

california state championship

ALEXANDER STOPS MORTUK FOR CAL. TITLE

Cattanach wins Super-32

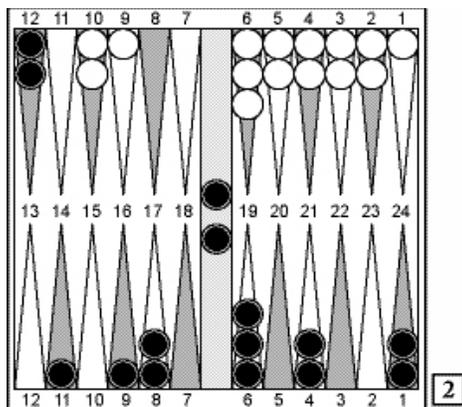
Jona Alexander of Beverly Hills, California marched through a tough 62-player Open field to capture the premiere California State Backgammon Championship. More than 100 players participated in the Gammon Associates 58th Invitational event held at the Airtel Hotel in Van Nuys. Patrick Gibson organized and directed the smooth-running event with great help from his wife Carla and Cecilia Pedroza.

Alexander, who toyed with stepping down to enter the Advanced division defeated five champ players to reach the finals of the double elimination format. Still, he would have to win one more match to guarantee prize money, and that 11-point battle would be against world-rated backgammon giant Steve Sax.

Steve utilized his skill to achieve a 7-5 lead. With Steve on roll in the following position, Jona's match-winning chances are less than one in 25 . . . but this is backgammon.

California State undefeated bracket 11-point finals. Steve Sax (White) leads Jona Alexander (Black), 7 to 5. White on roll.

What could go wrong?



Steve rolled the only shake that couldn't cover his ace-blot: 6-6 entering three and bearing a checker off. Even this roll is no problem . . . unless Jona rolls 1-1.

Jona rolled 1-1 bringing in both men (hitting) and making his 9-point. Sax fol-



Jona Alexander bearing off for the California State Championship title.

lowed with 5-3 entering and cracking his board (6/3). Jona then correctly played his 3-2 by hitting 8/5* and 13/11. Steve replied with 6-3 entering on the 22-point resulting

[Continued on page 5]

FRANK TALBOT IS 2004 ABT PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Frank Talbot (MI) survived 11th hour assaults by eight players in California to become the 2004 ABT Player of the Year. Talbot's total of 37.53 was earned by winning the Michigan Summer Champs in July and the Illinois Open Cons. in

October. Ray Fogerlund's (CA) 36.63 points were just 0.90 behind. Two-time ABT winner Neil Kazaross (IL) was third with 35.12.

Frank, Ray, and Neil will be honored with marble trophies at the ABT Awards Ceremony in Pittsburgh 18-20 February. Δ

YOUR WISH IS OUR COMMAND

In his Letter to the Editor on page 4, Roger Abbey doesn't understand: "...why you always feature people who were famous in the thirties, forties, and fifties. If you are trying to boost the game, wouldn't it be better to throw in modern day stars?"

Here you go, Roger. This pic of teen queen Lindsay Lohan is from the June 2004 Vanity Fair. Apparently Lindsay likes to play games in bed. (Backgammon, that is!) To view Ms. Lohan in glorious color, visit www.chicagopoint.com. Δ



CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

Tel: 773/583-6464 ♦ Fax: 773/583-3264

E-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Joy Cole (MI) Danny Kleinman (CA)
Mary Hickey (OH) Antonio Ortega (C.R.)
Jake Jacobs (IL) Steve Sax (CA)
Duane Jensen (MN) Kit Woolsey (CA)

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CHICAGO POINT is published monthly. The subscription rate is \$30/year (\$40 international airmail in USD check drawn on US bank).

Advertising Rates: 2 3/8" x 3 1/4" = \$40. 1/4 page = \$70. 1/2 page = \$115. Full page = \$200. If the ad is not "camera ready," request layout and typesetting for an additional charge.



LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

E-mail: letters@chicagopoint.com

BACKGAMMON IN HONG KONG?

I am on my way to Hong Kong for a business seminar and was wondering if there is any backgammon action over there. If so, where do they play?—*Russell Sands, Boca Raton, Florida*

Jake Jacobs answers: The Hong Kong Backgammon Club meets on Monday evenings at the LRC (Ladies' Recreation Club), 10 Old Peak Road. I haven't been in Hong Kong for the past three years. When I last visited, it was a reliable game, but I've heard attendance is spottier these days and they no longer hold tournaments. The chouettes are for HK\$100, which is about \$12.80 in US currency. Once there, you can possibly track down bigger fish. Some players have been known to chouette for HK\$400 (or more).

Good Luck!—Jake Jacobs, Tucson, Arizona

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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
cjc@tir.com

*Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

NATIONAL

Dec 16*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's Westport, Missouri	816/561-4330
Dec 16*	Queen City Club Monthly, Fricker's Cincinnati, Ohio	513/729-8484
Dec 16*	Third Thursday Bonus (Carolina), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Dec. 18*	Atlanta Holiday Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Dec 19*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/784-8132
Jan 8*	Springfield Series #3, Damon's, Bloomington, Illinois	217/528-0117
Jan 9*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	508/829-3283
Jan 9*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jan 16*	Austin Club Bimonthly Tournament, JC's Steakhouse, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Jan 14-16	<u>5th Carolina Invitational, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina</u>	<u>704/814-0850</u>
Jan 20*	Third Thursday Bonus (Pittsburgh), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 23-30	Backgammon On Board VII, Star Princess, Ft. Lauderdale to E. Caribbean	773/583-6464
Feb 5*	Bar Point Doubles Championship, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Feb 12*	Springfield Series #4, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois	217/528-0117
Feb 13	25th Illinois State Challenge Cup, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois	217/528-0117
Feb 13*	Gammon Associates Tournament of Champions, Los Angeles, California	818/901-0464
Feb 13*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	508/829-3283
Feb 13*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Feb 17*	Third Thursday Bonus (Midwest), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Feb 18-20	<u>27th Pittsburgh Championships, Holiday Inn, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Mar 5*	Springfield Series #5, Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/528-0117
Mar 6*	22nd Fleet Underwood Memorial & Benefit, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Mar 18-20	<u>2005 Midwest Championships, Wyndham Lisle Hotel, Lisle, Illinois</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Apr 3*	Bar Point Sunday, Champs Sports Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Apr 8-10*	<u>11th Ohio State Championships, Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio</u>	<u>330/268-4610</u>
Apr 27-May 1*	21st Nevada State Tournament, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
May 27-30*	<u>26th Chicago Open, Oak Brook Hills Resort & Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
Jun 5*	Bar Point Sunday, Champs Sports Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jul 1-4*	<u>30th Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi, Novi, Michigan</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 29-31*	<u>1000 Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	<u>585/396-0969</u>
Jul 29-31*	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	<u>608/516-9109</u>
Aug 7*	Bar Point Sunday, Champs Sports Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Sep 2-5*	<u>Indiana Open, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 16-18*	<u>Florida State Championship, Sheraton Suites, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Sep 23-25*	<u>2nd Pacific Northwest Championships, Holiday Inn, Seattle, Washington</u>	<u>253/856-7513</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Dec 18*	Gammonitis Christmas Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	447900-983038
Dec 27-30	1st Weihnacht-Open, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-486190
Jan 3-9*	6th South Pattaya Cup, 19th Hole Superpub, South Pattaya, Thailand	66954-43047
Jan 8-9*	Golden Fernsehturm, Hotel Mercure, Stuttgart-Gerlingen, Germany	49711-486190
Jan 15-16	Bright 'n' Breezy, Hilton West Pier Hotel, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 28-30	3rd Cotswold Fireside BG & Hold'em Poker, Crown Inn, Blockley, England	441453-821479
Feb 5-6	Jarvis Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Feb 10-13	10th Kaiserbrunnen-Cup, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-486190
Feb 17-20*	1st Innsbruck Open 2005, Casino Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria	49171-5422222
Feb 19-20	Gammonitis Tournament, Ramada Jarvis Grange Hotel, Bristol, England	447900-983038
Feb 24-27	2nd Braugold Cup, Salzungen Hof, Bad Salzungen, Germany	49521-64314
Feb 24-27*	Groupe Partouche Trophy, Palm Beach Casino, Cannes, France	33147-587179
Mar 5-6	Slattery Scottish Open, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Mar 15-18*	7th Abu Dhabi Championships, Fitness Club, Abu Dhabi, UAE (tentative)	613/389-4603
Mar 23-28	17th Nordic "Wide" Open, Hotel Scandic, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Apr 1-3*	3rd Trofeo di Città Cavalese, Bellavista Hotel, Cavalese, Italy	393283-380725
Apr 2-3*	At-A-Glance British Open, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Apr 7-10*	2nd Casino Salzburg BG & Texas Hold'em Open, Salzburg, Austria	49171-5422222
Apr 21-24*	1st Chalkidiki Tournament, Porto Karras Hotel, Chalkidiki, Greece	30697-3990985
May 7-8*	County Cups Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
May 12-15*	Aix Les Bains Tournament, Casino Aix Les Bains, France	33142-618080
May 19-22*	17th WBF European Championship, Velden Casino, Velden, Austria	39269-018168
Jun 2-5*	1st Bregenz Open 2005, Casino Bregenz/Mercure Hotel, Bregenz, Austria	49171-5422222
Jun 3-5*	5th Austrian Masters Finale, Cafe Heine, Vienna, Austria	436642-404285
Jun 4-5*	Hilton Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

