

the chicago open

MARKOWITZ WINS HIS OWN TOURNAMENT

Chicago director Howard Markowitz steamrolled Neal Kazaross of San Diego 17-8 to win his own tournament at the 9th Annual Chicago Open. The Memorial Day weekend bash was held May 27-30 at the Westin Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois. Attendance topped 100 players—a 30% increase over 1987.

Markowitz, creator of the “Continuous Play” format, compiled an 8-2 match-winning record over Saturday and Sunday to qualify with Joe Sylvester, Howard Ring and Kazaross for the final four on Monday. Markowitz drew Sylvester in the semifinals and withstood the Michigan Wizard’s late charge to move into the big-money match. In the other semifinal, Karazoss managed a relatively comfortable victory over fellow Californian Howard Ring.

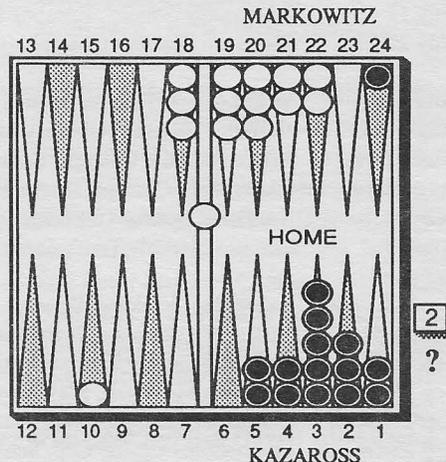
Although odds-makers made Karazoss the 7-5 betting favorite in the 17 point finals, somebody forgot to tell Markowitz. He ran off five straight games, some of them ending via cube- turn within 4 moves. Trailing 6-0, Karazoss took his first break.

Neal returned five minutes later, quipping about the incredible dice he was up against. Joking didn’t help. Markowitz won three more games within three minutes to make the score 9-0 and evoke a serious “Very impressive” response from his bewildered opponent.

Finally, in game nine, Neal got on the scoreboard. In fact, he won two games to make the score 9-2. But the winning streak was short-lived. Markowitz picked up where he left off—showing Kazaross how to build a five prime in four shakes—to win three quick games. Trailing 12-2, Kazaross took his second break.

Neal returned to the board with a solemn face. The funny quips were over. For the eighth time, Neal began a game by requesting a dice mix. Irrelevant. Howard

claimed two more games and the lead became 15-2. Now Kazaross was able to take advantage of a big leader’s inability to freely use the cube. He won six straight points before reaching the following position from game 20. **Markowitz (leading 15-8 in 17 point finals) doubles. Should Kazaross take?**



A fine double by Markowitz and a proper take by Kazaross. Expert Joe Sylvester estimated Neal’s Match-winning chances to be about 5% no matter what he did. Neal agreed, but based his take on the gammon vig provided by the two loose white checkers. Howard immediately rolled 6-6 which was the beginning of the end for Neal’s improbable dream.

Asked if there is any conflict of interest in a director winning his own event, Markowitz responded, “The fact that it was my tournament has no bearing on my feelings. I don’t relate the two (directing and playing). I feel terrific! Besides, with excellent people like Joann Feinstein and Butch & Mary Ann Meese co-directing, I never worried about things running smoothly, and that’s what counts.”

Kazaross described the one hour match in one word—“devastating.”

KAPLAN WINS AGAIN

Wendy Kaplan continued her winning ways, capturing the Special \$1000 tournament. Larry Deckel bested a 54 player Intermediate field and Chuck Crownover was tops among the Beginners. Δ

WELCOME!

Welcome to the premiere issue of the *Chicago POINT*. As our banner proclaims, we want to be “A Prime Source of Backgammon Information”—not just for Chicago, but for backgammon enthusiasts everywhere.

