



Hasty Plays by Duane Jensen

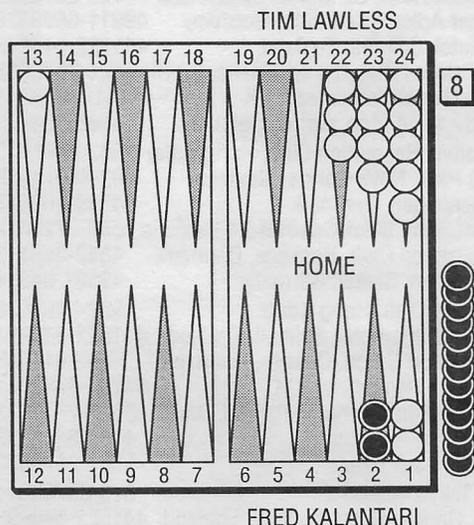
RUNNING OFF THE ACE-POINT

If you're at a party with a group of strangers and don't want to make conversation about the usual topics such as the weather, family, or the job, try steering the conversation to dentistry or flying. Everyone seems to have their personal horror story about some agony they've experienced in a dentist's chair or on an airplane. With all the good things that happen in our lives, it's funny how we tend to remember best and share most eagerly, our painful experiences.

Once the party talk picks up on these subjects, people turn the conversation into a competition. Each begins his story with: "You think that was bad? Listen to what happened to me!"

I've heard many backgammon stories begin the same way. People must experience a lot of pain at the backgammon table. I once asked Fred Kalantari if he could remember his most painful backgammon loss. Without any hesitation, Fred said, "Certainly. I'll set up the position."

Money Game. Kalantari (Black) vs. Tim Lawless (White). **WHITE TO PLAY 6-4.**



Fred explained, "Tim Lawless, my only opponent, held an 8-cube in a money game. My only question was how many points I would win: 8, 16 or 24. Tim played his 6-4 from 12 to 2. Now I was really feeling confident about getting a BG!" (In positions such as these with an anchor on the opponent's ace point, you should run one man out of your opponent's home table if possible to reduce the backgammon threat.) "I rolled an ace, and of course Tim hit, or I wouldn't be telling you this story. Against Tim's three point board, I still thought I had good gammon chances, especially if I could roll a big double, but . . .

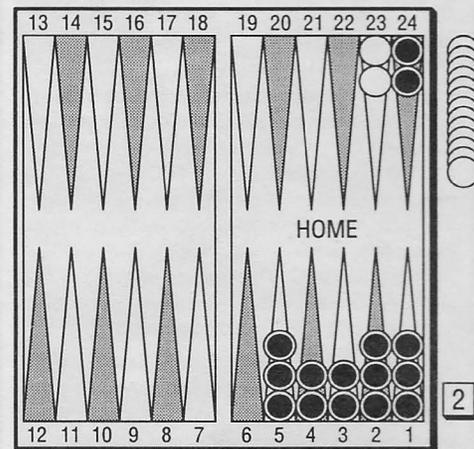
"I've lost bigger cubes, more points, and more money before, but this was my most painful loss because I was so confident of winning."

I DON'T THINK Tim made a "hasty play" by playing the 6-4 to his 2-point. He knew better, but didn't want to give Fred the satisfaction of backgammoning him with double aces.

I have seen many "hasty plays" made

from the ace point anchor. The usual play is running part way out to escape the backgammon.

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



In this chouette, the captain played his 3-1 from 24 to 20. He should play 5 to 1, keeping the ace point anchor. The ace point blocks double-1s while risking nothing. If White rolls an ace and Black misses the blot, White would need a roll of double-3s or better to escape the backgammon whether he held the ace point or had run part way out with the 3-1.

In positions of this type, don't break from the ace point anchor unless you can get one man all the way out. Δ

SANDS HOTEL CLOSURES

After 44 years of business, the Sands Hotel closed its doors on 30 June. Owner Sheldon Adelson plans a \$1.5 billion, 6000 room resort on the property with the existing buildings to be torn down this fall.

Through the years, the Sands hosted many backgammon tournaments, most recently, the Nevada State Championship in January 1993.



CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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VICTORY IS SWEETER . . .

I read with interest Linda Woods' editorial "Hedging is a Sign of Weakness" in last month's CHICAGO POINT. I find that I agree with her philosophy 100%. Used to be that I felt that hedging was good for the game, especially if a good player agreed to hedge "even-money" with a weaker one. What a magnanimous gesture by the expert, an example of good sportsmanship. Malarkey.

It seems to me that if you have worked hard enough on your game to achieve "favorite-dom," you don't really owe your opponent anything. Hedging costs the favorite money. Period.

If I am the favorite and my opponent wants to hedge, then I ask for odds. Say, a 6-to-5 split or something. Favorites appreciate that you don't want to go this far and get nothing for it. Been there, done that.

