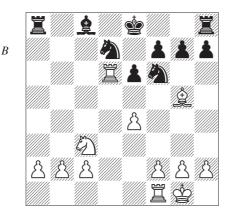
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Benzaquen – Rossetto Buenos Aires 1958

1 e4 c5 2 公f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 公xd4 公f6 5 公c3 a6 6 桌g5 公bd7 7 桌e2 e6 8 營d2 桌e7 9 0-0 營c7 10 罩ad1 b5 11 桌xb5 axb5 12 公dxb5 營b8 13 公xd6+ 桌xd6 14 營xd6 營xd6 15 罩xd6 (D)



The white queenside will be harder to sustain without the dark-squared bishop, so Black tries to exchange it.

Now that the white bishop is gone, the king is safe here.

20 b4?!

It is hard to see what consolidating moves White can play before advancing the pawns. If he plays the sensible 20 a4, he is unlikely to be able to advance them later without the help of his king. He decides to go ahead at once, but creates weaknesses on the c- and a-files.

20....\arrowa6 21 \arrow6 6d4

Retreating by 21 \[26d2 allows 21...\[2010] b6, preventing the a4 advance and eyeing the c4square. On the other hand, exchanging rooks highlights the weakness of the pawns. For example: 21 \[2xa6 \[2xa6 22 b5 \[2c8 23 \[2d3], and now Black can keep the queenside pawns under pressure by 23...\[2b7, or grab a tactical opportunity with 23...\[2b7] b7, or grab a tactical opportunity with 23...\[2b7] b7, so merging a pawn ahead thanks to his mating threat.

White gives up the pawn because 22 罩1d3 allows 22...②e5, whereupon 23 b5 ②xd3 24 bxc6 \triangle e5 leads to the capture of the white c-pawn.

22....Ξxc2 23 a4 🖄 e5 24 🖄 d6 🖄 c6 25 🖄 xc8+ Ξxc8 26 Ξd7+ 🕸 f6 27 b5 🖄 e5 28 Ξ7d4 Ξb2

The pawns can advance no further without loss.

29 Ia1 Icc2

The white king turns out to be in danger on the kingside.

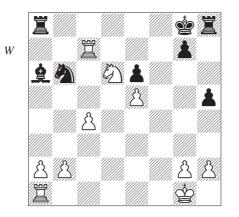
30 邕f1 �e7 0-1

The queenside passed pawns are normally the sacrificer's main trump card. The next example shows what can happen when he is seduced into believing that he has higher priorities than nurturing them.

Nagy – Barcza

Hungarian Ch, Budapest 1968

1 e4 c5 2 Oc3 Oc6 3 Of3 d6 4 d4 cxd4 5 Oxd4 e6 6 ae3 Wc7 7 ae2 Of6 8 0-0 ae7 9 f4 a6 10 We1 Oxd4 11 axd4 b5 12 e5 dxe5 13 fxe5 ac5 14 Wf2 axd4 15 Wxd4 Od7 16 axb5 axb5 17 Oxb5 Wb6 18 Od6+ wf8 19 \fbox{X} f7+ wg8 20 Wxb6 Oxb6 21 \ddddot{C} 7 aa6 22 c4 h5 (D)



White already has a rook on the seventh rank, and prepares to use his other rook to turn the screw even tighter.

23 邕f1?!

White can gain a crushing position on the other side by advancing his pawns: 23 b4 當h7 24 b5 reduces Black to passivity, and all that is required is to bring his king over to b3 when the advance of the a-pawn will be irresistible.

23...**äh6**!

This is an important link in Black's defensive plan. He cannot play the counter-sacrifice yet as 23...②xc4 24 ②xc4 急xc4 25 罩xc4 罩xa2 allows 26 罩c8+ 哈わ7 27 罩xh8+ 哈xh8 28 罩b1, and the single-rook ending is winning for White thanks to his passed b-pawn and the rook situated behind it.

24 \[]f3?

This rook-lift threatens 25 **Z**a3, reducing Black to complete impotence, but now the counter-sacrifice works and White can probably no longer win in view of the activity of the black rooks and the vulnerability of his own pawns.