If you were a subscriber to the discontinued *Chicagoland Backgammon Newsletter*, you’ll receive the *POINT* for the duration of your subscription. Otherwise, use the information below to GET THE POINT! Δ

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1988 CHICAGO OPEN RESULTS

CHAMPIONSHIP (40): 1st Howard Markowitz; 2nd Neal Kazaross; 3/4 Joe Sylvester and Howard Ring. 1st Cons. Tak Morioka; 2nd Cons. Harry Cohn.
INTERMEDIATE (54): 1st Larry Deckel; 2nd George Barr; 3/4 Evie Merecki and Betsy Miller. 1st Cons. Ira Hoffberg; 2nd Cons. Jill Ferdinand.
BEGINNER (10): 1st Chuck Crownover; 2nd John Ritzert.
SPECIAL \$1000 TOURNEY (8): 1st Wendy Kaplan; 2nd Howard Ring.
DOUBLES (32): 1st Ed Maslansky & Judy Field; 2nd E. O’Laughlin & J. Baroff.
OVERFLOW DOUBLES (8): 1st Mike Razar & Paul Strasberg.
MIXED DOUBLES (16): 1st Joan Hegg & Neal Kazaross; 2nd Dwan & Pete Klein.

BAR POINT CLUB THURSDAY PLAY RETURNS

What are the important considerations in choosing a Bar Point Club backgammon location? First of all, the facility must have good food and drinks at reasonable price. Secondly, it should be comfortable. A 4:00 AM liquor license is desirable for late night chouettes. Finally, the location should be accessible to the entire Chicagoland area. Carmichael's—A Bar & Grill is such a place.

The Chicago Bar Point Club is pleased to announce the return of Thursday night backgammon with a Grand Opening tournament at Carmichael's, 4255 River Road, Schiller Park on June 8 at 7:15 (Open \$15 - Limited \$10).

Carmichael's is easy to find—just 2 1/2 miles west of Pat's Pub. Make Thursday your night for backgammon. Join us at Carmichael's for food, drinks and tournament action this week! Δ

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Tournaments Every
Thursday at 7:15 PM

Peter Kalba: 312/276-4144
Bill Davis: 312/338-6380

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

Bill Davis, Editor
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coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole

June 5	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Bagwells, Chicago, IL	312/252-7755
June 5	Pittsburgh Monthly Tournament, Parkway Center Inn, PA	412/391-6363
June 5	Sunday Special, Box Bar & Grill, Plymouth, MI	313/981-5706
June 9	BPC Thursday Grand Opening, Carmichael's, Schiller Park, IL	312/276-4144
June 10-13	Australian National Championship, Melbourne, Victoria	03/578-7983
June 12	New England Club Championships, Sheraton, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
June 12	Toronto Monthly Tournament, Le Spot, Ontario, Canada	416/267-2815
June 16-19	U.S. Open & Masters Invitational, Nugget Casino, Reno, NV	702/826-1984
June 24-26	5th German Open Championship, Palace Hotel, Berlin	0.8341/12825
July 10	Toronto Monthly Tournament, Le Spot, Ontario, Canada	416/267-2815
July 11-17	13th Monte-Carlo World Champs, Place du Casino, Monaco	305/527-4033
July 16-17	Nation's Capital Summer Tourney, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
July 17	Bi-monthly Sunday, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/928-1321
July 22-24	Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Aug 3-7	World Cup & Eastern Open, Sheraton, Cambridge, MA	301/942-4365
Aug 8-14	Vermont Festival, Ascutney Mt. Resort, Brownsville, VT	305/527-4033
Aug 12-14	Palace Summer Champs, Badrutt's Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	061/50-58-16
Aug 12-14	Rhein-Main Champs, Massa-Hotel, Nordenstadt, W. Germany	040/270-1166
Aug 14	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Bagwells, Chicago, IL	312/252-7755
Aug 14	Toronto Monthly Tournament, Le Spot, Ontario, Canada	416/267-2815
Sep 2-5	Labor Day Weekend Tourney, Ramada Inn East, Louisville, KY	502/451-3950
Sep 10-11	Baden Württemberg Championship, Stuttgart, W. Germany	040/270-1166
Sep 11	Toronto Monthly Tournament, Le Spot, Ontario, Canada	416/267-2815
Sep 25	Jim Flora Memorial, Mayflower Hotel, Plymouth, MI	313/349-1953
Sep 27-Oct 2	Caribbean Championship, Treasure Island Resort, St. Maarten	702/826-1984
Sep 29-Oct 2	International Casino Cup, Schloss Seefelds, Pörschach, Austria	0032/26489349
Oct 7-9	5th Indiana Classic & Indy \$500, Viscount, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Dec 2-5	Backgammon On Board III, Tropical Cruise: Miami to Nassau	312/338-6380

