

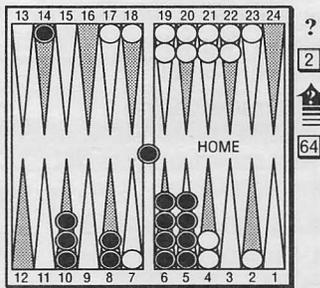
## Catching Up

DO YOU REALLY NEED TO MAKE A BIG ASS OF YOURSELF WHEN YOU ARE ONLY A LITTLE BEHIND?

by Jake Jacobs

Las Vegas! Doesn't it bring out the gambler in all of us? After winning an uncharacteristic number of matches in a row, I found myself in the second round of a Jackpot. After a truly horrendous take, I trailed Gady Carmeli of Israel 3-11 to 13. Through luck and aggression, I fought back to reduce the deficit to 9-11. In the diagram below, I am on roll as Black.

**Position #1**  
Match to 13 pts. Jake (Black) trails Gady (White), 11-9. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



Lately, my initial doubles have been somewhat aggressive. ("You played an opening 5-2 *that way?* Eat plastic you clueless wretch!") However, this was 4-away, 2-away, the magic score at which no one ever doubles. Still, a little voice told me this was a double. So I did. That little voice proved strangely silent a few minutes later when Gady rolled boxes to leap my 5-prime and win the game.

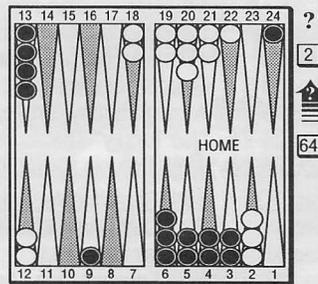
It being a big Las Vegas tournament, there were lots of brains ripe for picking. Theoretically one can find someone to endorse any cockamamie play if enough players are polled. An experienced hunter, I didn't spook them by flashing my position cards. I snuck up, let them think they were about to tell me *their* horror story, then zapped them with this one. No one liked my double.

Over breakfast the next morning, in discussion with a luminous celestial body formerly of Boston, I groused that the double couldn't be that bad. I thought I was a small underdog in the game—as many as 25% of my wins might be gammons, and it looked like at

least 1/3 of my losses would be gammons. Didn't that, at least theoretically, put me in my doubling window?

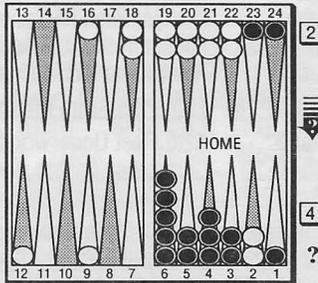
Over time, through repetition, I was made to see the error of my ways. So when I reached this position against Tom Keisler in round 5 of the Last Chance, there was no way I could fall into error by doubling, was there?

**Position #2**  
Match to 5 pts. Jake (Black) trails Tom (White), 2-1. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



Call me impetuous. Besides, little voices are never wrong twice. Two and one half rolls later, here came the rewhip:

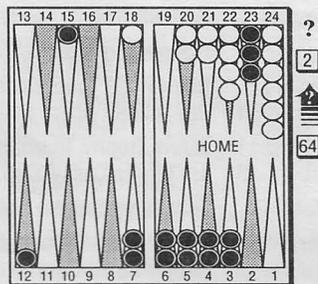
**Position #3**  
Match to 5 pts. Jake (Black) trails Tom (White), 2-1. White on roll. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



Should I take? Should he double? Is he too good? Not good enough? I took and lost.

Tom continued to win. A few rounds later, he was in the finals, and had Frank Talbot battered, bleeding and dizzy. It was in the position below that Frank struggled up off the canvas and tried for a desperation knockout:

**Position #4**  
Match to 5 pts. Frank (Black) trails Tom (White), 3-1. White on roll. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



Frank doubled, an action that worked spectacularly well. He hit, picked up a second

checker, and closed both out. Only a lucky last-shake double 6 saved Tom from a gammon. Frank was not to be denied, and went on to win the match.

However, like me, he was not 100% sure of his double. Everyone thought this one *looked* more like a desperation double than the ugly ducklings that led to my swan dives. In general, though, most experts said they would prefer to wait and cash if they hit. Too many gammons were saved by late shots to write off that potential 17% match equity.

All three of these initial doubles, my two disasters, and Frank's more successful endeavor, seem to fall into the category "desperation double." The archetype would be the player, in the process of getting gammoned for the match, who is offered a game-winning shot from the bar.

This type of position is popular in "Problem of the Month" columns aimed at moving beginners into the intermediate ranks. Expert reluctance to actually double one at the table stems from the awareness that most live examples fail to meet two requisite conditions: loss of a gammon (and the match) should be almost certain, so that doubling risks next to nothing; and hitting produces a sure loss of market. The latter condition is most often ignored; too many of these doubles are vitiated by the opponent still having a take *even after being hit and closed out*.

With regard to these two conditions, all three positions are flawed. Frank's is the purest. He has many market losers and will lose many gammons. Even here, however, many gammons may be saved by late shots, and a few extra games might be won if only the cube were still available a little later.

Before we write off these doubles as errors, let's go back and analyze them more thoroughly. The comparisons should be instructive. I force-fed Jellyfish all of the above positions, and many related sub-positions, then burped my little baby till he spit up a disgusting pile of numbers.

[Editor's note: Space prohibits us from printing Jake's entire analysis of Jellyfish raw data for this and one other doubling decision. For the thorough analysis, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (or \$1 if you live overseas) to: CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3128.]

[Continued on page 5]

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT  
 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
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## ANOTHER 'MYSTERY ROLL' SOLUTION

I, like Mario Madrigal, cannot see those stereograms, but I did arrive at an alternative solution to the 4-3 roll explained in the August solution to "Professor Parenthesis and the Mystery Roll." Consider 3-2 played as follows:

	Bob	Steve
Roll 1	6/4, 24/21	6/4*, 24/21*
Roll 2	Bar/23, Bar 22	6/3*, 4/2*
Roll 3	Bar 23*, Bar 22	Bar/23, Bar/22

It appears that this also satisfies all of the problem conditions.—*Tom Wheeler, Dallas, TX*

## MORE ABOUT TAK'S BOARDS

I saw the ad for Tak Morioka Backgammon Boards last month. Could you send me anything: a brochure, or a description of these boards. I'm interested, but at \$700 and up, I need to know more.—*Bill Wilner, Pikesville, MD*