[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

carlcole@alumni.sils.umich.edu

* Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

NATIONAL

Jul 4-7	Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI	810/232-9731
Jul 13	Midtown "Sweet 16" Invitational, Midtown Club, New York, NY	212/935-9800
Jul 13-14*	Summer Open Tournament, Promenade Cardroom, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jul 14	Northern Ohio Monthly Tournament, Andrew's Brews, Akron, OH	330/966-2811
Jul 17	RSCARDS Summer 1996 Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	301/294-2212
Jul 18	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jul 21	Backgammon By The Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Jul 21	Milwaukee Sunday Bimontly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Jul 21	Beverly Hills Monthly Tournament, Clarine's, Beverly Hills, CA	310/273-1632
Jul 27	Austin Bimonthly Sunday Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin TX	512/261-8518
Jul 28		
Aug 2-4	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Aug 3	CBOB First Saturday Monthly Tournament, Clubroom, Chicago, IL	312/922-0404
Aug 4*	Steve Hast's Summer Tourney/Cookout, Hast Residence, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Aug 11	Summer Cool Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Aug 11-18	World Cup V and U.S. Open, Harvey's Hotel Addison, Dallas, TX	301/299-8265
Aug 18*	CIBC Summer Sizzler, Sly Fox Pub, Lacon, IL	309/686-6662
Aug 18	Backgammon By The Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Aug 22*	Special Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Aug 25*	Northern Ohio Monthly Tournament, Andrew's Brews, Akron, OH	330/966-2811
Aug 30-Sep 2	<u>44th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Aug 31*	Beverly Hills Monthly Tournament, Clarine's, Beverly Hills, CA	310/273-1632
Sep 7*	Midtown "Sweet 16" Invitational, Midtown Club, New York, NY	212/935-9800
Sep 7*	CBOB First Saturday Monthly Tournament, Clubroom, Chicago, IL	312/922-0404
Sep 15*	Backgammon By The Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Sep 20-22	<u>Minnesota State Champs, Minneapolis Athletic Club, Minneapolis, MN</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
Sep 27-29	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Sep 28*	Beverly Hills Monthly Tournament, Clarine's, Beverly Hills, CA	310/273-1632
Sep 29*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/583-6464
Oct 3-6	<u>Illinois State Champs & America Cup, Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, IL</u>	<u>847/945-7801</u>
Oct 11-13	<u>Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0604</u>
Oct 18-20	<u>Big Apple Series, Location TBA</u>	<u>201/833-2915</u>
Oct 25-27	<u>Backgammon in the Berkshires, Oak & Spruce Center, South Lee, MA</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Oct 25-27*	Autumn Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Diego, CA	619/294-2007
Nov 6-10	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Nov 29-Dec 1	<u>2nd Thanksgiving Tournament, Best Western Hotel, Akron, OH</u>	<u>216/966-2811</u>
Dec 6-8	<u>Gammon Assoc. Invitational, Holiday Inn, Woodland Hills, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Jul 5-7	Monte-Carlo Warm-up Weekend, Salon Grand Prix, Loews Hotel, Monaco	3392-162133
Jul 6-7	Nat'l BG Queen's Cup, Watermill Hotel, Hemel Hempstead, England	44161-9453741
Jul 8-14	Monte Carlo World Championship, Loews Monte Carlo Hotel, Monaco	3392-162 33
Jul 15-16*	4th Nice Open Championship, Lido Plage Restaurant, Nice, France	3393-879438
Jul 16-19	Riviera's Cup Championship, Hotel Martinez, Cannes, France	331-43591080
Jul 19-21*	Hanko Tournament, Hanko Casino, Hanko, Finland	3580-676258
Aug 1-4	2nd Bad Segeberg Open, Intermar Kurhotel, Bad Segeberg, Germany	4930-4619624
Aug 5*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tourney, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-8461923
Aug 15-18	Palace Summer Champs, Badrutt's Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Aug 16-18	Franken Ganz Open II, Hotel Schwarzer Adler, Uttenreuth, Germany	49911-6699678
Aug 17-18	S.A.C. Trophy Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	441522-546993
Aug 22-25	Rio de Janeiro Tournament, Miramar Palace Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5521-2676033
Aug 30-Sep 1	Bass British Festival, Watermill Hotel, Hemel Hempstead, UK	44161-945 3741
Aug 31-Sep 1	De Jydske Mesterkaber, Århus Backgammon Club, Århus, Denmark	4586-134963
Sep 2*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tourney, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-8461923
Sep 6-8	6th Mitteleuropa Tournament, Casinò Park, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392-40074658
Sep 7-8	DM Doubles, Selskabslokalerne, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-400607
Sep 14-18	Balkan International Open Tournament, Duni Black Sea Resort, Bulgaria	359-2723612
Sep 28-29*	Sjælland Open 1996, Roskilde Backgammon Club, Roskilde, Denmark	4542-366112
Sep 29-Oct 4	3rd German Open, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Oct 4-6	Asian Championships, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-8461923
Oct 5-6	Sandy Osborne Memorial Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	441522-546993
Oct 12-13*	Abne Fyns Mesterkaber, Fyns Backgammon Union, Odense, Denmark	4565-911995
Oct 25-27	Two Nations Cup, Watermill Hotel, Hemel Hempstead, UK	44161-9453741
Oct 25-28	Rio de Janeiro Internat'l Tournament, Hotel Intercontinental, Rio, Brazil	5521-2676033
Oct 30-Nov 3*	Grand Prix de Suisse, Lugano, Switzerland	4189-6208982
Oct 31-Nov 3*	First São Paulo Open, Club Homs, São Paulo, Brazil	5521-2676033
Nov 2-4	2nd Japan Open, Nakano Sun Plaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733814
Nov 15-16*	Townharbour TT Trophy Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	441522-546993

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

However, they would also appreciate a little respect, too. I don't want to appear arrogant, but I don't want to pass out twenty dollar bills, either!

