

# 10 Timely Ideas for Opening a Game of Chess

## 10 Beware the **Achilles Squares** (**f2** & **f7**)

The ancient legend of **The Trojan War** includes the story of the mighty Greek warrior **Achilles**. Achilles was invulnerable. He could not be hurt by swords, spears, arrows or anything. Or so all believed as Achilles won every battle he fought.

However his enemies, the Trojans, discovered Achilles did have one weak spot. **His heel**. Achilles' mother, **Thetis**, dipped him in the river **Styx** to give him magical protection. She held onto baby Achilles by her thumb and forefinger and so his heel was not bathed in the river. Finally the Trojan prince **Paris** learned Achilles' secret and shot him with a poisoned arrow that struck his heel.

Likewise there is a "weakest" square in each pawn skeleton. The pawns on **f2** and **f7** are weak at the start because they directly adjoin their King but are **protected only by the King**.



**Fool's Mate**

**Every other Pawn** is defended by a piece or two or three. Note how White's Pawn on **e2** is protected not only by the King but also by the Queen, a Bishop and a Knight.

Further, the entire diagonal **e1-h4** (and Black's **e8-h5**) is full of weak squares because White has zero pieces to interpose and defend.

As in **1. g4, e5 2. f3, Qh4 mate**.



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