NUANCES OF THE GAME

I was always taught that the cube action at

5-away, 5-away or more is pretty much the same as money cube action. However in the following position (no score to 5), it's no double for match, but double/take for money.

Over the board, I double either way which shows me how little I understand the nuances of the game. Can one of your contributors explain?—Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois

5-point match. No score. Black on roll. **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?**

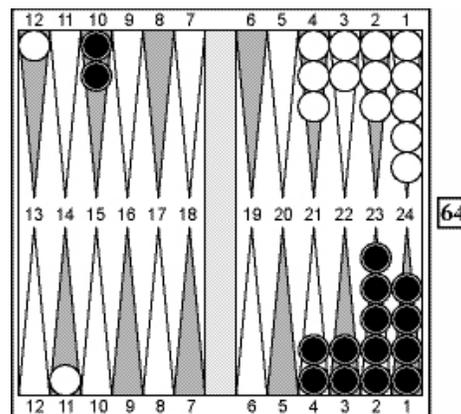


AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2004

Top 100—Final Standings after 17 tournaments
175 players earned points



Frank Talbot	37.53	Alan Robinson	11.61	Stan Livingston	6.42	Asad Zaltash	4.24
Ray Foglerlund	36.63	Denny Leatherman	11.50	Don Marek	6.42	Bear Lumbr	4.24
Neil Kazaross	35.12	Steve Sax	11.27	Tak Morioka	6.40	Milad Doueih	4.16
Emil Mortuk	32.67	Brian Barber	11.20	Joel Harwood	6.22	Ben Elliott	3.96
Gregg Cattanach	32.58	Betty Coppic	11.04	Woody Woodworth	6.22	Gukhan Gulec	3.93
Malcolm Davis	28.87	Dan Grogan	10.80	Don Faix	6.20	Ed Bennett	3.88
Jona Alexander	28.18	Yury Millman	10.67	Carl Sorg	6.20	Jim Hall	3.88
Charlie Cole	24.10	Brent Cohen	10.23	Darin DuMolin	6.00	Chuck Bower	3.78
Walter Trice	23.53	Norma Shyer	9.83	Steve Mellen	5.88	Joe Sylvester	3.78
Bob Stringer	22.88	Doug Roberts	9.48	Phil Biesanz	5.88	Arman Karamian	3.78
Wayne Jeffcoat	22.72	Stepan Nuniyants	9.33	Neil Garvie	5.75	Bruce Russell	3.44
Lucky Nelson	22.69	Alan Fenster	9.28	Greg Merriman	5.64	Stuart Thomson	3.40
Faddoul Khoury	21.40	Jason Lee	9.09	Mark Anshus	5.60	Brad Anderson	3.40
Lloyd Upper	15.50	Arnold Freeman	9.09	Fred Kalantari	5.53	Robert Appell	3.37
Mike Corbett	15.35	Eric Johnson	8.47	Ernie McCombs	5.27	Charles Toots	3.37
Bob Glass	15.33	Susan Randall	8.00	Geoff Arnold	5.20	Sandy Barnes	3.37
Bill Versaw	15.33	Vadim Musaelyan	7.61	Kate Elmore	5.20	Herb Gurland	3.33
Dave Wetzell	13.64	Rocky Kaya	7.58	Rob Maier	5.08	Dave Settles	3.29
Michel Merlitti	13.44	David Rubin	7.56	Jordan Lampe	5.08	Dan Cramer	3.20
Philip Smith	13.24	Phil Simborg	7.27	Steve Brown	4.86	Jack Fagan	3.19
Petko Kostadinov	13.20	Mary Franks	6.89	Ilia Guzei	4.80	David Rockwell	3.18
Bill Minser	12.81	David Haddad	6.80	Stacy Turner	4.60	Spencer King	3.13
Sam Pottle	12.81	Mary Hickey	6.80	Norm Wiggins	4.55	Randy Reiff	3.01
Ron Wagner	12.67	Wally Swan	6.65	Sassan Kamali	4.55	Joann Feinstein	3.01
Mark Antranikian	12.25	Bruce DiMattia	6.64	Denise Hemingway	4.30	4 tied with	3.00



Neil Kazaross answers: With the new computer (GNU) rollout match equity tables, there is some added value (in contrast to many older tables) to being 4 points away from victory. Computer rollouts have shown that gammons occur more frequently than most players believed in the pre-computer era. From 4 points away, one can win the match with a doubled gammon.

Therefore, with both players at 5-away, if the position is not very gammonish, one can take an initial 2-cube somewhat more deeply than for money. Thus, at the 5-away, 5-away score in positions that aren't very gammonish, one should not give the initial double in situations that would be only a borderline double/no double in money play.—Neil Kazaross, Barrington, Illinois

[Continued on page 4]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2004 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 NOV.