White should instead double rooks on the seventh rank. After 24 Ξ ff7 the sacrifice is still not playable: 24... \Box xc4 25 Ξ xg7+ \Leftrightarrow h8 26 Ξ a7! Ξ b8 (or 26... \Box xd6 27 Ξ xa8+ \Leftrightarrow xg7 28 exd6 and the d-pawn will cost Black his bishop) 27 Ξ gc7! \Box xd6 28 exd6 &d3 29 d7 Ξ g6 30 Ξ c8+ Ξ g8 31 Ξ ac7 &a6 32 Ξ xb8 Ξ xb8 33 b4! and the further advance of the b-pawn will force the bishop to desert its defence of the c8-square. Instead of sacrificing, Black should defend his g-pawn by 24... Ξ g6, when White can safeguard his c-pawn by 25 b3. Then the sacrifice 25...&xc4 26 bxc4 Ξ xa2 would cause White some difficulties thanks to the active black rooks, but he should win in the end.

24...②xc4! 25 ②xc4 ≜xc4 26 ≣xc4 ≣xa2 27 ≣c8+ \$h7 28 ≣b8 ≣g6 29 ≣a3 ≣xa3 30 bxa3

If this pawn advances, the black rook will get behind it.

30...²g5 31 ²b5 ²f5 32 ²a5 ⁴g6 33 h3 ²f4 34 g3 ²f3 35 ⁴g2 ²c3 36 ⁴gf2 ¹/₂-¹/₂

Having stated some rules for White in these endgames, we can also state some rules for Black:

- Try to make the advance of the white pawns difficult. A rook on the a-file is often useful.
- Avoid exchanges, especially of minor pieces, unless there is no option, as the pawns become more powerful as the board empties.
- Try to create counterplay on the kingside, normally by opening lines for a rook. For instance, if White captures a knight on f6, consider recapturing with the g-pawn in order to create play along the g-file. Even if lines cannot be opened for the rooks, g2 can be a

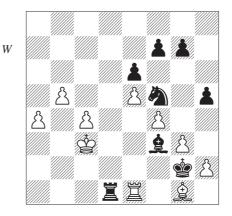
vulnerable square in the white position, exploitable by a knight manoeuvred to f4 and a bishop to f1.

• If possible, position the king in the centre, ready to cross to the queenside when it is safe to do so.

On this final point, we have already seen that a black king that castles and remains on the kingside may leave its pieces helpless against the advance of the queenside passed pawns. Here is an extreme example.

Hall – Baklan Bundesliga 1998/9

1 e4 c5 2 \triangle f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 \triangle xd4 \triangle f6 5 \triangle c3 \triangle c6 6 \ge g5 e6 7 bd2 a6 8 0-0-0 h6 9 \ge e3 \ge d7 10 f4 b5 11 \ge d3 \Huge{b} c7 12 \ge xb5 axb5 13 \triangle dxb5 \Huge{b} b8 14 \triangle xd6+ \ge xd6 15 \Huge{b} xd6 \Huge{b} xd6 16 \Huge{b} xd6 \triangle a5 17 b3 \Huge{b} c8 18 \ge d2 \ge c6 19 \Huge{b} e1 0-0 20 g3 \triangle b7 21 \Huge{b} d4 \triangle c5 22 e5 \triangle d5 23 \triangle e4 \triangle xe4 24 \Huge{b} dxe4 \triangle e7 25 \Huge{b} d4 \triangle f5 26 \Huge{b} d3 \Huge{b} fd8 27 \Huge{b} xd8+ \Huge{b} xd8 28 \Huge{b} b4 \Huge{c} h7 29 c4 \Huge{b} g6 30 \Huge{b} c5 \Huge{c} h5 31 \Huge{c} c2 \Huge{c} g4 32 \Huge{c} c3 \Huge{c} h3 33 \Huge{b} g1 h5 34 b4 \Huge{b} f3 35 b5 \Huge{c} g2 36 a4 \Huge{b} d1 (D)



In this complicated position, the players agreed a draw.

1/2-1/2

Remarkably, White can jettison his bishop and win with his queenside pawns against the two black minor pieces. The game could go 37 axd1 axd1 38 a5! axg1 (the king is about as far away from the queenside as it can be) 39 a6 af3 40 b6 ar 41 b7 axb7 42 axb7 ac6 43 c5 axh2 44 arc4 axg3 45 arb5, and the invasion by the king is instantly decisive.

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