

monte carlo world championships

## HOW I ALMOST BECAME THE WORLD CHAMPION

Dennis Carlston Wins All-USA Finals  
By John O'Hagan

The 30th World Backgammon Championship was held July 11–17 at the beautiful Fairmont Hotel in Monte Carlo. Players from around the world showed up to battle it out for the coveted title of “World Champion.” I was fortunate enough to make it to the finals where I lost a close match to Dennis Carlston of California. What follows is a recap of the exciting week including a few key positions from my matches.



Dennis Carlston raises his World Championship trophy high as Monte Carlo staffer Les Boyd looks on. [Photo: Liz Barker]

### WSOP CUTS DOWN ATTENDANCE

There was an overlap this year between the end of the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas and the start of our World Championship tournament. A poker/backgammon enthusiast could therefore attend one or the other, but not both. And several chose poker. This year's turnout was quite a bit less than 2004 and the WSOP was at least partly to blame. The number of entries in this year's Championship/Intermediate/Beginner flights was 238/78/54. In 2004, the numbers were 276/108/90. That's a pretty big drop-off, especially when you consider that for the first time in Monte Carlo his-

tory, the event had \$20,000 added prize money courtesy of TrueMoneyGames ([www.truemoneygames.com](http://www.truemoneygames.com)). This WSOP/Monte Carlo conflict doesn't figure to be a problem in 2006 and beyond since future World Series will be held in May and thus not conflict with Monte Carlo in July.

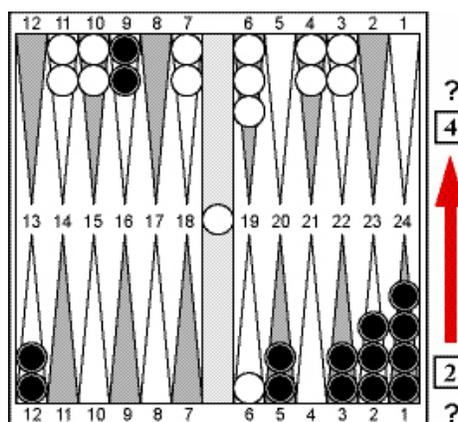
### CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

8mm Productions of London recorded the final match and a few others during the week with commentary from Paul Magriel and John Clarke. I am told that 8mm plans to edit the matches down to 4-one hour episodes and then sell the final product to television stations in England, other European countries, Japan, and in the US. Hopefully this television publicity will have the same positive impact for backgammon that it's had for poker!

### ROAD TO THE FINALS

Now let me tell you about some of my matches. My first round opponent was Eric Guedj of France. At 6–6 to 17, I was on roll in the following position:

**POS. 1.** First round. John O'Hagan (Black) and Eric Guedj (White) are tied at 6–6 to 17. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



It looked like a good redouble to me since 6-6, 5-5, and 3-3 are all crushing, and I can also lose my market if I roll something else and he dances. So I sent it over and he took. A Snowie rollout shows this to be the correct cube action. Eric's take is clear and doubling increases my match winning chances (MWC) from 55.98% to

56.71%. I then rolled boxes, Eric fanned, then I rolled 6-4 and played the forced 10/4, 10/6. He fanned again and rolled a horrible 5-5 playing 6/1(3), 5/off. (I think this is best since I don't blot on 3-3 next.) Eric missed with 6-1, and I won a gammon