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BACKGAMMON						
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

by Carol Joy Cole  
 810/232-9731

\* Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

### NATIONAL

Oct 11-15	<u>5th Illinois Champs/America Cup, Sheraton North Shore, Northbrook, IL</u>	708/945-7801
Oct 15	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Oct 18	RSCARDS Fall 1995 Computer Modem Tournament, GENIE	800/638-9636
Oct 19	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Oct 22	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Three Dollar Cafe, Atlanta, GA	770/441-2074
Oct 27-29	<u>Autumn Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA</u>	619/294-2007
Oct 29	Greater New York Club Monthly Tournament, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Nov 3-5	<u>Backgammon In The Berkshires, Oak &amp; Spruce Center, South Lee, MA</u>	603/863-4711
Nov 10-12	<u>NY/NJ BG CO-OP Big Apple Series, Oritani Hotel, Hackensack, NJ</u>	201/833-2915
Nov 11-12*	Louisville Fall Special, Captains Quarters Restaurant, Harrods Creek, KY	502/458-7468
Nov 12*	Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Nov 14	BPC 13th Annual Fall Trophy Tourney, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	312/583-6464
Nov 16	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 18*	5th Bloomington-Normal Championship, Ride The Nine, Bloomington, IL	309/454-1947
Nov 19	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Nov 19	17th Annual Flint Area Club Championships, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 19	Greater New York Club Monthly Tournament, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Nov 19*	Austin Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Nov 19*	"No Turkey" Thanksgiving Tournament, Best Western Hotel, Akron, OH	216/966-2811
Nov 24-25	<u>1995 Georgia Championships &amp; Peach Cup, Doubletree Hotel, Atlanta, GA</u>	770/441-2074
Dec 1-3	<u>35th Gammon Associates Invitational, Holiday Inn, Woodland Hills, CA</u>	818/901-0464
Dec 3	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Dec 3	Beltway Club Jackpot Tournament, Promenade Cardroom, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Dec 17	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Dec 17	Atlanta Holiday Tournament, Three Dollar Cafe, Atlanta, GA	770/441-2074
Dec 17*	Greater New York Club Monthly Tournament, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Dec 21*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Dec 28*	Flint Area Club Holiday Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 17*	RSCARDS Winter 1996 Computer Modem Tournament, GENIE	800/638-9636
Jan 18*	Backgammon On Board Warm-up Tourney, Biscayne Bay Marriott, Miami, FL	312/583-6464
Jan 19-22	Backgammon On Board III, Miami to Key West cruise tourney on NCL	312/252-7755
Jan 27	Hawthorne Backgammon Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	312/583-6464
Feb 16-18	<u>18th Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	412/823-7500
Mar 3*	12th Fleet Underwood Benefit Tournament, Ramada Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 8-10	<u>Commerce Casino Invitational, Los Angeles, CA</u>	818/901-0464
Mar 22-24	<u>1996 Midwest Championships, The Drake Oakbrook, Oak Brook, IL</u>	312/583-6464
Apr 24-28	Nevada State Championships, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Jul 4-7*	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI</u>	810/232-9731
Aug 11-18	World Cup V and U.S. Open, Harvey's Hotel Addison, Dallas, TX	301/299-8265

### OUTSIDE USA

Oct 14-15	Sandy Osborne Memorial Tournament, Hilton Hotel, E. Midlands, England	44522-546993
Oct 14-15	Åbne Fynsmesterskaber, Fyns BG Union, Odense, Denmark	4566-13 62 38
Oct 21-22	Frederiksberg Open '95, Frederiksberg BG Klub, Copenhagen, Denmark	4531-59 11 18
Oct 21-22	3rd Irish Championships, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	3531-668 9332
Nov 3-5	1st Japan Open, Nakano Sunplaza, Kelo Plaza Hotel, Tokyo, Japan	813-3373 3814
Nov 6	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-846 1923
Nov 9-12	NRW-Meisterschaft 1995, Senator Hotel, Kaarst/Düsseldorf, Germany	49215-150 1359
Nov 16-19	International Tournament, Intermar Kurhotel Bad Segeberg, Germany	4930-461 9624
Nov 18-19	Solihull Trophy Tournament #4, George Hotel, Solihull, England	44522-546993
Dec 4*	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-846 1923
Jan 6-7	Mary Rose Tournament, Hilton National, Portsmouth, England	44522-546993
Jan 16-21	4th Turkish Open, Conrad International Istanbul, Turkey Eitan Telefax: 972 3-672 8918	
Feb 10-11	Jarvis Trophy Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	44522-546993
Feb 15-18*	1st Monte Cassel Cup, Schlosshotel Wilhelmshöhe, Kassel, Germany	49561-898768
Mar 1-3*	Einladungsturnier, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	495 21-64314
Apr 5-8	Nordic "Wide" Open, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-40 06 07
Apr 13-14	British Open, George Hotel, Solihull, England	44522-546993
Apr 20-27*	Caribbean Open, San Juan to New York cruise tourney on Mv Zenith	4930-461 9624
May 25-26	County Cups Trophy Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	44522-546993
Jul 8-14	Monte Carlo World Championship, Loews Monte Carlo Hotel, Monaco	3392-16 21 33

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

Tak Morioka's hobby-crafted boards are all works of art. No two boards are alike. They feature: fine walnut wood, cups

handcrafted by Robert A Neuman, Crisloid checkers (checkers slide on a material playing surface; thin rubber padding underneath causes dice to bounce and roll), beadwork interior design, customized hand-painted pips, best quality hardware,

special designer fabric exterior.

You may specify your color choice of checkers and the playing surface. After that, you must trust Tak to create a work of art. Tak guarantees is boards. For more information, contact CHICAGO POINT at 312/583-6464.—Ed.



## AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1995

Top 100 through 1 Oct. 1995 with 7 tournaments remaining  
(October events: Nation's Capital, Illinois Champs, Autumn Grand Prix)



Doug Roberts	29.11	Clarine	9.03	William Counts	4.50	Gayle Wolf	2.44
Harry Cohn	29.00	Ray Fogelund	9.03	Kit Woolsey	4.50	Ed Buerger	2.40
Mike Colgan	22.88	Blake Sorem	9.00	Joe Freedman	4.49	Bob Lumbra	2.35
Abbas Zaltash	22.80	Dean Adamian	9.00	John Smulders	4.38	Art Benjamin	2.26
Walter Trice	21.69	Peter Kalba	7.77	Dean Muench	4.16	David DeVries	2.14
Harry Brown	21.53	Jack Takala	7.50	Howard Ring	4.16	Glenn Swanson	2.14
Joe Russell	21.01	Toni Wuersch	7.25	Randy Douthat	4.12	Lou Florio	2.13
Odis Chenault	20.83	Jake Jacobs	7.25	Paul Symington	3.90	Patti Beadles	2.08
David Rubin	19.91	Eden Windish	6.67	Elijah Miller	3.83	Steve Baksic	2.08
Dave Williams	18.90	Bruce Pollack	6.47	Don Parker	3.78	Priscilla Sullivan	2.06
Bob Paris	16.50	Joe Sylvester	6.40	John Jennings	3.75	James Kasarjian	2.00
Bob Koca	15.06	Wally Wolf	6.16	Alan Steffen	3.75	Lee Pflugrad	1.99
Homer Hector	14.50	Richard Armbruster	6.12	Wally Watson	3.75	Cecilia Pedroza	1.85
Paul Magriel	14.50	Herb Gurland	5.78	Bill Davis	3.63	Wayne King	1.60
Maurice Barie	14.24	Mike Pettigrew	5.75	Frank Talbot	3.63	Austin Healy	1.56
Nora Luna	13.79	Martin Lee	5.60	Mike Friedman	3.63	Janice Newman	1.56
Jim Muirhead	13.25	Bob Green	5.58	Jeff Kane	3.51	Takis Sakkalis	1.56
Todd Doucet	12.31	Paul Franks	5.29	Frank Dickerson	3.32	Jim Roston	1.54
Judy Brown	12.18	Milad Doueihy	5.20	Bill Rudd	3.20	Paul Paris	1.54
Gene Entel	11.73	Ed Johnson	5.00	Mike Rezai	3.06	Beverly Banowitz	1.41
Ray Baker	10.59	Jim Forbes	4.95	Pete Ryder	2.79	Lisa Brooks	1.29
Arnold Zousmer	10.40	Pat Gibson	4.94	Troy Longman	2.79	Mary Kuchenbrod	1.23
Paul Stebbing	9.90	Bill Hodes	4.66	Airan Friedman	2.76	Al Mason	1.17
Hal Heinrich	9.45	Randall Witt	4.66	Jolie Rubin	2.60	Edward Heiman	1.14
Chuck Stimming	9.33	Dorn Bishop	4.56	Jerry Smith	2.60	Johnnie Roberts	1.06

