

Scholar's Mate

-Defense -



Chess Club

Mini-Lesson

Level: Novice

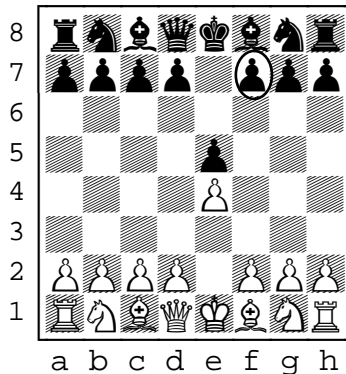
Watch for scholar's mate, then turn things around with good defensive moves

1

At the beginning of the game, the "f" pawn is weak as it has only one defender: the King.

Be watchful of any attack on this pawn.

A "Double Attack" on the "f" file pawn can be very dangerous.

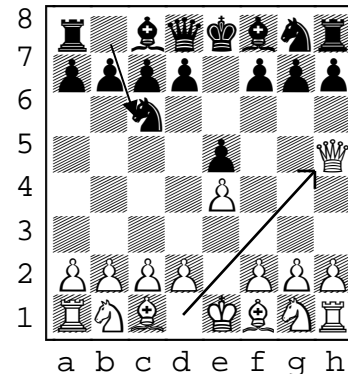


2

If white plays Qd1-h5, note that the pawn at e5 is under attack.

Your best defense is

2. ... Nb8-c6

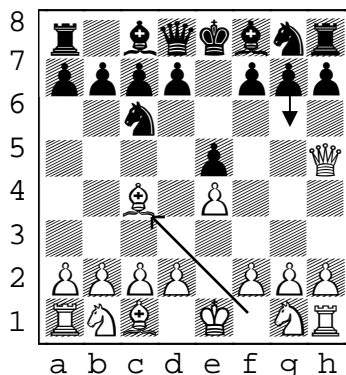


3

When white attacks with 3. Bf1-c4

Mate is threatened with Qh5xf6! Now is the time to counter with

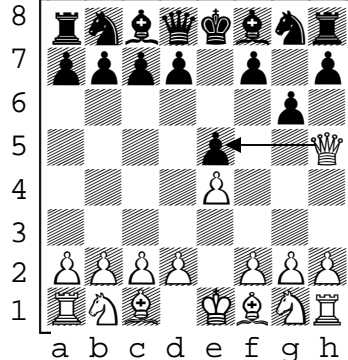
3. ... Pg7-g6



4

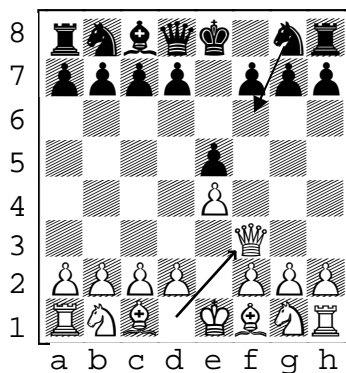
Avoid this mistake!

If you moved 2. ... Pg7-g6 without defending the e5 pawn first, white can take the undefended pawn with Qh5xe5+ resulting in a check and forking the rook.



5

If white starts the attack with Qd1-f3, there is no immediate threat. A move of Nf6 will block the attack. You can move it now or after another opening move like Nb8-c6.



6

Scholar's Mate is just one way to take advantage of the weak "f" pawn. There are other ways.

Castling can be an effective way to eliminate the weakness and protect the king.

