The Great Squander

Before and during the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) in the American Civil War, Union General George B. McClellan, who had gained a reputation for inaction, squandered two opportunities to deliver a devastating blow to Confederate forces. First, the action plan of Confederate General Robert E. Lee was serendipitously discovered, giving the Union the opportunity to attack while Lee's main force was split in two. Secondly, at the onset of the battle, McClellan's forces outnumbered Lee's four to one. McClellan, however, overestimated the size of the Confederate force and delayed the attack, squandering the unbelievable advantage and the Confederates were reinforced.

Have you ever had an incredible opportunity you let slip away? If so, detail below. If you can't think of an example in your own life, try to think of an example in sports or literature and write about it below.