

King Activity

Chess

The king becomes a strong piece once the queens are off.

Middlegame king

- Hide it
- Castle, keep the pawn shield
- A liability to be protected
- Off the open files

Endgame king

- March it to the centre
- Escort passed pawns
- Attack their pawns
- Blockade
- Often the deciding piece

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The transition is the moment queens come off. Many players fail to notice and leave the king in the corner for another twenty moves.

In a pawn endgame, the more active king usually wins regardless of who is a pawn up. Activity outranks material there.