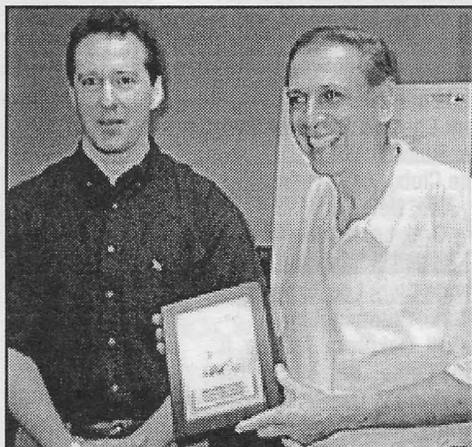


46th indiana open

## GARTNER 'RECORDS' A VICTORY IN INDY

Perry Gartner was intent on playing his best backgammon at last month's 46th Indiana Open. In order to stay focused, Perry hired Mike Fujita (HI) to record all his matches and then transcribe them into the new Snowie™ computer program for on-the-spot analysis. An expensive extra... but worth it! Perry won the tournament.



Perry Gartner (right) displays the Indiana Open winner's plaque as runner-up Alex Caraplis looks on. [Photo by Butch Meese.]

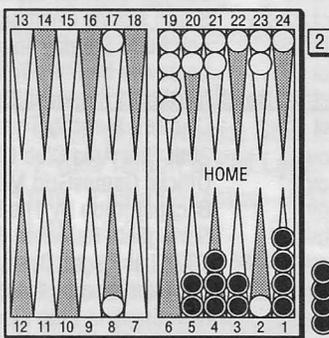
Hoosier BG Club's Butch and Mary Ann Meese welcomed over 100 players from across the country to the Sheraton-Westin Hotel 4-7 September. This year marked the 10th anniversary of Labor Day backgammon in Indianapolis.

Perry Gartner, an international importer from Englewood, NJ, made it to the playoffs with a 6-2 record in the Swiss format. Then he defeated defending champ Dave Williams (CA) to reach the finals. His last opponent was Alex Caraplis, a chiropractor from W. Paterson, NJ, with a passion for computer study of the game. Alex had joked David Simpson (NC) in his semifinal battle to get there.

The 13-point championship match began Monday afternoon with Mike Fujita continuing to record all the action. The opponents jabbed at each other producing a

7-5 Gartner advantage. In the next game, Caraplis jumped ahead, doubled, and was bearing in for a possible gammon:

**Position #1**  
Match to 13 pts. Perry Gartner (White) leads Alex Caraplis (Black), 7 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**

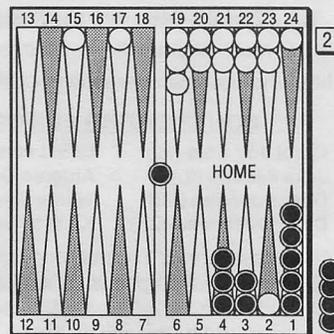


Alex correctly played 5/1, 5/2\*. Perry shot back rolling 6-2 (B/23\*, 17/11). Alex danced, then Gartner rolled 3-1, covering his 3-blot and playing 11/10. Gartner faced this doubling decision after Alex fanned again (see Position #2 above right).

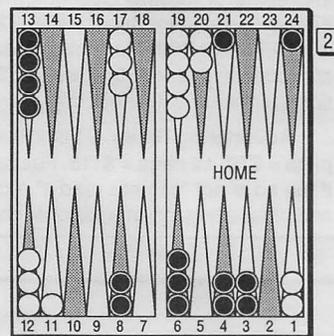
According to a JellyFish™ level 7 analysis, this is a double and drop. Perry rolled on, tossing a 6-3 (10/1) and lost his market. Score, Gartner-9, Caraplis-5.

With Perry out in front 10-7, Alex faced one of the toughest plays of the entire match (See Position #3 at right):

**Position #2**  
Match to 13 pts. Perry Gartner (White) leads Alex Caraplis (Black), 7 to 5. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



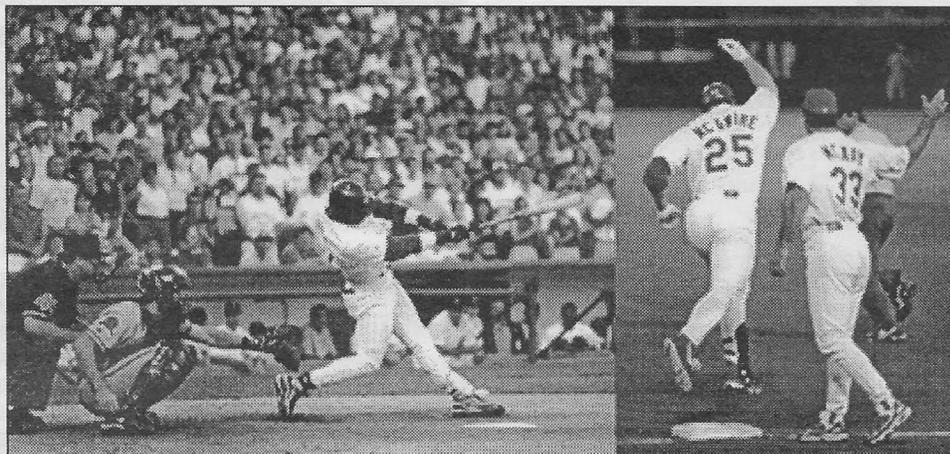
**Position #3**  
Match to 13 pts. Perry Gartner (White) leads Alex Caraplis (Black), 10 to 7. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-3.**



What do you think is the best play in this position? JellyFish level 7 ranks the top five as:

[Continued on page 9]

## HITTING SHOTS



Both Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire hit some incredible shots this baseball season. Steve Sax was lucky enough to follow the two throughout their exciting 1998 home run race. Steve, a professional photographer, took some wonderful pictures of all the action including McGwire's 70th. If you're interested in purchasing these (or other) action photos from Steve, call: 818/845-3717 or e-mail: stevesax@netcom.com. Δ

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT  
3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504  
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

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## QUESTIONS ABOUT JELLYFISH

I own the newest version of JellyFish™ and like everyone else, have trouble beating it. Almost everyone I know, thinks JF "rolls well." I decided to check this, so for a couple of weeks, I tracked the number of doubles I rolled compared to those rolled by JellyFish. The results were shocking:

DOUBLE	DICK NELSON	JELLYFISH
6-6	33	35
5-5	28	39
4-4	30	49
3-3	39	40
2-2	29	30
1-1	33	52

Maybe this was just a highly unusual random sample. So a few weeks ago, I did it for another week. The results were even more biased:

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
810/232-9731  
E-mail: [cjc@flint.org](mailto:cjc@flint.org)

\* Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Oct 9-11	<u>Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	301/530-0604
Oct 10	Rocky Mountain Bimonthly Tournament, Cheers, Denver, CO	719/574-5598
Oct 11	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Oct 11	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Oct 15*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Oct 15*	4th bibi's Tournament on FIBS, via computer	<a href="mailto:gobbo@science.unitn.it">gobbo@science.unitn.it</a>
Oct 17	Dr. Bob's "Sweet 16" Invitational, New York Chess & BG, New York City	212/302-5874
Oct 18*	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Oct 18	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Oct 23-25	<u>South Florida Championships, Day's Inn, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	954/938-4304
Oct 25	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Oct 25	Louisville Monthly Tournament, Oldenberg Grill, Louisville, KY	502/458-9660
Oct 30-Nov 1	<u>Northeast Regional, Best Western Airport Hotel, Albany, NY</u>	603/863-4711
Oct 31	Clarine's Monthly Tournament, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA	213/822-9745
Nov 1	20th Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn Holidome, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	<a href="mailto:tournaments@cyberarts.com">tournaments@cyberarts.com</a>
Nov 1*	Backgammon By The Bay Special, The Whole Shebang, Alameda, CA	831/688-9722
Nov 7*	Springfield Heineken Series #1, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Nov 10-14	1998 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Nov 15	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Nov 15	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Nov 15	Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Nov 15*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Nov 17*	16th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Nov 19*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 21*	Dr. Bob's "Sweet 16" Invitational, New York Chess & BG, New York City	212/302-5874
Nov 22*	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Nov 28*	Clarine's Monthly Tournament, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA	213/822-9745
Nov 29*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Nov 29*	Louisville Monthly Tournament, Oldenberg Grill, Louisville, KY	502/458-9660
Nov 27-29	<u>Northern Ohio Thanksgiving Tournament, Belden Holiday Inn, Canton, OH</u>	330/966-2811
Dec 4-6	<u>Gammon/Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	818/901-0464
Dec 5*	Springfield Heineken Series #2, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, IL	217/483-4028
Dec 6	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Dec 6*	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Dec 13*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Dec 13*	Hoosier Sunday Tournament, Wildcat Brewery, Indianapolis, IN	317/255-8902
Dec 26-27	<u>Ace Point Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u>	212/753-0842
Feb 4-7*	Rio Pro-Am Invitational, Rio Hotel/Casino, Las Vegas, NV	301/299-8265
Feb 12-14*	<u>21st Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	412/823-7500
Mar 5-7*	<u>Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	818/901-0464
Mar 19-21*	<u>1999 Midwest Championships, Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL</u>	773/583-6464

### OUTSIDE USA

Oct 10-11	Sandy Osborne Memorial Trophy, Stakis Birmingham Metropole, Engl	44152-2546993
Oct 11-18	Manx Festival Gaming: BG, Poker, Blackjack, Stakis Hotel, Isle of Man	44162-4662662
Oct 13-18	2nd Moscow Open, Cosmos Hotel & Casino, Moscow, Russia	Spain: 3450-133009
Oct 15-18	1st Tyrolian Backgammon Cup, Hotel Die Post, Seefeld in Tirol, Austria	43664-2303940
Oct 16-18	CH-Meisterschaften '98 & Swiss Open, Kursaal Bern, Bern, Switzerland	4179-3584825
Oct. 24-25	Åbne Fynsmesterskaber, BridgeUnionens lokaler, Odense, Denmark	4566-106080
Oct 30-Nov 1	High Class Competition, Cafe Florianhof, Vienna, Austria	43664-2303940
Oct 30-Nov 1	Swedish Open, First Hotel Amaranter, Stockholm, Sweden	468-6523033
Nov 3-8	Grand Prix de Suisse 1998, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Nov 4-8	VIII Rio de Janeiro Open & Brazilian Cup II, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5521-2676033
Nov 12-15	Bodensee Grand Prix 1998, Bregenz, Austria	4179-3374425
Nov 12-15	French National Championships, Aviation Club de France, Paris, France	331-40150870
Nov 14-15	Townharbour Trophy, Stakis Birmingham Metropole, England	44152-2546993
Nov 21-22	UK Classic, Jarvis Hotel/Watford/London, England	44161-4380966
Nov 21-23	1998 Japan Open, Nakano Sun Plaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733844
Nov 27-29	Inner Table Tournament #4, Grand Hotel Leicester, England	44152-2721630
Dec 4-6	3rd Santa Claus Tournament, Spielcasino Aachen, Aachen, Germany	4940-8306415
Dec 11-13	2nd Casino Open, Hotel Seepark, Thun, Switzerland	4417-569700
Dec 12-13	Stakis UK Championship Finals, Stakis Birmingham Metropole, UK	44152-2546993
Jan 2-3*	High Class Competition, Cafe Florianhof, Vienna, Austria	43664-2303940
Jan 18-31*	1st Principe Leopoldi Cup, Principe Leopoldi Hotel, Switzerland	4179-3374425



# AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1998

Top 100 Compiled through 27 Sept. 1998

(Upcoming in October: Nation's Capital, So. Florida, Northeast Regional)