As the underdog, don't be afraid to win! You will, at least a third of the time. But if you still want to hedge, okay. Just ask yourself if an objective third party would bet on you even-money in your upcoming match. If not, then you can't expect your expert opponent to do it by

hedging even with you, right? Show a little respect, but *no fear*. Offer a few extra bucks. You are going to lose them in the long run, anyway. Pay your respects to the expert, then kick his butt!

Better yet, try Linda's way. Don't hedge a penny! Victory is much sweeter that way. I guarantee it.—“Cool” Ray Fogelund, Taft, CA



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1996

Compiled through 27 May 1996 after 7 tournaments
(Coming 4-7 Jul.: Michigan Summer Champs, 2-4 Aug. 1000 Islands)



John O'Hagan	23.03	Kevin Muench	5.86	Gus Contos	3.79	Jeff Acierno	2.16
Jake Jacobs	22.88	Elijah Miller	5.70	Odis Chenault	3.79	Janice Newman	2.08
David Jaffe	22.68	Francois Margot	5.67	Jerry Ungar	3.43	Larry Deckel	1.88
Art Benjamin	16.50	Reza Nowbar	5.67	Frank Dickerson	3.33	Lee Pflugrad	1.61
Ernest Ho	15.21	David Wells	5.67	Georgina Flanagan	3.32	Gary Fries	1.57
Marc Ingenoso	13.30	Ray Glaeser	5.67	Paul Friedman	3.20	Wally Wolf	1.57
Bruce Pollack	12.93	Jolie Rubin	5.60	Pete Ryder	3.15	Jill Ferdinand	1.56
Kent Goulding	11.53	Judy Collins	5.58	Ray Baker	3.15	Kandice Kane	1.50
Rob Maier	11.44	Bob Koca	5.38	Ron Weiner	2.89	George Foster	1.38
Harry Cohn	11.34	James Rosten	5.20	Jeff Kaiserman	2.84	Adam Tyson	1.33
Abdi Zaltash	11.34	Dean Adamian	4.80	Ray Bills	2.84	Bruce Ballance	1.19
Wally Watson	11.34	Jack Kissane	4.44	Alkis Pappas	2.78	Harold Roberson	1.19
Dave Cardwell	11.20	Bob Bishop	4.44	George Photias	2.76	Greg Bradfield	1.00
Carl Adamec	10.96	Hersel Namdar	4.16	John Brooks	2.75	Peaches Stewart	0.96
Kit Woolsey	10.40	Jim Mieske	4.16	Bob Lumbra	2.56	Gary Gardner	0.94
Greg Lilley	8.35	Clarine	4.13	Ed Johnson	2.56	Walt Swan	0.94
Mario Sequeira	8.25	Ron Bruns	4.12	Russ Hoser	2.40	Bruce Russell	0.93
Tak Morioka	7.72	Drew Giovanis	3.87	Keith Jackson	2.38	Boris Mindich	0.70
Blake Sorem	7.60	Doug Roberts	3.85	Reggie Porter	2.36	Al Goyburu	0.67
Steve Petersen	7.60	Mike Ungerleider	3.82	Ali Haddad	2.36	Kwong Chan	0.60
Tim Mabee	6.40	Ray Gronek	3.82				



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1996 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 JUNE

Neil Kazaross	15.48	Bill Davis	4.20	John Stryker	2.56	Tak Morioka	0.80
Richard Lloyd	13.84	John Demian	4.16	Marty Tatosian	2.40	Sarg Serges	0.80
Reggie Porter	10.64	Tim Serges	4.08	David Rubin	2.16	Elaine Kehm	0.80
Herb Roman	10.32	Mary Franks	4.00	Jerry Brooks	2.00	Fred Gehlhoff	0.72
Tim Mabee	9.96	Bill Keefe	3.92	Dean Muench	1.88	Ralph Levy	0.60
Paul Friedman	9.44	Wendy Kaplan	3.92	Stu Katz	1.76	Marv Arnol	0.60
Andy Krenitz	8.88	Bob Koca	3.84	Henry Gray	1.60	Nora Luna	0.56
Peter Kalba	8.04	Leslie Lockett	3.80	Marcy Sloan	1.52	Peaches Stewart	0.56
Jake Jacobs	7.52	Paul Klein	3.76	Harold Seif	1.28	Roz Ferris	0.56
Harry Cohn	6.80	Arline Levy	3.52	Russell Harris	1.28	Jolie Rubin	0.46
Ken Bond	5.60	Norma Shyer	3.48	Ernest Ho	1.12	Richard Stawowy	0.44
Phyllis Smolinski	5.42	Phil Simborg	3.44	Wally Wolf	0.96	Tom Fahland	0.40
Paul Franks	4.64	Gary Kay	3.44	Darryl Purpose	0.88	Bruce Pollack	0.32
Jeff Kane	4.40	Georgina Flanagan	3.36	Jon Vieter	0.88	Elaine Andrews	0.24
Bobbie Shifrin	4.40	Alice Kay	2.96	Mark King	0.88	Scott Richardson	0.20
Ed Buerger	4.32	Frankie Farjood	2.80	V.W. Zimnicki	0.88	Travis Kane	0.20
Joann Feinstein	4.28	Amy Valerio	2.60	Don Jayhan	0.84	Scott Kaplan	0.16

HERB ROMAN was June's BPC player of the month collecting 4.48 points and moving into 4th place at the year's halfway mark. Tim Mabee placed second with 3.84 points, and top-ranked FIBS player Gary Kay ventured away from his computer long enough to grab 3.44 "live" points.