Bob Zavoral	29.92	Linda Rockwell	8.88	Richard Stawowy	2.32	Mark Swanson	0.96
Tak Morioka	27.66	Norma Shyer	8.80	Tom Meyer	2.24	David Rubin	0.96
David Rockwell	21.20	Roger Hickman	8.80	Royal Robinson	2.24	Sargon Benjamin	0.88
Herb Roman	21.04	Mark Murray	8.76	Ron Washington	2.04	Jerry Brooks	0.88
Phil Simborg	20.16	Adrian Rios	7.88	John Jennings	1.92	Josh Riddell	0.84
Gary Kay	18.80	Peter Kalba	7.76	Ken Tyszko	1.92	Cookie Frazin	0.80
Phyllis Smolinski	18.04	Joann Feinstein	7.40	Roland Dieter	1.88	Rick Sorci	0.80
Bill Davis	17.92	Georgina Flanagan	6.92	Felix Yen	1.76	Kathy Sorci	0.80
Carter Mattig	17.80	David Marcus	6.12	Amy Trudeau	1.60	Rich Hallbeck	0.80
Ken Bond	17.32	Les Moshinsky	5.12	Bill Stegich	1.52	Roy Cohen	0.72
Paul Baraz	14.52	Paul Franks	4.16	Neil Kazaross	1.52	Robert Ring	0.72
Tim Mabee	13.36	Michael Peters	4.12	Tim Carroll	1.44	Brooke Gottshall	0.72
Bob Steen	12.10	Mary Franks	4.04	Harry Cohn	1.44	John Stryker	0.72
Steve Klesker	12.08	Wayne Wiest	4.04	Jolie Rubin	1.44	Gaby Kairouz	0.64
Joe Auszmann	12.04	Kwong Chan	3.12	Don Marek	1.36	Will Hare	0.64
Howard Ring	11.96	Bill Keefe	2.96	Paul Klein	1.36	Romeo Kap	0.64
Jacob Moreno	11.76	Arline Levy	2.96	Mike Bandman	1.28	Brian Ross	0.64
Mike Sutton	11.40	Eric Johnson	2.72	Oleg Raygorodsky	1.28	Vince Bennett	0.60
Lucky Nelson	10.84	Elaine Kehm	2.56	Dave Cramer	1.20	Ken Tibbs	0.60
Alice Kay	10.44	DeJuan Meekins	2.56	Barbara Levinson	1.04	Jay Bleiman	0.56
Val Zimnicki	10.08	Mark Phillips	2.48	John O'Connor	1.04	Spencer King	0.56
Bill Bartholomay	10.00	Jake MaandeKok	2.36	Nora Luna	1.04	Dave Settles	0.32
Joe Wollick	9.48						

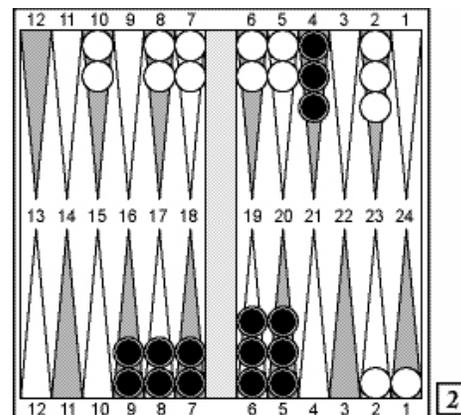
DAVID ROCKWELL came alive in November collecting 6.16 master points. Fall Trophy Tourney winner Herb Roman (5.20) finished second, and Phyllis Smolinski (4.16) placed third.

your move

PROBLEM #305

to be analyzed by Mary Hickey

7-point match. Black leads White, 4 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



ASK DANNY

© 2004 by Danny Kleinman



QUESTIONING SNOWIE

Dear Danny: I admire the problem-solvers of yesteryear. They had to analyze positions the old fashioned way: with reason, logic, and manual rollouts. In contrast, the first thing many of today's analysts do is roll their problems out on Snowie. Then they tailor their answers to fit Snowie's generally flawless data. Although more accurate, the modern-day methods are not nearly as impressive.

Recently, I came across a problem where Snowie's data seems to defy all reasonable logic:

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

WEDDING RINGS

I was out east during the October weekend of the Bill Minser/Beth Martinson wedding (a conflict of dates that I could do nothing about). However, Sam Pottle filled me in quite nicely.

This was a "double" ring ceremony in more than one sense. As I understand it, on the innerside of both rings are inscribed the words: "Double" and "Take"! . . . Pretty darn clever (and apropos), in my opinion.—Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin

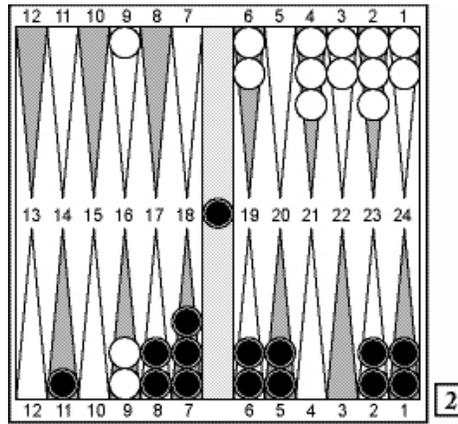
WRONG IMAGE

I subscribe to your newsletter and find it interesting. I don't understand, however, why you always feature people playing backgammon who were famous in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. If you are trying to boost the game, wouldn't be better to throw in modern day stars. Even movies where backgammon is used as a prop might be better. The image being thrown out there is that the only people playing the game are aging stars or worse, dead.—Roger Abbey, Lowville, New York

Thanks for your input, Roger. CHICAGO POINT finds it intriguing how backgammon remained popular throughout the 20th century (especially among celebrities in the 1930s and 1970s). We get warm, nostalgic feelings when we see these old photographs.

However, we get different feelings when we look at Lindsay Lohan on the cover of this issue. Hopefully the "Queen of Teen"

Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.



Duplicate 2s by playing Bar/18, right? Wrong. 1440 full Snowie rollouts (3-ply, precise) for the top three plays yields the following:

- Bar/20, 7/5 (Winning 24.6% games

and others of her generation can improve backgammon's aging image as we sail into the 21st century.—Ed.

MAGRIEL'S BACKGAMMON: 2004 EDITION

I am happy to announce a new edition of Paul Magriel's *Backgammon*. This is the original version of the book, plus a new 10-page introduction I wrote. It is an insider's look at Paul—quite a fascinating character apart from his quixotic gaming behavior—and the way we created the original book 30 years ago. We will also be printing, for the first time in book form, the columns that we wrote together for the *New York Times*, and at some point, I'm planning to rewrite the introductory book to make it more of a unique item (rather than an abridgement).

The price of the 2004 edition is \$65 + \$6 shipping (higher overseas) with discounts for volume purchases. I would be happy to prepare *Backgammon* for holiday gift-giving including book-signing and gift-wrapping. (My signature, not Paul's who is a bit difficult to reach.) To order, call me at 508/432-1749 or buy the book online at: www.roses-books.com.—Renée Magriel Roberts, Harwich Port, Massachusetts

SATISFIED TO BEAT PHIL'S SCORE

I appreciate CHICAGO POINT very much. The tournament reporting and challenging problems are the tops.

On a personal note, it was very satisfying when I scored 95 points in last issue's "Play an Ace" quiz topping Phil Simborg's score of 87. This 88-year-old still enjoys playing backgammon!

including 4.0% gammons. Losing 75.4% games including 18.6% gammons)

- Bar/18 (-0.035) (Winning 23.3% games including 2.4% gammons. Losing 76.7% games including 17.7% gammons)
- Bar/20, 8/6 (-0.048) (Winning 23.3% games including 3.5% gammons. Losing 76.7% games including 19.8% gammons)

I have yet to have someone explain to me why it is an error to duplicate White's hitting 2s with Bar/18. Any insight on this, Danny?—Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois

DEAR PHIL: As the Snowie rollouts indicate, Bar/20, 7/5, which leaves more shots than Bar/18, loses more gammons. Nonetheless, it is a better play. To see why, you need only look at the race. After Black plays either 5-2, White leads by 15 pips and the shake, which is worth four more pips.

Black will seldom win this game running. His best hope is to hit a shot, and to maximize shot chances he must maximize contact. Remaining on the 20-point retains more contact than advancing to the 18-point. If Black runs from the 20-point, then White can play many missing rolls safely by moving from his 9-point and breaking his 6-point. If Black stays on the 20-point, White will be forced to leave shots on more rolls.

Contact favors the player who trails in the race. It's as simple as that.—Yours, Danny Δ

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or send e-mail to: bg@chicagopoint.com

As former Supreme Court Chief Justice Oliver Wendall Holmes once said: "People don't quit playing because they grow old. They grow old because they quit playing."—Lee Hoge, Saratoga Springs, New York Δ

There may still be time to cruise in January!

