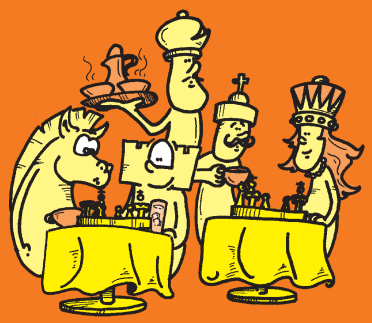


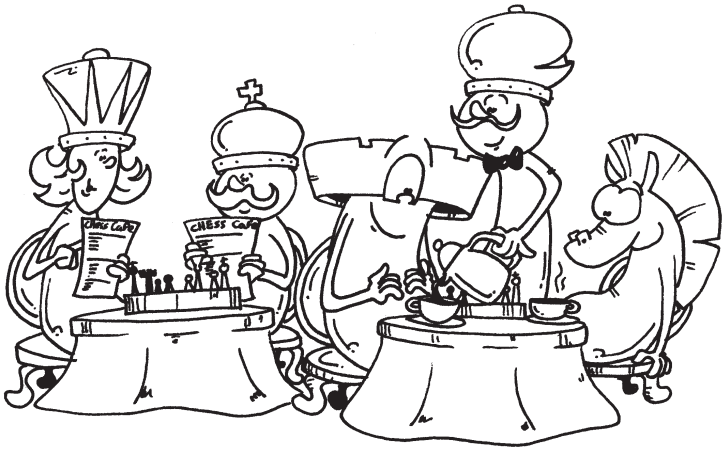
THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

Jeff Coakley

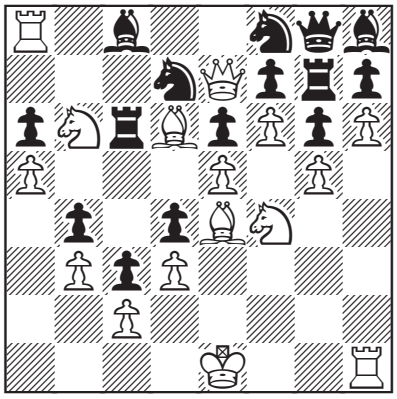
SMORGASBORD XLVI Time Has Come Today

number 264 October 31, 2026

Can't put it off another day. It's the *Puzzling Side* end of month deadline. So here's the column, a last minute effort with the same layout as last month. Just plug in new problems and drawings, and it's ready to go!



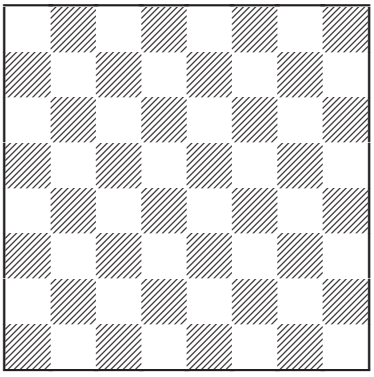
Triple Loyd 100



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.

White/Black 10 Officer Mate Maximizer

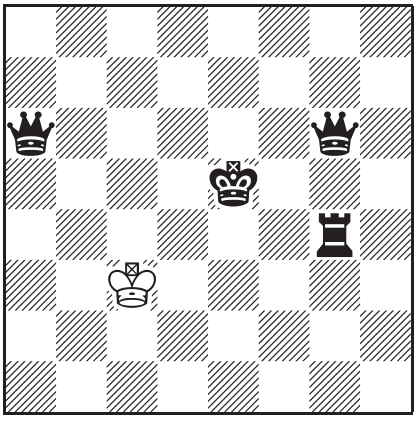




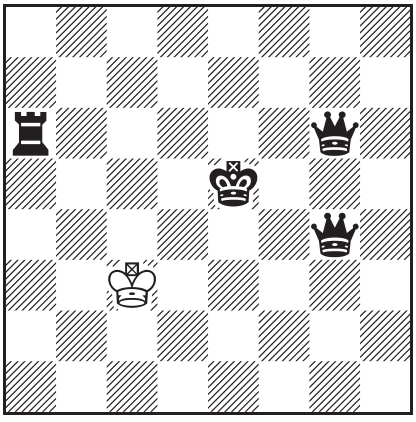
Construct a position with the five white and five black officers so that there are the most mates in one, by White and Black. Count the mates as if either side is on the move. The position must be legal.



