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Strategic fighting is boring man I don't want to be tactical I want to go out there and get submissions baby. I want to be the guy that does the Nicky Ryan entry right in front of Nicky Ryan and after I win he's going to be the one raising my hand. Nobody wants to watch two people sitting in close guard trying to get an advantage to win the match. As an exciting jujitsu practitioner what I strive for is to have an answer for every reaction my opponent gives. You do a position and your partner will give you a reaction to defend your position so it's up to you to have an answer to the partner's reaction. So if I enter into the legs and try and spin to inside Senkaku but it doesn't work so the next time I'm going to try a toe hold and if they don't react to the toe hold I'm going to switch to the knee bar but if they do react to the toe hold by spinning they're going to land right in my inside Senkaku. So we as jujitsu practitioners are constantly looking for better answers to our opponent's responses and it never ends and when we hear words like strategy and tactics sirens go off in our head because our goal is submission. But what if I told you that in chess tactics and strategy are two very different things. Now I definitely didn't know the difference between tactics and strategy and I especially didn't know how they interact with one another to make a very exciting style. So I want to thank my podcast partner Josh for introducing me to this idea because I know nothing about chess. But I do know that a huge buzzword being thrown around the jujitsu world right now is dilemma and the idea behind it is we put our opponent in a position where if they don't do anything we're going to armbar them and if they come up into us they're going to fall into a triangle. So they're really stuck between a rock and a hard place. Another example could be that our opponent is doing a good job of hiding their chin from a crossface but it exposes them to the half nelson. Or if there are points involved we could be put in a position where either we accept a takedown and give our opponent points or we give up our back. And it turns out this is actually very common in chess where we use one piece to attack two of our opponent's pieces. Putting them in a dilemma or in chess they refer to it as a double attack and a double attack is what chess people refer to as a tactic. Another very common tactic in chess is the idea of a pin where you cannot move your knight in this situation because if you do you're going to expose your king. So effectively I have pinned your knight in place and the whole idea behind jujitsu is built around this tactic of pinning where if I'm able to get to a very dominant pin like mount, movement on your part can be very detrimental and lead to the end of the match. So tactics are the one-two combos, the sequences, the moves that we practice in jujitsu that lead to all of the submissions. And there are a lot of people that have built a career off of tactics and practice the sequence so much that they can get it to work against practically anyone. And when you log into your bjj365 account or submeta and you study all of these techniques what you're most likely learning are tactics. Which is great nobody loves tactics more than me and I can't believe I'm saying this but after learning a little bit about chess I agree with the famous quote that tactics are the servant of strategy. And if you're willing to hear me out and stick with me throughout this video I think you're going to find that strategic fighting can be very entertaining. Chess is 90% tactics and it's the most important thing as every game comes down to tactics. This is music to my ear hair. Because a lot of jujitsu people have a very good idea of tactics and we train them all the time. In chess they have games to practice the tactics of the endgame so you can understand sequences that you can use to finish your opponent. And as an athlete that focuses on submissions I also want to put a huge emphasis on studying the tactics of the endgame. So if we have someone like Dane Leak who falls to the underhook side and brings his foot to Max's hip. But Max is able to quickly turn and free himself from the back position. So if we're able to understand the tactics of the endgame the next time we take the back we're not going to bring our foot to his hip and we're going to leave it in as a hook. Because that's going to carry us with him and allow us to stay connected as he rolls aggressively. Which ultimately leads to us winning the match. And when it comes to recognizing tactics in chess a huge emphasis is placed on defense. Where if you're able to recognize tactics

being used against you you can defend them and ultimately use them yourself. And this again falls in line perfectly with Danaher's idea that you should begin your study with defense. Now we've covered a couple but there are so many tactics that chess players use. There's the tactic that if both your queen and your knight have their king in check. Even though your opponent is in position to take your queen and to take your knight. They cannot do both of those things at the same time. Which means that your pieces are safe and your opponent's only option is to move their king. I think this is very similar to the jiu-jitsu idea of inside position versus inside control. If you're able to win inside position and take the underhook it doesn't mean anything if I'm able to put you flat on your back. Because now you have no ability to control me