To check cabin availability,
Sue Will: 309/699-6005
cruiserbag@insightbb.com

Backgammon On Board VII

23–30 January 2005

Carribbean Cruise from Ft. Lauderdale

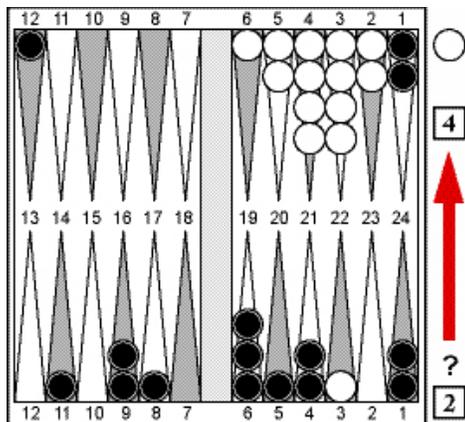
CALIFORNIA...

[Continued from page 1]

in the following position:

California State undefeated bracket 11-point finals. Jona Alexander (Black) trails Steve Sax (White), 5 to 7. Black on roll.

SHOULD BLACK RECUBE?



Jona recubed here which rolls out to be an error (it's correct if Sax hasn't borne a piece off). Steve accepted, ended up losing four points, and failed in his comeback attempt losing 11-8. Jona had pulled off a great upset to become the undefeated finalist.

ABT BATTLE ROYAL

The big 62-player field gave nine attendees (Frank Talbot, Ray Fogelrund, Neil Kazaross, Gregg Cattanach, Wayne Jeffcoat, Emil Mortuk, Bob Glass, Mark Antranikian, and Charlie Cole) the chance to be crowned American Backgammon Tour 2004 Player of the Year. One by one, the heavyweights fell to the canvas.

Sunday at 11:30 A.M., Neil Kazaross was eliminated. At 1:00 P.M., Calcutta Auctioneer Ray Fogelrund (who raised a record \$9300+ on Saturday) turned ABT leader Frank Talbot into an "interested spectator." Then at 2:15 P.M., Fogelrund fell to Gregg Cattanach.



Ray Fogelrund generated over \$9300 in the Calcutta Auction—a record for Gammon Associates tournaments.

By 3:00 P.M., only Gregg Cattanach and Emil Mortuk could pass Talbot. Cattanach continued to win in the Consolation bracket reaching the semifinals vs. Greg Merriman.

A win by Cattanach would be enough to vault him into first place. With Talbot looking on, Merriman did his fellow Michigan-der a favor by stopping Cattanach 9-3.

Now only Emil Mortuk (also from Michigan) had any chance of winning the ABT title. Mortuk's exciting come-from-behind victory in the Main semi's vs. Bruce DiMattia (CA) sent him to the finals vs. Jona Alexander. But Jona quickly put a stop to Emil's quest vanquishing him 11-1. It was a great victory for Jona Alexander, a great 2004 for Emil Mortuk (both nationally and in Europe), and of course, an ABT championship year for Frank Talbot (See page 1).

CATTANACH CAPTURES SUPER-32

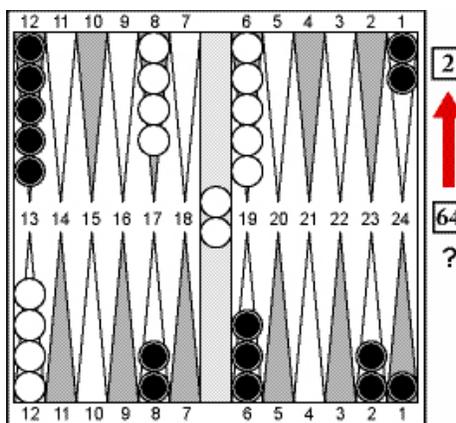


Super-32 finalist Ray Fogelrund (L) battles eventual winner Gregg Cattanach.

In an exciting Super-32 15-point final, friendly rivals Gregg Cattanach and Ray Fogelrund battled for the title and over \$5000 in first place prize money. With the match tied at 10-10, Cattanach "pumped up the volume" by cubing here:

Super-32 15-point Masters finals. Gregg Cattanach (Black) and Ray Fogelrund (White) tied at 10-10. Black on roll.

SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?



An initial 3-ply Snowie evaluation shows this to be "No Double," but 720 3-ply precise full rollouts confirm the correctness of Gregg's action. Although Ray's take is clearly right, he loses a lot of gammons in this position (nearly 31%) which is exactly what happened. The next game, Cattanach locked up the first place plaque 15-10.

AND FINALLY . . .

Congratulations to the other main event

winner: Rocky Kaya (NV) in the Advanced, and Mindla Fajtlowicz (CA) in the Limited. Congrats also to Doubles champs Neil Kazaross (IL) & Rebecca Trussel (NV), and to Quickie winner Patrick McCormick (CA).



Rocky Kaya (NV) rolls to victory in the Advanced division.

A tip of the hat to Patrick Gibson for drawing more than 100 players to Van Nuys, CA. It was his best attended event in over 20 years directing Gammon Associates tournaments. Complete results follow.



G/A director Patrick Gibson with staffers Cecilia Pedroza (L) and wife Carla.

CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP—ABT

OPEN (62): 1-Jona Alexander (CA), 2-Emil Mortuk (MI), 3-Bruce DiMattia (CA); 1C-Steve Sax (CA), 2C-Greg Merriman (MI). ADVANCED (32): 1-Rocky Kaya (NV), 2-Charles Toots (CA); 1C-Robert Appell (CA), 2C-Alan Asar (CA). LIMITED (6): 1-Mindla Fajtlowicz (CA), 2-Elsie Sands (Canada); 1C-Tom Rose (CA). SUPER-32 MASTERS (32): 1-Gregg Cattanach (GA), 2-Ray Fogelrund (CA), 3/4-Paul Gedigian (CA) / Mike Sharp (CA). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL) & Rebecca Trussell (NV), 2-Michiko Miori Okuma (Japan/CA) & Jon Vietor (CA). OVERFLOW DOUBLES (8): 1-Mickey LeGlaire (CA) & Sho Sengoku (Japan/CA), 2-Bob Glass (CA) & Azzam Masarani (CA). 2-POINT QUICKIE BLITZ (128): 1-Patrick McCormick (CA), 2-David Taniguchi (CA). \$100 JACKPOT #1 (8): 1-Cem Aslan (GA). \$100 JACKPOT #2 (8): 1-Nick Maffeo (CA).



Marcy's BG Holiday Gift Ideas

by Marcy Sloan

Here's another sackful of backgammon-related goodies from our favorite Santa, Marcy Sloan (Northbrook, IL). Everything here can be purchased at the Internet address shown.—Ed.



Express your greatest backgammon fear—an angry beaver—on a long-sleeve shirt (\$17.95) or sweatshirt (\$27.95). Available at www.signals.com (keyword: beavers).



“Lady Luck” will be riding your dice when you wear this embroidered shirt that comes with dice buttons. \$32.00 (X-Large only) at www.inkubus.com/cw_ondice.html.



Here's a small travel wooden board in a zippered case with peg men (instead of magnetized checkers). Available for \$6.91 from an Australian website: www.peedeetoys.com.au (keyword: backgammon).



Now if someone asks you to “beaver” or “raccoon” the cube, simply reply “Can it!” You can buy them packed in their own sealed cans for \$12.00 from: www.wildspirit.org/storecan.htm.



For players looking for a big roll (and not around their waist) here is a Dice Belt. This is a bonded leather belt with a stainless steel buckle in sizes 30”–44” and 1-3/8” wide. Price: \$14.95 at www.daddyos.com/retro/maccess.html.



The perfect gift for your martini-drinking backgammon buddy. Here are a pair of 10 oz. martini glasses and a matching cocktail shaker. Price: \$103.00, or \$55.00/pair without the shaker. Available at: www.eye4gifts.com/Backgammon_Martini_Glasses.html.

HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

HASTY CUBE INSPIRES GAMMON CREATIVITY BY OPPONENT

For several rolls I'd been simmering in my own stupidity. Leading 14-1 in a 17 point match, I had recubed to 4 thinking I was doubling out my opponent. Instead my opponent grabbed the cube and reshipped to 8. This was a painful hasty play—releasing a large cube that could erase my lead in the match. My opponent got lucky and then got even luckier by hit-

CASTING CALL FOR THE "NEW" GRIZZLY ADAMS?



No, these guys aren't the 2004 Oregon Lumberjack champions. Here are Neil Kazaross (L) & Joe Russell at the Gammon Associates 2nd Invitational held in Los Angeles 22-23 May 1982. Neil used his Champ Consolation winnings for a haircut. [Photo by Patrick Gibson]



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
773/583-6464
Peter Kalba
312/316-1432

Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at the Clarion Hotel, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago; 773/693-5800.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Champs Sports Bar, 17 W. 517 Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/691-1888.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Damon's Grill, 1701 Fort Jesse Road, Normal. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wed., 6:15 P.M. at Damon's Grill, 3050 Lindbergh Blvd., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

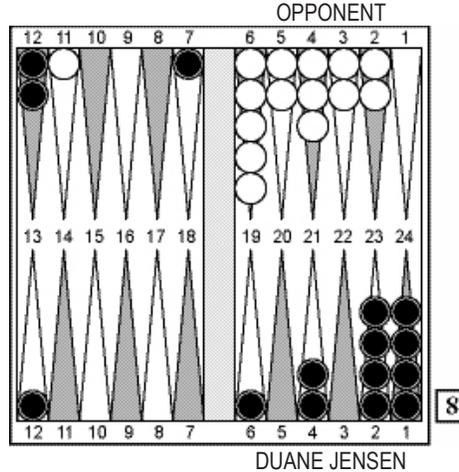
WINNETKABG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537).

PEORIA BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/674-0557).

ting a blot.

Kismet. A dumb play on my part was being justly punished. But just as the skies darkened, a lucky roll (6-1 from the bar) saved me from my careless recube. My opponent then cooperated by rolling 5-3, unable to hit my blot on his bar point.

17-point match. Black leads White 14-1. **WHITE TO PLAY 5-3.**



I could breathe more easily now. I had almost certainly escaped the gammon and might even win the race with my "fast" inner board. Things were looking up.

My opponent must have been depressed by my lucky roll because he was taking a long time on his 5-3. I finally asked if he was choosing between 11/6, 3/off and the smoothing 11/6/3 play.

"Noooo," he said. "I hadn't even considered those plays. I'm deciding between (6/1, 6/3) and (6/1, 4/1)."

My heart rate increased and my breath-

ing quickened as two frightening facts became clear to me. First, I hadn't yet escaped the gammon. Five rolls (1-1, 2-1, and 3-1) couldn't clear his last checker, and rolls of 2-2, 4-4, and 6-4 (with which I'd correctly hit) could still get me gammoned. Second, I realized that my opponent was the better player, much better.

He passed on closing his board in favor of 6-1, 6-3. If he hit me, he wanted me to enter on the ace point hitting his blot so he could recycle a checker to hit more of my blots.

Any player's attention should be drawn to this position because it's framed by two anomalies: the large difference in the score, and the large cube. These peculiarities were alerts for my wise opponent to make the extraordinary play of leaving his outfield blot exposed. The usual play is to bring the checker home, but not here. A normal 8 point win puts my opponent at 8 away/3 away leaving him with only 20% match equity; but his gammons win the match. His outfield blot is in little danger from being hit. I would try to avoid hitting with most of my 4s since they're too gammonish for me. My opponent correctly left his outfield blot to threaten me with more gammons if I failed to leap past.

I won the game and the match. The win was satisfying, but my poor play rattled me. I learned two lessons:

1. Don't let the cube escape your possession if you have a big lead.
2. Try to squeeze every gammon from the cube if you're trailing by a bundle.

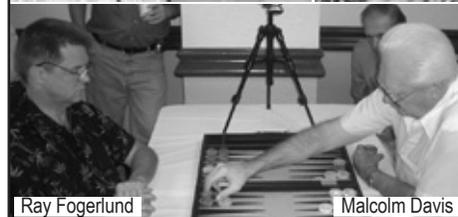
I've learned backgammon lessons before . . . remembering them is the hard part.—Duane Jensen Δ

CATTANACH AND FOGERLUND TAKE BIG PRIZES IN FLORIDA

Lots of fun at Elayne Feinstein's Florida State Championships 15-17 October at the Sheraton Suites in Fort Lauderdale. Results:



Elayne Feinstein Gregg Cattanach Susan Randall



Ray Fogelund Malcolm Davis

FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS—ABT

CHAMPIONSHIP (43): 1-Gregg Cattanach (GA), 2-Charlie Cole (VA), 3/4-Mike Corbett (FL) / Herb Gurland (MA); 1C-Joel Harwood (FL), 2C-Phil Simborg (IL); 1LC-Denise Hemingway (PA). ADVANCED (48): 1-Susan Randall (FL), 2-Gukhan Gulec (FL), 3/4-Carlos Azcarate (FL) / Murray Bryntesen (FL); 1C-Stacy Turner (FL), 2C-James Roston (NY); 1LC-Greg Evans (FL). NOVICE (12): 1-Michael Lipof (FL), 2/3-Alex Meyers (FL) / Ray Reed (FL). ROYAL PALM CLASSIC MASTERS (14): 1-Ray Fogelund (CA), 2-Malcolm Davis (TX). DOUBLES (32): 1-Ken Bond (IL) & Paul Slusarski (NV), 2-Dr. Bob Hill (NY) & Al Tesoro (FL). BLITZ #1 (64): 1/2-Steve Flam (FL) / Raymond Rickard (FL). #2 (64): 1/2-Ray Fogelund (CA) / Jim Bowman (FL). DAVID MENKES MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT (24): 1-Linda MacLean (MA), 2-Phil Simborg (IL). GATOR ROLL: 1-Bill Wilner (MD). ZAVORAL BOARD TOURNAMENT (16): 1-Robert Christensen (FL), 2-Bud Bowers (PA).

Kit Woolsey admits it over the board at the Las Vegas Open . . .

“THE TOUGHEST PLAY I EVER HAD TO MAKE”



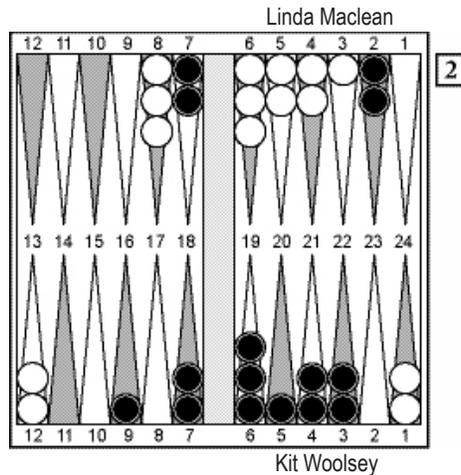
By Phil Simborg

I was watching backgammon giant Kit Woolsey in his opening Championship round match vs. Linda McLean at the recent Las Vegas Open when the following setup occurred:

After studying it for quite a while, Kit commented, “I think this is the toughest play I have ever had to make.” So I recorded it.

Now it’s your turn. Choose the play you would make in the position shown at right before reading on . . .

2004 Las Vegas Open 15-point Championship match. Kit Woolsey (Black) trails Linda Maclean (White) 12 to 13. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



With gammons against him not a factor, Kit played off his bar anchor (18/13, 18/15). A Snowie 3-ply evaluation shows this play tied for 4th best and trailing the leader 23/15 by 0.074. But a Snowie 3-ply precise rollout of 1200 games moved Kit’s play up to 3rd best, just 0.038 off the lead. 23/15 remained on top followed by 23/18, 9/6 (0.031 off the pace).