## THE 'BUMP' STRATEGY

Perhaps Danny Kleinman will rule on this one. The following situation happened during a social game. My opponent dropped a die. While bending over to pick it up, he accidentally bumped the board moving a majority of the checkers. Both players can not agree on the exact position before the accident.

Would you rule differently based on the match score or if you had played both players and had doubts over the clumsy player's integrity?—Sunil Balani, Hong Kong

Danny Kleinman answers: No matter what the score, the player who upsets the board does so at his own risk. Unless he can establish the position by showing all moves, his opponent's version of it governs.—D.K.

## BACKGAMMON IN THAILAND

The Thailand Open Backgammon Championships are tentatively set for 22–25 February 1996. Hotel accommodations will be quite inexpensive and the food is great. For more information, watch CHICAGO POINT, or contact Goran Hasselquist, President of the Pattaya Backgammon League at Telefax: 66-38-425189.—Dr. William Bloch, Thailand Δ



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1995 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 30 SEP.

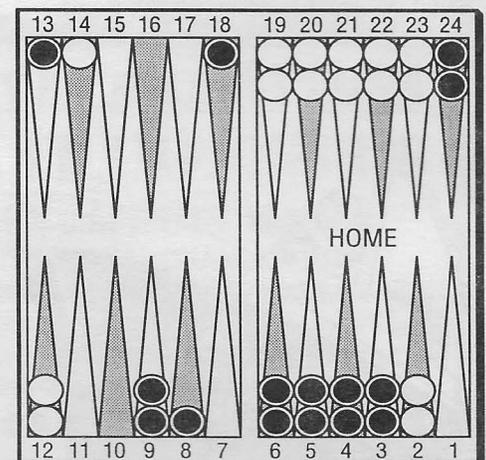
Harry Cohn	28.36	Amy Valerio	5.44	Nan Feiber	1.76	Wilcox Snellings	0.88
Neil Kazaross	27.12	Peter Kalba	5.20	Howard Ring	1.76	Andy Krenitz	0.84
Jake Jacobs	15.80	Nora Luna	5.12	Dave Cramer	1.68	René Wojtysiak	0.76
Tak Morioka	15.12	Reggie Porter	4.90	Marcy Sloan	1.68	John O'Hagan	0.72
Tim Mabee	13.72	Jeff Kane	4.56	Stu Katz	1.68	Mike Flohr	0.72
Gary Kay	11.08	Bobbie Shifrin	4.48	John Brussel	1.60	Ali Morovati	0.64
John Demian	10.84	Jolie Rubin	4.44	John Stryker	1.60	David Rockwell	0.64
Herb Roman	10.52	Alan Zimmerman	4.16	Elijah Miller	1.52	Jay Ward	0.64
Paul Franks	10.16	Georgina Flanagan	3.76	Mojie Shishineh	1.52	John Meyers	0.64
Richard Lloyd	9.44	Ralph Levy	3.76	Elaine Kehm	1.48	Larry Strommen	0.56
David Rubin	9.36	Bill Davis	3.72	Jon Hartman	1.28	Jerry Smith	0.54
Alice Kay	7.90	Stuart Thomson	3.36	Tim Serges	1.28	Barbara Levinson	0.48
Arline Levy	7.52	Yamin Yamin	3.12	Mark Murray	1.22	Tom Fahland	0.40
Bill Keefe	7.44	Leslie Lockett	2.96	Jerry Brooks	1.04	Monica Miller	0.40
Frankie Farjood	7.32	Alex Itkin	2.96	Jill Ferdinand	1.00	Mark Zoll	0.32
Phyllis Smolinski	6.88	Paul Friedman	2.82	Bruce Pollack	0.96	Patrick Desmond	0.32
Joann Feinstein	6.76	Sarg Serges	2.80	Marty Tatosian	0.96	Willie Franklin	0.32
Ed Buerger	6.72	Norma Shyer	2.80	Earl Risch	0.88	Arlyne Simon	0.24
Paul Klein	6.48	Dean Muench	2.40	Gregg Westrick	0.88	Kurt Warning	0.24
Harold Seif	6.40	Ken Bond	2.40	Mitch Pomper	0.88	Vinton Knarr	0.24
Mary Franks	6.32	Paul Ruterma	2.08	Richard Stawowy	0.88	Stan Kucharz	0.18
Phil Simborg	6.24	Roz Ferris	2.00	Roger Smith	0.88	Tim Carroll	0.16
Don Jayhan	5.76	Andy Bittman	1.84	Roland Dieter	0.88	V.W. Zimnicki	0.16

NEIL KAZAROSS edged closer to Harry Cohn by earning 5.12 September points and monthly honors. Author/analyst Jake Jacobs was 2nd with 4.16 and Harry Cohn finished 3rd with 3.44.

your move

## PROBLEM #218

Match to 9 points. Black leads White 8 to 7, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



# ASK DANNY



© 1995 by Danny Kleinman

## DID TISSONA DUMP?—THE LAST GAME

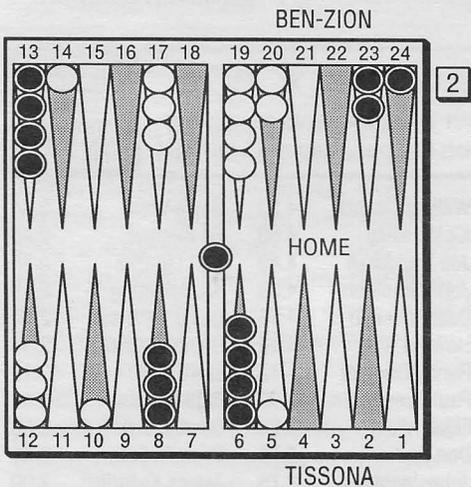
To further explore the question of whether or not Josef Tissona played poorly to allow his countryman David Ben-Zion to win the recent Monte Carlo World Championship, I reviewed the last game of their 25-point final match, annotating as if it were Mike Senkiewicz vs. Mike Svobodny. Though I disagree with Tissona's take on move #3, it's close enough for me not to think it indicative of anything, except perhaps of ignorance of the relatively high takepoint (30%) at this score. Even then, the take doesn't seem unreasonable because the 2-cube negates the usual gammon threat inherent in a back game.

