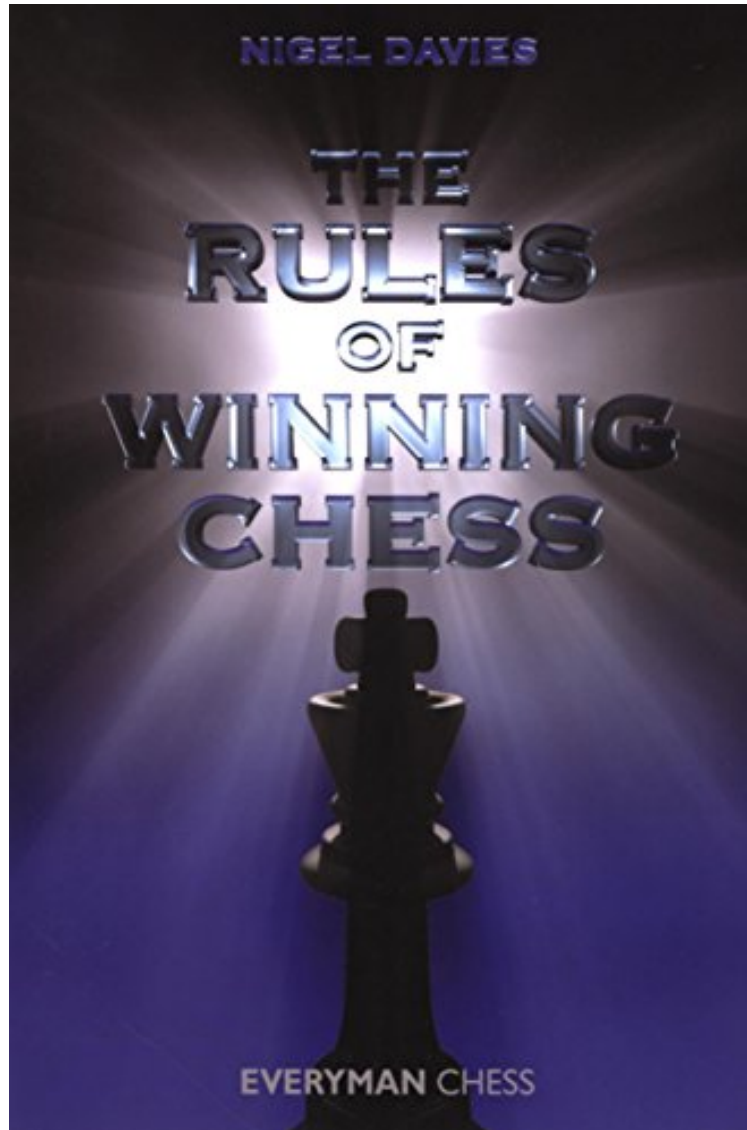


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The Rules of Winning Chess

Nigel Davies

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Nigel Davies : The Rules of Winning Chess before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rules of Winning Chess:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Good General Improvement BookBy R. TobiasThis is a well done, concise and insightful book on improving your chess. It has 5 Sections (The Player, Preparation, Opening, Middlegame, Endgame), with 10 chapters each. If your choice is between this and his '10 Great Ways...' book, pick this one, as it has far more worthwhile content. Nonetheless, I am not calling this book a classic of the field. There are

other books I would judge to be more valuable as improvement books, notably Yermolinsky's classic 'The Road To Chess Improvement'. But this book has an aura of intense practicality, and I have effective, sound advice that I have not seen elsewhere. As such, I think it is great as a complement to a book such as Yermo's, which is far richer in actual chess content. Or if you are more of a beginner, start with this book, as it has more general advice, and more basic chess advice. Recommended. 11 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Davies Should Know Better By Howard Goldowsky Nigel Davies should know better. There may be important chess principles, but there are no actual rules to winning chess. This book is broken down into 50 mini chapters, of three to four pages each. Each chapter covers a different "rule" that Davies talks about with a few paragraphs of prose, before tossing out one or two example games that "prove" his rule. The prose is not particularly enlightening, and the games are annotated with little context or insight. Another similarly formatted, but better, book would be Andrew Soltis's *The Wisest Things Ever Said About Chess*. The difference is that Soltis understands his limitations to dogma/rules and Davies does not. The best thing about "The Rules of Winning Chess" is that it is peppered with references to classic martial arts and self-improvement books. Unfortunately, however, the teachings from these books are often diluted into one or two sentences of general "rules." The impressive bibliography is the strength of the book, and it is populated with classics like *Mastery*, by George Leonard, and *The Zen Way to Martial Arts*. Chess and martial arts have a very intimate relationship, and Davies is one of the first writers (the other being Josh Waitzkin *The Art of Learning*) to recognize this connection. Unfortunately, however, there is just not enough prose in this book to flesh out all of the complexity and subtlety of the relationship between martial arts and chess. For example, Chapter 19 is titled "Empty the mind" [sic]. Davies spends a few paragraphs reviewing the principle of mushin (emptying the mind). He does an adequate job explaining this concept. What I didn't like was that he then gives an example game when he did not do any opening preparation, to clear his mind for a particular game. He won. Are we to believe that it is always good not to prepare your opening? I understand that Davies wants to draw from his personal experience, but this technique limits the sophistication, hence applicability, of his advice. Almost every mini chapter lacked this sophistication, and this was my major problem with the book. If this book were a memoir and Davies was recounting his personal experiences, then each mini chapter would be an interesting story and application of his martial arts wisdom. In fact, Josh Waitzkin's excellent memoir-like book is filled with stories like this. But "The Rules of Winning Chess" is not meant to be a memoir. The way Davies goes about giving examples is all wrong. The "The Rules of Winning Chess" is not all about plucking wisdom from its bibliography. Davies does give some decent pure chess related advice, mostly toward the end of the book when he's talking about the endgame, and this is why I rated the book three stars instead of one. About half the chapters reference the bibliography, and the other half are pure chess stuff. In general, this book is interesting because it is one of the first books to acknowledge the intimate relationship between chess and martial arts, but a more thoughtful and sophisticated approach to the presentation would have made it much better. 4 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A top pick for anyone who wants the killer instinct for their game By Midwest Book Review Playing well is one thing, but winning is another. "The Rules of Winning Chess" is a chess guide that covers the simplest of goals in chess- victory. Nigel Davies seeks to give readers that instinct that lets them see through their opponents strategy and seize the win as if it were nothing. Covering the many stages of the game, preparing for the game when you're not actually playing it, and much more, Davies presents his strong experience for much insight. "The Rules of Winning Chess" is a top pick for anyone who wants the killer instinct for their game.

The Rules of Winning Chess provides you with the key fundamentals of the game, principles that you can easily learn and remember, and that will help you to achieve both greater understanding and enjoyment of chess.