AMALGAMATION

Louise Goldsmith will no longer direct the "April In Tahoe" backgammon tournament. Her successful New York City club, the *Coterie* is keeping her plenty busy. The Hyatt Lake Tahoe has purchased rights to the event. Although short on tourney experience, they want to expand to two Tahoe events per year..... Don't challenge Minneapolis backgammon player **Jim "The Horse" Dabe** to a bowling match. Jim carries a 220 average and rolled an 805 series (including a 300 game) in February..... First **Paul Magriel**, and now another New Yorker, **Eric Seidel** has seriously taken up poker. Eric placed second in the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas on May 19. He lost the \$700,000 first prize to **Johnny Chan's** queen-high straight on the last hand..... Condolences to **Jerry Feinstein** on the May 31 passing of his brother-in-law..... Milwaukee expert **Bob Holyon** on playing in front of dozens of spectators in the finals of a big tournament: "You have to steal the crowd's energy."..... The Northern Nevada Backgammon Association (NNBA) will try a new locale for the Fall. They're preparing to run the Caribbean Championship at the Treasure Island Resort on the exclusive island of St. Maarten. Incredibly, the room rates should be less than \$50..... Hat's off to **Phyllis Smolinski** who returned from a Florida vacation with her family via 12 hour car trip in time for BPC backgammon on May 24!..... When **Greg Feller** did the Calcutta auction at Central Illinois Backgammon Club's May tournament in Lacon, Illinois, people "listened up." That's because Greg is a professional auctioneer in the true Midwestern sense. He's auctioned everything from farm animals to railroad trains. As Greg put it, "Backgammon players fall somewhere between the two."..... Δ

TAKGAMMON



by Tak Morioka

THE SEEDS

There is a problem that develops as you become proficient at this game. In mastery of your skills, you might plant the seeds of your own destruction. As you start to produce some positive results, you will naturally increase your pride and self-confidence. If these qualities are left unattended, they may grow into vanity and arrogance. Vanity is a jealous consul that is inflated by fame and flattery. Its concern is not with the truth, but with the image it guards. When its interest is challenged, it becomes deaf to probing questions and blind to unsettling answers.

Some players may foster arrogance as a competitive tool of assertion, but it appears to be more like crutches for insecurity rather than an asset for performance. I believe that we all have these faults to one degree or another. If left unchecked, they may become a very expensive mouth to feed.

Most players may find it difficult to become introspective and deal with self-defacing issues. And if their ego is too fragile, they may totally avoid self-criticism. There may not be any reasonable cure for these inflections, but learning to recognize the symptoms may moderate the damage.

If someone asks you about a play, the way you answer it may give you a clue into your own attitudes. One answer could be, "This is the correct play." The other might be, "I would play it this way." Both answers may be identical on play, but the tone of the delivery is completely different. The first assumes authority without indulgence, while the second one offers personal credibility without presumption.

If you usually respond to questions in the first manner, is it for the sake of the truth, or for your own recognition? Δ



Fortune Cookie

Powerful players have the courage of their convictions, even if they are wrong.