If you finish in the Top 20 for 1996 (bold names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st—Trophy + \$150, 2nd—\$100, 3rd—\$50. 1st through 20th—one ounce solid silver coin. 1st through 6th—Invitation to participate on the Chicago Bar Point Club team in the 1997 Illinois State Challenge Cup.

MORE ON BACKGAMMON AND THE 'GOLDEN RECTANGLE'

I enjoyed Duane Jensen's explanation of the "golden rectangle" last month: three checkers each on the 2- through 6-points. The golden number was an integral part in the design of the Pyramid of Cheops (the one with "pyramid power"). This number appears in the ratio between two consecutive numbers of the Fibonacci Series (1, 2, 3, 5, 8...).

The Fibonacci Series was created by adding the first and second number to generate the third, the second and third number to generate the fourth, etc. Duane has shown a 15 checker formation 3x5 which is very strong.

The next formation (involving six backgammon checkers) would be 3x2. You can achieve such a formation after opening 3-1, making your 5-point, and then playing an ace from 6 to 5. This is a very powerful structure made with very little material.

The other possible six-checker variant is 2x3: three points made consecutively which is the efficient start of a prime. In terms of oriental philosophy, 3x2 is the

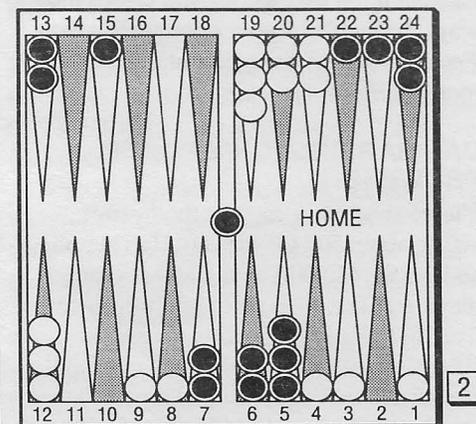
[Continued on page 4]

your move

PROBLEM #226

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Match to 7 points. 7-point match. Harry Cohn (Black) leads Neil Kazaross (White) 1 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS



© 1996 by Danny Kleinman

STREAKING

Dear Miss Lonelyblots: Who can figure out this cruelest game? last year I finished in the top ten of my weekly club. This year my match record is hopeless. I still study the game, and I play the new JellyFish™ program, so you'd think my results would improve. It's baffling.

I know this has happened to others. There was a period in the 1980s when Joe Sylvester was superhuman, attracting Calcutta bids two and three times higher than anyone else, and vindicating his buyers with victory upon victory. Today, though, still an excellent player, he's just one in a crowd.

Neil Kazaross's 72.98 points in the 1994 American Backgammon Tour may never be equaled. Yet Neil has been totally shut out in every ABT event he's entered in the last year and a half. Incredible!

I'd like to see your explanation for this seemingly common phenomenon. Until then, just call me . . . —Empty Chair

DEAR EMPTY: I couldn't answer your question, so I called in my guru, the famous New Age guru Jean Dallas. She told

me to consult the wisest person I could think of, so I called the White House and asked for Hillary.

"No, no, Miss Lonelyblots, I mean the wisest dead person," said Dr. Dallas.

I hung up the phone quickly. Dr. Dallas intoned my individualized mantra three times (sorry, I can't reveal the mantra lest it cease to work) to put me into the required trance.

"Spirit of Eleanor Roosevelt, arise!" I commanded.

No answer.

"Spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, come forth!" I cried.

Still no answer. Then, an inspiration: "Spirit of Barclay Cooke, respond!"

Suddenly I began talking in a pitch an octave below my natural speaking voice. Dr. Dallas turned on her tape recorder to capture the wisdom that emerged:

"Miss Lonelyblots, I'm ashamed of you! How can anyone explain backgammon without baseball?"

"Think of Roger Maris. Why in the summer of '61, he had the stroke. You could tell as soon as he made contact that the ball was going, going, gone. Maris was a fine ballplayer, yet neither before nor after did he hit even as many as 40 home runs in a season.

"Maybe your Sylvester and Kazaross play backgammon better than Maris played baseball, however. In that case, a better comparison is to Mickey Mantle, the best

player of his era. The Mick won his share of batting and home run titles, but didn't dominate consistently. In Mantle's best year for homers, 1961, Maris beat him, 61 to 54. In Mantle's best year for batting, 1957, an aging Ted Williams (the best hitter of all time) beat him .388 to .365. Could Sylvester and Kazaross be running into Marises and Williamses on hot streaks of their own?