Inverted Loyd 80



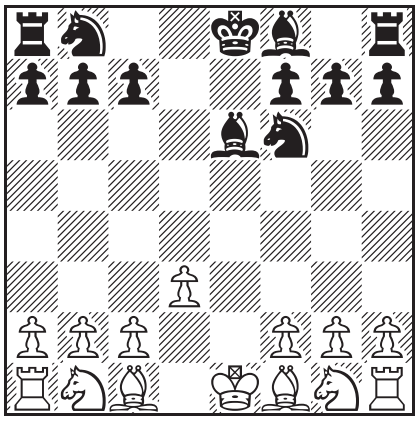
Inverted Loyd 81



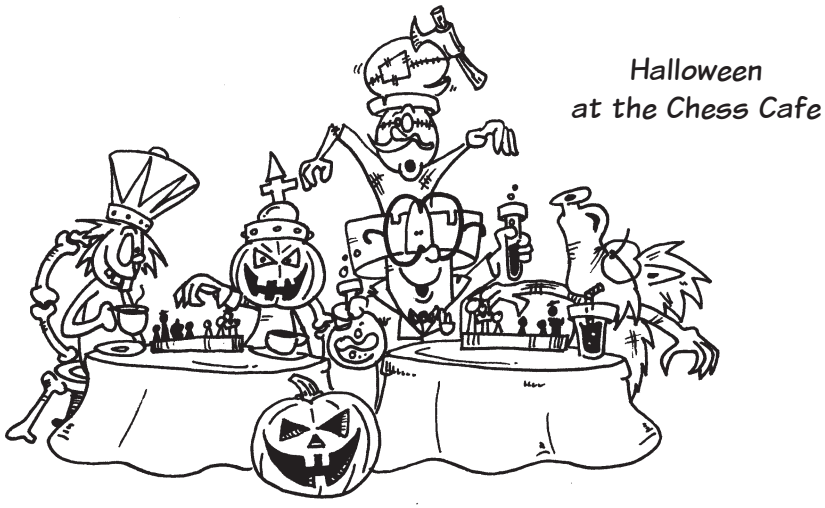


Add a white bishop and two rooks so that White has mate in 1.

Longer Proof Game 178 (5.0 moves)



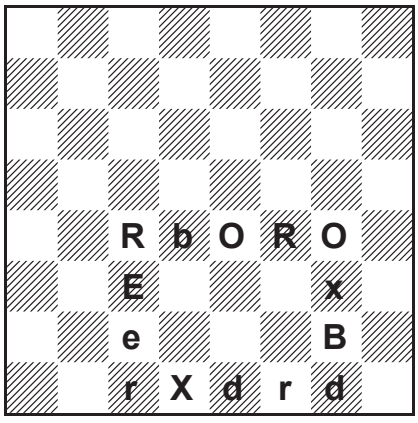
This position was reached after Black's fifth turn.
What were the moves?



Halloween at the Chess Cafe

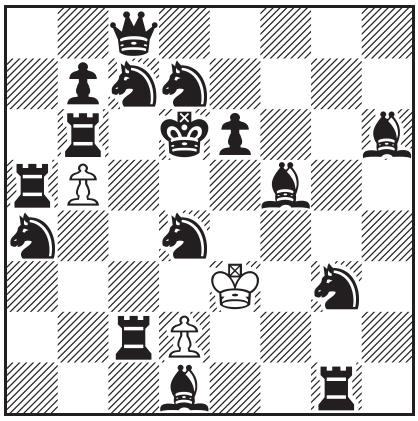
Rebus 156

"*reboxed*"



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 121



series-mate in 34

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

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



The rules have changed today.
There are things to realize.
Time has come today.