1988 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

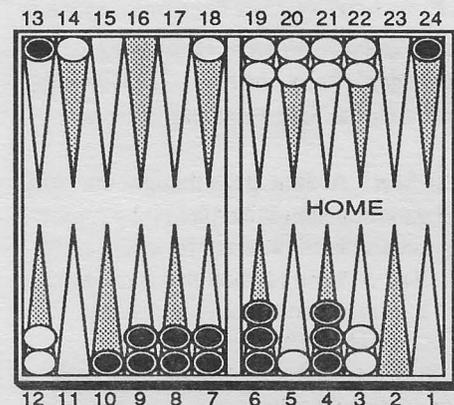
COMPILED
THRU MAY 31

RICH SWEETMAN	17.12	Peggy Fleming	2.64	Ken Bond	0.88
TAK MORIOKA	12.72	Phyllis Smolinski	2.48	Larry Strommen	0.88
KATHY BAUDER	11.32	Andy Suszczyk	2.16	Carol Mennis	0.80
YAMIN YAMIN	10.16	Don Jayhan	2.12	Harry Hayward	0.72
DEEB SHALATI	8.64	Joe Koucharian	2.04	Marty Tatosian	0.72
JOHN DEMIAN	8.48	Jeff Henry	1.92	Tom Walthes	0.64
PETER KALBA	7.08	Gary Keyes	1.92	Arlene Levy	0.56
IRA HOFFBERG	6.64	Ralph Levy	1.84	Mark Hicks	0.52
ANDY ARGY	6.24	Dave Cramer	1.72	Betsy Miller	0.48
BOBBIE SHIFRIN	6.20	Dan Judd	1.32	Roland Dieter	0.40
SARG SERGES	4.84	Jeff Kane	1.32	Ron Stur	0.40
NORMA SHYER	4.12	Dean Muench	1.28	Paul Reiner	0.40
ED BUERGER	4.00	Jim Sargent	1.28	Howard Markowitz	0.32
JOANN FEINSTEIN	3.72	Gene Chait	1.20	Marcy Sloan	0.28
DAVID LIBCHABER	3.68	Bill Davis	1.16	Les Berg	0.24
ARNOLD ZOUSMER	3.64	Chris Kenik	1.16	Rudy Emmelot	0.24
STU KATZ	3.28	Dean Morehouse	1.16	Ida Zeman	0.24
RON GARBER	3.24	Jeff Vaughn	1.16	Chuck Evers	0.20
NEIL BANOFF	2.96	George Panagakis	1.04	Sharon Hegg	0.20
GREG SHORE	2.80	Larry Guzan	0.96	David Hegg	0.12
CONNIE SYCHOWSKI	2.80	Don Muellner	0.96	David Shifman	0.12
Bob Zavoral	2.76	Barry Epstein	0.92	Jay Bleiman	0.08
Bill Keefe	2.72				

Tak Morioka won two May BPC tournaments to pace him to a 4.44 total and Player of the Month honors. Stu Katz (2.72) and Arnold Zousmer (2.60) were runners-up.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

7 point match. Black leads White, 6 to 5 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



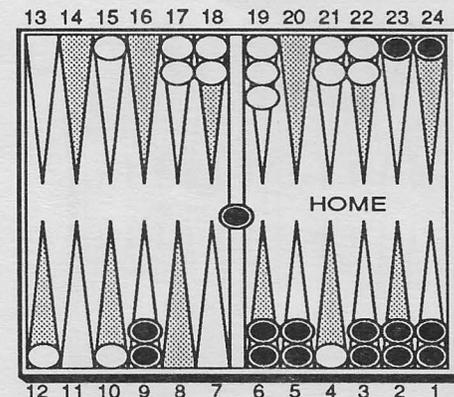
The "obvious" 10/5*, 6/5 is right here. True, by completing the 6-prime, White (from the bar) has 19 immediate ways to either make her bar-point or hit on the 13-point. However, that leaves 9 dancing rolls and 8 more shakes that enter and do nothing. In turn, this gives Black a chance to roll an escaping 6 and be in the driver's seat.

When Black instead chooses to escape and hit now with 24/18*, White gets a full 27 ways to enter and hit back on the 10- or 18-point. Parlay this with the chance that Black then dances or fails to re-hit and we have a clear White advantage.

The key here is that even if White does secure her bar-point, Black can still move up with an ace and escape later. However, when Black first makes his 6-prime, White can't win with good dice—she'll need bad dice from Black to aid in her escape. Δ

PROBLEM #136

1988 Chicago Open. Joe Sylvester (Black) vs. Gene Chait (White). Double match point. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS



Dear Miss Lonelyblots: For months my boyfriend has been begging me to play strip backgammon. I finally agreed, but we don't know the rules. How do you play?—Hot to Slot, Portland, Oregon.

