

January 29, 2026

This was an amazing game. I played the opening very badly. His third move is certainly playable, the Chigorin Defence, but something I know from both my chess careers is that if you play 2. N-KB3 instead of a straight Queen's Gambit, a lot of weak players will play N-QB3 as if they were defending a king's pawn opening, so I assumed this guy wasn't very good. Whatever his knowledge of opening theory or just theory, I was mistaken. I was prepared to settle for a draw by repetition but he wasn't, and blundered badly at move 23. Great game nevertheless.



Final position

1. P-Q4 P-Q4

2. N-KB3 N-QB3

3. P-B4 PxP

4. P-K4? B-N5

5. B-K3 P-K4!

6. BxP PxP

7. BxBP B-N5ch

8. QN-Q2 BxNch

9. BxB N-B3

10. BxPch!?

Pure desperation!

10. KxB

11. Q-N3ch K-K1

12. QxP R-QN1?

13. QxNch N-Q2

14. N-K5 B-R4

15. B-N5 QxB

16. QxNch K-B1fcd

17. QxBP RxP

18. Q-B5ch K-K1

19. O-O!

I'm now a pawn up with a safe king while he has nothing.

- 19. R-Q7**
- 20. Q-B8ch Q-Q1**
- 21. Q-K6ch Q-K2**
- 22. Q-B8ch Q-Q1**
- 23. Q-K6ch K-B1??**
- 24. Q-B5ch K-N1**
- 25. QxB Q-K2**
- 26. N-B3 R-K7**
- 27. Q-Q5ch K-B1**
- 28. NxP RxKP**
- 29. Q-R8ch Q-K1**
- 30. QxQch KxQ**

Recapturing with the rook would have prolonged the game by avoiding simplification but he is already hopelessly lost.

- 31. KR-K1 RxRch**
- 32. RxRch fcd K-Q2**
- 33. P-B3 R-Q1**
- 34. K-B2 K-B2??**
- 35. N-K6ch K-B1**
- 36. NxR resigns**