"Oh yes, in backgammon tournaments, the unit of measure is the match, or placing in the tournament. Perhaps you play one or two hundred matches, 40 or 50 tournaments per year. In baseball, the unit is the at-bat. A ballplayer gets five or six hundred at-bats per year. That's several times as long for the Law of Averages to assert itself: for players to revert to form, for their records to reflect their skill. Even in baseball, nobody wins the home run crown every year . . . except Ralph Kiner from 1947 to 1953.

"Kiner had Greenberg Gardens to hit in, however. Do Sylvester and Kazaross?"

Just as suddenly, the trance ended and my voice reverted to soprano.—Miss Lonelyblots Δ

Do you have a backgammon-related question for Miss Lonelyblots involving people problems, game etiquette or the play itself? Write: Dear Miss Lonelyblots, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

Yang—vertical and dynamic, and 2x3 is the Yin—horizontal and static.

The last possible BG checker Fibonacci formation is 2x1. This is the minimum configuration needed to make a point! Countries of the orient refer to this as a "gate." This name is also appropriate for backgammon because a point closes the way "through" for your opponent.—Dan Frank Verlag, Editor, Essential Backgammon, Stuttgart, Germany

DAN HARRINGTON'S POKER PROWESS

Please send me a copy of the *Forbes* article about BG player Dan Harrington and the \$1,400,000 he made last year playing poker. I haven't seen him since I lived in Philadelphia many years ago. When a friend from Columbus returned from a trip to Vegas last and reported that Dan had won the World Series of Poker, it

really made my day! Good to hear the old boy is "keepin' on keepin' on."—Mary Hickey, Kirkersville, OH

STARTING A CLUB IN CONNECTICUT

I understand you have a handout on how to start a backgammon club. I want to do just that in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Could you send it, please? Also, please have people contact me if interested in participating!—Adam Tyson, 23 Dodd Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606. E-mail: <tysona@mwhse.com> Δ

PICNIC IN PEORIA

Please tell your readers that once again, the Central Illinois Summer Sizzler on 18 August at the Sly Fox Pub in Lacon, Illinois will kick-off with a picnic at Jubilee Park in Peoria the day before. Midwest players interested in receiving a flyer can call me at 309/686-6662. My e-mail address is <bgqueen@iaonline.com>—Linda Woods, Director, Central Illinois Backgammon Club, Peoria, IL Δ



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
312/583-6464
Peter Kalba
312/631-8350

Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago; 312/792-0424.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:30 P.M. at Braxton Seafood Grill, 3 Oakbrook Center Mall, Oak Brook; 708/574-2155.

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Cricket's Pub & Grill, 602 W. North Ave., Glendale Hts. V. W. Zimnicki (708/924-8632).

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Alexander's, 3101 E. 79th St., Chicago. J.A. Miller (312/734-9430).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tourn. 1st, 3rd, 5th Monday, 6:15 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Lane O'Connor (309/454-1947)

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tourn. Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Brehmhaus, 617 E. Washington, Springfield. Ben Zemaitis (217/483-4028).

WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Stern (847/446-0537).

CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB: Tournaments Thursday, 6:30 P.M. at River Station, 212 Constitution Ave., Peoria. Linda Woods (309/686-6662).

CHICAGO BOARD OF BACKGAMMON: Daily except Sun., 12:00 to 9:00 P.M. Tourn. 1st Sat., 12:00 at 175 W. Jackson (Suite 1103), Chicago. Dean Muench (312/922-0404).

NORTH CLUB: Daily except Sunday, 1:00 P.M. at 4747 W. Peterson (Suite 2), Chicago. Greg Defotis (312/286-6719).

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AMALGAMATION

Occasional tourney backgammon player **Huck Seed** has won \$1,000,000 in this year's Las Vegas World Series of Poker. Huck out-bluffed 294 other players who had each anted up \$10,000 at Binion's Horseshoe Casino this Spring. For more on the tournament, check out the Internet poker tourney website at: <www.conjelco.com/wsop/bigdance4.html>... As a promotion for their upcoming 44th Indiana Open Labor Day Tourney, directors **Butch & Mary Ann Meese** are offering \$50 in a "Name the King & Queen" contest. To receive your invitation with the King & Queen pictured on it, call 317/255-8902... Congratulations to **Feliks Goykhman** on



Feliks Goykhman, NYC&B's 1996 "CHAIRman of the (BG) Board."