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### MONTE CARLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP (238): 1-Dennis Carlston (USA), 2-John O'Hagan (USA), 3/4-Gil Davidovitz (ISR) / Gerard Duruz (SWZ); First Consolation: 1C-Ary Nogueira (BRZ), 2C-Ion Ressu (SWZ), 3C/4C-Morten Holm (DEN) / Kazuhiro Shino (JPN/ENG); Second Consolation: 1C-Olivier Egger (SWZ), 2C-Stephen Nelson (USA/CHN), 3C/4C-Perry Gartner (USA) / Masayuki "Mochy" Mochizuki (JPN); 1LC-Peer Rower (GER), 2LC-Jorge Pan (ARG); Ladies Prize: Annette Madje (SWE). INTERMEDIATE (78): 1-Olivier Schneider (GER), 2-Avetis Rostomyan (ARM), 3/4-Alessandro Bonamici (ITA) / Cyrille Fauquet (FRA); First Consolation: 1C-Marc Bodin (MON), 2C-Zoran Maric (FRA), 3C/4C-Farrokh Moazed (IRN) / Serge Nadjar (FRA); Second Consolation: 1C-Arut Martirosyan (ARM), 2C-Majken Johansen (Faroe Isl), 3C/4C-Nadya Marinova (BUL/FRA) / Nicky Niknam (USA); 1LC-Alain Sormain (FRA), 2LC-Stewart Pemberton (ENG/USA); Ladies Prize: Cecile Wolf (FRA). BEGINNER (54): 1-Manuel Avetissian (ARM), 2-Carina Meile (DEN), 3/4-Elayne Feinstein (USA) / Annette Nielsen (DEN); First Consolation: 1C-Michel Lamote (BEL), 2C-Amélie Viennois (FRA), 3C/4C-Jo Curl (ENG) / Scarlett Serrero (FRA); Second Consolation: 1C-Per Andersen (DEN), 2C-Andre Harutyanyan (ARM), 3C/4C-Sergey Grinev (RUS)/Michel Hileyan (FRA); 1LC-Michael Litvinsky (ISR), 2LC-Dominique Leboulenger (FRA); Ladies Prize: Carina Meile (DEN). SUPERJACKPOT #1 (64): 1-Hamza Nar (TUR), 2-Torsten Haase (GER), 3/4-Eric Guedj (FRA) / Marc Santo Roman (FRA). SJP #2 (32): 1-Abraham Eitan (ISR), 2-Howard Markowitz (USA), 3/4-Najib Salamzy (AFG/GER) / Alvaro Savio (BRA). SJP #3 (16): 1-Ary Nogueira (BRA), 2-Rageb Shadallah (USA). FORTIS WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Two Fish & One Cow: Jakob Andersen, Pia Jeppesen, Poul Lindberg Sorensen (DEN), 2-Cool Drivers: Torsten Haase (GER), Maria Krancheva (BUL), Sven Rümcker (GER). CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY: Luigi Villa (ITA). COURTESY TROPHY: John Clark (ENG). ELEGANCE TROPHY MEN: Mahmoud Yousef (NOR). ELEGANCE TROPHY WOMEN: Princess Vera de Rachevsky (MON). FIDELITY TROPHY: Aram & Vergine Kouleyan (USA). TRAVEL TROPHY: Raul Timerman (ARG). TRUEMONEYGAMES LUCKY DRAW (50): 1-John Rockwell (USA), 2-Steve Nelson (CHN), 3-D. Howsley, 4-Mario Kühl (GER). GOLF TOURNAMENT: 1-Tony Lawand (USA), 2-Patrick Didisheim (SWZ), 3-Martin de Bruin (USA/SPN).

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

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## THE TRUTH ABOUT 2-6

I can't say I know who invented "2-6 from the Bar" but I can say who got it into the Encarta dictionary as "Cock Shot" . . . me! Its origin has been well documented but its "culprit" has never been named.

I have attended tournaments where players have been calling for a "cock shot" yet they have no idea as to its origin, or what is required of them should they call it and roll it! — *Michael Crane, Director, BIBA, Lincoln, England*

## NAME FROM THE PAST

I don't know if you remember me, but I used to live and play backgammon in Chicago in the 1970s. For the past 20 or so years, I've been teaching Mathematics at Georgetown Preparatory School in Rockville, Maryland. My interest in the game is returning, but of course I've lost *all* my old books and materials.

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
810/232-9731  
[cjc@tir.com](mailto:cjc@tir.com)

\*Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Sep 10	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Sep 10	Red, White & Blue Open, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Sep 11	Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Sep 11*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/945-1257
Sep 12*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/561-4330
Sep 15	Third Thursday Bonus (Illinois), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Sep 16-18	<u>Florida State Championship, Sheraton Suites, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Sep 17-18	Jon Viator Invitational Cup, Jon Viator's residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 17-18*	1st Annual Tavli Charity Tournament, Greektown, Chicago, Illinois	312/655-1234
Sep 18*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/784-8132
Sep 23-25	<u>2nd Pacific Northwest Championships, Holiday Inn, Seattle, Washington</u>	<u>253/856-7513</u>
Sep 24	Atlanta Fall Chouette Tournament, Mazzy's Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Sep 24*	Austin Saturday Bimonthly, JC's Steakhouse, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Sep 25*	FIBS 2005 Fall Tournament, via computer	E-mail: <a href="mailto:fibs@escoffery.com">fibs@escoffery.com</a>
Oct 1	Bar Point Saturday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Oct 2*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Oct 3*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/561-4330
Oct 3*	Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Oct 4*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Oct 8*	Fall Classic, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Oct 8*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Oct 9*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/945-1257
Oct 14-16	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
Oct 16*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/784-8132
Oct 20*	Third Thursday Bonus (Minnesota Open), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 22*	Atlanta Fall Mini-Blitz Tournament, Mazzy's Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Oct 23*	27th Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 28-30	<u>2005 Minnesota Open, Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, Minnesota</u>	<u>651/699-6758</u>
Nov 1*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Nov 6*	New England Club Bonus, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/945-1257
Nov 6*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Nov 7*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/561-4330
Nov 7*	Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Nov 11-16	Backgammon Pro Am Doubles, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Nov 12*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Nov 12*	Turkey Trot Open, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Nov 16-20	2005 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Dec 3*	Bar Point Saturday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Dec 2-4*	California State Championship, Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Los Angeles, CA	818/901-0464

