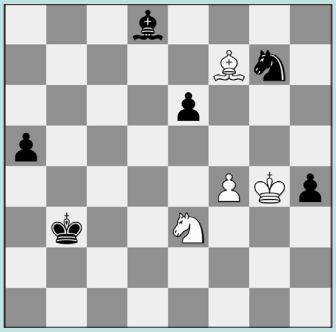
TOTAL CHESS TOUR 2026 PILOT

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ NOVEMBER 25, 2026

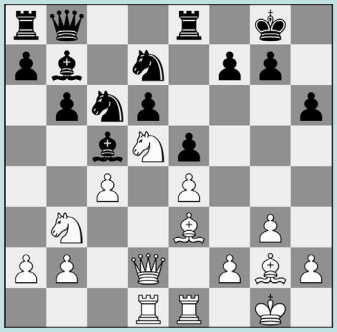
BY **JJ LANG**

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



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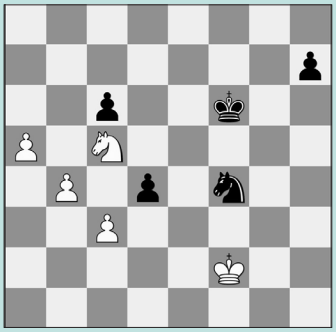

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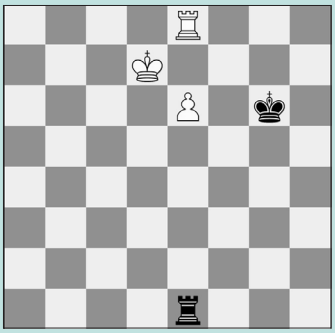
PUZZLE 4.



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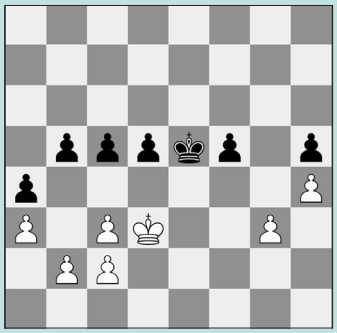
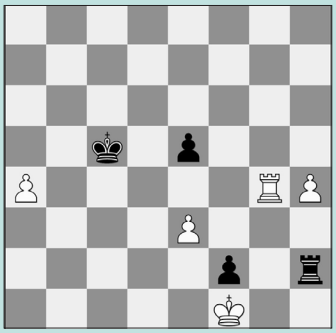


WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



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SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 51. Nf5! After **51. f5?? a4 52. fxe6 Be7!** Black won shortly. **51. ... Nxf5** The e6-pawn is pinned and the knight is trapped. Or 51. ... Bf6 52. Nxg7 Bxg7 53. Bxe6+ draws easily. **52. Bxe6+ Kb2 53. Bxf5!** Not 53. Kxf5?? h3 when White's bishop is overloaded. (Keymer – Caruana, Budapest, 2026, analysis) **PUZZLE 2. 17. Bxh6!** Move order matters! In the game, **17. Bh3 Bxe3 18. Rxe3 Bc8** and White's advantage was already small. After **19. Nb4?!** Black later won. **17. ... gxh6 18. Bh3!** Now, the threat of Nd5-f6+ wins. (Duda – Abdusattorov, analysis) **PUZZLE 3. 49. c4!** Patience before pushing. Black has no moves. The game saw **49. a6?? Nd5 50. a7 Nc7!** Did White only consider 50. ... Nb6?? when 51. Nd7+ wins? **51. cxd4 Ke7** when White could not make progress. (Keymer – Praggnanandhaa, analysis) **PUZZLE 4. 78. ... Ra1** The rook belongs on the long side! Instead, **78. ... Rd1+?? 79. Ke7 Kg7** Now, 79. ... Ra1 is too slow and 80. Rg8+ wins. **80. Ra8 Rb1 81. Kd7 Rd1+** The rook doesn't have enough length to play 81. ... Rb7+ as 82. Kc6 Re7 83. Kd6 Rb7 84. e7 wins. **82. Ke8 Rb1 83. e7** White achieves a Lucena position. **79. Rc8 Kf6** Note: 79. ... Ra7+ also draws if Black finds 80. Rc7 Ra8!. **80. Rf8+ Ke5!** The key detail. Not 80. ... Kg7?? 81. e7 Rd1+ 82. Kc6 Rc1+ 83. Kb5 when White's king need not stay by the pawn! **81. e7 Ra7+ 82. Kd8** Or 82. Ke8 Ke6 holds. **82. ... Ra8+ 83. Kc7 Ra7+** Black draws. (Le – Keymer, analysis) **PUZZLE 5. 34. b4** The game saw **34. Ke3?? c4 35. Kf3 d4! 36. cxd4+ Kxd4 37. c3+** If 37. Ke2 Ke4 38. c3 f4 wins. **37. ... Kd3 38. Kf4 Kc2 39. Kxf5 Kxb2** when Black's pawns are faster. **34. ... cxb4** Or 34. ... c4+ 35. Ke3 forces Black backwards. **35. cxb4 d4** Without tension on c3, White survives. **36. Kd2! Ke4 37. Ke2 f4 38. gxf4 Kxf4 39. Kd3** The key difference: Black's pawn is still on d4. **39. ... Ke5 40. Ke2** Draw. (Vaishali – Vachier-Lagrave, analysis) **PUZZLE 6. 54. ... Kc6** Black holds! Instead, **54. ... Kb6 55. Re4 Ka6 56. Ke2 Kb6 57. Rxe5 Rxh4 58. a5+** won. **55. a5** Most testing. **55. ... Kb5** But Black calmly approaches the pawn. **56. a6 Kxa6 57. Rb4 Ka7** Or a5, or ... e4! (Giri – Nepomniachtchi, analysis)

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