



Chess Interschool National Finals

Intermediate Lecture Mistakes - Big & Small

“The mistakes are all there waiting to be made” -
Chessmaster Savielly Tartakower

Today I'm going to show you a couple of quick games which demonstrate how little mistakes can compound and lead to big mistakes.

In the first game Black concedes some space in the centre and soon pays for it.

On-Line Game
Robert Jamieson
“Batabg1901”
French Defence

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ngf3 dxe4?

Giving up some of his control of the centre by exchanging off his most advanced pawn. This also releases the tension in the centre and gives White the possibility of developing his KB to c4 or b5.

5.dxe4 Nc6 6.c3 a5?

This gains some space but is not a developing move. It also means that

White can deploy his B on b5 with fear of ...a6 chasing it away.

7.a4

Stopping Black's bid for space on the queenside and cementing control of the b5 square.

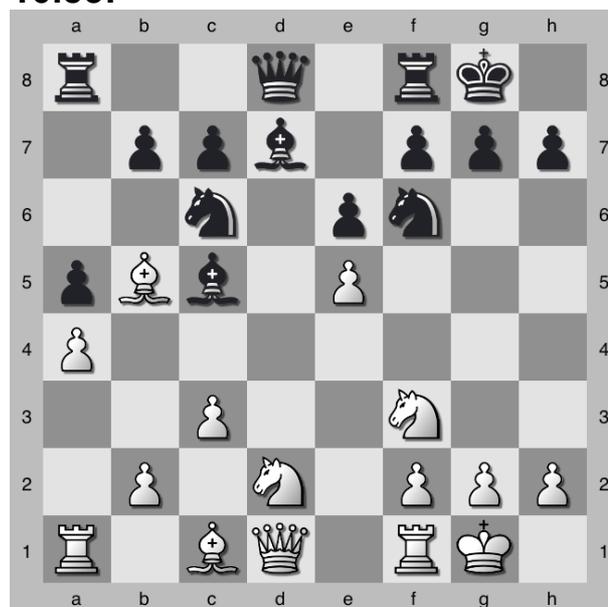
7...Bc5 8.Bb5

This pin will make it harder for Black to play ...e5 and regain some space in the centre.

8...Bd7 9.O-O O-O

If 9...e5 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Nxe5 Bxe4 12.Qe2 is winning.

10.e5!



Gaining space and the use of the e4 square whilst forcing Black to move a piece twice. Where should he put the N?

10...Ng4?

10...Nd5 11.Ne4 Be7 was better.

11.Qe2

Threatening 12.h3 followed by Ne4 so Black needs to move his c5 B somewhere now or play 11...f6 but 12.Ne4 Be7 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Neg5 is pretty horrible for Black.

11...Nh6?

Hoping to go to f5 but there won't be time.



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12.Ne4 Be7 13.Bxh6 gxh6

Now Black's pawns are wrecked and his King exposed.

14.Rad1 Qe8

14...f5 is horrible but would have lasted longer.

15.Qd2

The simplest line but 15.Nf6+ was probably stronger.

15...Bc8?

Trying not to lose material but 15...Nxe5 would have avoided mate.

16.Nf6+ 1-0.

Black can choose between being mated or losing his Q after 16...Kg7.

In the next game White makes a couple of small mistakes but they soon lead him into big ones!

On-Line Game

"Dhen1216 1569"

Robert Jamieson

Sicilian Defence

1.e4 c5 2.Bc4?

Not the best square for the B if Black plays ...e6.

2...Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.d3?

There goes White's middle-game plan. He's not playing d4 and f4 is blocked so what will his plan be?

4...a6 5.a3 d5!

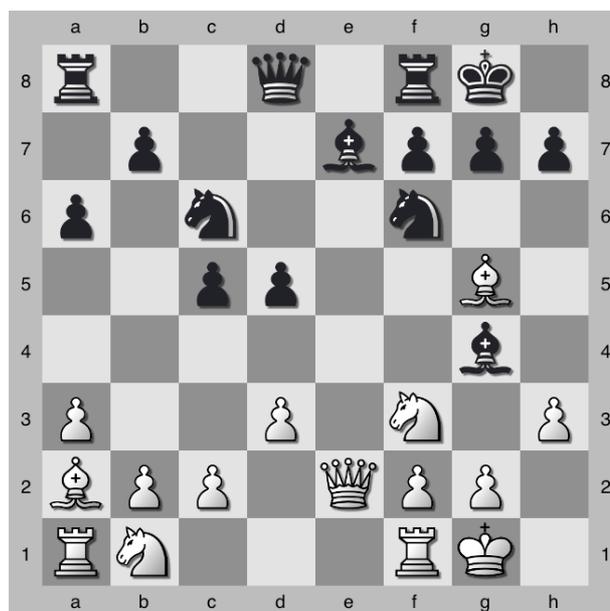
Now the white B has to move again and Black has two pawns together controlling the centre.

6.exd5 exd5 7.Qe2+?

Probably not the ideal square for the Q and Black's reply is a move he wants to do anyway.

7...Be7 8.Ba2 Nf6 9.Bg5 O-O**10.O-O Bg4 11.h3??**

Black forgot to ask himself "what is White threatening?" 11.c3 was better.

**11...Nd4 12.Qe5?**

Trying to confuse the issue. He should have just played 12.Qd1 Nxf3+ 13.gxf3 Bxh3 with a bad game.

12...Bxf3 13.Nd2 Bd6!

Who's afraid of doubled pawns?

14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Qe3 Re8

White's Q is running out of places to hide.

16.Qh6 Bf4?

This is pretty but I missed the "backwards" move 16...Nf5! trapping the Q.

17.Qh4 Bxd2 18.Qg3+

Black was threatening 18...Bg5.

18...Kh8 19.c3?

White has again forgotten to ask "What is he threatening?"

18...Ne2+ 0-1

Finally the white Queen is put out of her misery.