### OUTSIDE USA

Sep 16-18*	Schwaben-Cup goes Franken, Hotel Daucher, Nürnberg, Germany	49711-486190
Sep 20-22*	CANCELLED: Porteño Series #6, Porteño Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina	54114-313178
Sep 22-25*	CasinoClub Austrian Classics, Concord Card Casino, Vienna, Austria	491715-422222
Sep 27-29	2nd Tango Tourney, Trilenium Casino, Tigre, Argentina	541143-736138
Sep 29-Oct 2	12th German Open, Hotel GlockenSpitze, Altenkirchen, Germany	49521-64314
Sep 30-Oct 2*	Norwegian Championship, Tårngalleriet, Stavanger, Norway	47911-53113
Oct 6-9	Austrian Open & Doubles Championship, Veronika Hotel, Seefeld, Austria	43512-287244
Oct 7-10*	11th Japan Open, Nakano Sunplaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733814
Oct 8-9*	Sandy Osborne Trophy, Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Oct 15-16	Gammonitis 3rd Birthday, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038
Oct 15-16*	East Coast Movers & Shakers Tournament, Byron Bay, NSW, Australia	0413-564838
Oct 18-20*	CANCELLED: Porteño Series #7, Porteño Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina	54114-313178
Oct 25-28	1st European Doubles Championship, Casino Barrière, Enghien, France	491715-422222
Oct 27-30	3rd Lucien Barrière Open, Casino Barrière, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Oct 28-30	2nd Owl-Club, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-48190
Oct 28-30	13th Irish Open Championship, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	3531-6030891
Oct 30-Nov 1*	Amateur-Cup / Kaiserbrunnen Open, Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711/48190
Nov 1-6*	2nd Caribbean Open, Casino Royale, Sonesta Maho Beach, St. Maarten	392-69018168
Nov 3-6*	25th Swedish Open, Clarion Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	468-6523033
Nov 4-6*	10th Grand Prix de Suisse, Hotel Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Nov 5-6*	Townharbor Trophy, Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Nov 11-13*	Backgammon Live in London 2005, Spice Island & YHA, London, England	442077-001798
Nov 19-20*	Gammonitis League Tournament, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

I'd like to replace the following (1) *Reno 1986* by Bill Robertie, (2) all of Anto-

nio Ortega's books, (3) Jeff Ward's books, (4) Kent Goulding's *Backgammon With The Champions* series, and (5) *Competitive Backgammon* by Jim Pasko.

I've tried Carol Joy Cole, Kent Gould-

ing, and Bill Robertie to no avail. Any ideas?—*Tim Wisecarver, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia*

If you can offer Tim any of the books he is looking for, contact him at: [twisecarver@gprep.org](mailto:twisecarver@gprep.org)—Ed.



## AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005

Top 100 compiled through 5 Sept. 2005 after 12 events  
(Upcoming events: Florida State, Pacific Northwest)