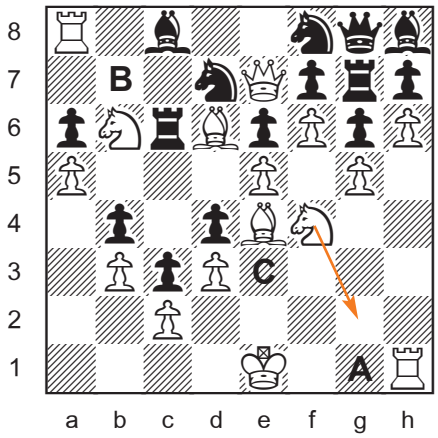
Time Has Come Today is a song by the Chambers Brothers that was top of the pops 60 years ago. The 11 minute track remains a favourite for classic rock streamers. The band's sound combines blues, gospel, funk, and rock. Sometimes called 'psychedelic soul', but never referred to as 'chamber music'.

SOLUTIONS

All problems by J. Coakley, *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2026). Rebus 156 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.

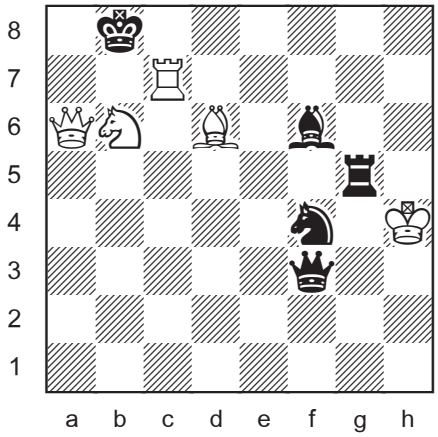
Triple Loyd 100



A. Kg1#
B. Kb7=
C. Ke3 (Ng2#)

A full house loyd! All 32 pieces on board.

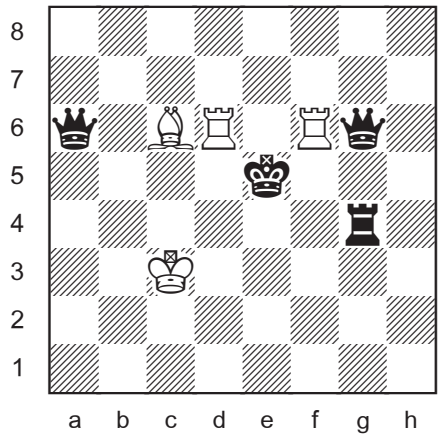
White/Black 10 Officer Mate Maximizer



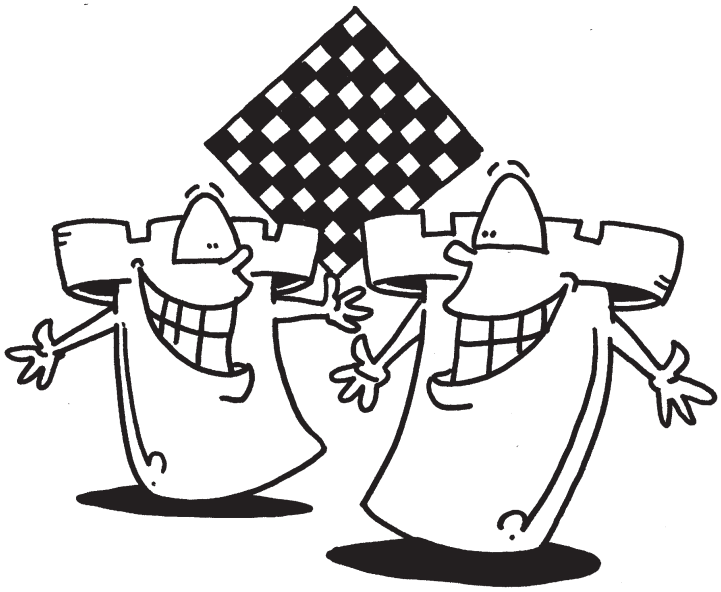
39 mates
White: Q2 R14 N1 Black: Q6 R14 N2

This record is not confirmed as the maximum by computer.
Can you set a new mark?