Dear Slut: At first, girls thought that strip backgammon should be played by removing one article of clothing for every point lost. But we soon learned that these rules lead to promiscuous doubles, steamy takes, and shameless beavers.

So we settled upon the modern variation of strip backgammon, which requires merely that one article of clothing be removed each time a blot gets hit, regardless of cube size.

How should a girl play strip backgammon? Safely, of course. Never expose a blot if you are unwilling to expose some flesh. Avoid back games scrupulously. But most important, come dressed for the occasion: shoes, socks, separate blouse and skirt, vest, jacket, necktie (acceptable nowadays for both sexes), scarf, slip, panties, bra, hat and—oh yes—barrettes. It has

been ruled that a girl with long hair is entitled to wear as many as seven barrettes, each counting as a different article of clothing.

If you follow my advice, you can bet your sweet bippy that your boyfriend will have removed all his clothing long before you even come down to your undergarments.—Miss Lonelyblots

Dear Slot: It's lucky that I found my sister's answer to your letter lying on her writing table when I stopped by this morning. I'm afraid poor Emily is, well, still pretty much a prude. Perhaps it's an occupational hazard, something that comes from paying too much attention to backgammon and not enough to sex—which is, after all, the main pleasure in life. Emily's sexual anxiety betrays itself not only in her hidebound advice, but in her misspelling of your name—a classic Freudian slip if ever there was one.

So let me tell you about the right way to play strip backgammon. Actually, it's the only way I play that silly game at all. Every year, at Siltstone Ranch high in the hills above Malibu, where you can look down on the blue Pacific as well as the lush greenery of Topanga Canyon, we hold a Nude Backgammon Tournament.

In this form of competition, we don't beat around the bush. Every participant

strips completely before the start of the tournament.

If you think this puts girls at any disadvantage, you're 180° off. It's the men who are often distracted. Few can concentrate on playing good backgammon when they're busy trying to seem "cool" by suppressing their hard-ons. Perhaps that explains why girls have won the Siltstone tournament three of the first four years that we've held it.

It certainly won't hurt your chances with your boyfriend if you pet him consolingly in the right place every time you hit his blot. Perhaps he'll be eager to pass your cubes, lose the match promptly, and get on with the more exciting games you can play with him afterwards.

As for my sister's sartorial suggestions—just forget them. The only thing a girl playing my kind of strip backgammon needs to wear is ...a well-fitted diaphragm.—(Miss) *Xaviera Lonelycox*

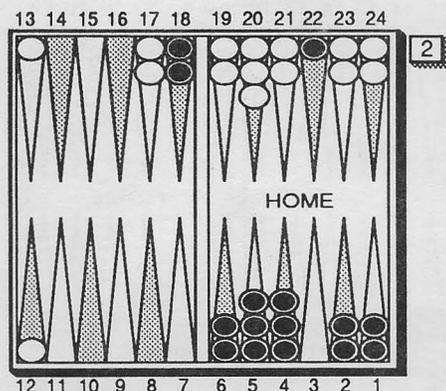
Do you have a backgammon-related question for Miss Lonelyblots involving people problems, game etiquette or the play itself? Write to: Dear Miss Lonelyblots, c/o Chicago POINT, 2726 W. Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645. The most stimulating query will be answered bi-monthly. Δ

HASTY PLAYS

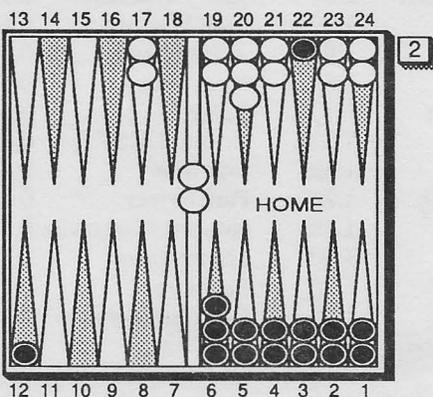


by Duane Jensen

The theme of this bi-monthly column is to show the reader the consequences of making quick, hasty moves in critical situations. Don't take all day on your opening 3-1 roll, but when the situation warrants, be sure to take a few extra seconds to study the position before pushing your pieces.