Neil Kazaross	67.00	Malcolm Davis	9.37	Jeff Acierno	4.94	Steve Goldstein	2.90
Phil Simborg	40.24	George Barr	9.04	Wayne Wiest	4.92	Connie Tipton	2.80
Jeb Horton	31.05	Mark Rozans	8.64	Joe Freedman	4.67	Neville Kerr	2.67
Steve Sax	23.53	Dana Nazarian	7.74	Lee Pflugrad	4.63	Lenn Schneider	2.67
Ray Glaeser	18.39	Todd Obadal	7.74	Don Sloan	4.49	Sasan Taher	2.64
Gregg Cattanach	17.38	Joe Feldman	7.66	Jack Takala	4.49	Richard Armbruster	2.64
Howard Shirey	16.71	Vadim Musaelyan	7.60	Carol Joy Cole	4.32	Tim Mabee	2.58
Ed O'Laughlin	15.50	Mary Hickey	7.17	Mark Murray	4.11	Jonah Seewald	2.58
Ben Elliott	15.40	Tak Morioka	7.17	Petko Kostadinov	3.80	Kathy Sorci	2.56
Renee Rosenbloom	14.44	Dave Wetzell	7.11	Stacy Turner	3.75	Les Moshinsky	2.53
Jason Lee	14.40	Doug Mayfield	7.04	Ed Johnson	3.68	Moti Nissani	2.50
Jeremy Bagai	14.35	Ray Foglerlund	7.04	Rick Todd	3.57	Mike Cyrkiel	2.50
Mike Corbett	14.35	Carlos Azcarate	6.40	Al Jones	3.57	Jolie Rubin	2.50
Carter Mattig	14.11	Brad King	6.01	Marc Gray	3.53	Richard Schwartz	2.46
Chuck Bower	13.51	Kit Woolsey	5.88	Jona Alexander	3.52	Mike Rezai	2.31
J. A. Miller	12.64	Alex Juskovic	5.83	Ernie McCombs	3.52	Rory Pascal	2.22
Ed Zell	11.99	Herb Roman	5.80	Lynn Lusk	3.20	Carmen Webb	2.06
Michael Edge	11.55	Neil Garvie	5.72	Karen Chung	3.20	Samra Hadden	1.88
David Rogers	11.30	Stuart Thomson	5.65	Cookie Frazin	3.20	Murray Bryntesen	1.59
Perry Gartner	11.18	Jim Wark	5.40	Bruce Ballance	3.19	Mark King	1.57
Larry Strommen	10.61	Tom Green	5.27	Fred Lindsay	3.00	Tony Garcia	1.56
Bob Hathaway	10.54	Mary Ann Meese	5.27	Jim Zimmerman	3.00	Steve Hartsman	1.50
Bill Minser	10.40	Michael Plog	5.20	Ralph Byrns	2.94	Sonya Sidky	1.49
Eden Windish	10.21	Randy Armstrong	5.09	Cole Parker	2.93	Mark Antranikian	1.49
Sal Chehayeb	9.96	Boris Dekhtyar	4.99	Doug Roberts	2.90	Joe Davidson	1.41

### PREMATURE DOUBLE

If while a player is contemplating his move, the opponent offers a premature double, then according to Rule 4.6 of the US Rules, the double stands and the player can make his move accordingly:

“... A premature double shall stand if otherwise valid. An opponent who has yet to complete his turn may then do so with foreknowledge of the premature double.”

If after being doubled, what happens if the player makes a totally illegal move that greatly benefits him, picks up his dice and takes the cube. Does the doubling opponent have the right to require a legal move from the player before the cube is acted upon?

I realize that it is impossible to cover every possible violation in the rules; that is why Rule 1.1 exists:

“... No set of rules should deprive the Director of his freedom of judgment or prevent him from finding the solution dictated by fairness and compatible with the circumstances of a particular case.”

I just wanted to get your opinion.—*Bill Pow, Director, Tysons Corner Backgammon Club, Manassas Park, Virginia*

You are correct, Bill. We would rule that even though the opponent has prematurely doubled, he is still entitled to require the

[Continued on page 6]



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2005 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 AUG.

