

Bishop or Knight

Chess

When each minor piece is stronger, and what to trade toward.

Bishops are better when

- The position is open
- Play is on both wings
- There are passed pawns to escort
- The pawn structure is fluid
- You have both — the bishop pair

Knights are better when

- The position is closed
- There are strong outposts
- Play is on one wing
- Pawns are fixed
- Forks are available

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The bishop pair is worth roughly half a pawn extra, and that advantage grows as the position opens.

When trading, think about the position five moves later. Trading toward an open position with knights is a common error.