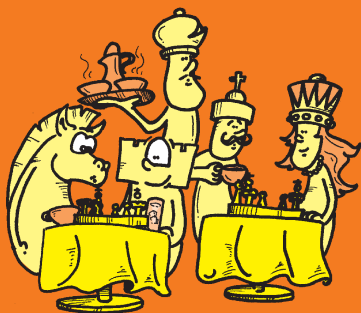




THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

Jeff Coakley

SMORGASBORD XLV Tempus Fugit

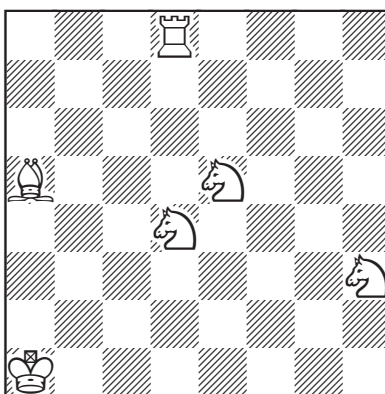
number 263

September 28, 2026

It seemed to me that the summer sped by more quickly than usual. Is time actually accelerating or is it just a feeling? In any case, it's the end of the month again, and time for another round of puzzles.



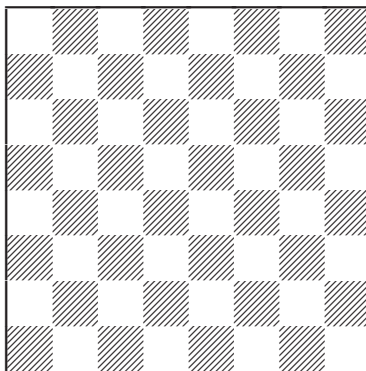
Triple Loyd 99



Place the black king on the board so that:

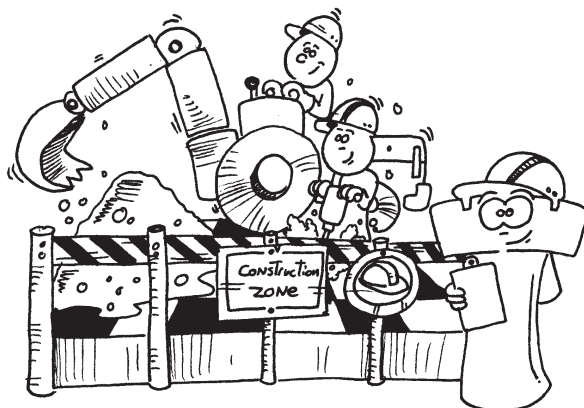
- A. Black is in checkmate.
- B. Black is in stalemate.
- C. White has mate in 1.

Eight Officer Stalemate Maximizer

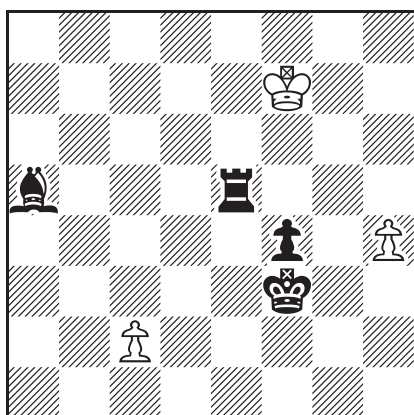


Construct a position with the eight white officers and a lone black king so that White has the most moves which stalemate Black. Bishops must be on opposite colours.

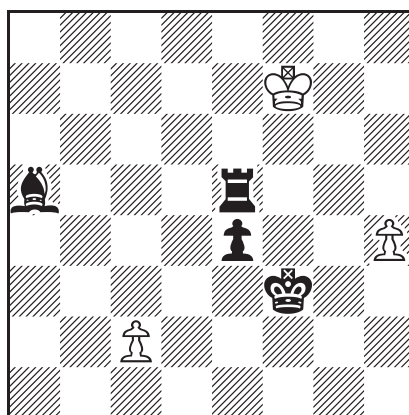
The position must be legal. The black king had to have a legal move on the last turn. The common snag is that the king was in an impossible double check.