<b>Alex Caraplis</b> 36.25	Bob Holyon 7.00	Rob Maier 4.36	Wally Wolf 2.35
<b>Perry Gartner</b> 34.44	Jack Takala 6.82	Walt Swan 4.21	Mark Cohen 2.34
<b>Maurice Barie</b> 27.73	Frank Talbot 6.82	Chuck Bower 4.16	Gordon Bass 2.34
Dennis Culpepper 23.53	Sig Skolnick 6.44	John Brussel 4.16	Adam Versaw 2.33
Steve McCormick 22.88	Howard Markowitz 6.40	Mark Larios 4.11	James Roston 2.16
Mike Friedman 22.45	Odis Chenault 6.11	Gayle Wolf 4.08	Jobey Calitri 2.11
Doug Roberts 19.46	Ray Foglerlund 6.11	Paul Dibiasse 3.99	Bob Bercu 2.11
Bob Glass 17.42	Paul Stebbing 5.88	Peter Kalba 3.92	Bruce Russell 2.08
Steve Hast 14.36	Larry Yudin 5.88	Gary Payne 3.92	Lenny Loder 2.08
Doug Mayfield 13.74	Andy Glazer 5.77	Don Faix 3.67	Ed King 1.96
David Simpson 13.47	Mike Cyrkiel 5.60	Bob Wilensky 3.41	Kieth Hramstad 1.81
Merrill Schragger 13.22	Jeremy Kirkpatrick 5.46	Karen Davis 3.41	Rob Keast 1.55
Malcolm Davis 11.75	Phil Williams 5.25	John Graas 3.41	Julian Haley 1.44
Jannica Tornqvist 11.63	Bill Keefe 5.20	Eden Windish 3.33	Jolie Rubin 1.44
Jim Hickey 11.55	Ed Johnson 5.11	Kim Haubert 3.15	Ken Lazar 1.40
Frankie Farjood 11.44	Wendy Kaplan 5.04	Eliot Bean 3.05	Tom Machaj 1.35
David Wells 11.20	Jack Kissane 4.89	Butch Meese 3.00	Jana Miller 1.33
Mike Rezaei 9.59	Joe Freedman 4.80	Sam Pottle 2.88	Roger Baff 1.25
Art Benjamin 8.71	Denny Leatherman 4.80	Francois Margot 2.88	Bruce Brown 1.22
Richard Del Furia 8.66	John Brooks 4.75	John Mazur 2.81	Bill Tallmadge 1.22
Lincoln Bedell 8.56	Mike Lauzon 4.74	Linda Resnicoff 2.39	Wilder Radford 1.17
Walter Trice 8.56	Mike Hendrikson 4.72	Matt Reklaitis 2.39	Almon Hall 1.15
Jeff Aceirno 8.09	Zia Afshani 4.68	Harold Roberson 2.38	Frank Rogers 1.15
Steve Herman 8.04	Lucky Nelson 4.55	Ron Konpelien 2.38	Dennis Cupp 1.14
Mike Fujita 7.97	Dave Orandle 4.36	Hunter Jones 2.36	Ray Bills 1.08

A second place finish in Indianapolis, coupled with his Minnesota State victory last month has catapulted **ALEX CARAPLIS** into the 1998 American Backgammon Tour lead. This is the closest ABT event ever with ten players (or more) in contention.

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

DOUBLE	DICK NELSON	JELLYFISH
6-6	14	26
5-5	13	18
4-4	12	25
3-3	9	28
2-2	11	13
1-1	13	27

Has anyone else studied the rolling habits of JF? I would really be interested in other findings.—*Dick Nelson, Peoria, IL*

### ONLINE ACTION

Where online does some of the more serious backgammon take place? Can you point out the top five sites (fee or no fee) that you think are good? Also, how about including a list like this with your annual club listings?—*George Papamarkos, El Paso, TX*

Three servers come to mind. Nearly all of the world's best players are signed up on GamesGrid. NetGammon is the largest BG server (in excess of 6000 active members). The original server is FIBS. Whereas the previously-mentioned servers charge an annual fee, FIBS is still free.

For a list of other servers, go to the CHICAGO POINT Homepage <<http://homepage.interaccess.com/~chipoint>> and click on Mel Leifer's "Gammon Links" where a linked list of active servers is maintained.

[Continued on page 5]



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1998 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED THRU 30 SEPT.

<b>Steve Mellen</b> 20.44	Phil Simborg 5.60	Steve Klesker 2.40	Jay Ward 0.64
<b>Joe Wollick</b> 18.60	Andy Krenitz 4.88	Georgina Flanagan 2.12	Ralph Barnes 0.64
<b>Neil Kazaross</b> 15.36	Norma Shyer 4.80	Joseph Esfahani 1.92	Steve Rota 0.56
<b>Tak Morioka</b> 13.80	Jerry Brooks 4.36	Carter Mattig 1.92	Sam Yoyen 0.56
<b>Laila Leonhardt</b> 13.00	Tim Mabee 4.20	Paul Baraz 1.76	Joe Wehrle 0.48
<b>Paul Friedman</b> 12.16	Arline Levy 4.18	Richard Lloyd 1.28	Joann Feinstein 0.38
<b>Alice Kay</b> 10.72	Elaine Kehm 4.08	Romeo Kap 1.28	Rich Gast 0.32
<b>Paul Klein</b> 9.64	Gary Kay 4.08	Val Zimnicki 1.16	Sonia Peacock 0.32
<b>Jake Jacobs</b> 9.60	Don Jayhan 4.04	Bob Steen 1.12	Ken Tyszko 0.32
<b>Rick Bierniak</b> 9.16	Marc Rosset 3.80	Barry Miller 0.96	Linda Woods 0.32
<b>Herb Roman</b> 8.68	Ken Bond 3.60	Earl Risch 0.96	Jannica Tornqvist 0.32
<b>Paul Franks</b> 8.16	Rodney Bell 3.28	Ed Zell 0.96	Henry Gray 0.28
<b>Phyllis Smolinski</b> 8.12	Tim Carroll 3.24	Sam Pottle 0.92	Barbara Levinson 0.24
<b>Ed Buerger</b> 7.56	John Demian 2.72	Rex Savage 0.88	Mark Murray 0.24
<b>Bill Keefe</b> 7.36	Richard Stawowy 2.56	Roz Ferris 0.84	Mark Ryan 0.16
<b>Mary Franks</b> 6.60	George Barr 2.56	Wendy Kaplan 0.84	Boris Mindich 0.16
<b>Harry Cohn</b> 6.56	Peter Kalba 2.56	Greg Defotis 0.72	Frankie Farjood 0.16
<b>Marty Tatosian</b> 6.48	David Araiza 2.56	Bobbie Shifrin 0.72	Paul Lombardo 0.16
<b>Bill Davis</b> 6.44	Dave Cramer 2.48	Roland Dieter 0.64	Stan Kucharz 0.12
<b>Bob Zavoral</b> 5.96	Reginald Porter 2.48		

**BILL KEEFE** and **NEIL KAZAROSS** split the September Player of the Month award. Both earned 4.08 points by winning one event and placing in two others. Alice Kay's 2.72 total ranked her third for the month.