I have commented on three of Tissona's plays which I criticize. All three relate to the importance of the 4-anchor. Apparently Tissona regards the 4-anchor more lightly than I. Again, like his four bad passes [see CHICAGO POINT, August 1995], these three subtle errors may stem from just one erroneous concept, and I think they fall far short of demonstrating "dumping." Dumping would stick out like a sore thumb.

Suppose Tissona had rolled a match-winning hitting deuce at his 22nd turn, or a hitting ace at his 24th turn. To lose, he would have to overlook the shot and refrain from hitting, or hit and make a similarly outrageous misplay later. Only the most gifted and experienced crook can dump without blatantly exposing his intentions. To me, Tissona appears to have played this game to win, even if his strategy was misguided as suggested.—Yours, Danny Δ

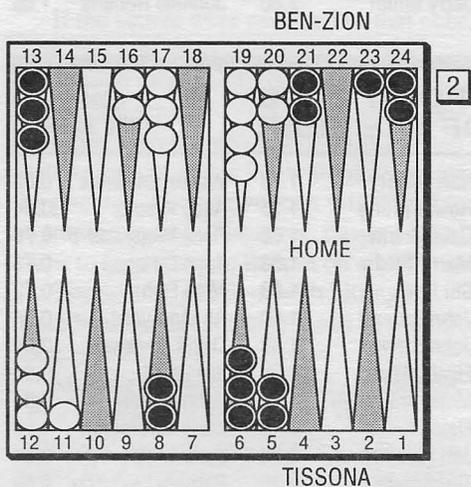
25-point Monte Carlo World Championship final match tied at 23-all. David Ben-Zion (White) vs. Josef Tissona (Black). Game #37. (Recorded by *Backgammon Magazin* editor Harald Johanni.)

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Ben-Zion (23)</b>    | <b>Tissona (23)</b>     |
| 1. 2-1: 13/11, 6/5      | 2-1: 13/11, 6/5         |
| 2. 4-4: 24/20*(2), 13/5 | 1-1: B/23, 24/23, 11/10 |
| 3. Double to 2          | Take                    |
| 4. 3-2: 20/15*          | 4-3: B/21, 13/10*       |



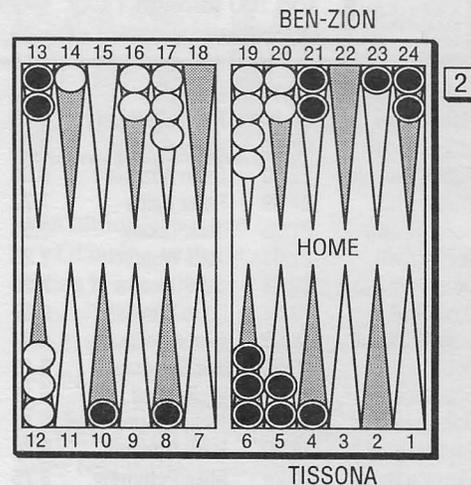
*Black played B/21, 13/10\*. I would anchor B/21, 24/21, securing a key asset permanently. Despite the greater number of men back, I would not slug it out with an opponent who has more inside points. Nonetheless, I consider the two plays close.*

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 5. 5-4: B/21, 20/15* | 2-1: B/24, 23/21 |
| 6. 6-2: 15/9, 11/9   | 3-1: 8/5, 6/5    |
| 7. 5-2: 21/14        | 4-3: 13/10, 8/4  |



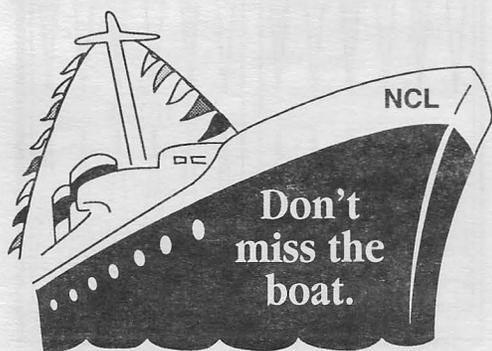
*Black played 13/10, 8/4. I believe it important to reinforce the 4-anchor: Black wants to be able to hit from there without breaking this key point. I would play 24/21 for the 3, along with either 13/9 (first choice) or 8/4 (second choice) for the 4. The acepoint has little value in this position.*

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 8. 2-1: 14/11 | 4-3: 21/14* |
|---------------|-------------|



*Black played 21/14\*. I consider this a strategic mistake. It isn't just Black's inside blot that should deter the hit but even more, the importance of keeping the 4-anchor. I strongly prefer 8/4, 24/21.*

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 9. 4-1: B/21*, 6/5              | 3-3: B/22, 24/21, 10/4* |
| 10. 6-1: B/18                   | 4-3: 14/7*              |
| 11. 3-2: B/22, 5/3*             | 6-2: B/23, 13/7         |
| 12. 6-5: 22/16, 8/3             | 4-2: 13/9*, 6/4         |
| 13. 1-1: B/23, 8/7(2)           | 4-2: 8/2*               |
| 14. 4-1: B/24, 13/9             | 5-4: 7/3, 7/2           |
| 15. 5-1: 13/8, 9/8              | 5-2: 23/21, 9/4         |
| 16. 4-3: 13/6                   | 2-1: 23/21, 4/3         |
| 17. 6-6: 24/12, 7/1*(2)         | 6-4: B/15               |
| 18. 6-3: 12/3                   | 5-1: 15/9               |
| 19. 4-1: 9/8, 9/5               | 5-5: 21/11(2)           |
| 20. 6-2: 8/2, 3/1               | 5-2: 11/6, 9/7          |
| 21. 4-2: 6/2, 3/1               | 4-4: 11/3, 7/3, 6/2     |
| 22. 6-6: 8/2(2), 6/Off(2)       | 5-3: 21/13              |
| 23. 5-1: 6/Off                  | 4-3: 13/6               |
| 24. 6-5: 5/Off(2)               | 6-3: 21/12              |
| 25. 5-5: 5/Off, 3/Off, 2/Off(2) | 4-1: 12/7 (Resigns)     |



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## Catching Up . . .

[Continued from page 1]

Let's tackle Frank's double in Position #4 first. Plugging Jellyfish data into the appropriate match equity equations yields the following: Frank's match-winning chances are 21.40% if he never doubles, 23.16% if he waits and doubles, and 24.10% if he doubles before losing his market. NICE DOUBLE, FRANK!

Taking the positions in reverse order, we come next to Tom's redouble (Position #3). Since passing puts me 4-away, 1-away Crawford, my take point is simply my equity at that score: 17%. Were Tom to lose an undoubled game, he would trail 3-away, 2-away with 40% match equity. Redoubling risks 40% to gain 17%, so Tom enters his doubling window at  $\frac{40}{57} = 70\%$ . Jellyfish thoughtfully provided these figures for the position: Tom wins 21.8% combined Gs and BGs, plus 57.1% plain games, while losing 7.2% combined Gs and BGs, and losing 14.9% plain. If he redoubles, I will win 21.1% by taking, far more than 17% when I pass. NICE TAKE, JAKE!

