

A weak back rank loses the day:

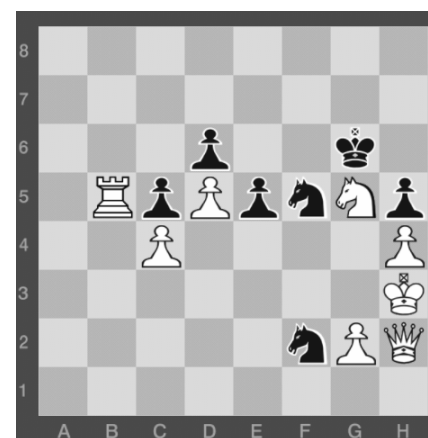
This amazing finish occurred in a tournament game between two players with a ranking of around 2400. It's going to be a checkmate for black, but what a checkmate, as black exploits the weakness of white's back rank! But to start the process off and ensure a successful outcome, black must first decoy the white queen.

Black to play and win.

1., Qa3!! (Decoying the white queen)
2. Qa3 (if 2. Rb3 Qb3!) Any other move by white loses the bishop on g3.
2., Rf1+ (The king hunt starts!)
3. Kh2 Ng4+
4. Kh3 Rh1+
5. Bh2, The key to this position is the following quiet move that prevents the white king escaping.
5., Nf5!
6. Qg3 (The only move that prevents immediate checkmate)
6., Rxh2!
7. Q x R (Forced)
7. Nf2! Checkmate #



Black to play and win.



The final position.

