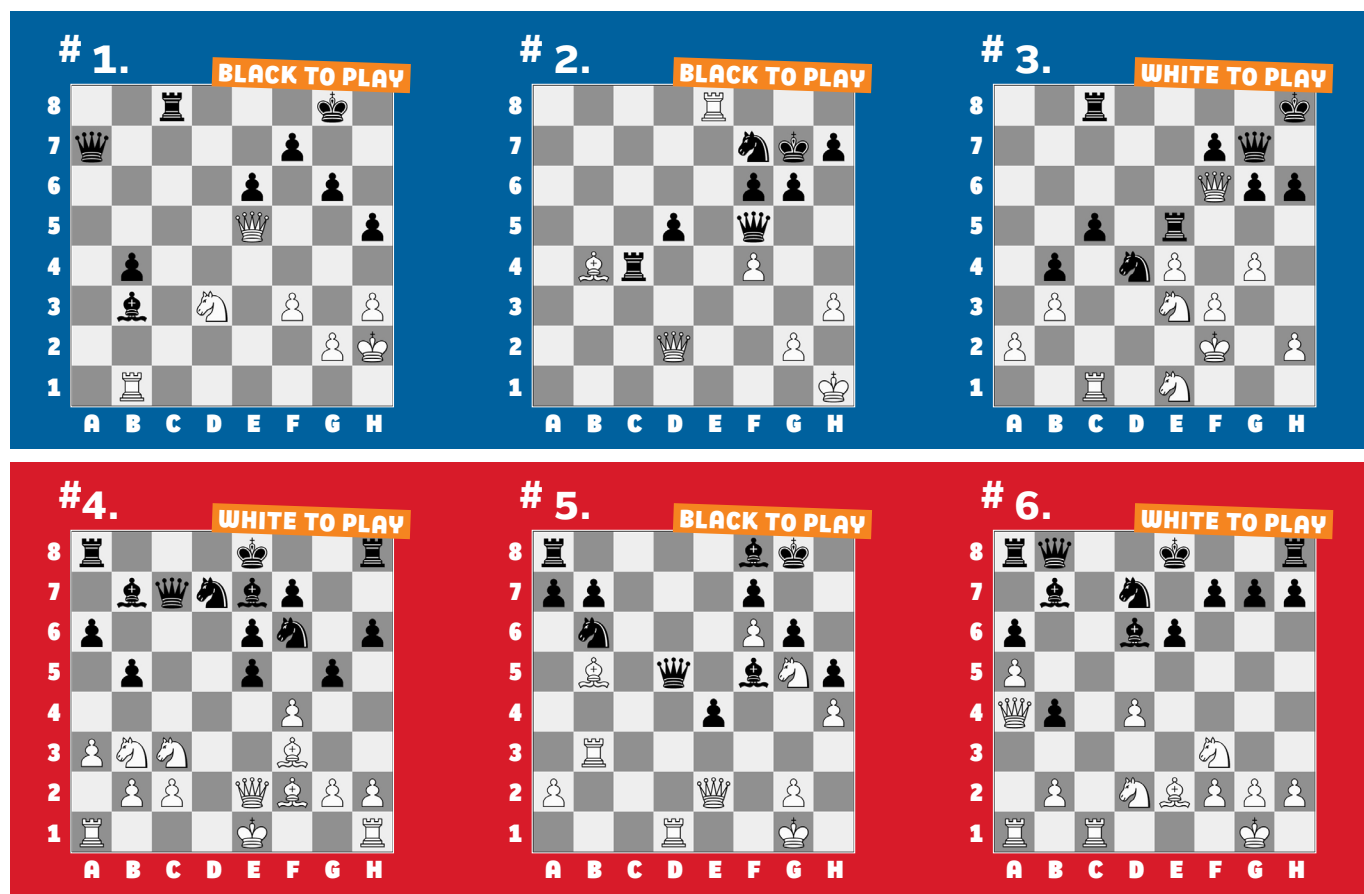
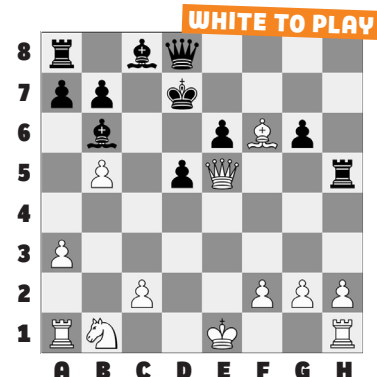
This week's puzzles highlight Puerto Rico's team from the **46th Olympiad**. In a tough pairing against Poland, FM Jaime Rodriguez

Santiago put up a fight against GM Jan Malek despite the 518-point rating gap.

In our **example**, White played **16. Qxh5??**, appearing to win an Exchange after **16. ... Qxf6 17. Qh7+**, escaping the threat with tempo before defending the rook. But after **17. ... Kd6**, White realized there was no time to defend the rook.

Cruelly, after 16. Qf4!, not only is the position equal, but 16. ... Rf5??

now loses the Exchange to the same idea of 17. Qxf5! So close!



SOLUTIONS

1) 35. ... Bc2! 36. Ra1 White escapes the double attack with tempo. **36. ... Qb6** Any move that defends the outside passer will win. (Maiga – Zilleruelo Irizarry, Samarkand, 2026) **2) 40. ... Qb1+** Black hits the loose b4-bishop with tempo on the back rank. **41. Re1 Qxb4** Down a piece, **White resigned**. (Pesqueira – Almedina Ortiz, Samarkand, 2026) **3) 36. Qxg7+** White is down material, but trading queens is still

best. Instead, 36. Qa6?? Ree8! gave Black all the play. **36. ... Kxg7 37. Nd3!** White wins a second pawn for the Exchange. (Rodriguez Santiago – Abdulrahman Mohammad, Samarkand, 2026, analysis) **4) 16. Bxb7** Deflecting the queen. If 16. fxe5? Bxf3! 17. Qxf3 Qxe5+, White's pawn falls with check. **16. ... Qxb7 17. fxe5** White avoids a collapse in the center. (Rodriguez Santiago – De Mey, Samarkand, 2026) **5) 27. ... Qc5+!** Black wants to play ... Bf5-g4

so first gets the queen off the d-file. **28. Kh1 Bg4** and **White resigned** eight moves later. (Young – Toro Cruz, Samarkand, 2026) **6) 18. Nc4!** White pressures the e5-square. **18. ... Ke7** A massive concession. **19. Nfe5! Bxe5** Or 19. ... Rd8 20. Nxd6 Qxd6 (or 20. ... Kxd6 21. Nxf7+ forks) 21. Nc4 wins; If 19. ... Nxe5 20. dxe5 Bc5, 21. Nb6 infiltrates. **20. dxe5 Bd5 21. Nb6!** White intends Qa4xb4+ and soon **Black resigned**. (Zilleruelo Irizarry – Prince, Samarkand, 2026)