

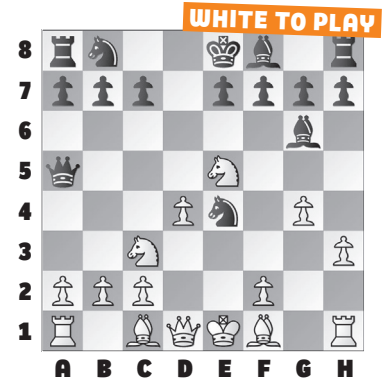
KING SAFETY IN THE SCANDI

This week's Tactics Tuesday begins our exploration of the Scandinavian Defense. By moving the d-pawn on, Black is opened up to tactics on the

a4-e8 diagonal, including well-timed queen and bishop checks when Black's king is uncastled and their army unable to block.

In our **example**, Black has pinned White's knight on c3, but neglected their own development. Play continued **9. Qf3 Nxc3 10. Qxb7 Qd5** Now, White makes use of the weakened a4-d8 diagonal. **11. Bb5+!** with the point that Black's king is now in danger, such that **11. ... Qxb5??** loses instantly to **12. Qc8**

mate. As a **bonus**, how should White continue after **11. ... Kd8?!**



1. WHITE TO PLAY

2. WHITE TO PLAY

3. WHITE TO PLAY

4. WHITE TO PLAY

5. WHITE TO PLAY

6. WHITE TO PLAY

SOLUTIONS

1) 10. d5 Nb4 Anything else is passive: 10. ... Nb8 11. Qb3 Qc8 12. Nd4. **11. Qa4+** winning a knight. (Stepovaia – Stjashkina, Serpukhov, 2008) **2) 15. g4!** Black's d7-knight is pinned, and this breaks the pin on f3. **15. ... Bg6 16. Ne5** There is no stopping White from Bg5xf6 followed by winning the piece on d7. (Lakatos – Hajdu, Barcza, 2015) **3) 15. f3** Not 15. Bb5+ Bd7 16. Bxd7+ Qxd7, hence the deflection. **15. ...**

Qg6 16. Bb5+ forced resignation, as **16. ... Bd7** Or 16. ... Kd8 17. Qxb6+ Kc8 18. Qc7 mate. **17. Bxd7+ Kxd7 18. Rxd5+** starts a fatal attack. (Saric – Kovacevic, Stari Mikanovci, 2009) **4) 13. Nxd5!** A familiar pattern: there are no pieces that can block Bb3-a4. **13. ... cxd5 14. Nc3** The d5-pawn is a goner: after **14. ... e6? 15. Ba4, Black resigned.** (Libersan – Hajiyev, Montreal, 2010) **5) 12. Bb5+!** Black intended to meet 12. Nxd5 with 12. ... Qxd5. So, White

plays “interference.” **12. ... Kd8** Or 12. ... Ke7 13. Nxd5+ exd5 14. Qxd5 winning. **13. Qxf7** White threatens mate on d7. **13. ... Nc5 14. Nxd5 exd5** Or 14. ... Qxb5 15. Bg5+ winning. **15. Bg5+** And it's over. (De Sa – Gomes, Foz do Iguacu, 2012) **6) 14. dxc7!** Stunning. **14. ... Qxb5 15. Bxb5+ Kf8 16. Rd8+** promotes. (Dimitrov – Dimov, Varna, 2014) **Bonus) 12. Bc6! Qxd4 13. Be3 Qxe5 14. Qxa8** wins. (Magnucka – Kozłowska, Poland, 2014)