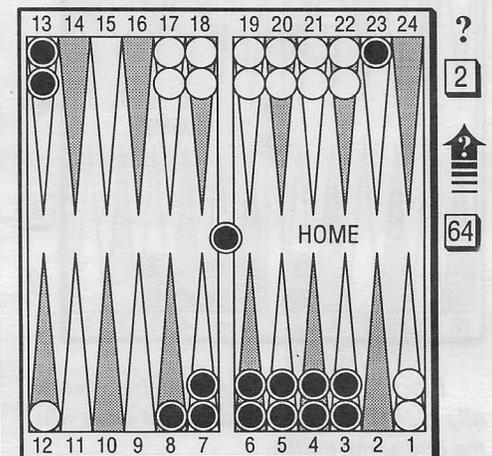
If you finish in the Top 20 for 1998 (bold names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st—Trophy + \$150, 2nd—\$100, 3rd—\$50. 1st through 20th—one ounce solid silver dollar. 1st through 6th—invitation to participate on the Chicago Bar Point Club team in the 1999 Illinois State Challenge Cup.

your move

## PROBLEM #248

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Money game. Black (on the bar) to roll. CUBE ACTION(S)?



**ASK DANNY**

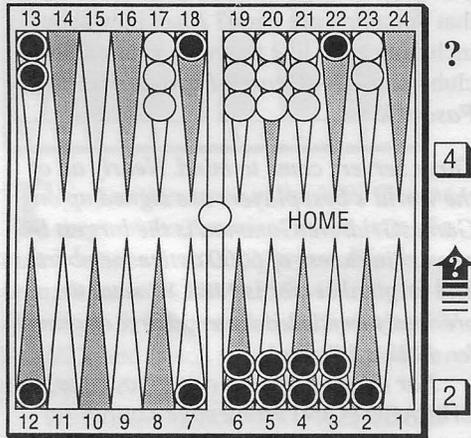


© 1998 by Danny Kleinman

**QUESTIONS ABOUT DOUBLING**

**D**ear Danny: Two interesting cubes came into play in a recent 5-point match at my local club. Black had accepted an earlier double against a superior player. Later, the game progressed into the position shown below. In this position, Black, on shake, doubled.

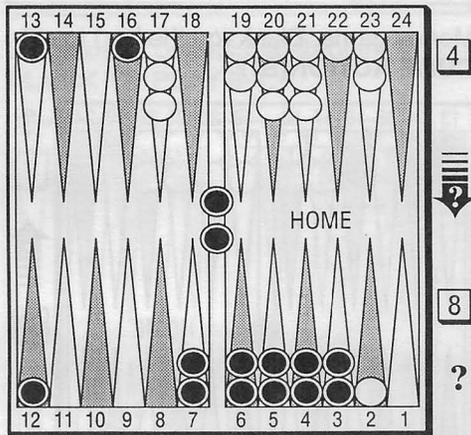
5-point match. No score. Black on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



White thought for a while before eventually taking. Black rolled 6-2 playing 13/7, 18/16. White responded with an excellent 3-2, entering with a hit on the 2-point and playing 5/2\*.

After Black fanned, White put the match on the line by recubing to 8.

5-point match. No score. White on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Black had a tough decision but eventually took. White eventually went on to win the one game match.

*I'm not so sure about Black's first redouble and I really have my doubts about White's 8-cube. What's your opinion on the two?—Doubly Curious*

**DEAR DOUBLY:** The two positions you show illustrate some cube peculiarities at the start of a short match or as a long match approaches the end. The higher the cube gets, the greater the incentive for taking, the smaller the impact of gammons, and the slower a player with a gammon threat should be redoubled.

In the first position, where Black owns a 2-cube, White must be slightly cautious in taking. If he passes, White trails 0-2 and has about 34% match chances. By taking and losing, White retains only about 15% match chances. If he takes and wins, however, he obtains about 85% match chances. Thus his risk-to-swing ratio is about 19%/70%, implying a takepoint of 29% in contrast to the usual 25% benchmark.

Black has one of White's men on the bar behind a 4-prime that threatens to become a 5-prime. Fully half of Black's rolls cover the slotted 2-point: direct and combination 5s, plus 6-4 and 4-4. Most missing rolls play well, all 6s and direct 4s making useful points (one bar-point or the other). Black threatens to lose his market by covering the 2-point or bar-point while White dances, and will do so far more often than necessary to justify redoubling.

White can take because he has a shot at Black's inside blot if Black doesn't cover, is far enough ahead in the race to win by entering on the acepoint and escaping if black doesn't make the bar-point, and may be able to attack Black's blot on the trey-point to gain time for escape.

In the second position, the tables have been turned. White is a 3-to-1 favorite to cover the slotted 3-point and make a five point board immediately, while Black has two men on the bar. White threatens to lose his market not only if he covers, but also if he escapes with 6-6 or 6-4 and black doesn't hit. As in the first position, the chance of market loss is ample.

Black can win in three ways: (1) if White doesn't cover and Black hits; (2) if White crashes before escaping; (3) if Black anchors on the acepoint and hits a shot during White's bearoff. Because Black has only about 15% match chances trailing 0-4 if he passes, his takepoint is 15%, so these three ways to win suffice to let him take.

Ordinarily, the combination of market-losing threats and present ability to take would indicate redoubling. However, two features of the position and score should

induce White to keep the cube at 4.

(a) The lower your opponent's takepoint, the smaller the margin by which you can overshoot your market. Because Black's takepoint is 15%, White cannot lose his market by very much.

(b) Black has three outfield blots as well as two men on the bar. Most of White's wins will be gammons. Black's redouble to 8 gains nothing if he wins a gammon, but costs him the 15% match equity he would otherwise have if he loses the game. The player with a strong gammon threat should not turn a gammicidal cube.

If things go badly for White, he'll be glad he didn't redouble. If things go moderately well for White, but his gammon threat diminishes, he may still be able to use the cube effectively later.—Yours, Danny Δ

*Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155.*

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**ILLINOIS ACTION**



Bill Davis  
773/583-6464  
Peter Kalba  
773/252-7755

**Tuesday, 6:15 P.M.** at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago; 773/792-0424.

**Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON** at Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar, 5 E. Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/932-9323.

**PUB CLUB:** Tourn. Monday, 7:30 P.M. at The Old Main Inn, 2330 N. Main St., Wheaton. V. W. Zimmnicki (630/924-8632).

**GAMES PEOPLE PLAY:** Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at The Clique, 2347 S. Michigan, Chicago. Reginald Porter (773/471-5066).