Tak Morioka	24.34	Oleg Raygorodsky	6.40	Randee Simborg	1.76	Greg Merriman	0.72
Herb Roman	17.96	Eric Johnson	6.16	Linda Rockwell	1.68	Michael Brand	0.72
David Rockwell	15.68	Bill Bartholomay	6.04	Sargon Benjamin	1.52	Mary Franks	0.72
Phyllis Smolinski	14.40	Larry Goldstein	5.16	Paul Franks	1.44	Jim Gibbs	0.72
Phil Simborg	13.86	Mike Wolock	5.04	Shaw Dogan	1.38	Bob Sexton	0.64
Bill Davis	13.76	Jerry Brooks	5.04	J. A. Miller	1.32	Roland Dieter	0.64
Albert Yakobashvili	12.82	Yamin Yamin	4.84	Elaine Andrews	1.28	Cookie Frazin	0.56
Paul Baraz	12.64	Georgina Flanagan	4.84	Val Zimnicki	1.28	Julia Ring	0.56
Carter Mattig	12.52	Howard Ring	4.56	Josh Riddell	1.28	Nan Feiber	0.56
Lucky Nelson	12.28	Michael Ginat	4.48	Michael Peters	1.24	Don Marek	0.48
Tim Mabee	10.88	Mark Murray	3.96	Royal Robinson	1.20	Mark Phillips	0.48
Bob Steen	8.68	Roger Hickman	3.84	Barbara Levinson	1.12	Les Moshinsky	0.48
Steve Klesker	8.44	Richard Stawowy	3.48	Ken Tyszko	1.12	Bob Bartolone	0.48
Bill Keefe	8.28	Joann Feinstein	3.44	Elaine Kehm	1.08	Roz Ferris	0.44
Gary Kay	8.12	Arline Levy	3.12	Kurt Thompson	0.96	Bill Stegich	0.40
Wayne Wiest	7.56	Igor Kaplunovsky	2.80	Kwong Chan	0.88	Joe Szwedo	0.40
Boris Dekhtyar	7.12	Dan Weymouth	2.40	Adrian Rios	0.84	Lisa Nelson	0.32
Alice Kay	6.96	Dave Cramer	2.04	David Marcus	0.80	James Roston	0.32
Norma Shyer	6.72	Joe Auszmann	2.04	Ken Tibbs	0.72	Dave Settles	0.24
Ken Bond	6.60	Vadim Genkin	1.92				

**JULY:** PHIL SIMBORG earned 3.00 points in July to take monthly honors. Runners-up were Herb Roman (2.28) and Ken Bond (2.20).

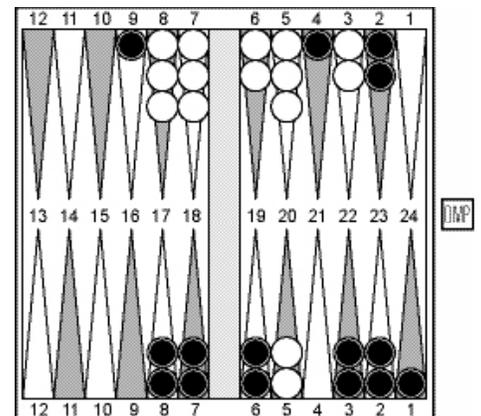
**AUGUST:** TAK MORIOKA had a fine monthly total of 4.62 points to widen his lead in the 2005 Player of the Year race. Bill Davis (3.88) and Boris Dekhtyar (2.84) finished 2nd and 3rd.

your move

### PROBLEM #312

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

5-point match. Black and White are tied at 4-4 (DMP). **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



# ASK DANNY

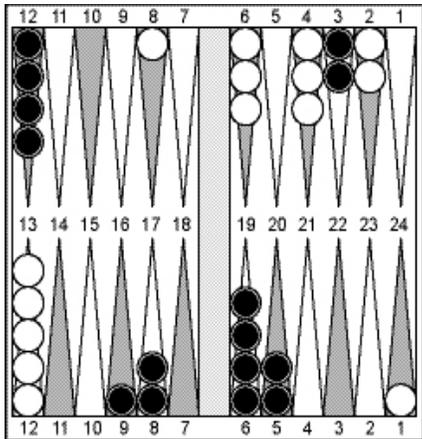


© 2005 by Danny Kleinman

## HARD TO EXPLAIN

Dear Danny: First take a look at this position and decide what move you would make:

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.** (The race is Black-155, White-131.)



If you decided to catch up in the race by hitting 22/17\*/15 (duplicating 3s in the process), you are in the company of Neil Kazaross and Malcolm Davis. Now for the shocker. Not only is hitting wrong, it is a 0.155 super-blunder! Here are the results of a 720 3-ply, precise Snowie rollout:

**9/4, 6/4:** Black wins 58.6% of the games of which 16.7% are gammons and 0.6% are BGs. White wins 41.4% of the games of which 9.0% are gammons and 0.3% are BGs.

**22/17\*/15:** Black wins 56.4%% of the games of which 17.1% are gammons and 0.7% are BGs. White wins 43.6% of the games of which 16.7% are gammons and 0.7% are BGs.

What surprises me even more is that even in double match-point situations (where gammons are out of the picture), hitting is still a 0.043 error. Can you shed some light as to what is going on here?—*Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois*

**DEAR PHIL:** Several things are going on:

(1) Black is outboarded, 3 to 2. This argues against hitting and leaving blots.

- (2) Hitting relinquishes a decent anchor.
- (3) Hitting forgoes a chance to make the 4-point, a very useful inside point that gives Black the better board and prime.
- (4) The blot that Black hits is not in a good location for White. Only 5s will cover, and if White covers, then the point White makes is the 8-point, which has reduced value once his 2-point has been made. If White can't cover his outfield blot, and lifts it instead, then White will be without a presence in her outer court.