Inverted Loyd 78

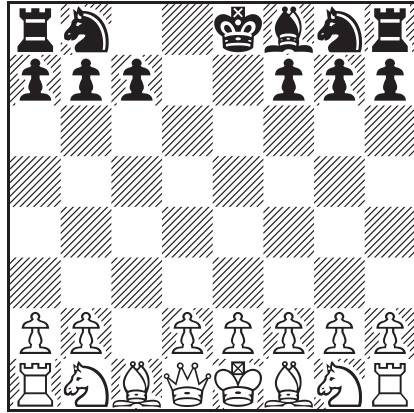


Inverted Loyd 79

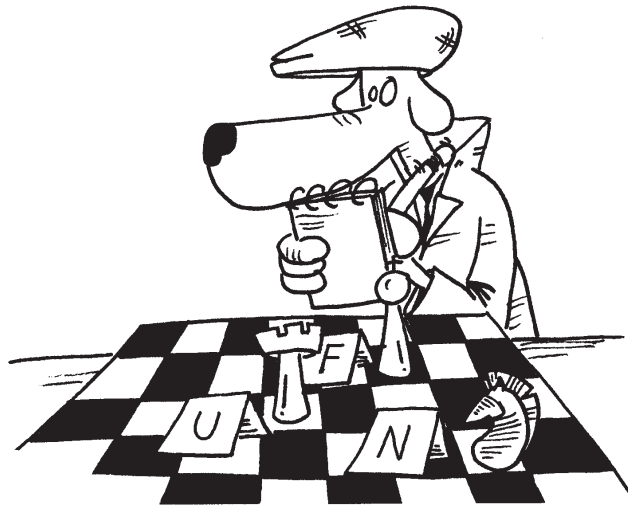


Add a white rook, bishop, and knight so that White has mate in 1.

Longer Proof Game 177 (5.5 moves)

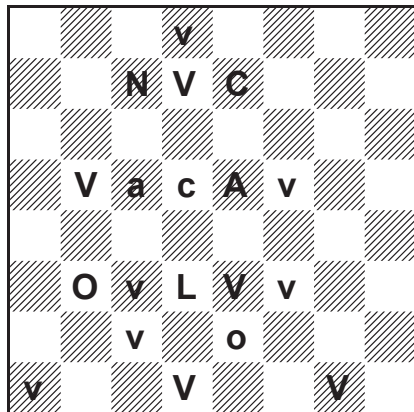


This position was reached after White's sixth turn.
What were the moves?



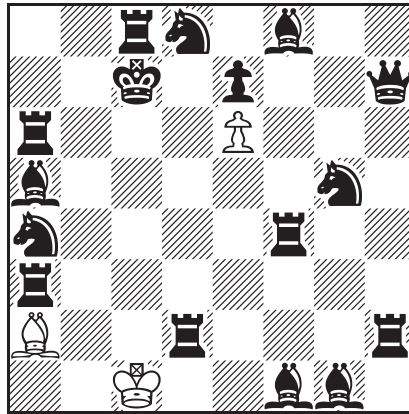
Rebus 155

"volcano"



Each letter represents a different type of piece.
Uppercase is one colour, lowercase is the other.
Determine the position and, if possible, the last move.

Multi-Wham 120



series-mate in 32

White plays thirty-two moves in a row to mate Black.

Captures are allowed. Only the last move may give check. Black does not get a turn.



Time Stand Still

Is time accelerating? If the entire universe, including our brainwaves, was speeding up at the same pace, how would we even know?

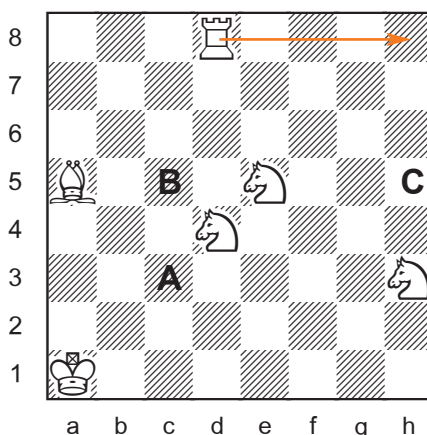
SOLUTIONS

All problems by J. Coakley, *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2026). Rebus 155 is a joint composition with Andriy Frolkin.