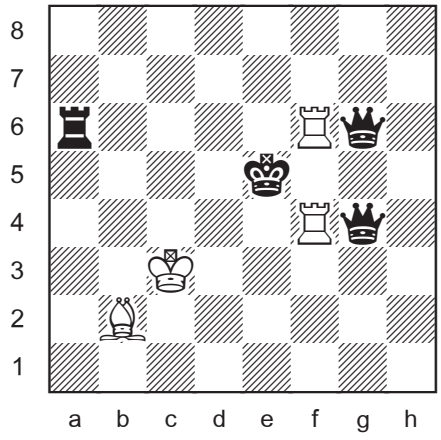
Inverted Loyd 80



Add Rd6 Rf6 Bc6
1.Rde6#

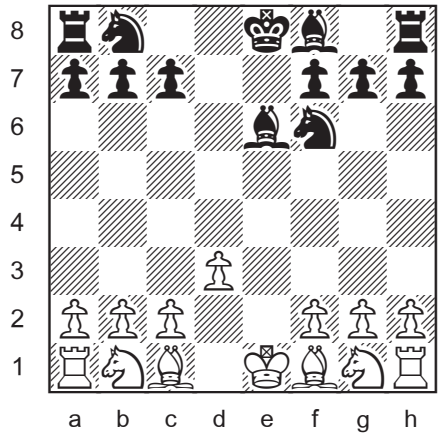


Inverted Loyd 81



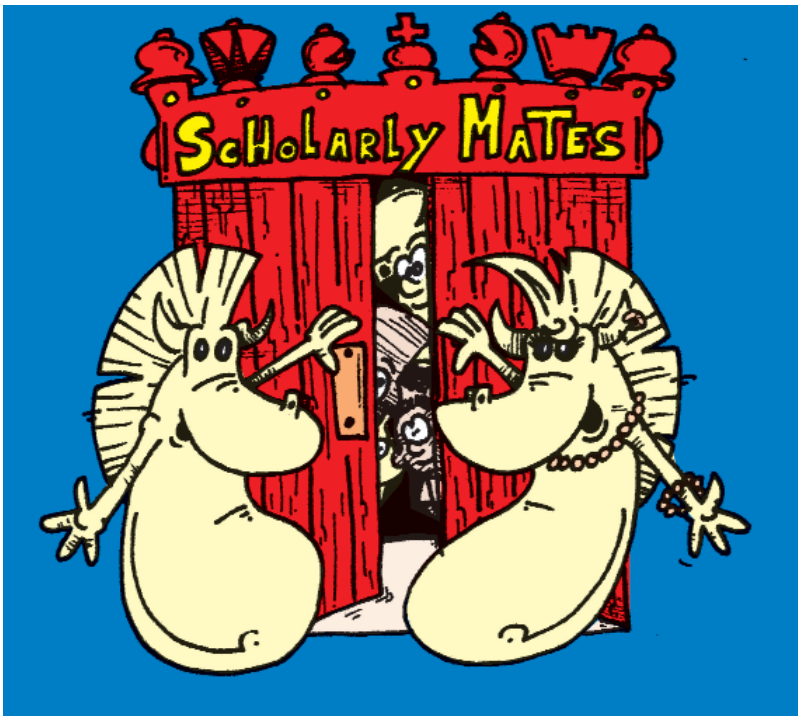
Add Rf4 Rf6 Bb2
1.Kc4#

Longer Proof Game 178 (5.0 moves)



1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nf6 3.Qxd7+ Qxd7 4.e6 Qd3 5.exd3 Bxe6

Vanishing queens and mysterious pawns.



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.

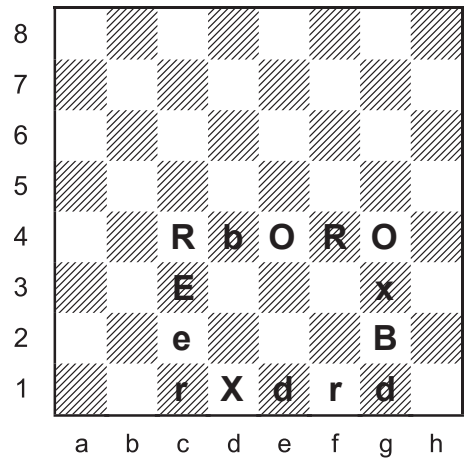
Scholarly Mates is available in pdf format at:

www.mooserider.ca

Rebus 156

Andriy Frolkin & Jeff Coakley

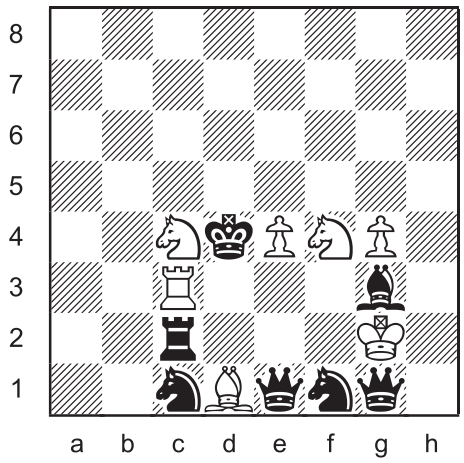
"*reboxed*"



