

January 28, 2026



Final position

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. P-K4 | P-K4 |
| 2. N-KB3 | N-QB3 |
| 3. B-N5 | N-B3 |
| 4. O-O | P-Q3 |
| 5. R-K1 | B-K2 |
| 6. P-B3 | O-O |
| 7. P-KR3 | N-KR4 |
| 8. P-Q4 | N-B5 |
| 9. BxQN | PxB |
| 10. PxP | NxPch !? |

I can't help thinking this sacrifice is unsound; I am behind in development but this is par for the course with the Ruy Lopez. I really didn't want to lose this game because I lost the previous one where I had been under a fierce attack as black but was slowly equalising. I lost because I didn't hold down the mouse tightly enough and instead of capturing a piece, simply moved the rook. This happens a lot. I have a feeling I have won a couple of games like that because the same thing happened to my opponents.

That being said, I'm quite proud of the way I weathered the storm here. This bloke knew his stuff as can be seen from move 17 when he avoided the smothered mate by saccing the exchange, but that still left him the exchange down and his attack going nowhere.

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|-----------------|-------------|
| 11. PxN | BxP |
| 12. B-B4 | B-N5 |

13. QN-Q2 PxP
14. B-N3 P-KB4
15. Q-N3ch K-R1
16. NxP QxN
17. N-B7ch RxN
18. QxR B-B4
19. PxP BXPch

Desperation now!

20. BxB R-Q1
21. B-Q4 Q-N5??
22. R-K8ch RxRfcd
23. QxR mate