The next two plays in order were (23/18, 5/2) and (23/18, 6/3). Any other move is a whopper blunder.

In Kit’s defense, Doug Mayfield was the only expert to get this play right at first glance. How did you do?—Phil Simborg Δ

las vegas open & pro am doubles

TRICE WINS LAS VEGAS OPEN BALLARD & MCCLINTOCK REPEAT IN PRO AM DOUBLES

Number One “Giant of Backgammon” Nack Ballard & Wayne McClintock successfully defended their Pro Am Doubles title 6–10 Nov. at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. The all-California team bested Lars Bønding (Denmark) & Katja Spillum (Norway) 23–20 to collect \$96,000.



Wayne McClintock (L) & Nack Ballard battle Lars Bønding & Katja Spillum in the Pro Am finals. [Photo by Patrick Gibson]

The Las Vegas Open immediately followed (10–14 Nov.). Kudos to reigning Indiana Open champ Walter Trice who capped off a great 2004 winning the Championship. Also to Steve Sax for his big Super Jackpot victory.

Nevada Backgammon Association Director Howard Markowitz has announced his next event: The Nevada State Tournament 27 April–1 May at the Riviera Hotel. Δ



Las Vegas Open winner Walter Trice (L) and Super JP champ Steve Sax. [Photo by CJC]

LAS VEGAS PRO AM / LAS VEGAS OPEN

LAS VEGAS PRO AM DOUBLES (14 teams+2 byes @ \$10,000): 1-Nack Ballard (CA) & Wayne McClintock (CA), 2-Lars Bønding (Denmark) & Katja Spillum (Norway), 3/4-Dod Davies (England) & Wayne Felton (England) / Claude Marbleu (France) & François Tardieu (France). \$1,000 JACKPOT #1 (4): 1-Fred Kalantari (MN). \$1,000 JACKPOT #2 (6): 1-Leo Fernandez (Argentina), 2-Mike Senkiewicz (NY).

LAS VEGAS OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (101+27 rebuys): 1-Walter Trice (MA), 2-Greg Kurrell (CO), 3/4-Malcolm Davis (TX) / Jorge Pan (Argentina); 1C-Morten Holm (Denmark), 2C-Dod Davies (England), 3C/4C-Dennis Culpepper (VA) / Matvey “Falafel” Natanzon (Israel); 1LC-Claude Marbleu (France), 2LC-Mark Rozans (LA). **INTERMEDIATE** (127+1 rebuy): 1-Wolfram Sauer (TX), 2-Cyrille Fauquet (France), 3/4-Robert Appell (CA) / Yuriko Kondo (Japan); 1C-Jonah Seewald (CO), 2C-Mark Antranikian (CA), 3C/4C-David Hennessy (Australia) / Cy Yehros (NV); 1LC-Tom Duggan (England), 2LC-Sam Orandle (NV). **BEGINNER** (51+13 rebuys): 1-Daniel Stroberger (CA), 2-Ernesto Nassau (CA), 3/4-Milton Gonzalez (Costa Rica) / Leonard Michael Lemay (CO); 1C-Mahmoud Jahanbani (England), 2C-Larry Kamin (IL); 1LC-Carl Blumenstein (CA), 2LC-Ruth Longman (MI). **SUPER JACKPOT** (bracket of 64 with buy-ups to round of 16): 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Joe Sylvester (MO), 3/4-Leo Fernandez (Argentina) / Ray Fogelund (CA). **LIMITED JACKPOT** (bracket of 64 with buy-ups to round of 16): 1-Joaquin Viejobueno (Argentina/CA), 2-Tom Wheeler (TX), 3/4-Hersel Namdar (NY) / David Shadi (NY). **SENIORS** (128): 1-Tom Wheeler (TX), 2-Herb Gurland (MA). **BLITZ** (320): 1-Dean Adamian (MI), 2-John O’Hagan (IN). **MINI-MATCH #1** (128): 1-Masahiko Nasu (Japan), 2-Osamu Omodera (Japan). **MINI-MATCH #2** (64): 1-Perry Gartner (NJ). **DOUBLES** (32 teams): 1-Masahiko Nasu (Japan) & Don Thompson (USA/ Japan), 2-Nack Ballard (CA) & Hsiao-Yee (CA). \$500 SATURDAY JACKPOT (16): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Doug Mayfield (CA). \$100 SATURDAY JACKPOT (48): 1-Frank Bierekoven (NV), 2-Larry Arnold (MN). \$50 AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT (28): 1-Nodar Gagaa (Republic of Georgia), 2-Masahiko Nasu (Japan). \$20 AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT (22): 1-Jona Alexander (CA), 2-Daniel Stroberger (CA).

Advance registration is booming!



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BG Peeves

By Larry Liebster

OPONENT ENTERING MY CHECKER

Rodney Dangerfield is dead. He got no respect. I am alive. I demand respect.

Here's the situation:

I have a checker on the bar. It's my turn and I roll a forced-entry number. I consider it very rude and disrespectful for my opponent to instantly grab my checker off the

bar and slap it into play.

So this is what the creep tells me:

- "You are playing slow,"
- "You are too old to be playing with a young, vibrant player like me,"
- "You are stupid,"
- "You are not paying attention,"
- "I want to irritate you," or
- "You are wasting my valuable time."

In backgammon's golden past, our game was played by classy people at elegant gaming clubs (sometimes in formal clothing) in a chivalrous, courteous manner.

I want to bring back these days. I am starting two organizations:

1. A vigilante group that openly chastises rude and disrespectful backgammon behavior. You may run across some of my roadkill in your wanderings. Come join me.
2. An organization called "The Immortals." We operate under the principle that one day someone will be immortal, so why not us?

Rodney Dangerfield is dead. He got no respect. Maybe that's the reason for his demise.

Join me in the crusade to eliminate disrespectful behavior in the backgammon arena and we will all be immortal.—Larry Liebster Δ

BPC FALL TROPHIES FOR ROMAN & STAWOWY



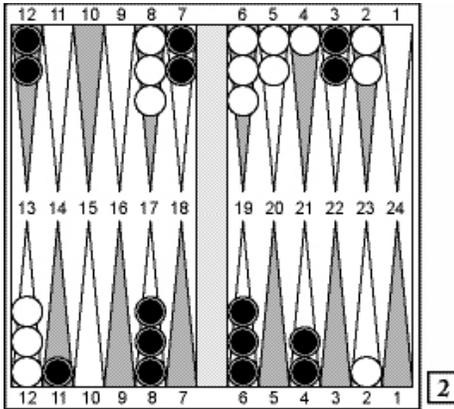
BPC director Bill Davis presents Herb Roman (L) and Richard Stawowy with their Fall Trophies in the 22nd annual competition held at the Clarion Hotel in Chicago 5 November. Complete results below:

CHAMPIONSHIP (22): 1-Herb Roman, 2-Phil Simborg, 3/4-Howard Ring / Gary Kay; 1C-David Rockwell, 2C-DuJuan Meekins. INTERMEDIATE (27): 1-Richard Stawowy, 2-Jolie Rubin, 3/4-Rich Hallbeck / Phyllis Smolinski; 1C/2C-Amy Trudeau / Sargon Benjamin. ONE-POINT TOURNEY (32): 1-Lucky Nelson, 2-Eric Johnson. Δ

**PROBLEM #304
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

5 point match. Black leads White, 3 to 1.
BLACK TO PLAY 6-5.



Black has three reasonable plays, each which follow different themes. 22/11 combines running with containment, with a bar point holding game in reserve. 13/8, 13/7 goes directly after the prime. 11/6, 8/2* takes away half of White's roll and keeps open the possibility of an attack. Which is the plan which fits the position?