PDF hyperlinks. You can advance to the solution of any puzzle by clicking on the underlined title above the diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution diagram.

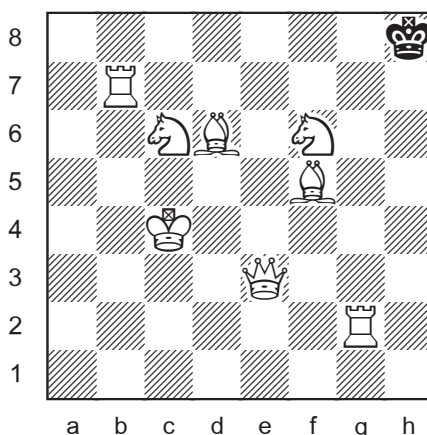
Archives. Past columns are available in the *Puzzling Side* archives.

Triple Loyd 99



- A. Kc3#
- B. Kc5=
- C. Kh5 (Rh8#)

Eight Officer Stalemate Maximizer

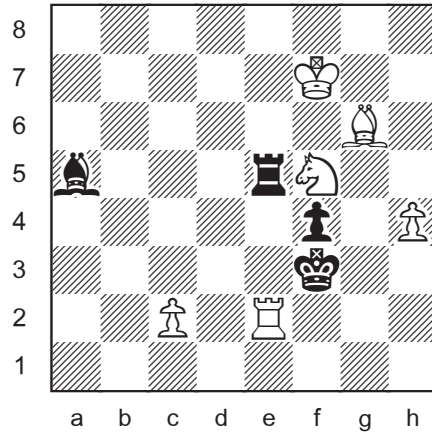


91 stalemates K8 Q22 R12 R12 B11 B11 N8 N7

The position is legal. Last moves: 1.Ng4-f6++ Kg8-h8. This record is not confirmed as the maximum by computer. Can you set a new mark?

92 stalemates are possible with Kf4 Qd3 Rg2 Rb7 Be6 Bc5 Nf6 Nc6, but the position is illegal.

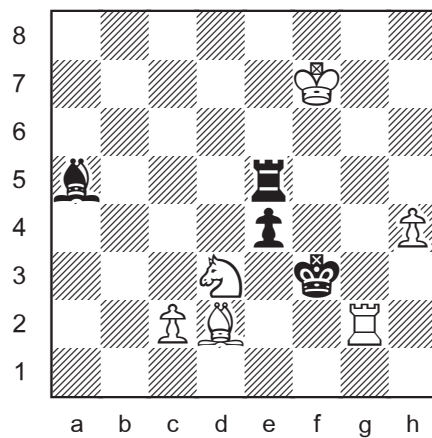
Inverted Loyd 78



Add Re2 Bg6 Nf5
1.Bh5#

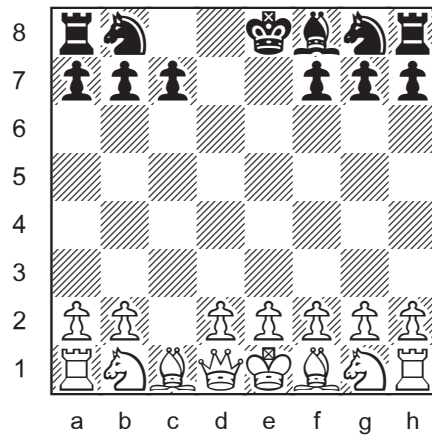


Inverted Loyd 79



Add Rg2 Bd2 Nd3
1.Ne1#

Longer Proof Game 177 (5.5 moves)



1.Nc3 d5 2.Nxd5 Bf5 3.Nxe7 Qd5 4.Nxd5 Bxc2 5.Nc3 Bb1 6.Nxb1
Switchback knight with *Orbán effect*.