Tom is certainly well into his doubling window at 78.9%, but is he too good to recube in Position #3? If he never doubles, he wins  $21.8\% + 83\%$  of  $57.1\% + 40\%$  of  $13.9\% = 74.75\%$ . He is not too good.

Given that, many market losing sequences will be too good to double. It is hard to envision an effective doubling strategy that does not involve turning the cube in a position similar to this. Several strong players have told me they would pass this double. Hence, the cube turn in clear. NICE REDOUBLE, TOM!

What about my original double against Tom (Position #2)? Jellyfish says that cubeless, I win 35.2% plain, 24.6% Gs and 1.7% BGs, while losing 30.2% plain, 7.8% Gs and 0.5% BGs. Accordingly, I am approaching an initial double for money. If I double and Tom takes, I win 100% of 26.3% + 60% of 35.2% + 17% of 30.2% = 52.55%. This is more than the 50% Tom would give me by passing. Of course, this does not take into account cube ownership. While it is of less value than normal, as we saw above, it is not entirely worthless. Too, Jellyfish may not play Tom's side as effectively as it does mine.

The matter of whether or not Tom should have passed is left open. As to my double: MANDATORY DOUBLE, JAKE!

At last we return to my double of Gady (Position #1). Playing through the game with the help of Jellyfish and crunching the numbers illustrates the point of this article: the tremendous value of *doubled gammons when the doubler is 4 points away*. As for this position, [Jake's complete analysis shows that] we can say: NICE DOUBLE, JAKE!

Now we may use what we've learned from these positions to formulate an approach to cube handling while trailing in the match and needing 4 points. If the position is *especially* gammonish, it is important to double even when your opponent's take point is otherwise quite low, and even when you may be an underdog in the game.

Against Gady, I rated to win the game just 43.9% of the time, and in a money game, would be giving up over  $\frac{1}{10}$  of one point after he beavered. Frank was even worse off against Tom. He would win just 41.9%, and the

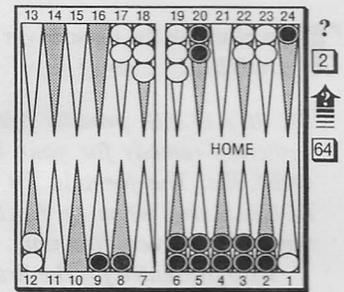
beaver coming one notch higher on the cube would cost  $1\frac{1}{2}$  points.

From the taking side, we look to Tom's take of my double. The drop point for the leader in 2-way gammonish games occurs before the game is good enough to double for money.

As a test, here is a position from a match between Paul Franks (Black) and Kurt Schurecht (White). What should they do for money? What should they do at this score? What percentages of games, gammons, etc. would you guess for each side cubeless?

### Position #5

Match to 9 pts. Paul (Black) trails Kurt (White), 7-5. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



*Answer:* Black wins (cubeless) 0.2% BGs, 21.0% Gs and 39.7 plain. He loses 0.6% BGs, 7.6% Gs and 30.9% plain. He is worth 0.505 points with a centered cube, only 0.45 after doubling: NO MONEY DOUBLE, NO BEAVER.

Finally, at the given match score, if White passes, White has 60% match equity. Based on the cubeless figures, White gets only 58.95% by taking. DOUBLE AND PASS. NICE DOUBLE, PAUL! (Too bad you lost.)

And the rest of you: I know you all applied what you learned to figure out the above problems perfectly. All I can say is: NICE FIGURING, EVERYBODY. Δ

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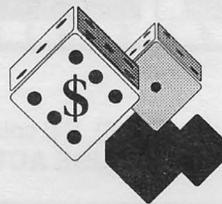
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# DOUBLE . . . now?

*An Elixir or Snake Oil?*

Book Review by Walter Trice

Dr. J.L.'s *Elixir presents Double . . . now? An Authentic Cube Remedy* by James Lortz. Published by Vantage Press, Inc., 516 W. 34th Street, New York, NY 10001. Soft cover, 267 pages. Price: \$16.95.

The blurb on the back cover of *DOUBLE . . . now?* says:

*DR. JL's ELIXIR proudly presents an authentic remedy for your Doubling CUBE ills. The formula for when to DOUBLE and when to TAKE is presented for the very first time.*

*Also presented for the first time is the formula that expresses the value of cube ownership. These two newly discovered formulas are elegantly merged to solve one of mankind's oldest ailments: BACKGAMMON.*

Actually, Lortz's first formula is a trivial rearrangement of rollout data, and the second amounts to the claim that cube access increases your winning chances by an amount equal to the total pip count for both sides divided by 6400. Lortz seems to believe that if you know when to take, then you also know when to double (or redouble) because it's wrong to double unless your opponent should drop.

Lortz's concept of the cube has long been refuted by millions of bearoff positions for which equities and cube actions have been precisely calculated. The largest such collection has been compiled by Hugh Sconyers on CD-ROM.

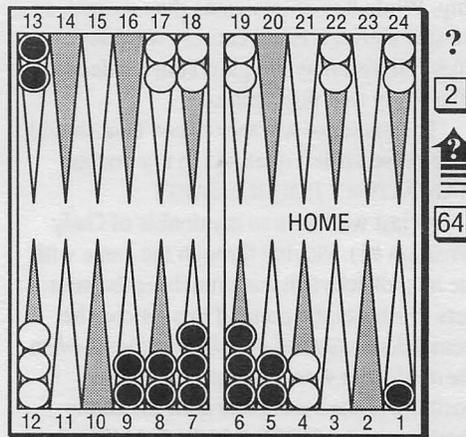
The book contains bad logic, pointless algebraic meanderings, and poorly-designed 3-dimensional graphs that fail to convey useless information. It is written in an awkward, verbose style. Grammatical errors abound.

The "meat" of the book is 100+ positions with computer rollout data by Ton Johnson's "Expert Backgammon," version 1.99d, and adjustments by Lortz. The rollout results are completely unreliable, presumably because of the program's inadequate checker play.

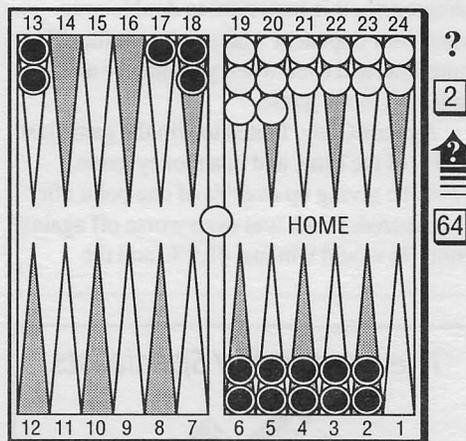
Here are five cube action problems from the book. If you wish to think of these positions as a "pop quiz," score yourself as a weak intermediate if you don't get all the cube actions right. Experts should be able

to estimate the equities to within  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a point or so, except in position D where the permissible margin of error is 0.02 if you do it in your head and 0.000001 if you use pencil and paper. In each position, Black is on shake and the pip counts are shown:

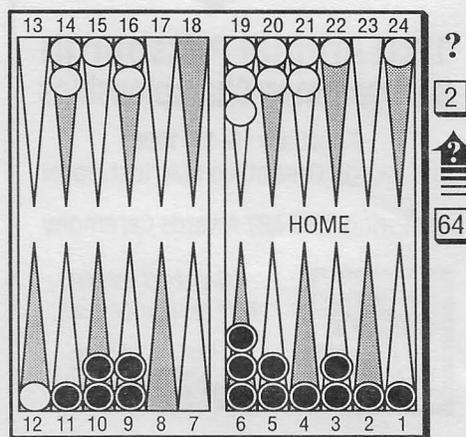
**Position A** (Page 84). Pip count: Black = 110, White = 131. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



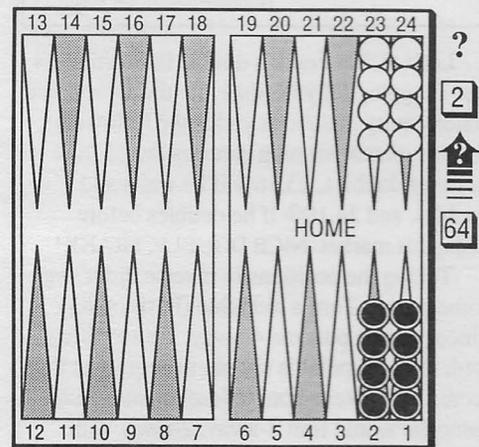
**Position B** (Page 140). Pip count: Black = 119, White = 78. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



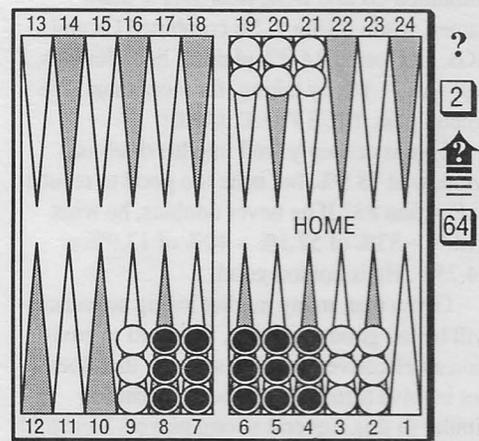
**Position C** (Page 106). Pip count: Black = 90, White = 103. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



**Position D** (Page 190). Pip count: Black = 12, White = 12. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



**Position E** (Page 212). Pip count: Black = 90, White = 213. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



The following table gives my recommended cube actions, equity estimates for Black if he doubles to 2 and White takes (so that 1.00 is the cutoff between a drop and a take) and Lortz's evaluations:

Cube Action	Equity	Lortz
A. ReDbl, drop	1.2	Dbl, drop or take
B. ReDbl, drop	1.25	Early Dbl, take
C. ReDbl, drop	1.15	Dbl, drop or take
D. ReDbl, take	0.944	Dbl, drop or take
E. No Dbl	0.45	Dbl, drop

There is one analytical gem I can't resist including in this review, since otherwise it may never come to light. (I doubt that anyone will ever again spend as much time studying *DOUBLE . . . now?* as I have.) On page 193, Lortz poses a problem which has not heretofore been addressed by theoreticians:

"A variation of the cube could be defined where the value of a game is  $\frac{3}{2}$  instead of one."

For the benefit of you non-mathemati-

cians, just imagine that you played backgammon for \$1.50 per point instead of the usual \$1.00. The question is what effect this "variation" would have on doubling strategy. Lortz's analysis produces the following equation:

$$z = \frac{(\frac{3}{2})y + \frac{1}{4}}{x + y + 2}$$

where x is the doubling player's gammon rate, y is his opponent's gammon rate, and z is the probability of winning needed to double. In the special case of no gammons, x = y = 0 and the equation reduces to z = 1/4, or 112.5%!

**IN SHORT**, the book is worthless. Don't read it. Of course, I know that some of you will, much as Stephen King characters are often done in by an irresistible compulsion to dig up the Buried Thing. Hence I feel obliged to issue one final caveat.

Lortz's layout is rather busy, and he often uses as many as six distinct fonts on the same page. The result can be, shall we say, unsettling. A few Dramamine tablets before you open the book would be a sensible precaution.—*Walter Trice* Δ

## Chicago Bar Point Club 1000-to-1 Club

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David Rubin	11	1 Feb 94
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Neil Kazaross	10	19 Sep 95

## AMALGAMATION

There's good news and bad news with Backgammon on Board III (Miami to Key West cruise, 19-22 Jan. 1996 on NCL). The bad news is that the higher priced cabins are sold out. The good news is that inside cabins still remain at \$662 per person plus port charges (free airfare included). Come on board. Call The Cruise Consultants at 800/478-0433 today...

Visiting the Bar Point Club in September: **Wilhelm Rezac** (Germany)... Chicago area BG players really surprised **Andy Krenitz** (IL) with a 40th birthday bash on 23 September... Congratulations to **Russell & Martha Sands** who were married in Boca Raton, FL on 23 Sept.... **Marcel Mommers** (TX) informs us that San Antonio Backgammon play has moved to the "I Don't Know Yet Lounge" The club meets Fridays. Call Marcel at 210/606-0025... The Twin Cities Backgammon Club is up and running again thanks to **Steve Maas**. Join them Thursdays at Pracna On Main. For information, call Steve at 612/378-1536... The Sangamon Valley Backgammon Association is back in action meeting Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M. at Brewhaus, 617 E. Washington, Springfield. The new contact person is **Ben Zemaitis**. Call him at 217/483-4028... **Stu Katz** (IL) saw a name from the Chicago backgammon past on the Internet: **Dean Morehouse** (FL) who is looking for BG action in Orlando or Tampa. Contact Dean at deanmor@ix.netcom.com... **Linda Woods** (IL) sent us a full page Virginia Slims ad appearing in the October *Cosmopolitan* of a man and woman playing backgammon. The caption reads, "Who says you can't make the first move?" Would somebody tell the man that he's holding his cup upside down!... Neil

Kazaross (IL) is off for a vacation in Newfoundland... Do you have your copy of the new July 1995 **Kent Goulding** (MD) International Rating List? **Billy Horan** (NY) leads the way with 1831. To order, send Kent a minimum \$5 donation (plus postage of \$2 U.S. or \$5 overseas) to: 9201 Marseille Dr.; Potomac, MD 20854... New York Chess & Backgammon is opening "House of Games" one floor (4th) above their premises at 120 W. 41st St. in New York. The store will carry books and game equipment. Order from their toll-free number: 800/520-1809... The last time Pub Club regular **Mark Murray** (IL) shaved his beard was 2 April 1987. Why? "Because my lawyer suggested that I go before the judge clean-shaven." Δ



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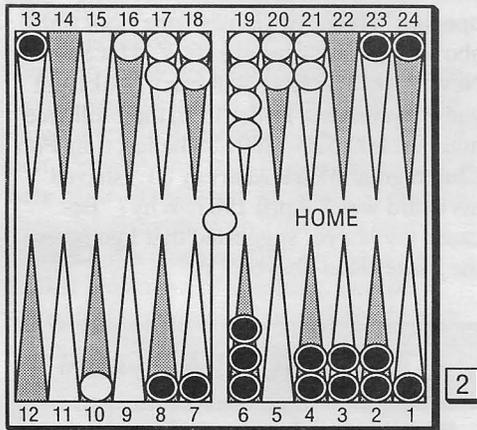


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**PROBLEM #217  
SOLVED**

by Jake Jacobs

Match to 9 points. Black leads White 4 to 2. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**

This Labor Day weekend in Indianapolis, the Indiana Open ran for the 43rd time. As is usual at a good tournament, I saw my share of interesting positions. This one looks like something contrived by CHICAGO POINT for a "Problem of the Month," but it actually arose during my second round match with Minnesota's Ralph Stowell. What's a boy to do?