Although I prefer 9/4, 6/4, it surprises me that 22/17\*/15 is wrong by as much as your rollouts suggest.—*Yours, Danny*

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](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com)

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## 53rd indiana open

# SAX SKINS THE "CAT" IN INDIANAPOLIS

Ray Glaser Wins Indy 300 Masters

A crowd of 100+ players enjoyed a beautiful Labor Day weekend (2-5 September) at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis playing backgammon at the 53rd Indiana Open. Butch & Mary Ann Meese co-directed the event that went off without a hitch.

Backgammon Giant Steve Sax from W. Hollywood, California, rolled through the Swiss movement with only one loss to

Tak Morioka. His opponent, Gregg "The Cat" Cattanach of Doraville, Georgia, also proved through the competition with only two losses in his first ten matches.

Sax jumped to a 6-3 lead, then won a doubled gammon in a unique manner. Steve doubled in the next game and wound up with 15 checkers in his home board bearing in against Gregg's deuce game. No problem. Steve was off in four shakes—6-6, 5-5, 4-4, 2-2—to win a gammon and take a 10-3 lead. He eventually prevailed 13-6.

Sean Garber (IN) had already won two 2005 masters events: MBC Grand Crystal Beaver and Wisconsin Badger Classic. But this time, Ray Glaeser (OH), runner-up in the Michigan Masters, was able to stop him

in the finals to claim the unique Indy 300 race car trophy and \$5,000 in prize money.

Kudos to Champ Consolation victor Perry Gartner and the other main event winners: Michael Edge (Advanced), Terry Bernice (Intermediate), and Merle Day (Novice). Δ

## 53RD INDIANA OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (52): 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Gregg Cattanach (GA); 1C-Perry Gartner (NJ), 2C-Kit Woolsey (CA). ADVANCED (42): 1-Michael Edge (SC), 2-Lee Pflugrad (WI); 1C-Sal Chehayeb (MI), 2C-Mike Rezai (OH). INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Terry Bennice (NC), 2-Louis Esposito (NJ). NOVICE (3): 1-Merle Day (IN). INDY 300 JACKPOT (32): 1-Ray Glaeser (OH), 2-Sean Garber (IN), 3/4-Mark Antranikian (CA) / Petko Kostadinov (SC). AMATEUR JACKPOT (32): 1-Glen de Guzman (MN), 2-Susan Randall (FL), 3/4-John Grayson (MI) / Eric Johnson (IL). DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Sal Pittelli (Canada) & Rose Sheedy (IN), 2-Carol Joy Cole (MI) & Steve Mellen (NY), 3/4-Cem Aslan (GA) & Jeb Horton (NC) / Barry Miller (IL) & Brian Miller (IL). MICROBLITZ (64): 1-Sal Pittelli (Canada), 2-David Todd (MO). JOHN BRUSSEL MEMORIAL JACKPOT (32): 1-David Todd (MO), 2-Jeb Horton (NC). QUICKIE (64): 1-Betty Coppic (FL), 2-Stuart Thomson (GA). KILLPHIL VOL. I (16): 1-Russ Osborn (OH), 2-Phil Simborg (IL). KILLPHIL VOL. II (16): 1-Glen de Guzman (MN), 2-Dean Adamian (MI).



Indy Open Champ Steve Sax poses with golf legend Annika Sorenstam who was in town for the International Solheim Cup.

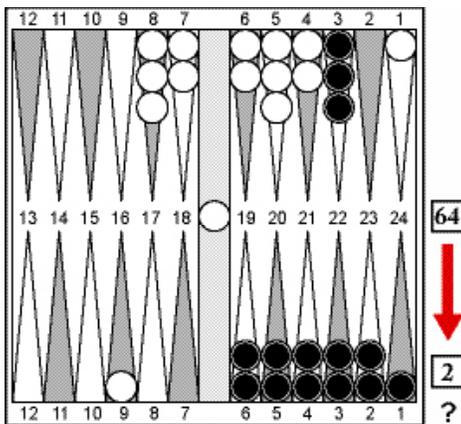


Ray Glaeser en route to his defeat over Sean Garber in the Indy 300 Masters.

Can you put it where it belongs?

# 'Where's the Spare?' Quiz

9 point match. Black leads White 6 to 2. White on roll. Place the black spare on an inner board point. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Place on the 2- through 6-pt.