Scholarly Mates is a free online magazine for kids published every two months by *Mooserider Productions*. It features the same kind of content and artwork as the *Winning Chess For Kids* books by Jeff Coakley.

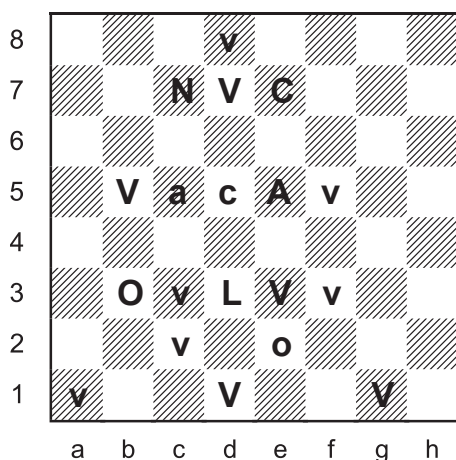
Scholarly Mates is available in pdf format at:

www.mooserider.ca

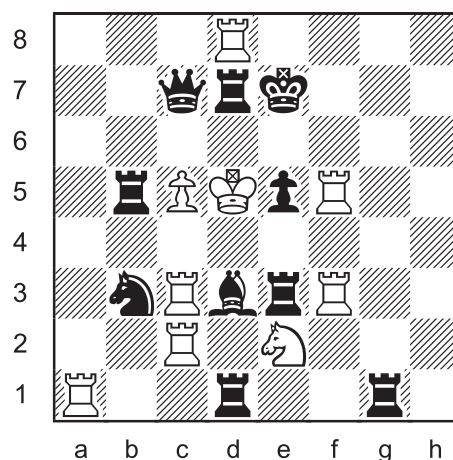
Rebus 155

Andriy Frolkin & Jeff Coakley

"volcano"



V = rook
O = knight
L = bishop
C = king
A = pawn
N = queen
caps = black
last move
1...dxe5+



(8 + 11)

= (ACO) Letters with one uppercase, one lowercase.

V ≠ On 1st and 8th rank.

A ≠ If A = V ≠ Both kings in check.

V = Ø? No piece can be assigned to V.

O ≠ If O = V ≠ Both kings in check.

V = Ø? No piece can be assigned to V.

C =

V = V ≠ Both kings in check (d7 d8).

V ≠ Impossible check (d8).

V ≠ Both kings in check (e3 f5).

The king on d5 is in check by the rook on d7.

N = A ≠ Three checks (c5 e5).

LO ≠ Impossible double check (d3 or b3).

L = A ≠ Both kings in check (c5).

O ≠ Impossible double check (b3).

A = Only way to explain the rook check.

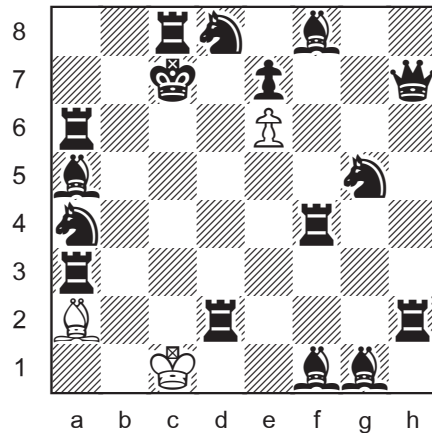
Last move: 1...dxe5+

The type of piece captured is unknown.

caps = black

O = The last piece is always the easiest.

Multi-Wham 120



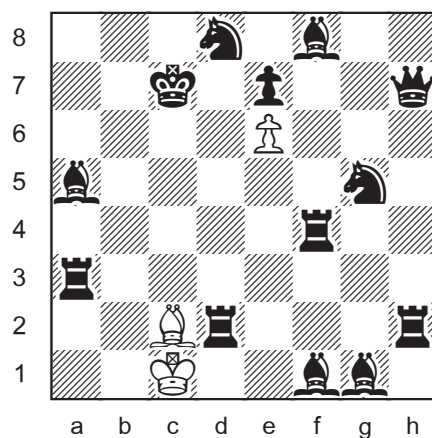
series-mate in 32

To promote the e-pawn, the white king must capture the black pawn on e7. The king's journey to e7 requires four bridges by the white bishop to allow passage across lines controlled by the black rooks.