Black is well behind in the race. When you are behind in the race, there are three ways to win. The first is to get lucky and catch up. The second is to contain one of White's checkers behind a prime. The third is to hit a shot and catch up in the race or contain the hit checker. How can Black maximize these chances?

22/11 is a very pretty play. The 11-point fits well with Black's structure of the 4-point made and the 5-point open. This brings builders down to bear on the 5-point, and also makes it very difficult for White to escape with the combination of the 11-point and the midpoint patrolling Black's outer board. If Black can extricate his other back checker, he will have a decent chance to contain White's back checker. If White's back checker slips away, Black will have a bar point holding game to fall back on.

However, 22/11 has two strikes against it. One is the race. Black is way behind in the race, so in order to win he will have to either prime White's back checker or hit a shot later on. Giving up the anchor on the 3-point cuts down considerably on Black's chances to hit a shot later on. Running is anti-thematic here. When behind in the race, don't race. The second is the blot left on the 22-point. White has the stronger board, and she may be able to attack that blot successfully. Black cannot afford to

get stuck on the bar while White is extricating her back checker. The conclusion is that while 22/11 is pretty, it doesn't meet the requirements of the position.

13/8, 13/7 goes directly for the bar point. It exposes Black to a direct 5-shot, but Black is so far behind in the race that falling farther behind won't hurt too much. In fact, unless White hits with a perfect 5-2 or 5-4, the hit will give Black more ways to attack the blot on White's 4-point and Black would like very much to hit that blot. If White misses, Black will have a good start at the priming campaign. He will need that bar point in all variations if he is to build a prime. He has aces and 4s to cover, and several rolls which make the 5-point. Once Black has nailed down the bar point he can go all out after the 5-point, and if he gets that also, he will have a real chance to contain White's back checker.

If all this fails, Black still has maximum shot-hitting potential from his 3-7 holding game. Keeping the midpoint isn't too important. Black's anchor on White's bar point does the necessary work to control the outfield. The idea of throwing 11 checkers up front to make a five-prime while keeping four checkers back on their anchors to harass White is very thematic for this position.

11/6, 8/2* tries a different approach. White is currently threatening to cover the blot on her 4-point with 4s, 2s, and 6-3. By hitting White loose and forcing White to use half of her roll to enter, Black de-

creases White's cover numbers. If Black can prevent White from covering the blot on the 4-point and then roll an ace to hit this blot, that will just about even up the position. Black won't mind too much if White hits back. In addition, the loose hit prevents White from escaping in one roll unless White rolls 5-5 from the bar. The problem with 11/6, 8/2* is that that if Black isn't able to hit the blot on White's 4-point, Black doesn't have a decent follow-through. He doesn't have the ammunition to carry out a blitz. Additionally, with the checker on the 2-point out of play and the loss of the builder on the 11-point, it will be very difficult for Black to form the prime he needs to win this game frontwards.

Let's go back to see how Black wins this game. Any of the plays might get lucky and win the race. 22/11 give Black decent chances to prime White's back checker, but reduces Black's hitting potential. 11/6, 8/2* is good for getting a shot—both now and later—but the chance of forming a successful prime goes down. 13/8, 13/7 is good for making a prime, and doesn't compromise Black's chances of hitting a shot. This is the logical choice.

In today's backgammon world of racing, blitzing, and holding, players often forget the value of an old-fashioned prime and that the best way to make key points is to slot them. This is a position where the top players of several years ago would have been better placed than today's experts.—
Kit Woolsey Δ

AMALGAMATION

Tom Keith has updated his "Backgammon Galore" website to include the best BG glossary on the planet. You'll find it at www.bkgm.com... Recently visiting the Chicago Bar Point Club: **Justin Myers** (MO), **Adam Tubbs** (MO), **Paul & Mary Franks** (NV), **Boris Dekhtyar** (NJ), and **Kurt Thompson** (MN)... **Bill Chibnik** (IL) appeared as a restaurant critic on WTTW-TV's "Check, Please" in mid-October promoting the Millrose Restaurant in S. Barrington. Winnetka Club director **Trudie** was also on the show playing a bartender... **Trevor Dierkes** and **Mary Hickey** have taken over the Greater Columbus (OH) Backgammon Club. Trevor will run the tournaments and Mary will maintain the website. For more info, call Trevor at 614/784-8132... The Jan/Feb. POINT, with the updated "2005 Backgammon Clubs in North America" listing, will be mailed out in mid-January... Our best wishes **Rudy Emmelot** (MO) who has ended his long-time POINT subscription due to failing health... New

York player **Karen Davis** was on national TV opening up a health conference as president of the Commonwealth Fund. For more about Karen, go to www.cmwf.org and search for her name... **Tim Serges** organized an 80th birthday party/tournament for his dad and longtime BPC player **Sarg Serges** (complete with birthday cake) at the Bar Point Club on 19 October. **Phil Simborg**'s win earned a special bonus: the "Sarg Super-80 Cup"... Two new Internet websites offer backgammon play. **Cem Aslan** (GA) is promoting clubgames.com. Beta-testing is going on now with open play in BG, poker, and other games scheduled within a month. And gammonpoint.com is up and running now (see back page ad). Both tournament play and money play is offered; or you can play for fun... We know where **Henry Doney** (CA) will be on New Year's Day: watching the Rose Bowl. That's because Doney played for the winning Illinois team (vs. UCLA) in the 1947 Rose Bowl... Finally, something to consider when playing backgammon from **George Herbert**: "Skill and confidence are an unconquered army." Happy Holidays from CHICAGO POINT. Δ

**WINNER'S
CIRCLE****OCT.-DEC. 2004**

•**Houston Fall Classic** (Houston, TX; 9 Oct.)... OPEN (17): 1-Gonzalo Molina, 2-Dr. James Bray, 3-Kerry Blodgett, 4-Scott Ward; 1C-Gary Fomby, 2C-Jack Erwin.

•**Sandy Osborne Trophy** (Davenport, England; 9-11 Oct.)... OPEN (35): 1-Arthur Musgrove, 2-Emmanuel Di Bona, 3/4-Rebecca Bell/David Nathan; 1C-David Nathan, 2C-Myke Wignall; 1LC-Simon K. Jones, 2LC-Adrian Jones. SUICIDE! (32): 1-Paul Gilbertson, 2-Ken Gibson. FRIDAY WARM-UP (16): 1-Tim Mooring, 2-Paul Gilbertson. DOUBLES (8): 1-The Pilgrims, 2-Lost a Packet. £100 JACKPOT (8): 1-Geoff Conn. £50 JACKPOT (8): 1-Kevin Stebbing.

•**10th Japan Open & Championship** (Tokyo, Japan; 9-11 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (128 with rebuys): 1-Kiyokazu Nishikawa, 2-"Uco" Jin, 3/4-Motohiro Sugiura / Mitsunobu Yasojima. INTERMEDIATE (128 with rebuys): 1-Toshiyuki Fujita, 2-Takashi Uno, 3/4-Tamiko Abe / Megumi Ishi. BE-GINNER (128 with rebuys): 1-Norikazu Fujii, 2- Masaatsu Kisono, 3/4-Hiroyuki Kuroshima / Takumitsu Suzuki. JAPAN OPEN (45): 1-Ken Fischer (USA), 2-Masahiro Yamaguchi, 3/4-Susumu "Sam" Mizutani / Kazuhiko Yotsusika; 1C/2C-Daisuke Katagami / "Kodebu" Takahashi. SPECIAL EXHIBITION MATCH: 1-Peter Hallberg (Denmark), 2-Tsuyoshi Minakami (Japan). LADIES TOURNAMENT (32): 1-Michiko Matsumiya. 1-POINT TOURNAMENT (64): 1-Toshiharu Nakajima. ROUND ROBIN (68): 1-Satoru Wakayama. MIXED DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Michitaka Imanishi & Harue Kuribayashi. OTHELLO QUIZ (59): 1-Kazuya "Cameron" Nagai (7 out of 10 correct.)

