The Peloponnesian War – Video 26 – Siege of Syracuse

Athenians __________ the first battle, but fail to finish off the Syracusans. Athenians setup up winter quarter to the __________ of Syracuse. Spring of __________ BC, the Athenians arrive back at Syracuse.

Athens already have Syracuse blocked by __________, so they want to build a siege wall and cut them off by __________.

Athenians build a supply depot the Labdium, on the edge of the __________ of Epipolae. They then receive reinforcements.

The Athenians build another fort called “The __________”, made of wood. They intend to build walls from this fort extending __________ and __________, in order to cut of Syracuse. The north part would extend across the plateau, and the south would be through a marsh.

Syracuse is terrified and builds a counter __________ to keep the road open.

*Both sides work on their walls for a while, without attacking.*

Athenians realize the Syracusans are not defending their wall, so __________ Athenians attack and destroy part of the wall, sending the Syracusans back to their main wall.

Athenians continue their south wall across the __________. The Syracusans begin a __________ counter wall across the marsh to stop the Athenians.

The Athenians launch another __________. Half of the Syracusans go back to the __________, and half go to a fort way to the south called Olympieum.
The Athenians follow the retreating Syracusans, but the Syracusan __________ saves the day by attacking the following Athenians and force the Athenians to retreat. The Athenians are able to stabilize, but___________ is killed in the process. Now __________ is all alone.

Now that the Athenians are busy elsewhere, the Syracusans attack __________ and are able to destroy some of the wall.

___________ stops the attack by actually setting some of the wooden supplies on __________. The Athenian navy arrives in the __________ and the Syracusans are forced to retreat to the city.

The Athenians complete a double wall to the __________ across the marsh (using wooden planks). They could receive supplies from the __________.

If the Athenians finish the wall to the north, it will be game over for Syracuse.

Meanwhile, a small __________ fleet is on the way to help, led by Gylippus.

Gylippus is able to land to the north and enter Syracuse by ___________ (Athens hadn’t finished the north wall). Help is also on the way from ____________.

Syracuse was thinking about ____________, but the Spartan general motivates them back on the war path.

Gylippus acts boldly. He captures the north Athenians fort at __________, a key supply depot. He also starts construction on a third northern ____________, to block the Athenian wall.

___________ did nothing to prevent the building of the third wall??!?! Instead he built a fort to give the Athenians a safe exit strategy.
This was a mistake as it took time and ___________ away from the northern wall. (Did they come here to build forts, or win the war? Nicias’ conservative policies lose the war?)

Two battles break out up ___________. The first is won by the ___________, but the second is won by the Syracusans. This allows the Syracusans to finish the ___________.

This is a ___________ for the Athenians. The siege strategy is now ___________. Gylippus is able to build a fort at Euryleus (farthest on plateau, the Syracusans can no longer be blocked off). ___________ arrives, also added to the Peloponnesian navy.

The hunters (Athens) are becoming the hunted (by Syracuse plus allies).

Both sides take winter quarters. ___________ sends word to Athens asking for permission to ___________ or for Athens to send ___________. (Athens does still dominate the ___________ around Sicily).

Athens refused to give up. ___________ and Eurymedon will lead another fleet to Sicily. Around this time, the Spartans have seized Decelea (near Athens) in 413BC (thanks Alcibiades) and cut Athens off from their ___________ mines. Now the Athenian war treasury is close to ___________. The Peace of Nicias is definitely over.

Meanwhile Gylippus has recruited more Sicilian allies and is working on strengthening the Syracusan fleet to fight the Athenians at ___________.

Spring 413BC: Gylippus launches a sea attack and while the Athenians are busy, launches a sneak attack to take all ___________ forts around The Circle.

Thucydides says the Athenians ___________ plummets at this point. Gylippus was receiving reinforcements by the day and launched constant attacks on the Athenians. The Syracusans made changes to their boats to make the ___________ thicker, for closer combat in the harbor. This gave them a greater advantage in ___________.
The Syracusans attack the Athenians, and the ________ are driven back from the harbor. The land forces are now screwed. ________ arrived in the nick of time to regain control of the _________.

Demosthenes knew he needed to launch an attack on the ________ counter wall so the Athenians could finish their north wall.

He launches a ________ attack, and is initially successful. The Athenians become too confident, and Gylippus is able to reorganize and push back the attack. The Athenians retreat in disarray and ________ are killed. What starts off as a turning point became a catastrophe.

The Athenian ________ is now rock bottom. This time, ________ pushes for the Athenians to go home, and ________ argues to stay (probably afraid to go home).

Finally, they agree to leave in ________ days (dun, dun, dun.....)

Syracusans don’t want the Athenians to escape, so they launch an attack on ________ and at _________. The Athenian navy is broken and forced to land in the Great harbor between their two southern walls. (This was their ________ serious defeat!)

The Athenians’ only chance now is to break out of the harbor. A huge battle breaks out at the mouth of the harbor. The ________ win and the Athenians are forced back again.

Nicias and Demosthenes debate what to do next. They attempt to ________ north by land. The Syracusan cavalry, however, does not allow them to escape. Nicias and Demosthenes are captured and _________. The rest of the Athenians are forced into ________ mines, and most die there.

Total ________ for the Athenians. This is the major ________ in the war. They’ve lost their generals, hoplites, and hundreds of ________ that can not be replaced.