**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB:** Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Gary Daniels (309/452-3034)

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

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

**PEORIA BACKGAMMON CLUB:** Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/673-7622).

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

Leonhardt's "Blonde's-Eye View of Cyberspace" on page 6.—Ed.

### REAL LIFE ACTION

I am just getting around to sending greetings to some of the really wonderful people my wife and I met while attending the Indiana Open. While not fairing quite as well as I had hoped in some really ambitious dreams, we really had a spectacular time. We certainly can't wait an entire year before playing another big tournament, so please keep us posted of upcoming events.

—Dave & Cindy Britton, Warsaw, IN

Carol Joy Cole's *Mark Your Calendar* does a superior job of compiling upcoming tourney events. And if you are online, definitely bookmark "Mark Your Calendar—Alive!" Carol Joy provides regular updates at: <<http://homepage.interaccess.com/~chipoint/calendar.html>> —Ed.

### SCENIC TOWPATH TOURNEY

Just a couple of words about the recent Towpath Inn Tournament September 25–27 in upstate New York. This was a fun event. I'd never been to the Towpath before. It's a small inn dating back to 1832, off in the middle of nowhere (cow country), except that there happens to be a minor ski resort there.

What accounts for the skiing is the Tug Hill escarpment. Tug "Hill" is a land formation that rises very gradually from the shore of Lake Ontario to about 2000 feet above sea level, then drops abruptly, producing a long (30 miles or so, I'd guess) series of hillsides with very steep rounded slopes. As you drive in, it looks like a chain of enormous loaves of rye bread, several hundred feet tall, sitting on an otherwise nearly level plain. The "hill" is composed

of soft shale, and as a result, east-running streams have cut some fine canyons.

Donna and I stayed on through Monday and hiked around the rim of Whetstone Gulf, which is 400 feet deep for a length of 2+ miles, with vertical cliffs and lots of swooping ledgy rock formations. The day was clear and cool, and the foliage, though perhaps a week short of "peak," was already quite brilliant.

The whole weekend was very nice. (Admittedly, winning the tournament may have biased me!) The Inn was comfortable and accommodating, furnished with antiques, and the food was great.

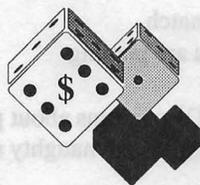
The old-time atmosphere was intensified late Saturday night during my finals match against Eden Windish when a thunderstorm knocked out the power. The Inn staff immediately whipped out an impressive

array of candles and ancient brass oil-lamps. Our match continued without interruption, illuminated by the glow of the lamps and the lightning. My dice supplied the thunder.

I'd recommend Turin to anyone looking for a unique BG trip. Not a big action event. The entry fees are modest. But when you consider that the Towpath threw in a free weekend for the winner, the rate of return was well over 100%. Organization was casual and competent.

Incidentally, the other "Renée and Eden" tournament at Alexandria Bay (which I attended last year in late July) is similar but "bigger" (32-player field) and the setting is really spectacular. You're right on the water's edge looking out at the Thousand Islands (one of which has an actual castle on it) as huge ships cruise by.—Walter Trice, Holden, MA Δ

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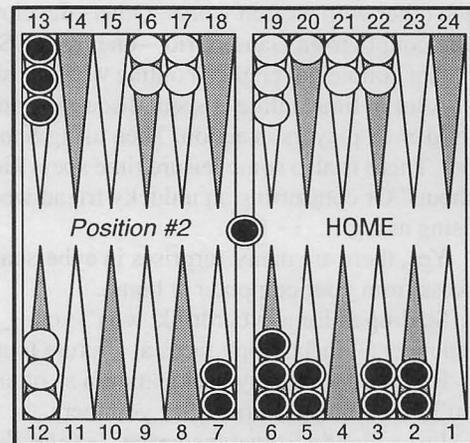
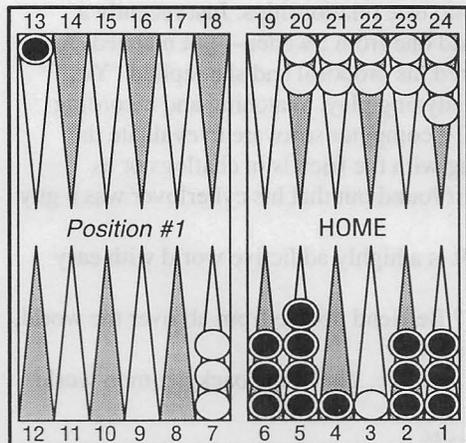


### 'WHAT WERE THE ROLLS' CONTEST

by Duane Jensen

Black is on roll in both of these positions. In both cases, Black rolls, then White, then Black, then White. At the end of this sequence, the checker setup remains the same. Your job is to determine the four total rolls and plays that accomplish this.

The winner receives a one year subscription to CHICAGO POINT. Ties will be broken by random draw. Submit your answers to both problems by mail (or e-mail: [chipoint@interaccess.com](mailto:chipoint@interaccess.com)) by 31 October 1998. Δ



# A Blonde's-Eye View of Cyberspace

by Laila Leonhardt

*lady@cyberarts.com*



For the past nine years I have indulged in the game of backgammon, playing in weekly tournaments and in larger regional events whenever I had the chance. But two years ago, via Internet backgammon, I suddenly was able to compete against the world's best players on a daily basis.

What started with an hour or two per day in Denmark quickly developed into a way of life. Playing and playing. Watching the champions, the authors, the famous, the infamous.

The world became smaller and attending far-away tournaments no longer seemed such a scary prospect. It was easier for me to travel halfway across the world on my own, knowing that I would be meeting many online friends at the event.

For me, playing on the Internet created a new perspective in my life, a new opportunity to work with my passion: backgammon. Employed by GamesGrid as a hostess, maintaining a website with photos from many tournaments, giving lessons online, and inspiring new players to get out and play in real tournaments: I love my job. I love backgammon!

So I should give you a taste of what cyberspace is like for the typical backgammon player. Oh my, how to go about it?

Most of us are used to using a computer, but actually interacting with people online is a whole new chapter. Cyberspace has its own terminology:

**Lol**= laughing out loud

**Rolf** = rolling on the floor laughing

**Rolfmao** = rolling on the floor laughing my ass off

**Smilies** = displaying emotions with sideways faces :- ) :- ( :-o

**A dropper**: A person that logs off when he/she is losing a match

**To blind**: preventing a person from watching the match you are playing

**To gag**: preventing a person from talking to you

**Shout**: To shout to all players, also those playing matches. Discussions about politics or a live stripgammon match where clothes are removed with giggles and naughty remarks.