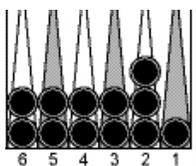
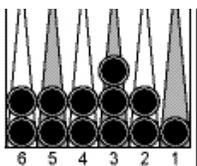
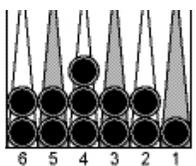
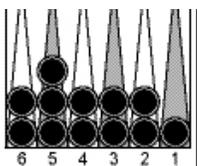
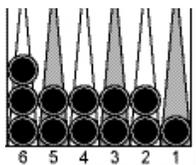
## The Situation

Here's an interesting checker placement problem for your inspection. Your job is to put the 15th black checker on one of the already-made points in Black's home board (6-point through 2-point). White is on roll and no matter where you place Black's spare, the position will always be a proper double.

## Your Task

Black's winning chances decrease as the spare is moved from the 6-point down towards the 2-point. For each position, mark whether Black has a take or a drop. (To determine the correct answers, each position was rolled out using Snowie 4.1 a total of 1440 3-ply, precise times.)

Answers on page 9.



## 2005 wisconsin state championships

# WISCONSIN WIN GIVES ME THIRD ABT TITLE

### First Person Account

By Neil Kazaross

The 3rd Wisconsin State Championships was held 29–31 July at the Radisson Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin. As usual, the event was well run by Madison Club director Tom Machaj and Sam Pottle. This would turn out to be an incredible weekend for me where everything went my way. Well, there was *one* close call . . .

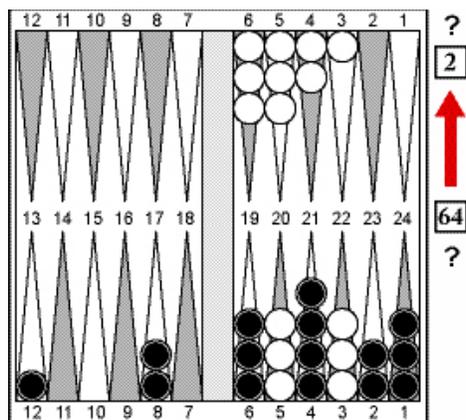
On Saturday, I awoke after a very good night's sleep and hustled out for a bite to eat prior to Sonya Sidky's Calcutta Auction. As I turned right on my green arrow, I noticed a big truck running the red light making a left turn. Fortunately, the truck driver "missed the hit" in what would have been a devastating accident.

Once the backgammon started, my dice were quite simply "awesome"—the games practically played themselves. I rolled through three 11-point matches losing a total of only six points.

Then it was into the semi's vs. Ed Zell who was looking for revenge from my semifinal comeback at the Midwest Champs. I took a 10–3 lead into Crawford and stopped Ed's comeback attempt after two games to win 11–6.

Sunday's final was against Minnesota's Dave Wetzell who took down some really good players (including Chuck Bower in the semi's) during the weekend. I stole the first game in our 13-point match with a cube that Dave overcautiously passed. Then I lost the next four and soon it was 5–5.

**POS. 1.** 13-point finals. Neil Kazaross (Black) and Dave Wetzell (White) are tied at 5–5. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Here I must double since I'm ahead by 101 pips (69 to 170) with many gammons

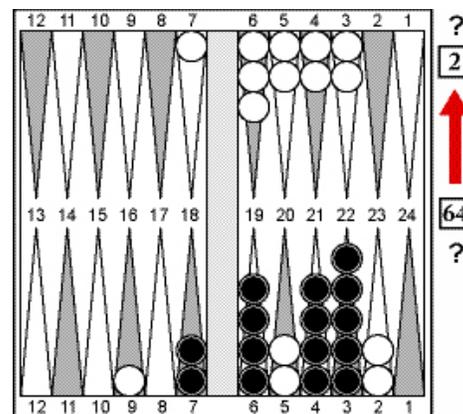


Wisconsin winner Neil Kazaross is flanked by runner-up Dave Wetzell (L) and director Tom Machaj (R).

if not hit (plus I can easily lose my market). I was unsure whether this was a take or a pass so it was an ideal time to cube. Snowie's live cube rollout leans toward taking, but one cannot fault Dave for passing this position where almost half of all games result in my winning a gammon.