I was black in the setup at left against New York's Jack Kissane at the Indiana Open in March, 1988. Jack rolled 6-3 and hit me with 13/22*. I responded with a 6-3 of my own, hitting blots on the 22- and 12-point. Later...



I had an ace to play from here and without an iota of thought, I casually slid my checker from the 12- to the 11-point. I then followed with 5-5 and was forced to leave a blot on my 6-point. Jack entered hitting with a 6. He rolled another 6 on his

next turn and ended up winning the match.

5-5 was a bad roll for me in all cases; but if I had instead played 6/5, at least I would have been blotless with a good chance to escape my last checker on the next turn. I gave Jack an inch—he took the full mile! Δ

THE U.S. OPEN BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT

Reno Nevada  June 16-19 1988

\$12,500 Added



For Further Information Write:
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THE GODS OF THE GAME

by Bob Zavoral



Three there are
The Gods of the bar;
Three gods at war.
And these do I name
The Gods of the Game.

The first is Sado.
Hers is the credo,
"I punish, I hurt;
Thou art but dirt.
Make the right play
Or thou shalt pay!"

Second is Maso.
She wields the lasso
Entrapping those
Sado's creed can't enclose.
"Make the right play,
To thee, I say;
And thou still pays,"
She chortles and brays.

The terrible triumvirate
Completes with Chism,
Messenger of the catechism.
She doth deliver the efforts
Of her fiendish cohorts,
Confusing the players,
Dumfounding the soothsayers.

Thus do they battle,
Sado, Maso, Chism;
And we, like cattle,
Like dolts
Must burden the bolts
That from heaven blue
Are flew.

But please, heed our plea,
Oh, Gods! Oh, Three!
"Is the Game luck?
Or have ye Gods gone amok?
Whatever the outcome,
No matter who won;
Maken't us blots
In your sick plots!" Δ

who did what

WINNER'S CORNER



April-May, 1988

April In Tahoe (Lake Tahoe, NV; April 13-17)... Championship (118): 1st David Hershleder; 2nd Jerry Kane; 3/4 Neil Kazaross & Jorge Martinez. Intermediate (96): 1st Quint McTyeire; 2nd Steve Flam; 3/4 Vera Kouleyan & Isaak Shterenberg. Beginner (44): 1st Suanne Irwin; 2nd Fred Damavandi. Warm-up Tournament (512): 1st Mike Senkiewicz; 2nd Edward Fagrey. Doubles (128): 1st Nick Maffeo/ Emil Mortuk; 2nd Mike Darooge/ Valerie Wong... The Championship was filled with name players including Paul Magriel, Jim Pasko, Billy Horan, Leslie Stone, Kit Woolsey, Mike Senkiewicz, etc. David Hershleder (Las Vegas) won a four hour marathon match edging Jerry Kane (New Jersey) 21-17.

Danish Open (April 24-25)... 1st K. Eriksen (Sweden); 2nd J. Granstedt; 3/4 H. Ostergaard (Denmark) & M. Koch (Germany).

Hamburg Open (West Germany; April 28-May 1)... Championship (56): 1st Kurt Oge; 2nd Michael Greiner; 1st Cons. Hermie v/d Geest; 2nd Cons. Harald Johanni. Intermediate (36): 1st Christopher Wagener; 2nd Thomas Godenrath; 1st Cons. Stephan Liebe; 2nd Cons. Mous Döring. Beginner (61): 1st Hamid; 2nd Gummersbach; 1st Cons. Lawrence Tyson (USA). World Cup Qualifying: Hans-J. Nelki... With 153 players, this was the second-largest backgammon tournament ever held in Germany.

CIBC Spring Tourney (Lacon, IL; May 1)... Open: 1st Milad Doueih (Peoria); 2nd Ira Hoffberg (Chicago); 1st Cons. Jeff Kane (Milw). Intermediate: 1st Dick Nelson (Peoria) 2nd Peter Shirley (Champaign); 1st Cons. John McCabe (Peoria). Novice: 1st Jeff Jost (Elmhurst); 2nd Linda Lee (Peoria)... Always great fun at the Sly Fox Pub.