R = knight
E = rook
B = king
O = pawn
X = bishop
D = queen

caps = white

last move
1...fxg1=Q++



(7 + 7)

♔ = (BX) Non-adjacent letters with one uppercase, one lowercase.

X ≠ ♔ If X = ♔ The other 5 letters each attack a king along a rank or file. So there are checks by a queen and a rook. But no legal double check is possible.

B ≠ ♕♖ Both kings in check (d4 g2). So double check by 1...dxc1+ or 1...dxe1+ is impossible.

B = ♔

The other 5 letters each attack a king along a rank or file. So there are checks by a queen and a rook. The only legal <u>double check</u> is by means of a promotion and capture on g1 with DE = (♕♖).

E = ♖ E ≠ ♕ Both kings in check (c3).

D = ♕

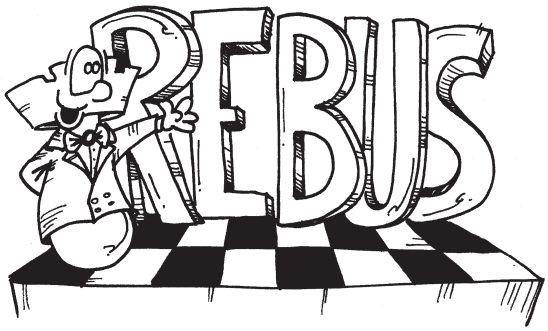
Last move: 1...fxg1=Q++ The type of piece captured is unknown.

caps = white

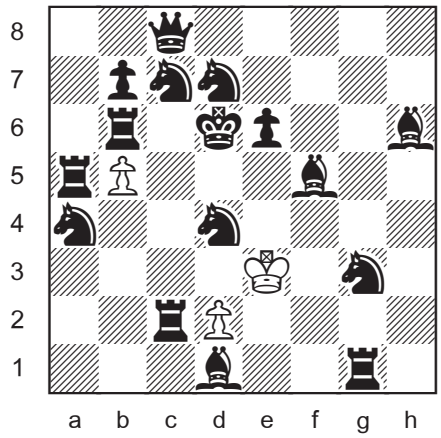
O = ♙ RX ≠ ♙ On 1st rank.

R = ♘ R ≠ ♗ Triple check (f1).

X = ♗



Multi-Wham 121



series-mate in 34

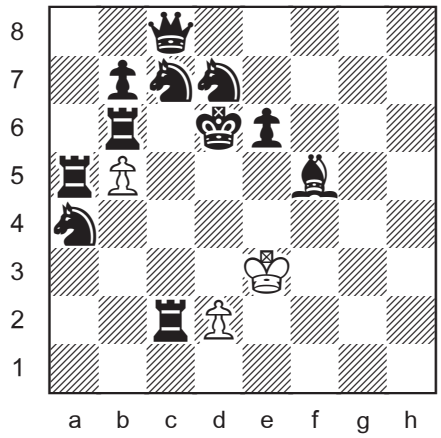
It's a common series-mate situation: king and two pawns against an entire 16 piece army. Black has the *material* advantage. But White has *time* on their side.

White must obviously capture the knight on d4 to free the d-pawn. But the immediate *1.Kxd4?* fails because the only second move is *2.d3 stalemate!* So the white king must capture the bishop on h6 before taking on d4. The moves to accomplish that are forced.