**Chat**: the cyber slang for any kind of talk

**Cyberfriends**: people with whom you share your joys and sorrows as freely as a diary

**Cybergroupies**: Like real life, groupies swarm around the top players

**Cyberlovers**: people who sexually interact with written words. How? Well just imagine a pretty face, slowly moving up from under your desk, touching you gently, warm breath tickling, skin against skin, caressing hands moving slowly . . . well I am sure you get the idea! ; ->

Cyberspace will influence you in special ways. There is a certain kind of anonymity that enables people to interact beyond their real life boundaries. Shy people open up to become extroverts, disabled people become healthy, free beings in cyberspace. Lonely housewives, businessmen, they are all here, seeking entertainment in backgammon.

A pretend world, where people show themselves as they want to be, not as they really are. A false world? Some may say so. But for many, online backgammon is a refreshing addition to their sometimes dormant or problem-filled lives.

Friendships begin. Some develop to a cybersexual relationships, where people arouse each other with written words. Others develops into true relationships. Just recently a cybercouple from GamesGrid—one from USA and one from Sweden—got married. And another couple got engaged online when he shouted his proposal and she replied "Yes!"

A lot of time online is spent discussing and analyzing play. Watching and recording world class players in action. Then using Snowie™ computer software to evaluate the play. There is also some leisure time spent kidding with the friends in chatlogs or as "shout." Or comforting an unlucky friend who just found out that his cyberlover was a guy posing as a girl. :- (

Yes, there are many surprises in cyberspace. It is a highly addictive world with easy access from your computer at home.

So drop in for a cyberdrink, won't you \_\_\_\_? Befriend people from all over the world, then meet all their happy faces at a future tournament.

But most of all play backgammon as often as you like. That's the backgammon world you'll find on the Internet. See you there.

Just a blonde from cyberspace.—*Laila Leonhardt* Δ

## AMALGAMATION

Alyce Wallen (IL) sent us a clipping that said while **Thomas Jefferson** was in Williamsburg in 1770, he recorded in his memorandum book that he played backgammon, winning or losing as much as seven shillings at a time. . . Two new clubs opening in North America: There is now a Phoenix Backgammon Club that meets every Tuesday evening, 7:00 p.m. at the George and Dragon Restaurant. For more info, contact **David Wright** at <*vigorish@uswest.net*>. The Greater Toronto Backgammon Club opens for business 3 November and meets every Tuesday thereafter at the Comedy Club in North Toronto. Get there by 6:45 to register. To reach **Jerry Brown**, call 416/250-8174 or e-mail <*jmbpro@email.msn.com*> . . . Chicago's popular downtown chouette spot, the Third Coast closed its doors on 30 August. The hunt continues for another good downtown play place. . . We wonder if ESPN sports announcer **Peter Gammons** enjoys playing his game-namesake. . . **Jason Tesauro** (GA) has just been approved for a design patent on an intriguing backgammon board. The Tesauro-Eleypse Board has a unique round shape. Check it out at Jason's website at: ([www.backgammonboard.com](http://www.backgammonboard.com)) . . . Chicago's **Harry Cohn** is having a nice run in New York at the Ace Point Club. He currently leads the points race through September. . . Michigan's **Gail Latter** turned a loser into a winner in the Michigan Lottery. She parlayed a losing ticket into being selected for the "Road to Riches" TV show last month and proceeded to cash for \$20,000. . . Midwest Championships "Pig Rolling" expert **Mike Cyrkiel** (IN) may have hit it really big with his new patented casino blackjack idea called "Guarantee 20." If you are dealt a count of 20 on your first two cards, you can immediately cash in your hand for a 50% profit (or 100% profit if the dealer has a blackjack himself). Approval to install this option on BJ tables has been granted in Nevada and other states. For more info, go to <*guarantee20.com*>. . . Finally, **Duane Jensen** (MN) writes that one of the older players at the Twin Cities Backgammon Club only plays occasionally and spends the rest of the time at his remote retirement home. He was a backgammon lion in the old days, but has been declawed with the passing years. After stumbling through a match, winning it with some lucky rolls, he said to his opponent: "I guess I'm not as smart as I thought I used to be!" An old friend of his was quick to comment: "Nobody could ever be that smart." Δ



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1986 Gene Chait	1992 Gary Kay	1998 ?
1987 Peter Kalba	1993 Jeff Kane	
1988 Carl Sellars	1994 Dean Muench	

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Please enter me in the:

OPEN  INTERMEDIATE

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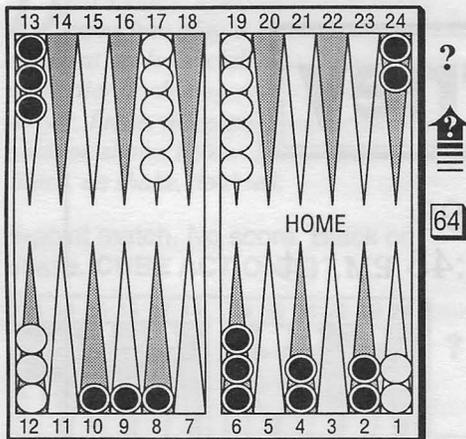
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone by 16 Nov. if you will be unable to attend.*

# PROBLEM #240 ANALYZED

by Antonio Ortega

17-point match. No score. Black on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



This position arose at the 1997 Tournament of the Americas at the start of a match between two top players. Black brought builders down 13/9, 13/10 with his opening 4-3, White rolled 5-1 splitting 13/8, 24/23, and Black attacked with double 4s, 8/4(2), 6/2\*(2).

White reentered with 5-1 (played bar/24, 13/8), a mediocre roll that restored his anchor on the acepoint without accomplishing anything else, producing the position shown.

Black has a 13-pip lead in the race and has made two useful inside points, while White has a completely undeveloped position. With builders aplenty, Black threatens to make the 5-point on 14 rolls, the bar-point on 13 rolls, and the 3-point on another 3 rolls. Only 6 rolls do nothing for Black. This gives him a clear double that many opponents would be tempted to pass in money play as well as at the start of the match. In fact, White did pass, which led me to study the position further.

If this were a simple acepoint game, White could not afford to take. However, the game has not yet crystallized. Black still has his two back men on White's acepoint; escape is not trivial, especially if White rolls a roughly equalizing 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4 (or 6-6 assuming Black hasn't made his own bar-point) in the next few shakes. It looks like a double and a take.