winning the New York Chess & Backgammon Points Race for 95/96. A chair with is

name on it is being donated to New York City's Bryant Park by **Steve Manning** and the NYC&B where it will serve as a monument to his accomplishment... **Jake Jacobs** (IL) reminds us that the 2nd Thailand Open is scheduled for 9-12 January in Pattaya, Thailand. For details, fax director **Goran Hasselquist** in Thailand at 6638-425189 or call Jake at 847/824-2466... CHICAGO POINT now has active subscribers in 32 countries... A tip of the hat to **Bill Robertie** who won the title "Monarch of Monday Night" during New England BG Club's '95/'96 season... **Patti Beadles** (CA) reports that on 16 June, FIBS, the First Internet Backgammon Server moved from Sweden to a new address in San Francisco: <[telnet://fibs.com:4321](mailto://fibs.com:4321)>. To celebrate the relocation, **Steve & Joan Clark** hosted a big welcoming party for **Andreas Schneider**, creator of FIBS, at their Danville, CA house on 22 June. Patti carried the festivities live on the WWW and **Dr. Bob Hill** simultaneously hosted the East coast cyber-celebration from his Midtown Club in New York City. FIBS player **Harry Cohn** (IL) reports that performance is greatly improved; however there's still a problem with disconnections. Schneider is currently working on the fix... Visiting the Chicago Bar Point Club in June: **Marv Arnol** (WI), **Mark King** (CA), **John Bazigos** (Earth)... Make a note of *European Backgammon News* Editor **Martin de Bruin**'s (Spain) new phone/fax number: 3450-133009. Have you checked out a recent *EBN* issue? They feature a great listing of backgammon

clubs around the world, even including Russia!... Due to the success of the two previous Costa Rican Tournament of the Americas match books, CR Backgammon promoter **Max Esquivel** is interested in working with **Wilcox Snellings** (NV) to make a book out of the 1995 CR Masters Finals between **Hugh Sconyers** (TX) and Snellings... Finally, this quote from **Phil Simborg** (IL) on conflict and competition: "If you can't beat 'em, don't play 'em." Δ

'GOLDEN RECTANGLE' CONTEST RESULTS

Last month's contest puzzle by Duane Jensen asked how many different bearoff positions could be created which allow Black to roll twice without being forced to leave a shot. All Black's 15 checkers had to be placed on the 2- through 6-points, and White owned Black's ace point for both of Black's rolls.

The answer to the problem was 9. Reading from 2- to 6-point, they are: (15-0-0-0-0), (7-8-0-0-0), (3-4-0-8-0), (2-5-0-8-0), (3-4-4-0-4), (2-3-3-0-7), ((2-2-3-0-8), (0-3-4-0-8), and (0-2-5-3-0).

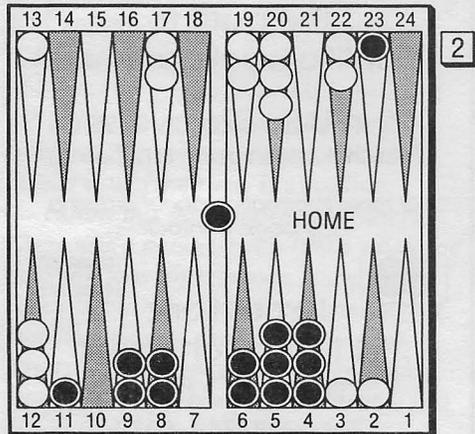
By random draw among six correct solutions (including a computer program solution by Tom Keith), **Danny Kleinman** of Los Angeles, California wins the \$50.

Gary Kay, one of the correct solvers, thought the puzzle was a fine exercise in visually recognizing safe bearoffs. Said Kay, "You only know what you know until you see something more. Then you know more." Δ

PROBLEM #225 ANALYZED

by Neil Kazaross

Match to 11 points. Black leads White, 8 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



It has been said that 2-2 is the roll that is most often misplayed because of the way it can produce many different plays and game plans. This interesting 2-2 is no exception. Black has at least five reasonable moves to consider.

In a money game, my initial response would have been to anchor on the 23-point and then make the bar point and hit loose on the 3-point with the last 2. But I would clearly anchor on the 21-point at this match score. Whether to hit loose or not with the last 2 was unclear.

Ahead 8 to 3 in a match to 11, Black must make an advanced anchor to minimize White's potential to make a successful gammon-threatening redouble. An eight point victory by White would allow her to steal a match in which she was a big underdog. Black must guard against this kind of loss.

I decided to get a feel for the problem by first showing it to a number of experts. Most of them preferred anchoring on the 21-point and hitting loose on the 3-point for both money and at this match score. After further study, I was convinced that Black must make the advanced anchor for money since his timing could quickly become fragile. In a money game, the loose hit on the 3-point should be best to enhance gammon chances, but at this score Black gains less value for his gammon wins. Perhaps the stodgy 2 play—lifting the outfield blot—is better.

To gain further insight, I rolled out 12,960 money games with JellyFish™ and obtained the following cubeless equities for a centered 1-cube:

- A) B/21, 23/21, 11/9 +0.441
- B) B/21, 23/21, 5/3* +0.457
- C) B/21, 23/21, 4/2* +0.418
- D) B/23/21, 9/7(2) +0.299
- E) B/23, 11/7, 9/7 +0.324

It's clear that we can reject any play which doesn't anchor on the 21-point.

I next rolled 25,920 more games for the top two plays (A and B). For money, B was superior by a margin of +0.465 to +0.426. I did not consider equity with White owning the cube because cube action at this score is quite different than for money. Black's take point for a 4-cube is 28.6% and the gammon price against him is a whopping 1.38. Furthermore, by redoubling, White risks 6% equity to gain 12% for a single game. White will be recubing very aggressively at this score to both kill Black's gammons and make her own G's extremely potent.