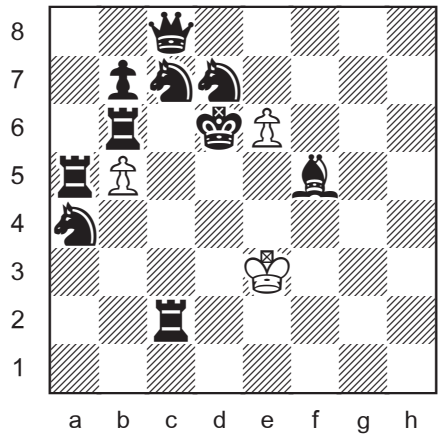
1.Kf2 2.Kxg1 3.Kf2 4.Ke1 5.Kxd1 6.Ke1 7.Kf2 8.Kxg3

9.Kh4 10.Kh5 11.Kxh6 12.Kg5 13.Kf4 14.Ke3 15.Kxd4

16.Ke3 The king returns to where he started. Now the d-pawn is ready to roll.



17.d4 18.d5 19.dxe6 The first point where White has options.

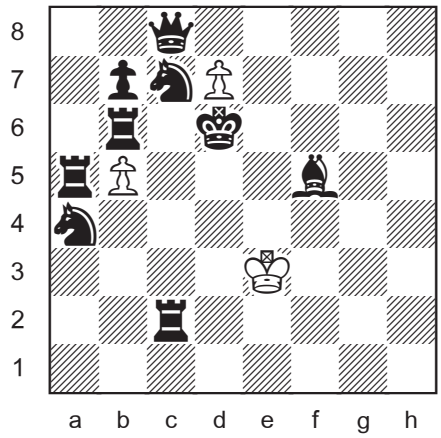


The white pawn can choose between promoting on c8, d8, or e8.

Surprisingly, there is no mate after *20.e7? 21.e8=Q*. The rook on b6, guarded by the knight on d7, cannot be captured by king or queen.

Promoting to bishop with *20.e7? 21.e8=B* is three moves too slow. For example, *22.Bxd7 23.Bxc8 24.Bxf5 25.Bxc2 26.Bxa4 27.Bb3 28.Kd3 29.Kc3 30.Kb4 31.Kxa5 32.Kxb6 33.Kxb7 34.b6 35.bxc7 36.c8=Q 37.Qc7#.*

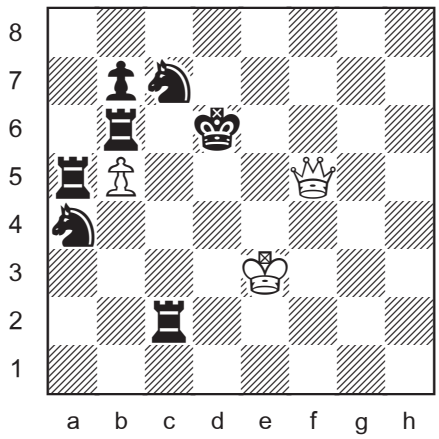
20.exd7



21.dxc8=Q White can think about promoting on d8, but mate is impossible after *21.d8=B?* or *21.d8=N?*

Promoting on c8 to rook or bishop is too slow, *21.dxc8=B?* by one move and *1.dxc8=R?* by two.

22.Qxf5 The queen removes the defender of the rook on c2 and takes her position for the eventual mate. The king and b-pawn do the rest.

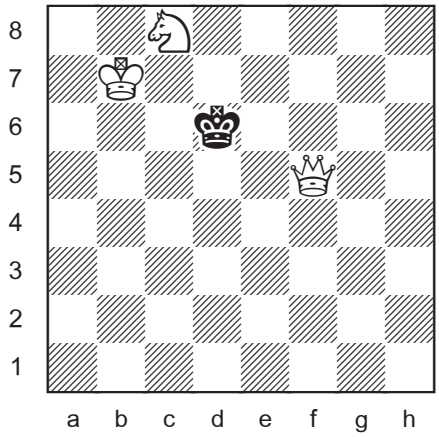


23.Kd3 *23.Qxc2? 24.Qxa4* takes one extra move. The king gets to b6 sooner without any additional help from the queen.

24.Kxc2 25.Kb3 26.Kb4 27.Kxa5 28.Kxa4 29.Ka5 30.Kxb6

31.Kxb7 The king has completed his duty. Now the b-pawn gets the glory!

32.b6 33.bxc7 34.c8=N#





Until next time!

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