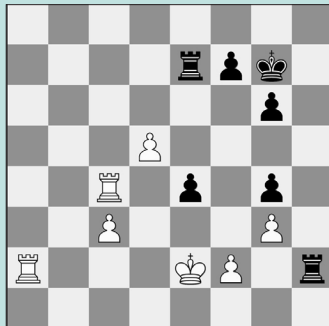


46TH OLYMPIAD: U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ OCTOBER 14, 2026

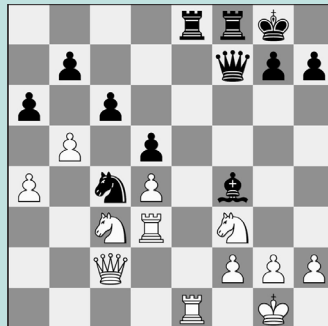
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



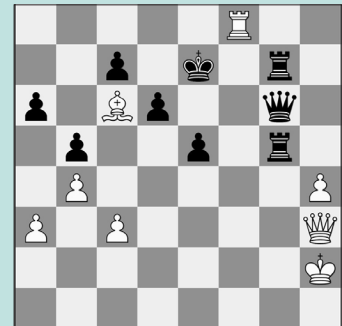
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



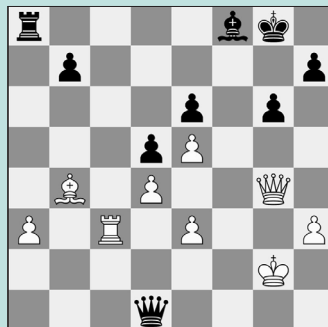
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



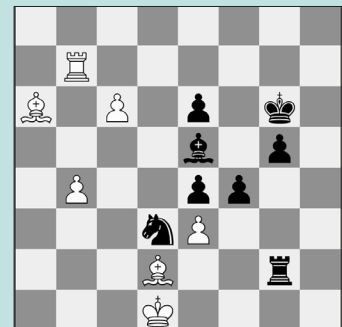
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 42. **Ke3** White simply wins a pawn here. 42. ... **f5** This critical try loses, as does 42. ... **Rh1** 43. **Rd2!** preparing to run the d-pawn without falling into a skewer along the e-file. In the game, 42. ... **Rh5?! allowed** 43. **d6 Rd7** 44. **Rd2 Rf5** 45. **Kxe4** when White converted the outside passers. 43. **d6 Rd7** Or 43. ... **Rf7** 44. **Rd2** changes nothing, as White still wins with getting a rook to c7 next. 44. **Rc7!** The inclusion of ... **f7-f5** was key! (Van Rensselaer – Naipal, Samarkand, 2026) **PUZZLE 2.** 29. ... **Rxe1+** The equal trades win a key pawn. 30. **Nxe1 axb5** 31. **axb5 cxb5!** Black enjoys an outside passer! Black played 31. ... **Qd7** which lost the advantage. Note: 32. **Nxb5?**

Qe8! The double-attack wins a piece! (Lee Luen Mang – Allen) **PUZZLE 3.** 36. **Qd7+** A rook sac to end the game. Tragically, 36. **Re8+?? Qxe8** 37. **Bxe8 Rg2+** 38. **Kh1 Rg1+** 39. **Kh2 R7g2+** 40. **Qxg2 Rxc2+** 41. **Kxg2 Kxe8** simplified to a winning pawn endgame for Black. 36. ... **Kxf8** 37. **Qd8+! Kf7** 38. **Bd5+!** Covering the e6-square, and Black loses the queen. (Allen – James, analysis) **PUZZLE 4.** 20. **Nc4!** A curious way to win a pawn. After 20. **Bf2??** **Nxd4**, Black would be winning, but the game continued with 20. ... **Ba3** instead. 20. ... **dxcc4** 21. **Rxc2 Rxc2** 22. **Qxc2** White's pin on the c8-square wins the c-pawn! (Miller – Williams, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 28. ... **Qd2+!** The only way to hold on. After 28. ... **Qxg4+?** 29. **hxg4 Bxb4**

30. **axb4 b5** 31. **Rc5**, White won the rook endgame. 29. **Kf1** Or 29. **Kg3 Bxb4** is no different. The pressure on White's rook makes the perpetual acceptable once more. Curiously, 29. **Kf3??** even loses for White, but proof is left for homework. 29. ... **Bxb4** Black threatens mate on a1 if White recaptures. 30. **Qxe6+ Kg7** 31. **Qf6+** White has to settle for the perpetual, as the bishop is still immune on b4. (Emile – Mounkaila, analysis) **PUZZLE 6.** 50. **exf4** By including this exchange first, White retains drawing chances! Instead, 50. **c7?? Bxc7** 51. **Rxc7 f3** won for Black. 50. ... **gxf4** 51. **c7 Bxc7** 52. **Rxc7 f3** 53. **Bb7 Kh5** 54. **b5 f2** 55. **Rh7+** Without a pawn on g5, White can force a repetition here! (Van Rensselaer – Belouadah, analysis)