There are four plays worth considering. They are: **24/22, 8/7**, making the bar and stepping up to the edge; **13/10\***, hitting a second man; **24/22, 23/22**, anchoring up at the edge; and **7/5, 6/5**, building the 5-point.

Though I had, and have my own reasons for ranking the four, I did 1296 Jellyfish rollouts for each position that resulted following the candidate plays. Since the results confirmed my judgement, I have the utmost respect for the perspicacity shown by the little sea monster.

Black leads White 4 to 2 in a 9-point match. If he redoubles, White has only 24% match equity after passing. With 24% game-winning chances, White may take and redouble for the match. Since White can certainly find more effective use for the cube than that, her actual take point is probably around 20%. (Theoretically, it's as low as 16.5% if all of White's losses were for 4 points, but all wins were for 8.) Further, if redoubled, White's gammon-losses are nearly irrelevant.

Jellyfish tries to handle the cube as though playing for money, so it is impossible to accurately simulate the motion of a match cube, but I set the settlement point at 0.650. In a gammonless game, each player would pass with less than 17.5%. With

gammons factored in, Jelly will pass takes and take passes, but we may at least get a feel for what the cube might accomplish.

Now that we are ready to proceed, let's dispose of the play that makes the bar (**24/22, 8/7**). Jellyfish says this play wins at the cubeless rate of 0.8% backgammons, 14.9% gammons, and 18% plain games, while losing 2% backgammons, 19.5% gammons, and 44.8% plain games for a net match equity of 57.47%. (Trust me on this!)

This play tries to do two different things, and so does neither very well. Stepping up with one man cannot be as good as with two. On the other side of the board, building a broken prime that allows White to enter on two points cannot be as good as building a solid prime that allows entry on only one point.

The neat thing about the next three plays is that each is so radically different. Hitting (**13/10\***) seems like an effective approach. Two checkers on the bar, a five point board . . . life is good. Jellyfish's numbers confirm that hitting is quite a bit better than building the bar. Black will win 0.5% backgammons, 19.6% gammons, and 17.8% plain games. He will lose 1.9% backgammons, 16.3% gammons, and 43.9% plain games for a match equity of 59.73%. (Again, these are cubeless figures.)

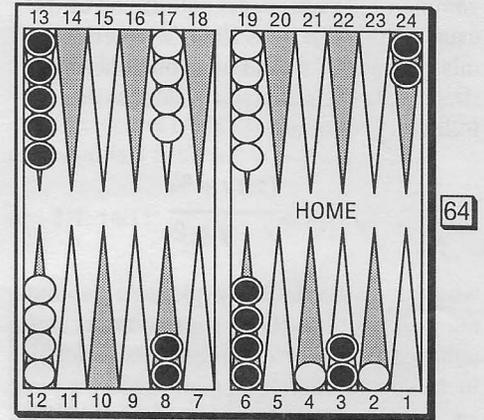
Figures involving the cube strongly suggest that this play will lead to more effective cube turns than building either the bar, or anchoring if Black owns the cube.

If the scores were reversed so that cube turns had real teeth, then hitting would have much more to recommend it. It is conceivable that, given a very weak opponent, one who has no understanding of match strategy and is likely to miscalculate the position, hitting two men might lead to an improper drop. However, this is a lot of chips to be putting in the pot on a bluff.

The second problem with hitting is more basic to the position. Look at the blitz setup shown above right.

Making the 4-point is pretty automatic. Let's formulate a general rule for blitz positions: *Making an inner board point is better than hitting a second checker.* This is a general rule, and the ability to immediately double in some positions may override, but if we apply the rule to our problem position, we can suppose that building the 5-point will be better than hitting. Before we confirm that, we will look at anchoring.

Jellyfish says that after anchoring (**24/21, 23/21**), Black wins 0.5% backgammons, 19.7% gammons, and 18.1% plain games. Black loses 0.8% backgammons, 18.4% gammons, and 42.5% plain games for a grand total of 59.91% match equity. Cubeless, anchoring proves barely better

Tourney game. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**

than hitting! This one is too close to call.

Glancing at the results with a live cube, hitting is much better if Black owns the cube, somewhat worse if the cube is centered, and much worse if White owns the cube. While hitting and anchoring are almost equivalent plays cubeless, hitting is more volatile than anchoring with the cube in play. Hitting fares best if Black owns the cube.

Finally we come to making the 5-point (**7/5, 6/5**). (Did you guess that I would save the best for last? I write for a smart crowd.) The numbers are 0.8% backgammons won, 21.6% gammons and 16.8% plain games vs. losses of 1.2% backgammons, 17.9% gammons and 41.5% plain games. Black will win 60.52% of his matches. Making the 5-point also significantly outperforms its competitors in *all* live cube variations, so rethink your money play accordingly.

Why is making the 5-point so strong? Partly because it is a permanent asset. As such, it has value beyond whatever it may immediately accomplish in furthering Black's game plan. In the short run, it provides flexibility: anchoring is a prelude to running, while hitting is an attempt to quickly blitz. If White fans after the 5-point is made, all Black's 1s, 2s and 3s play well.

The 5-point simultaneously achieves two other short-term goals. It extends Black's prime and reduces White's ability to reenter. Still, it is the permanence that is key. When things go poorly, Black may still anchor, but if White enters now, Black may never make the 5-point.

**WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED** from analyzing this position that will serve us in the future?:

1. Strive to make points of lasting value,
2. In blitzes, making an inner board point is better than hitting a second checker, and
3. Volatile plays work best when the player owns the cube.

That's a lot to have learned from three little pips. Δ

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### WINNER'S CORNER



Aug.-Oct. 1995

**Atlanta Backgammon Monthly** (Atlanta, GA; 27 Aug.)... OPEN: 1-Dave Cardwell, 2-Samra Hadden.

**1995 Argentine Championship** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Alberto Aguirre, Carlos Roccatagliata, Juan Rosa, Graciela Dodera. JUNIOR WINNERS: Raúl Katz, Alejandro Sucharsky, Marcos Kaprielian, Fernando Suaya. BEGINNER WINNERS: Esteban Bacari, Marcelo Vornetti, Juan Carlos Carabajal, Ariel Ruiz.

**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 4 Sep.)... OPEN: 1-Shep Rogers, 2-Don Rae; 1C-Marc Mostacci, 2C-Steve Nelson. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Farish Ramzi, 2-Chris Gawan-Taylor; 1C-Lesley McFarlane, 2C-Ronnie Nutzati.

