

The King's Indian Defence

Chess

Letting White build a big centre, then attacking it.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 — a hypermodern defence where Black fianchettoes and allows White a broad pawn centre, intending to undermine it.

SETUP

...Nf6, g6, Bg7

BREAK

...e5 or ...c5

CHARACTER

double-edged

- Black castles quickly and prepares ...e5.
- In the main line the centre locks and both sides attack on opposite wings.
- White attacks on the queenside; Black on the kingside.
- It is famously double-edged — decisive results are common.
- The Sämisch (5.f3) is the sharpest White try.
- Requires understanding of pawn storms rather than memorised lines.

LOOK FOR IT

After the centre locks with d5 and ...f5, both sides race: White on the queenside, Black at the king.

One of the sharpest defences available. It is a fighting choice, not a drawing one.