



# Chess Interschool

## National Finals

### When are bishops better than rooks?

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Sometimes having 2 bishops is simply stronger than having 2 rooks. In this game black had the chance to prove it but wasn't gutsy enough to try (move 21 and 26 are the key exchange sacs).

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 c5**

Usually transposes into Benoni or Blumenfeld.

**4. d5**

Aggressive! Other, perhaps more solid, options are 4. Nc3 or 4. g3

**4... d6**

4... exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6. e4 a6 (no good is 6... Nxe4? 7. Qa4+) 7. Bd3 and we reach a regular Benoni except the knight isn't committed to c3 so b5-b4 is no threat for white as it would normally be.

**5. Nc3 exd5 6. cxd5**

And now it's fully transposed

**6...g6 7. e4 a6**

Here black has two main plans; work on the pinned knight with Bg4 or push back the c3 Knight with b4-b5 so white has h3 or a4 as the two main moves... but stop one idea and the other will follow

**8. h3**

8. a4 Bg4 9. Be2 Nbd7

**8... b5 9. Bd3 Bg7 10. O-O O-O 11. a3 Re8**

**12. Re1 Ra7**

To put quick dominant pressure on the backward e-pawn via e7

**13. Bf4**

As an example of black's plan 13. -- Rae7 14. -- (14.Ne2 would be an attacking manoeuvre here to head to g3 but it's stopped by the pressure on the e-pawn Nxe4) 14... b4 15. axb4 cxb4 16. Na4 Nxe4

**13... Rae7 14. Qd2 Qb6**

It doesn't quite feel like the right time tactically for 14... b4 15. axb4 cxb4 16. Na4 Nxe4 17. Qxb4 Bf5 18. g4 =

**15. b4 Nbd7 16. Rab1**

And we leave theory book. But the threat is a4 with the queen pinned.

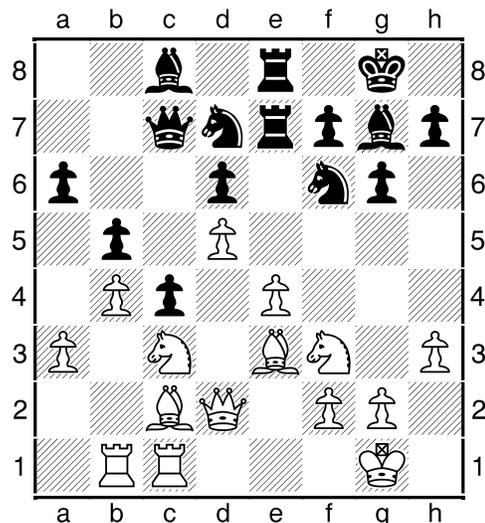
**16...Qc7 17. Rbc1 Qb6 18. Be3 Qb8**

Simply continuing to move the queen off the pins with the Benoni a Queen dance like this is common

**19. Rb1 Qc7 20. Rec1**

Finally using the other rook and now black closes the queenside for good

**20...c4 21. Bc2**





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### Nxe4!

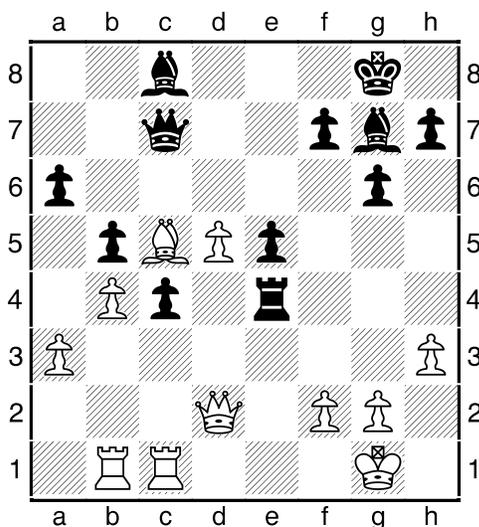
Sacking the Exchange to take quick advantage of the Queenside pieces and the open centre

**22. Nxe4 Rxe4 23. Bxe4 Rxe4 24. Bd4 Ne5**

Do Not trade bishop pair!

**25. Nxe5 dxe5 26. Bc5**

It currently looks like black has a stranded Rook and uncoordinated Bishops



### 26...h5

Black's way to change that was 26... Rd4!  
27. Bxd4 Forced because you can't lose d5 pawn exd4 28. Re1 h5 29. Re8+ Kh7 30. Qg5 Bf5 and now the bishops are combined in defense and attack by helping the passed pawns look to queen. It is so easy for white to go wrong here!!

**27. d6 Qc6 28. Rd1 Rd4**

Unfortunately Black waited too long to try and sack the second rook and now it is whites pieces that combine beautifully

**29. Qe3 Rf4**

29...Rxd1+ 30. Rxd1 Rook trade is a no no. The best option was probably 29... Re4 30. Qf3 Bd7 then if something like 31. Re1

Black's back in with a chance Rxe1+ 32. Rxe1 Qxf3 33. gxf3 Bxh3

**30. Rb2 Bf5 31. Rbd2 Qd7 32. Bb6 Bd3**

A fundamental mistake resimplifying the game for white when he has the strong passed pawn... when you have dynamic inequality you can attack and defend different squares to your opponent!!

Better was 32... Kh7 33. Qc5 (33. f3 h4 34. Qf2 Bd3 35. Rxd3 cxd3 36. Rxd3 e4) 33... Bxh3 34. gxh3 Qxh3 35. f3 Rh4

**33. Rxd3**

And he jumped at the chance to give back the exchange... played in mere seconds.. perhaps it is still drawn even now but black's game is so hard to play he can't keep up the defenses under whites easy pressurisation and crumbles

**33...cxd3 34. Qxd3 Rc4 35. Bc5 a5**

Better 35... Kh7

**36. Qd5 axb4**

36... a4 the same 37. Qa8+ Kh7 38. Qa7 Qxa7 39. Bxa7 Bf6 40. Bb6 Rc6 41. Ba5

**37. axb4 Bf6 38. Ra1 e4 39. Ra7 Rc1+ 40. Kh2 Qe6 41. Qxe6 fxe6 42. g3 h4 43. gxh4 Rd1 44. Kg2 Rd3 45. d7 Bxh4 46. Bb6**

Ensuring a piece for the pawn and black resigns after losing a winnable game :/

**1-0**

Chess