Due to the extremely high gammon price, it is difficult for Black to accept a recube at this score if White has any significant gammon threat unless Black is clearly a favorite in the game. For example, if White could win only 34% single games and 16% gammons (the game is 50-50 if G's don't count), Black would have a close pass at this score!

It must be noted that the main reason the loose hit had higher equity is that it won more G's compared to the lifting play. However, it also lost a few more gammons.

I decided to roll out 25,920 more games with a special JellyFish program I have which allows me to vary the payoffs for G's and BG's to reflect the match score. This program cannot use the cube; however it is extremely useful for dead cube situations.

This special rollout had Black winning 85.7% of the matches with either play when I used the gammon and backgammon values for a 2-cube. However, since the cube is unlikely to remain on 2 if White gets any threats at all, I rolled out 25,920 more games with the parameters set for Black owning a 4-cube. This yielded the following results:

- A) lift . . . Black won 62.3 % games, White won 31.2% singles and 6.5% G's
- B) hit . . . Black won 62.4 % games, White won 30.7% singles and 6.9% G's

Now for Play A, Black wins 80.4 % matches while after Play B, Black wins only 80.2% matches. Still looks too close to call but it is shocking how much White's match equity improves by recubing here! In real life, White may be able to do a bit better by waiting until she has a market-losing threat to recube. I don't think she has any if Black plays safe, but rollouts show she can lose her market with an escape and hit/dance sequence after Black's loose hit.

Well, I have to make a decision and I will go along with my gut instincts and say that Black would do better to play safe here to minimize volatility and White's recubing chances. If Black hits loose, White may actually gain match equity by recubing immediately! However, with correct cube play by White, it is quite unlikely that the doubler will remain on 2 unless she's quickly blown off the board with no counter-chances.

I have a *very* slight preference for Play A (B/21, 23/21, 11/9) at this lopsided score. Δ



Name the King & Queen Contest
Win \$50. Details in the entry form.

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44th Indiana Open Backgammon Tournament

Labor Day Weekend
Indianapolis, Indiana
Aug. 30–Sept. 2, 1996

featuring
Indy Swiss Format
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\$100 Amateur Jackpot
Directors' Cup, and
The Hoosier Challenge

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who did what

WINNER'S CORNER



May-June 1996

•**1996 Argentine Championship** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in May)... **CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS:** Marcelo Belaustegui, Joaquin Viejobueno. **JUNIOR WINNERS:** Ara Akopian, Arturo Piccione. **BEGINNER WINNERS:** Lorena Sterman, Daniel Capua, Maria Gabino.

•**Dusseldorf Open** (Kaarst/Dusseldorf, Germany; 2-5 May)... **OPEN:** 1-Horst Büchmen, 2-Michael Grabarczyk, 3/4-Harald Johanni / Peter van der Bruck; 1C-Frank Gillar.

2nd European BG News Tournament (Almeria, Spain; 9-12 May)... **CHAMPIONSHIP:** 1-Colin Martin (GB/SPN), 2-Jerry Wismeyer (NL), 3/4-Mario Sequeira (POR) / Tom Jayes (UK/SPN). **INTERMEDIATE:** 1-Eduardo Velasco (SPN), 2-Jim Baker (US), 3/4-Andreas Schmitt (GER) / Alicia Nanji (SWIZ). **KICK-OFF:** 1-Phillip Bimes (FRA), 2-Eduardo Velasco (SPA). **SATELLITE CHAMPIONSHIP:** 1-Mario Sequeira. **SATELLITE INTERMEDIATE:** 1-Josephine Baker.

•**Chicago Racquet Club Doubles Invitational** (Chicago, IL; 31 May-1 Jun.)... **CHAMPIONSHIP** (16 teams): 1-Jeff Durkes & Bernie Conway (IL), 2-Peter Dunn (IL) & Rick Hart (CAN)... *A black-tie affair at the exclusive private Chicago club. John Brussel acted as auctioneer.*

•**Midtown "Sweet 16" Invitational** (New York, NY; 1 Jun.)... **OPEN** (16): 1-Jeff Acierno, 2-Chuck Papazian.

•**New England Club Championship** (Cambridge, MA; 1-2 Jun.)... **EXPERT** (7): 1-Evan Diamond, 2-Marty Storer.

•**Bar Point Sunday Tournament** (Oak Brook, IL; 9 Jun.)... **OPEN** (25): 1/2-Jake Jacobs / Marcy Sloan, 3/4-Fred Gehlhoff (WI) / Jeff Kane (WI); 1C-Neil Kazaross, 2C-Ernest Ho (TX). **INTERMEDIATE** (15): 1-Marv Arnol, 2-Elaine Kehm, 3/4-Ed Buerger / Travis Kane (WI); 1C/2C-Roz Ferris / Reggie Porter.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 9 Jun.)... **EXPERT** (22): 1-John Mansey, 2-David Wells, 3/4-Herb Gurland / Bill Getty; 1C-Nora Luna, 2C-Evan Diamond. **A DIV.** (5): 1-Bob Lumbra (VT), 2-John Koulopoulos. **B DIV.** (3): 1-Paul Farand.