**5th Mitteleuropa Tournament** (Nova Gorica, Slovenija; 8-10 Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (52): 1-Nino DiBella (ITA), 2-Nicola Pagano (ITA), 3/4-Gerald Beck (GER) / Gady Carmeli (ISR); 1C-Claus Weissbarth (GER), 2C-Vittorio Danesc (ITA), 3C/4C-Andrea Bolzoni (ITA) / Evert Van Eijck (HOL); 1LC-Walter Jarc (CAN), 2LC-Dino Visentin (ITA); LADIES PRIZE: Sally Gould (USA). INTERMEIDATE (46): 1-Axel Müller (GER), 2-Giuseppe Baù (ITA), 3/4-Thomas Gettwart (GER) / Massimo Crippa (ITA); 1C-

Andreas Humke (GER), 2C-Michele Molinari (ITA), 3C/4C-Gordan Markotic (CRO) / Mario Viceconte (ITA); 1LC-Peter Huber (GER), 2LC-Ingeborg Haussleiter (GER); LADIES PRIZE: Cordula Thiess (GER). BEGINNER (18): 1-Riccardo Chiesa (ITA), 2-Bendy Mocova (CESKA); 1C-Giuseppe Abbenante (ITA); 1LC-Elena Grigore (ROM); LADIES PRIZE: Vandy Mocova (CESKA). WARM-UP: 1-Axel Müller (GER), 2-Thomas Gettwart (GER). SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Dirk Schiemann (GER), 2-Gady Carmeli (ISR). ONE-POINT MATCH WINNERS: #1-Andrea Sirch (ITA), #2-Roberto Spadavecchia (ITA), #3-Sergio Fragiaco (ITA)... *Director Marco Fornasir reports success with 17 countries represented. The presence of the Slovenian State Secretary of Tourism Peter Vesenjaj during the dinner gala shows the importance of backgammon to this country.*

**Sunday Bimonthly Tournament** (Milwaukee, WI; 10 Sep.)... OPEN (6): 1/2/3-Fred Gehlhoff (MI) / Bob Holyon / Merrill Schragar. LIMITED (5): 1-Marv Arnol; 1C-Bruce Russell.

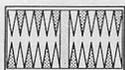
**CIBC Annual Open Tournament** (Lacon, IL; 24 Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (26): 1-Kurt Schurecht, 2-Bill Davis, 3-J.A. Miller, 4-Peter Kalba; 1C-Gary Daniels, 2C-Fouad Malouf. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Mary Vitali, 2-Elijah Miller; 1C-Elaine Kehm... *Linda Woods did a fine job in her first solo directing effort. The one-day event began with a backgammon picnic on Saturday with Cliff Mayoh cooking up the steaks.*

**Towpath Inn Tournament—ABT** (Turin, NY; 29

Sep.-1 Oct.)... OPEN (21): 1-Bob Koca (PA), 2-Eden Windish (Canada), 3-Don Parker (NY).

**New York City Open** (New York, NY; 30 Sep.)... OPEN (25): 1-Rick Barabino, 2-Lynn Erlich.

**2nd German Open** (Brakel, Germany; 1-5 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Xavier Braun, 2-Jochen Lücke, 3/4-Flemming Anderson (Denmark) / Emil Mortuk (USA); 1C-Thomas Töpfer, 2C-Martin Messerschmidt; 1LC-Peter Heitmüller. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Siegfried Weiß, 2-Charly Franck, 3/4-Andreas Humke / Günther Holzinger; 1C-Dirk van Leeuwen, 2-Reinhard Berkholtz; 1LC-Alex Kotzoris. BEGINNER: 1-Frank Brinckmann, 2-Hans-Peter Janzen, 3/4-Mike Friedrich / Ralf Schlenkert; 1C-Anja Ewers, 2C-Uwe Köller; 1LC-Katja Sommaro. BLITZ 50 (64x8): 1-Leonid Riskin, 2-Gernot Blum, 3/4-Reinhard Berkholtz / Xavier Braun. TEAMS OF 3: 1-Lions (Holzinger, Beck, Rindisbacher (Switzerland), 2-International: Ressu, Cruz, Riskin. AUKTION: 1-Dieter Siegfried, 2-Matthais Körner, 3.4-Soren Betak (Denmark) / Franz-Josef Schrudde. SUPER JACKPOT I: 1-Ralf Jonas, 2-Frank Talbot (USA). SUPER JACKPOT II: 1-Matthias Körner, 2-Wolfgang Griese. LADIES CUP I: 1-Birgit Scheuerling, 2-Claudia Meyer. LADIES CUP II: 1-Judith Hentschel, 2-Friederike Kaiser. TENNIS: Dr. C. Afchani. ARCHERY: Klaus-Peter Seelig. NINEPINS: Michael Höfener. MINI-GOLF: Carsten Joh. MISS GERMAN OPEN: Birgit Scheuerling. MR. GERMAN OPEN: Dr. C. Afchani... *Andreas "Bonzo" Born reports success at the second running of this event. Δ*



*Backgammon Agentur*

*Höfener & Sauer*

proudly presents



# Caribbean Open

International Backgammon Tournament

aboard the cruise ship

**Mv Zenith ★★★★★**

from San Juan, Puerto Rico to New York City

**20th-27th April 1996**

**US \$15,000.00 Added + extra prizes**

## Prices:

Entry fee ..... US \$1,500  
(No registration fee)

### **Aboard Ship**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Double, inside .....	US \$1,313
Double, outside .....	US \$1,605
Double outside deluxe .....	US \$1,715
Single supplement .....	50% of double rate

*Rates include 7-day cruise, full board,  
and all harbor fees*

## Reservations:

**Backgammon Agentur  
Höfener & Sauer**

Kolbergerstr. 6  
13357 Berlin, Germany  
Phone: ++49/30/461 9624  
Fax: ++49/30/461 9623

*Tournament limited to 128 players  
Reservation Deadline: 31st January 1996*

## Program:

### **Saturday, 20th of April**

*San Juan, Puerto Rico*  
Arrival of participants  
11:45 pm ..... Departure

### **Sunday, 21st of April**

*St. Thomas*  
7:30 am-6:00 pm ..... Daytrip  
10:00 pm ..... Warm-up  
11:00 pm ..... Jackpots

### **Monday, 22nd of April**

*St. Maarten*  
7:00 am-6:00 pm ..... Daytrip  
10:00 pm ..... Superjackpot with  
extra prizes

### **Tuesday, 23rd of April**

*At sea*  
2:00 pm ..... Start of Tournament

### **Wednesday, 24th of April**

*At sea*  
1:00 pm .... Players Auction: Final 16  
2:00 pm ..... Tournament continues  
2:30 pm ..... Start of Consolation  
9:30 pm ..... Quarterfinals

### **Thursday, 25th of April**

*Bermuda*  
8:00 am-4:00 pm ..... Daytrip  
8:00 pm ..... Semifinals  
8:30 pm ..... Start of Last Chance

### **Friday, 26th of April**

*At sea*  
2:00 pm ..... Finals  
9:30 pm ..... Awards Ceremony

### **Saturday, 27th of April**

*New York, U.S.A.*  
8:00 am ..... Arrival in New York City