with that inside position. So sure yes you might be in position to take my queen but you're not able to use that position because I have control. Another tactic in chess is sacrifice. Where you give your opponent something in order to open up opportunities for yourself. And a lot of times people in jiu-jitsu will sacrifice their foot to their opponent so they can counter with a leg lock of their own. Not trying to be a dick but I was like letting him get pretty deep so that I could counter. Another example of this tactic being used is from butterfly half guard. Where our knee in their shoulder acts as a great guard retention tool but also prevents us from entering into attacks of our own. So often we're going to have to let our opponent beat our knee and get a little closer to passing our guard in order to set up our attacks. Another good example of this is if we're having a hard time getting a hold of our opponent and forcing them to engage. It might be a good idea to let them get an advantage. Let them get some form of inside position because they're more likely to engage if they have some sort of advantage. And once they engage you now have the ability to go into your attacks. Another very interesting idea in chess is the tactic of counterattacking with danger levels. Now in chess each piece has a starting value assigned to it. Where the rook is five the knight and bishop are three and the queen is nine. And the idea is if you're attacking my knight and I'm able to put your queen in jeopardy you're not willing to take my three point piece if it means sacrificing your nine point piece. So you respect my threat on your queen and I'm able to move my knight to safety. And I'm sure a lot of you are probably like oh yeah that's when someone's trying to pass your guard and then you throw up a buggy choke. And yeah they might pass your guard but you also might finish the match. And because your threat carries a lot more weight behind it they respect it and back out. So these are a handful of tactics that I think a lot of jiu-jitsu people can understand and relate to. But strategy is where things start to get a little murky and we start to lose those jiu-jitsu athletes that pride themselves in hunting for submissions. Because when you talk strategy you inevitably have to talk about rule sets. And we love the idea of someone who is so good at tactics that it doesn't matter the rule set it doesn't matter the size discrepancy they're going to go out and they're going to submit you. That's just my games. But unfortunately for the majority of us we got to look in the mirror and realize that our tactics really aren't that good. And it's not realistic for us to expect them to work against every opponent. Now when we throw around the idea of strategy it makes us think about someone curled up in a ball for two hours and that is just the worst nightmare from a fan's perspective. So when I quote the famous chess master and say that tactics are a servant of strategy please know that adding that 10% of strategy to your 90% of tactics is meant to make you a more exciting and successful grappler. Now the biggest difference between tactics and strategy is that tactics create a dynamic advantage while strategy creates a static advantage that is more long-term. A tactic is something that gives you a very brief advantage that can result in you taking a piece away from your opponent or it can result in nothing depending on how it plays out. But all of the tactics you employ are working towards a strategy and a simple strategy in chess is to control the center of the board because now you have so many more moves available to you. So the strategy of controlling the center of the board gives you a long-term advantage. Now if we take a look at Maissa here who's entering into K guard and I think we can all agree that she has a temporary advantage from this position but Brianna is able to

successfully defend and reset the situation. So then Maissa says okay I'm going to use a dilemma here I'm going to enter into K guard and as you try and stop my entry I'm going to go into an armbar and then as you defend my armbar I go back into K guard but that doesn't work either so Maissa says okay I trust in my tactics and I've practiced this a lot so we're going to go K guard and then we're going to try the armbar and if that doesn't work we switch to De La Riva. But again it doesn't really amount to anything and that seemed to be the story of the match where Maissa was throwing a lot of tactics at Brianna but those tactics were not working towards a strategy. She wasn't using tactics to work to control the center of the board. She was using tactics hoping that Brianna wouldn't have answers to those tactics and she was going to be able to finish the match but Brianna was able to successfully defend counter take the back and win the match. Now compare that to Jed facing Alan Sanchez and we have to consider the rules when we're talking about strategy and the rules for this match are that takedown, sweeps, mount, back, anything counts for one point. So with that in mind we see Jed pull guard and from there he starts to initiate a K guard attack which Alan defends but Jed uses it as an opportunity to come up on top and get a point. So Jed used the tactic of K guard and chased the submission but if the submission failed he made sure that that tactic moved him closer to controlling the match and developing a more long-term advantage. When you compare this to Alan Sanchez who also enters into the legs but as Jed defends Alan has no sense of urgency