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 10 Oct.)... OPEN (8): 1-Neal Rosensweig, 2-Ralfe Silverman.

•**Munkebjerg Scandinavian Challenge** (Vejle, Denmark; 14-17 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (43): 1-Jes Bondo, 2-Karsten Bredahl, 3/4-Brian Elgaard / Henrik Veje; 1C-Morten Jacobsen, 2C-Teddy Vendersbo; 1LC-Jeppe Eir. ADVANCED (31): 1-Arut Martirosian (Armenia), 2-Hans Kristian Mathiesen, 3/4-Keld Dyrmosé / Johnny Pedersen; 1C-Kim K. Jensen, 2C-Erik Leth Johansen; 1LC-Birger Jensen. AMATEUR (44): 1-Jørgen Mohr Poulsen, 2- Flemming Storgaard, 3/4-Sizazh Ghambaryan (Ar-

menia) / Flemming Mortensen; 1C-Brian Olesen, 2C-Tommy Lauridsen; 1LC-John Madsen. DOUBLE CONSULTATION (16 teams): 1-Sizazh Ghambaryan & Artur Muradian (Armenia), 2-Thomas Holm & Jasper Stolpe (Denmark). SUPERJACKPOT #1 (8): 1-Kristian Stegenborg, 2-Emil Mortuk (USA). SUPERJACKPOT #1 (5): 1-Howard Markowitz (USA).

•**2nd Lucien Barriere International** (Enghien-les-Bains, France; 19-24 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (78): 1-Artur Muradian (Armenia), 2-Rogier van Gemert (The Netherlands), 3/4-Thomas Braemer (Denmark) / Bernard Morel (Switzerland); 1C-Rainer Witt (Germany), 2C-François Tardieu (France); 1LC-Eric Sfez (France). INTERMEDIATE (26+6): 1-Georgy Balkandjisky (Bulgaria), 2-Andrey Markov (Bulgaria), 3/4-Martin Hemming (England) / David Marwick (England); 1C-Serge Nadjar (France), 2C-Arda Findikoglu (Turkey); 1LC-Stéphane Benichou (France). AMATEUR (25+7): 1-Dominique Leboulenger (France), 2-Carla Doumard (France), 3/4-Sizazh Ghambaryan (Armenia) / Pedro Machado (Portugal); 1C-Isabelle Bonvalot (France), 2C-Sam Chabansky (France); 1LC-Zeki Ozgöl (Turkey). GIANTS DOUBLE CONSULTATION (32 teams): 1-Arnaud Mattern & Yomi Peretz (France), 2-Torben Hasseriis & Lars Trabolt (Denmark). DOUBLE CONSULTATION (32 teams): 1-Emil Mortuk & Frank Talbot (USA), 2-Ronald Duruz & Girard Champier (Switzerland). LADIES TOURNAMENT (32): 1-Luisa Sequeira (Portugal), 2-Maria Krancheva (Bulgaria). WARM-UP TOURNAMENT (96): 1-Kenji Shimodaira (Japan). SUPERJACKPOTS #1 (16): 1-Markus Michel (Germany). #2 (16): 1-Constantin Mezadourian (France). #3 (8): 1-Markus Michel (Germany). #4 (8): 1-"Falafel" Natanzon (Israel).

•**Kansas City Club Monthly** (Westport, MO; 21 Oct.)... OPEN (8): 1-Steve Sillimon, 2/3-John Smulders / Jim Collings.

•**Gammonitis 2nd Birthday** (Bromley, England; 23-24 Oct.)... OPEN (30): 1-Al Hogg, 2-Asger Kring, 3/4-Peter Bennet / Stephen Ferrer; 1C-Dod Davies, 2C-Ray Tannen, 3C/4C-John Hurst / John Leavey; 1LC-Andy Darby, 2LC-Kazu Niki. TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER: 1-Liz Barker, 2-David Horner, 3-Andy Bell.

•**Minnesota Open—ABT** (Prior Lake, MN; 29-31 Oct.)... OPEN (27): 1-Yury Millman (MN), 2-Fred Kalantari (MN); 1C-Charlie Cole (VA), 2C-Duane Jensen (MN); 1LC-Ralph Stowell (MN). INTER-

MEDIATE (24): 1-Phil Biesanz (MN), 2-Steve Neidecker (IL); 1C-Philip Smith (NC), 2C-Gary Fletcher (MN). NOVICE (8): 1-Dale Harsh (MN), 2-Phil Little (MN); 1C-Dave Settles (IL). MYSTIC MASTERS (9): 1-Gregg Cattanach (GA), 2-Mike Sharp (CA). DOUBLES (14 teams): 1-Jim Pokela & Dave Wetzell (MN), 2-Steve Brown (MN) & Dana Nazarian (CA). BLITZ (32): 1-Art Moore (CA), 2-Lee Goldstein (MN). MINIMATCHES (48): 1-Mike Sharp (CA).

•**Springfield Series #1** (Springfield, IL; 6 Nov.)... OPEN (16): 1-Rob Farmer, 2-Sean Garber (IN); 1C-Faddoul Khoury, 2C-Michel Khouri; 1LC-Linda Rockwell.

•**Townharbour Trophy Tournament** (Hinckley, England; 6-7 Nov.)... OPEN (38): 1-Connor Dickinson, 2-Paul Barwick, 3/4-Paul Statter / David Nathan; 1C-Chris Ternel (Denmark), 2C-Rosey Bensley; 1LC/2LC-Mardi Ohanessian / John Gilbertson. FRIDAY WARM-UP (16): 1-Brian Kenny, 2-Emmanuel Di Bona. DOUBLES (8): 1/2-Pitas / Cubeless. £100 JACKPOT (8): 1-Ian Gwynne. £50 JACKPOT (8): 1/2-Myke Wignall / Brian Busfield.

•**Turkey Trot Open** (Houston, TX; 13 Nov.)... OPEN (15): 1-Brian Stine, 2-Scott Ward, 3-Tom Wright, 4-Ira Hessel; 1C-James Bray, 2C-Mary Morse.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 14 Nov.)... OPEN (8): 1-John Gdowik, 2-Rocky Budzyn.

•**Kansas City Club Monthly** (Westport, MO; 18 Nov.)... OPEN (8): 1-Steve Sillimon, 2/3-John Smulders / James Worley.

•**26th Flint Area Club Championships** (Flint, MI; 21 Nov.)... OPEN (27): 1-Dean Adamian, 2-Joe Feldman, 3/4-Dave Brotherton / Dion Hogan. INTERMEDIATE (30): 1-Art Gillis, 2-Wally Wolf, 3/4-Jeff Clark / Gary Tong, 5/6-Dee Hayes / Brad King. NOVICE (8): 1-Woody Halbritter, 2-Derek Swanson (IN).

•**Cancun Invitational** (Cancun, Mexico; 1-5 Dec.)... OPEN (32): 1-Ken Arnold, 2-Tony Goble, 3/4-Mike Sherman / Sean Shirkan. WINNER-TAKE-ALL JACKPOT (16): 1-Gus Hansen, 2-Bob Wachtel, 3/4-Donald Kahn / Abe Mosseri... A private "party" event organized by Mike Svobodny and Louise Goldsmith.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 4 Dec.)... OPEN (11): Boris Dekhtyar (NJ), 2-Linda Rockwell 3/4-Herb Roman / Tim Mabee; 1C/2C-Herb Roman / Tim Mabee. INTERMEDIATE (4): 1-Amy Trudeau, 2-Wayne Wiest. Δ



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