

"WHAT TO DO AS BLACK IF YOUR OPPONENT NEGLECTS THE CENTER"
(A Strong Attacking Plan for you !)

- 1) Move your "d" & "e" pawns out 2 squares to form the Classical Pawn Center.
(This is known as "ed" - the Monster Pawn Center !)
- 2) Develop both of your knights to c6 and f6.
- 3) If your opponent plays e3;
 - a. Play Bd6 & then
 - b. Play Qe7 & then
 - c. Play Bg4 if possible (or play Bf5 if it is not possible to play Bg4) & then
 - d. Castle Q-side (O-O-O) & then
 - e. Watch for a good moment to play e5-e4.
- 4) If however, your opponent plays g3 instead of e3;
 - a. Play Bc5 & then
 - b. Play Bg4 if possible (or play Bf5 if it is not possible to play Bg4) & then
 - c. Play Qd7 & then
 - d. Castle Q-side (O-O-O) & then
 - e. Try to exchange off your opponent's KB by playing Bh3 & then
 - f. Try to open your KR file by playing h5 ~ h4 ~ h4xg3.
- 5) If your opponent attacks your QB early on by playing h3 in either plan #3 or plan #4, simply retreat your QB to h5. Then complete your development. Then play Rhe8 and try to break open the center with the pawn advance of e5-e4 as soon as possible. This will give you a strong central attack, even if the queens get traded off !
- 6) If your opponent plays both e3 AND g3, he will have then weakened his position by creating "holes" near his king. In this case, either the attacking plan outlined in #3 above or the attacking plan outlined in #4 above will be even stronger for you than usual because the "holes " that the opponent has created can often be occupied by your pieces, which will put strong pressure against the opponent's king!

(Examples for the above are in the companion Chessbase database.)