JellyFish Analyzer 3.0 rollouts (7776 trials at Level 5) confirm:

	White owns <u>2-cube</u>	Cube <u>centered</u>
<b>BLACK WINS</b>		
Plain game	34.0%	77.0%
Gammon	19.5%	2.0%
Backgammon	1.5%	0.2%
<b>WHITE WINS</b>		
Plain game	43.0%	19.8%
Gammon	1.8%	0.9%
Backgammon	0.2%	0.1%
<b>Black's Equity</b>	<b>+0.608</b>	<b>+0.597</b>

These rollouts suggest that in theory, Black's double is marginal, gaining little equity. If the cube remains unturned in the center and Black's position improves, he will often be able to double White out. In practice, however, the chance that White may pass now makes Black's double obligatory.

We may consider also the cube actions that would have been appropriate after other rolls than 5-1 for White. Had White danced, then Black's strong blitz prospects would have produced a powerful double that White clearly couldn't take. Had White reentered with a good roll (one that hit an outfield blot, made his own 5-point or anchored on Black's 5-point or 3-point), then Black would have retained only a modest advantage that surrendering the cube would negate.

Finally, had White reentered with a bad roll that left him anchorless (for example 5-2 played bar/18), Black would have had a strong gammon threat and a strong yet still takable double. Δ

didn't want to play 11 to 10 because if I rolled a 6 it would fit so nicely into my open 5-point. By a process of elimination I found my ace play: 9 to 8. A 6-3 would make my 5-point and a 3-3 would give me a closed board. I wasn't smug, but I was proud of myself for choosing my 6-1 play "logically."

When I did level 6 rollouts with Jellyfish and rollouts using Expert Backgammon, I found a "hidden" ace to play—an ace I wouldn't have considered seriously. Both the Jellyfish and Expert Backgammon rollouts preferred playing 17 to 11, and 6 to 5.

Break the 6-point? This unorthodox play makes sense when you consider the following:

1. My opponent will not leave a shot on the next roll so it is not essential that I retain a 4-point board.
2. Playing 6 to 5 gives me more chances to make *both* the 6 and 5 points on my next roll (6-3, 3-3, and 5-4).
3. Playing 6 to 5 offers more flexibility in checker play, giving me more opportunities to make a 5-point board with a longer life span.

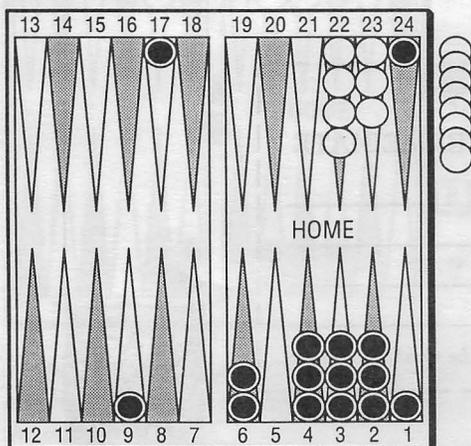
How much better is 6 to 5 than the other plays? The rollouts say I'll win only 2-3% of the games. Playing 6 to 5 wins at least 5% more games than any other ace play. That's not a huge difference, but it's still nice to be on the right side of the right play. Δ

# HASTY PLAYS

by Duane Jensen



Tournament double match-point. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



Here I was at double match-point. I should have been focused on how to play my 6-1, but my mind was wandering. I didn't see much hope of winning this match. My mind was busy selecting which congratulatory comment I would use during the handshake at the end of the match. Which should I use?

- "I enjoyed playing you."
- "We had some interesting games." (or the generic)
- "Thanks for the match."

Finally my mind drifted back to the decision at hand. Which 6-1 should I play?

I played the obvious 6 (17 to 11), but I stumbled over the less obvious ace. Should I make my ace point now or leave it open hoping to pick up a second blot later? I might have to hit a second checker to win because my opponent already had eight men off. With so many covers for the ace point, I saw no reason for making it now, and looked for a different ace to play. I

# WINNER'S CIRCLE



Aug.-Sept. 1998

- Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 3 Aug.)... OPEN: 1-Gregg Westrick, 2-Max Modesti; 1C-Melody Rae, 2C-Jerry Godsey.
- 14th Newcastle Open** (Charleston, NSW, Australia; 9 Aug.)... OPEN (36): 1-Adrian Pitt, 2-Peter Brown, 3-Tony Walker, 4-Christine Pont.
- Northern Ohio Monthly** (Canton, OH; 9 Aug.)... OPEN (10): 1-Mary Hickey, 2-Mike Reza.
- Backgammon by the Bay Special** (Alameda, CA; 23 Aug.)... OPEN (12): 1-Richard McIntosh, 2-Steve Miller.
- Clarine's Monthly** (Los Angeles, CA; 29 Aug.)... OPEN (8): 1/2: Clarine / Steve Sax.
- Atlanta BG Assoc. Monthly** (Roswell, GA; 30 Aug.)... OPEN: 1-Steve Kovach, 2-Mark Cohen.
- Ace Point Sunday** (New York, NY; 30 Aug.)... OPEN (10): 1-Charlie Russell, 2-Harry Cohn; 1C-Antoinette Marie Williams.

- INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Laurent Colli, 2-Rhoda Bigman. NOVICE (2): 1-Ann Lieber.
- BIBA Bonus No. 2** (Birmingham, England; 5-6 Sep.)... GOLD (8 out of 40): 1-Ralph Eskinazi, 2-Mardi Ohannessian, 3/4-Rachel Rhodes / Paul Lamford. SILVER (32): 1-Kevin White, 2-Robin Clay, 3/4-John Broomfield / Nick Check. BRONZE (32): 1-Graham Brittain, 2-Roy Hollands, 3/4-Brian Busfield / Corinne Sellens.
- NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 13 Sep.)... EXPERT (25): 1-Jim Williams, 2-Ivan Birn, 3/4-Ed Ahola / Jim Kasarjian; 1C-Bill Robertie, 2C-Cynthia Webster. A DIV. (5): 1-Marty Gross, 2-Marcus Hermansen; 1C-Jim McKenna.
- Ace Point Club Mixed Doubles** (New York, NY; 13 Sep.)... OPEN (8): 1-Martha Ghio & Mike Natanzon, 2-Rica Tarnoff & Phil Laak.
- Minnesota State Championships—ABT** (Minneapolis, MN; 18-20 Sep.)... OPEN (21): 1-Alex Caraplis (NJ), 2-Phil Williams; 1C-Richard Del Furia. INTERMEDIATE (19): 1-John Brooks (OK), 2-Harold Roberson; 1C-Ron Koppelien. NOVICE (4): 1-Lisbeth Petersen. AUTUMN JACKPOT (4): 1-Ralph Stowell. DOUBLES (16): 1-Glenn Dowd/

