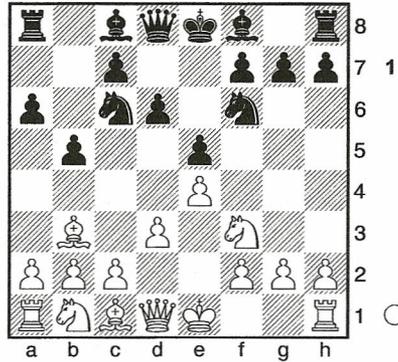


C77
 □ Dennis Burke 1701
 ■ Divij Rajesh 1210
 Eastern Open 27.12.2011
 [Mike Callaham]

The Ruy Lopez. This centuries old opening has many variants. In this game White plays very timidly and presents Black opportunity after opportunity to take the full point. A 500 point difference in ratings can cause you to see many ghosts and phantoms. The way to make them disappear is with calculation! Everyone makes mistakes at the board. Sometimes they are small and sometimes they are big. Ratings don't play chess games, people do! I say this to you without worry of argument from stronger players, " In every game you've ever played, there were opportunities for both sides to change the outcome of the game, and they were missed!" Expect errors from every opponent and you'll get them!
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 b5 6.Bb3 d6?! Diagram

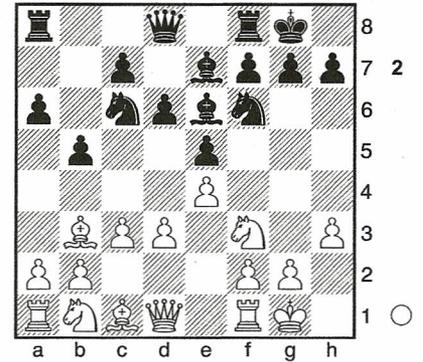
(Diagram 1)



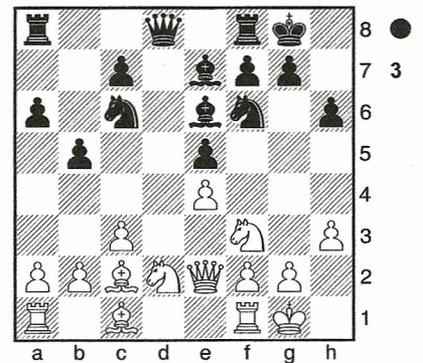
While this move looks normal, it does not meet the demands of the position! 6... Bc5, 6...h6, 6...Bb7, and 6...Bd6 are all better moves because they further black's development. The text move invites an attack while the recommended moves virtually force white to keep developing! **7.h3?!** 7.Nc3, 7.0-0, and 7.Be3 were all better and more normal [7.Ng5 d5 □ 8.exd5 Nd4 9.0-0 Nxd5 10.Nc3 c6 11.Nf3 Bg4 12.Bxd5 cxd5 13.Qe1 Nxc2 (13...Nxf3+? 14.gxf3 Bxf3 15.Qxe5+ Be7 16.Re1 b4 17.Na4 Qd7 18.Qxg7 Qg4+ 19.Qxg4 Bxg4±) 14.Qxe5+ Be6 15.Rb1± offers a slight advantage but 7.h3 calls upon the player with black to come up with his own good moves!]

7...Be7 8.c3 0-0 9.0-0 Be6?! Diagram

(Diagram 2)



9..h6 does more to help black maintain the continuing change of initiative and would help rob the knight on f3 and the dark squared bishop of forward movement **10.Bc2 f5 d5 11.Nbd2 dxe4 12.dxe4 h6 13.Qe2?!** Diagram [13.Nh4! g6 14.Nb3 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 Kg7 16.Be3 Rfd8 17.Nf3 a5! f7]



Black has the initiative and a slight advantage. 13.Nh4 may be a little better **13...Nh5?!** [13...Qc8!] [13...Qb8!? Both of these moves take advantage of the fact that white is a little cramped. The knight on d2 is stuck there because of the threat of Bc4.] **14.Nxe5! Nf4 15.Qf3 Nxe3+ Diagram**