To leave c1, the white king must capture the rook on d2 which is guarded by the bishop on a5. That bishop, on a dark square, must also be captured by the king. So the first bishop bridge will be on c2.

Before going to c2, the bishop takes the rook on a6 and knight on a4 which both indirectly assist in guarding the rook on d2. Less obvious is the capture of the rook on c8, eliminating its defence of the knight on d8.

1.Bc4 2.Bxa6 3.Bxc8 4.Bd7 5.Bxa4 6.Bc2 Bridge 1.



7.Kb2 8.Kxa3

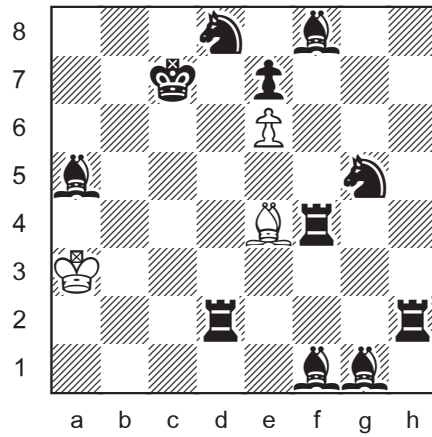
The next bridge will be on e4 to allow the king to cross the 4th rank.

9.Bxh7

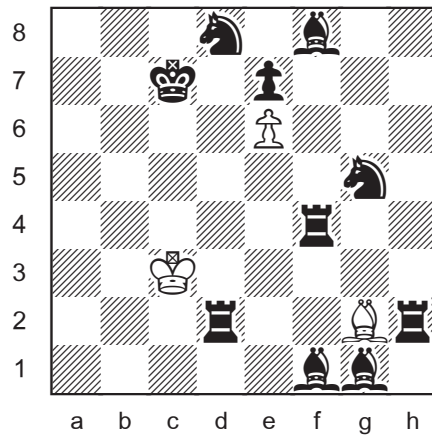
Before going to e4, the bishop takes the opportunity to capture the black queen.

10.Be4

Bridge 2.

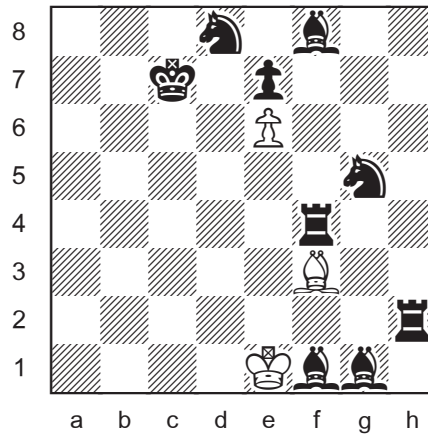


11.Ka4 12.Kxa5 13.Kb4 14.Kc3 15.Bg2 Bridge 3.



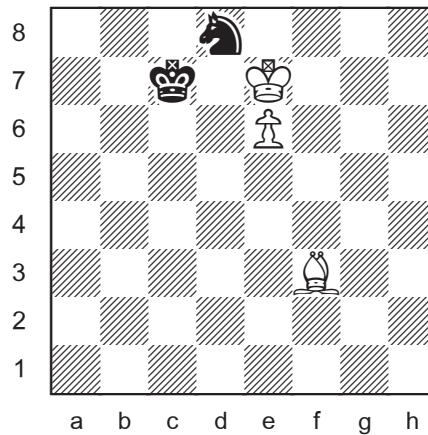
16.Kxd2 17.Ke1 18.Bf3 Bridge 4. The bishop's last move, taking its place for the mate, controlling c6 and b7.





The route to e7 is now clear for the white king.

19.Kxf1 20.Kxg1 21.Kxh2 22.Kg3 23.Kxf4 24.Kxg5 25.Kg6 26.Kh7
27.Kg8 28.Kxf8 29.Kxe7



30.Ke8 31.e7 32.exd8=Q#



Until next time!

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