to get back that point and control the center of the board. So now Alan stands and Jed sits down and we reboot the system where Alan respects Jed's leg entry so he sits down leaving an opportunity for Jed to wrestle up and get another point and again we see Alan trying to use tactics to enter into the legs but there's no strategy behind those tactics. They're not working towards anything other than a submission. So now when it fails Alan's standing Jed sits down again and now because Jed has firmly controlled the center of the board Alan has his back up against the wall at this point a little bit and he's got to start taking a little more risk and as he starts reaching to pass the guard and keep his legs safe Jed uses the arm saddle position to take the back. So I think you get the point this was not a boring match. This match had a lot of action between two very high level grapplers. Alan Sanchez beat Oliver Taza to win the EBI event not too long ago but this match I believe is the perfect example of how tactics without strategy behind them is not going to work consistently at the highest level and I get that some of you are still a bit skeptical because this match involved points but listen to Cole talk about a strategy heading into his W&O match that involved no points. I was able to make him sit down multiple times starting the leg attacks and then was trying to expose the hips whenever I came on top. So Cole felt that if he was able to control Damien's hips he was going to have a long-term advantage in this match and the tactics he used to get there were leg entries. You see him use a beautiful K guard entry to threaten the legs and this tactic forces Damien to bring his hips lower to the ground to defend. So the tactic of K guard did not result in a submission but it did move Cole closer to his strategy of getting control over Damien's hips. This time instead of K guard Cole uses a different tactic of the false reap and again this is a dilemma here. If you don't respect my false reap it can lead to a submission but if you do respect it and bring your hips to the ground sure you defend the submission but because I have a strategy behind my tactics I'm able to move towards that strategy and control the center of the board and using tactics and strategy in this manner does not sacrifice excitement for you to be successful. So I think we get by now that our tactics need to have a long-term goal behind them which is a strategy but this is where things get really really interesting because in chess a strategy does not necessarily have to lead to positional change and this is something I'm really trying to understand myself so I'm hoping I can explain it in a way that we can relate it to jiu-jitsu and learn from it because I think Gordon is doing this and we're not. So like we talked about previously each piece has a value assigned to it and the knight and the bishop both have a starting value of three however as the game plays out and we get closer to the end and we find ourselves in a position like this where it's a bit congested so the black bishop in this

scenario doesn't really have a lot of places to move but the white knight has the ability to jump over all of this congestion giving it tons of options so although the bishop and the knight started out at three points and although white and black have the exact number of pieces on the board and the only difference is white has a knight and black has a bishop the knight now has way more value than the bishop because of the layout and their position on the board and again I'm still kind of thinking through how to relate this to jiu-jitsu but I think it's a very powerful concept and I think the basic idea is that Gordon is constantly threatening positional advancement so if you don't do anything he's going to take control of the center of the board and beat you so you have to respect it and when you do it creates a situation where Gordon can decide the sacrifices he wants to make and he can constantly sacrifice position which is a tactic that he calls backtracking and while he is sacrificing his position you're sacrificing your endurance and he's constantly using tactics like this to move towards the strategy of creating an endgame situation where the tools you have are pretty much useless and the tools he has are at their full strength so after a 45 minute match with Gordon Ryan even though you still have good attacking pieces on the board Gordon uses tactics to work his way to a position where you can't even use your pieces effectively and it's this strategy that makes you feel like there's no hope and no point in continuing and just like in chess and go where it's polite to resign when you know it's over oh you resigned that's exactly what pena did now I know it got a little bit abstract there towards the end but the main message I wanted to get across in this video is that you should keep developing your skills keep studying instructionals and keep hunting submissions but at the same time if there's no strategy or long-term vision behind these tactics then when you face good people who have the ability to defend your attacks you're either gonna lose or it's gonna result in a match where you and your opponent are just firing attacks off at one another and no one is able to achieve a significant advantage someone attacks the other guy defends they both back out we haven't seen these solid positions yet be sure to like and subscribe if you've learned a little bit about chess and how it relates to jiu-jitsu and we'll see you in the next video