•**Balkan International Open Tournament** (Duni, Bulgaria; 15-18 Jun.)... **OPEN:** 1-S.R.Todorov (Bulgaria), 2-

Akaki Kikaleishvili (Georgia)... *Although a small turnout for the premiere event, director Svilen Todorov will continue. The next event is scheduled 14-18 Sept.*

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 16 Jun.)... **OPEN** (17): 1-Steve Clark, 2-Rawlin Pullen; 1C-Nick Ballard, 2C-Blake Sorem. **INTERMEDIATE** (16): 1-Stan Weiss, 2-Julius High; 1C/2C-David Reinberg / Tony Rothschild. **BEGINNER** (8): 1-Vesko Marinov, 2-Andy Paik; 1C-Ron Dumont, 2C-Sarah Berger. Δ



Backgammon: The Chicago Way
March 1997

Play 2 in Brazil

6th Rio De Janeiro International Tournament

25-28 October 1996



HOTEL
INTER-CONTINENTAL
RIO

Estimated 1st Prize: \$20,000

(based on previous tournaments)

Entries and reentries: US \$200

For more information, or to secure Hotel Inter-Continental reservations, contact Alvaro Savio.

First São Paulo Open

31 October to 3 November 1996

CLUB HOMES

Av. Paulista 735

\$20,000 Added

Guaranteed 1st prize = \$30,000

Entries and reentries: US \$200

Added money by Club Homes. For nearby hotel accommodations, contact Alvaro Savio.



Alvaro Savio, Director

Tel: 55 21 247.8594

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The Worldwide Backgammon Federation is proud to present the

6th Mitteleuropa Backgammon and Black-jack Tournament

Casino Park - Nova Gorica (Slovenia)

September 6-8, 1996

(Black-jack Tourney & Jackpots begin Sept. 2, 1996)

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Part of the **1996 Italian Championship**

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50 MILLION
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Entry Fees

Master (13-pt) 700.000 Lire (\$450)
Champion (11-pt) . 250.000 Lire (\$160)
Intermediate (7-pt)... 100.000 Lire (\$65)
Black-jack..... 300.000 Lire (\$195)

Registration Fees

1996 WBF members . 30.000 Lire (\$19)
Non-members 50.000 Lire (\$32)

Backgammon registration cut-off: Sept. 6
WBF Gold Card available at tournament



PROGRAM

Backgammon Tournament Committee

To be announced at the tournament under the Presidency of

Alberto da Pra

President of the WBF

Accommodations

Park Hotel ★★★★★. Delpinova 5 -
Nova Gorica (Tel. 386-65-28225)

	Single	Double
New Park	95.000	66.000 pp

Plus 1.800 ltl taxes per night.
Breakfast is included each day.

Fax Park Hotel your reservations by Aug.
24 at 386-65-22381, Attn: Reception
Hotel Park. Mention "Backgammon."

Backgammon Tournament Director

Marco Fornasir

Information: 39-2-40074658

Fax: 39-2-40073420

Monday, September 2

19:30-20:00 Registration Backgammon
Tournament at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-jack Tournament at Casino
22:30 Quarter Entries, Slovenian Blitz,
Jackpots, Mini-Jackpots &
Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Tuesday, September 3

10:30 Excursion
19:30-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-jack Tournament at Casino
22:30 Quarter Entries, Slovenian Blitz,
Jackpots, Mini-Jackpots &
Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Wednesday, September 4

10:30 Excursion
19:30-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-jack Tournament at Casino
22:30 Quarter Entries, Slovenian Blitz,
Jackpots, Mini-Jackpots &
Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Thursday, September 5

10:30 Casino Nova Gorica Tennis Cup
for players and friends
17:00 Public draw for free Warm-up
18:00 Warm-up begins. Quarter Entries,
Slovenian Blitz, Jackpots, Mini-
Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots
20:00 Black-jack Tournament at Casino

Friday, September 6

10:30 Casino Nova Gorica Tennis Cup
Warm-up. Quarter Entries,
Slovenian Blitz, Jackpots, Mini-
Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots
19:00-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Welcoming cocktail: Park Hotel.
Black-jack Tournament at Casino
22:00 Registration closes
22:30 Public draw
23:00 Start of play. Slovenian Blitz,
Jackpots, Mini-Jackpots and
Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Saturday, September 7

10:30 Casino Nova Gorica Tennis Cup
continues
16:00 Main tournament continues.
Start of Progressive Consolation
tournament
17:00 Slovenian Blitz, Jackpots, Mini-
Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots
18:00 Black-jack Tournament at Casino
22:00 Black-jack Finals at Casino
22:30 Start of Franz Josef Super-Jack-
pot. Tournament play continues

Sunday, September 8

15:00 Last Chance tournament. Finals.
Slovenian Blitz, Jackpots, Mini-
Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots
20:30 Schönbrunn Dinner Party &
Awards Ceremony at Park Hotel

*The organization reserves the right to change the
program in any of its parts. Changes will be an-
nounced in advance and posted on the Notice Board.*

The Park Hotel has agreed to offer two nights free of charge in the Hotel for players who stay one full week (arrival date Sept. 2, departure date Sept. 9, 1996) . . . 100% return of the entry fees . . . Trophies to be awarded in all three divisions, Blackjack and Tennis tournament . . . Nova Gorica is in the country renowned for good food and wine. Air temperature in Sept. is 15 to 23° C.