

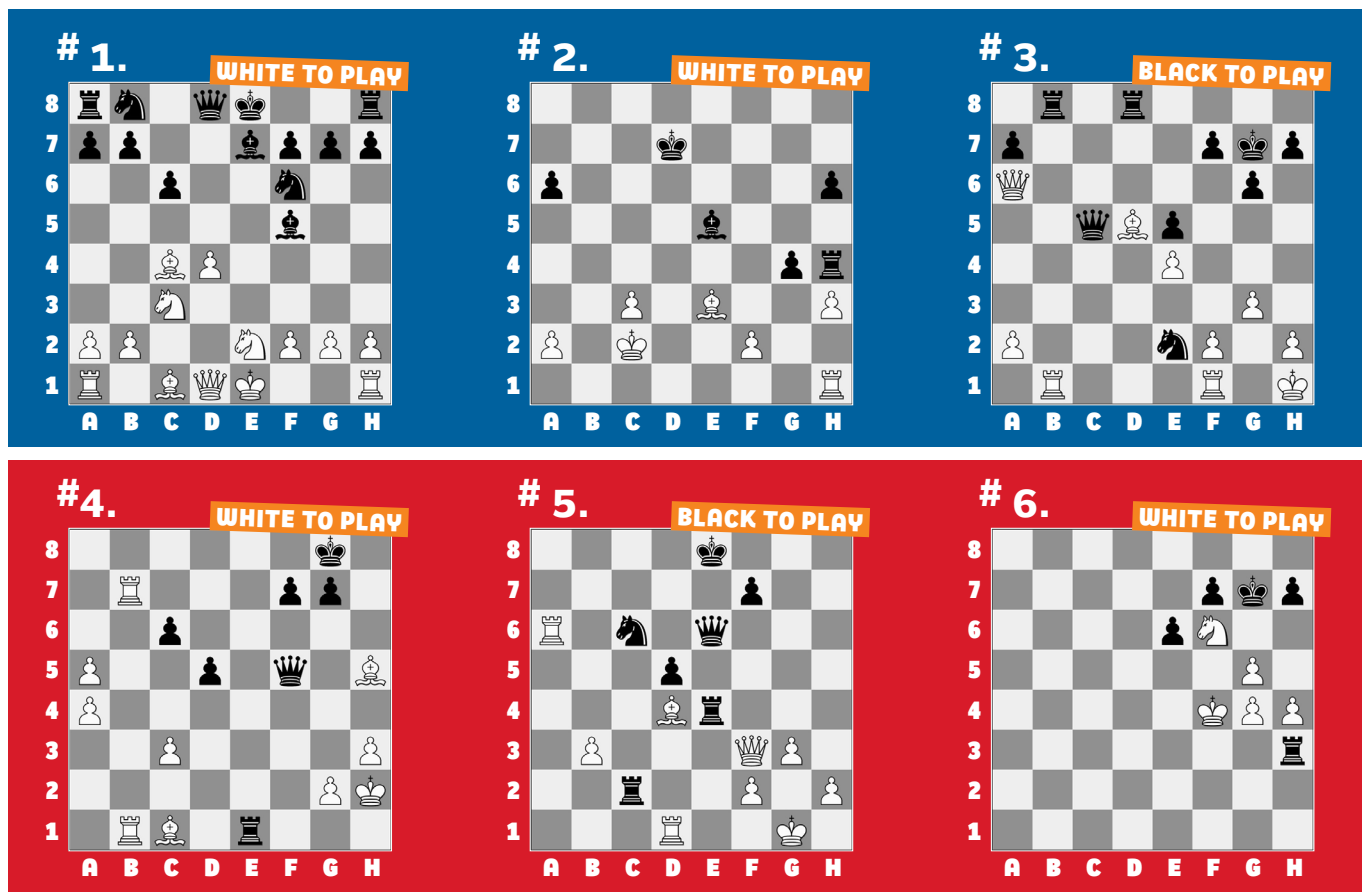
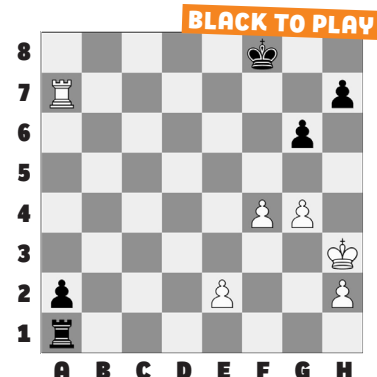
46TH FIDE OLYMPIAD: GUAM

We continue our series on U.S. nationals from the **46th FIDE Olympiad**, highlighting a strong Guam team that finished with 10/22.

In our **example**, Black could draw with **36. ... Rf1!**, parting with the a-pawn. After **37. Rxa2 Rxf4** White will have a hard time advancing the e-pawn, while Black's king and rook are well-placed to defend against the e-pawn and create kingside counterplay, respectively. Test your skill against an engine from here!

Instead, **36. ... Kg8??** saw Black hold onto the a-pawn, when **37. Kg2 Kf8 38. h4 h5 39. g5 Kg8 40. Kf2 Kf8 41. Ke3** uses the e-pawn as a shield

to activate the king, guaranteeing the win in Hassan – Tran.



SOLUTIONS

1) 9. Qb3 A *Morphyesque* double attack. **9. ... 0-0 10. Qxb7 Nbd7 11. Qxc6** The b7-pawn is sometimes poisoned, but here White wins two pawns for no compensation. (Tenezaca – Ali, Samarkand, 2026)
2) 34. Rd1+ White breaks the pin along the h-file with tempo! **34. ... Kc6 35. hxg4 Rxg4 36. Bxh6** White won a second pawn and went on to win. (Tenezaca – Knowles) **3) 24. ... Rxb1** The equal trade is a key

deflection. **25. Rxb1 Qxf2** Black threatens ... Qf2-f3+ and even **26. Qa2** runs into ... Rd8-c8-c3. (Hassaballh – Tran) **4) 34. Bxf7+** After, **34. Bf3? Rf1**, Black was okay and won six moves later. **34. ... Kh7** The h8-square is equivalent. Not **34. ... Kf8??** **35. Ba3+** winning. **35. R1b4** The key, going on the offensive to maintain a material edge. (Prudente – Aithmidou, analysis) **5) 37. ... Re1+** Equalizing, and **37. ... Nxd4** deserves full credit. **38. Rxe1** Not

38. Kg2?? Rxd1 39. Qxd1 Qe4+ when Black wins. **38. ... Qxe1+ 39. Kg2 Nxd4 40. Qf6??** White's choice in the game lost, but **40. Ra8+** apparently salvages a draw. **40. ... Qe4+ 41. Kh3 Qf5+** Black simplifies. (Gonzalez Garcia – Buccat) **6) 48. h5!** White finds a drawing mechanism! **48. ... Ra3 49. Ne8+ Kf8** Without the g6-square, Black cannot both stay active and defend the h-pawn. **50. Nf6** The players soon agreed to a draw. (Prudente – Kawuma)