- Steve Brown, 2-Steve Maas/Jeff Nitschke.
- MINI-MATCH (64): 1-Steve Maas, 2-Glenn Dowd ... *Good news for the tourney and director Steve Maas: a 20%+ attendance increase.*
- Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 20 Sep.)... OPEN (25): 1-Elliott Winslow, 2-Jacob Shapiro, 3/4-Robert Caradien / Johan Ericsson; 1C-Ron Karr, 2C/3C-Antoine Azzaria / David Marona. INTERMEDIATE (15): 1-Clint McClintic, 2-Timothy Jaxon; 1C-Peter Pay, 2C-Mike Weltman. BEGINNER (7): 1-Frank Berkenkotter, 2-Jeff Concors, 3-Pat Hurley.
- Towpath Inn Tournament—ABT** (Turin, NY; 25-27 Sep.)... OPEN (17): 1-Walter Trice (MA), 2-Ed Johnson (NY), 3-Eden Windish (Canada)... *Read Walter's "scenic" review of the tourney in "Letters" on page 5.*
- Clarine's Monthly** (Los Angeles, CA; 26 Sep.)... OPEN (10): 1/2: Ray Baker / Clarine.
- Ace Point Sunday** (New York, NY; 27 Sep.)... OPEN (16): 1-Karen Davis, 2-Charlie Russell 3/4-Harry Cohn / Steve Elkin; 1C/2C-Paul Weaver / Eric Haber. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Paul Haber, 2-Rhoda Bigman; 1C-Kathryn Hansen. NOVICE (2): 1-Donald Gabbai. Δ

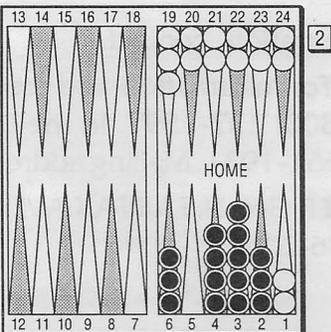
## GARTNER WINS INDY...

[Continued from page 1]

1. [0.515] 24/21, 13/10, 8/5(2)
2. [0.440] 13/10(2), 8/5(2)
3. [0.433] 24/18, 21/18, 13/10
4. [0.425] 21/18, 13/10, 8/5(2)
5. [0.414] 24/21, 8/5(2), 6/3

Alex chose defensive play #3, but staying on the offense is preferred. Later in the game:

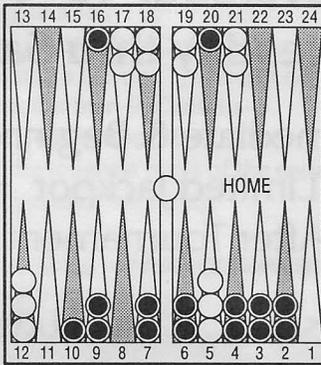
**Position #4**  
Match to 13 pts. Perry Gartner (White) leads Alex Caraplis (Black), 10 to 7. **WHITE TO PLAY 5-4.**



Perry played 6/1, 6/2. 24/15 is clearly better here . . . unless you sense your opponent was going to roll 5-5, *which is what Alex rolled!* Perry then tossed 4-4 playing 24/12, 24/20 (better to play 24/8). Alex left an ace shot with 6-5, Perry missed but eventually won a close race to jump ahead 12-7.

In the Crawford Game, it was more frustration for Alex:

**Position #5**  
Match to 13 pts. Perry Gartner (White) leads Alex Caraplis (Black), 12 to 7, Crawford. **WHITE TO ROLL.**



Perry shook the powerful 5-5 (correctly playing it B/20/15\*, 20/15, 13/8), Alex fanned with 6-4, Perry made his 5-point with 1-1 and Alex was forced into a losing 3-point holding game. Indiana Open title to Gartner 13-7.

**IN OTHER RESULTS**, the Advanced trophy was captured by Steve Herman (NC); Jana Miller (MO) took the Intermediate and Barbara Sutton was the Novice champ.

Ray Foglerlund (CA) and Doug Roberts (MA) split the Masters Jackpot, Mary Franks (IL) won the Amateur Jackpot.

The Doubles victors were Chuck Bower & Rob Maier (IN).

And Bob Glass (CA) identified the Happenings as artists of the 1966 classic

"See You in September," then went on to best a field of 47 others who also knew the artist to win \$200 in the bonus tourney. Complete results: Δ

### 46th INDIANA OPEN—ABT

- CHAMPIONSHIP (46): 1-Perry Gartner (NJ), 2-Alex Caraplis (NJ); 1C/2C-Doug Roberts (MA) / David Simpson (NC).
- ADVANCED (36): 1-Steve Herman (NC), 2-Gary Payne (MI); 1C-Gayle Wolf (MI), 2C-Ed King (OH).
- INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Jana Miller (MO), 2-Al Gomez (IN).
- LIMITED (6): 1-Barbara Sutton (PA), 2-Fran Miller (OH).
- \$300 MASTERS JACKPOT (16): 1-Doug Roberts (MA), 2-Ray Foglerlund (CA).
- OPEN JACKPOT (8): 1-Paul Franks (IL).
- AMATEUR JACKPOT (16): 1-Mary Franks (IL), 2-Chuck Stimming (IN).
- DOUBLES (16): 1-Chuck Bower (IN) & Rob Maier (IN). 2-Mary Franks & Jake Jacobs (IL).
- MICROBLITZ (128): 1-Jim Pascoe (CT), 2-Denny Leatherman (PA).
- INDY QUICKIES: #1 (64): 1-Alan Haas (IN). #2 (32): 1-Carol Joy Cole (MI).
- LABOR DAY JACKPOTS: \$200 (8): 1/2-Doug Roberts (MA) / Ray Foglerlund (CA). \$100 (8): 1-Paul Berg (MI).
- "SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER" JACKPOT (48): 1-Bob Glass (CA), 2-Jim Pascoe (CT).

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c/o Howard Markowitz, Director

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