Spring In Minnesota (Minneapolis; May 13-15)... Open (28): 1st Bob Hughes; 2nd Shel Segal; 3rd Riley Harrison. Intermediate (8): 1st Gary Del Furia. Doubles (16) 1st Jim Dabe & Tim Lee. \$500 Shootout (8): 1st Fred Kalantari; 2nd Ray Glaeser. 9-Ball: 1st Tim Lee; 2nd Bill Davis. Mini-Dome Baseball: 1st Gary Schatsneider... The Minneapolis Athletic Club is an excellent site for a backgammon tournament. Duane Jensen's "Mini-Dome Baseball" was incredible.

CPBC Spring Open (Maryland; May 14)... Open (24): 1st Greg Lilley; 2nd Harry Zilli; 3rd Ron Genter; 4th Henry Kimble. Intermediate (14): 1st Stephen Hast; 2nd R. Mathias.

Boston Symphony Benefit (Cambridge, MA; May 27-30)... Championship (38): 1st Clement Palacci; 2nd M. Baquiche; 3/4 Sam Janjigian & Cheryl Nesbitt. World Cup Qualifying (16): 1st Perry Gartner; 2nd Annabel Nichols. Boston \$500 (16) 1st Ed Petrillo; 2nd Mike Nelson. Δ



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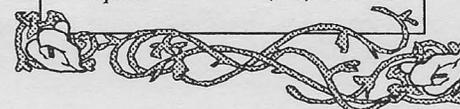
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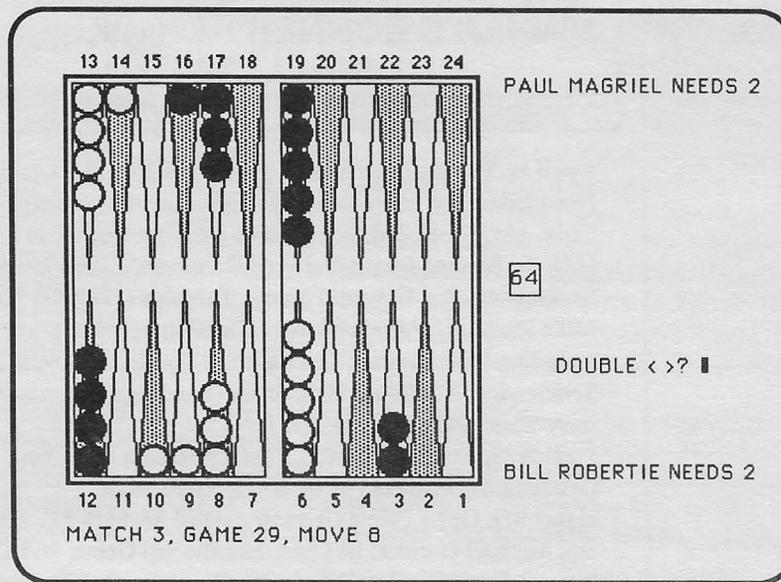
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at the

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inquiries to: (313) 232-9731





Should Bill Robertie Double? Should Paul Magriel Take?

It's Bill Robertie vs. Paul Magriel in a 21 point match from the 1986 Reno Master's Invitational. The score is knotted at 19-all. Should Robertie offer to put the match on the line by doubling? If he does, should Magriel oblige by taking? What would *YOU* do? With Hal Heinrich's **MATCHBG** computer program, the answer is just a keystroke away.

If you have access to an IBM compatible computer with a 5.25 inch floppy drive, this is the learning program for you. You'll match moves with experts like Sylvester, Corbett, Senkiewicz, Goulding, Ballard, Woolsey, Motakshasses, Papazian and many others as they do battle in 20 of the best matches from the 1980's.

With **MATCHBG**, you key in your move prior to seeing the master's actual play. If there is a mismatch between your play and the play actually selected, the program beeps. Then the actual move is displayed and the match proceeds.

You can even use the program to play solitaire backgammon or do battle against another player (however, you can't play against the machine).

So get **MATCHBG** and experience masters in action. How you match up may surprise you.

MATCHBG Match Moves with the Experts.

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