Later with the score 10–8 my way:

**POS. 2.** 13-point finals. Neil Kazaross (Black) leads Dave Wetzell (White) 10–8. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



This is a very difficult position to analyze due to my match lead. I felt it was technically a pass and simply have to send it here since if I clear, I lose my market by a country mile. Dave was running out of time vs. a player with more experience, so he took the cube which I think is very reasonable. I cleared in a couple rolls with boxes and soon was a favorite to win a gammon and the match.

Oh my . . . my plans went sour and Dave, who had some awkwardness finishing the closeout waited until the

Badger Classic victor Sean Garber.

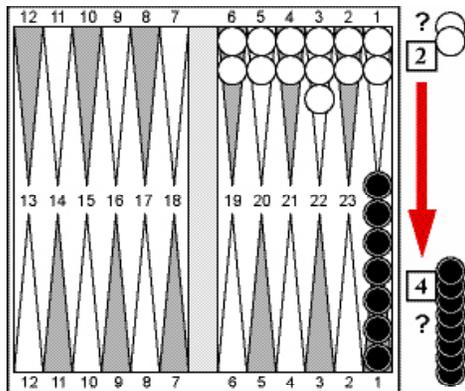
[Continued on pg. 6]

## WISCONSIN...

[Continued from page 5]

perfect time to redouble me:

**POS. 3.** 13-point finals. Neil Kazaross (Black) leads Dave Wetzell (White) 10–8. White on roll. **RECUBE ACTION(S)?**



I went into thought and realized that because of the disparity in skill, I would need to win 36–37% from this position to take. I recalled a rollout that shows this position winning about 35%, so although technically incorrect, I felt my pass against Dave was right. It pays to study reoccurring endgame situations!

Good dice in the next two games resulted in a quick point and an undoubled

gammon to claim my third ABT title of the year. Congrats to Dave Wetzell of Minnesota on a fine showing in his first major finals. Also to Sean Garber who captured another Masters title—this time the Badger Classic vs. Texan Malcolm Davis. Sean also won the Grand Crystal Beaver at the MBC in March.—Neil Kazaross Δ

### 2005 WISCONSIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**CHAMPIONSHIP (32):** 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Dave Wetzell (MN); 1C-Chuck Bower (IN); 1LC-Ed Zell (IL). **ADVANCED (24):** 1-Sal Chehayeb (MI), 2-Lenn Schneider (WI); 1C-Neville Kerr (WI); 1LC-Cole Parker (TX). **LIMITED (12):** 1-Steve Hartsman (WI), 2-Galina Guzei (WI); 1C-Marilyn Buttitta (IL). **BADGER CLASSIC (8):** 1-Sean Garber (IN), 2-Malcolm Davis (TX). **DOUBLES (16 teams):** 1-Tak Morioka & Wayne Wiest (IL), 2-Sal Chehayeb & Joe Feldman (MI). **EARLY-BIRD JP (16):** 1/2-Sal Chehayeb (MI)/Art Moore (CA). **BLITZ (60):** 1-Lucky Nelson (IL), 2-Brad Andersen (WI). **QUICKIE KO #1 (16):** 1-Lucky Nelson (IL). **KO #2: (8):** 1-Carol Joy Cole (MI). **BACKGAMMON QUIZ (7):** 1-David Rockwell (IL). **SIMBORGAMMON KO (4):** 1-Keene Marin (WI).

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## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

player to make a legal move prior to accepting or rejecting the double. If and when a new official version of the US Rules comes out, we would advocate this change:

“... An opponent who has yet to complete his turn may then **make a legal move** with foreknowledge of the premature double.”

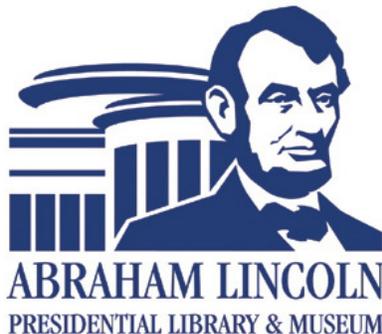
But what if a director interprets the rule that once the opponent prematurely doubles, the player can make whatever move (legal or illegal) he chooses? Rule 6.3 guarantees players the right to appeal any ruling to a 3-person committee chosen by the director. If in your opinion, the committee also “gets it wrong,” write CHICAGO POINT and/or consider attending other events with more knowledgeable directors.—Ed.

### BEST MACINTOSH BG PROGRAM

GammonSoft now offers two BG programs that run on a Mac: “David’s Backgammon,” and “Absolute Backgammon.” Is there a better Mac program?—Steve Klesker, Green Oaks, Illinois

“GNU” Backgammon is definitely the strongest Mac program—and it’s free at: [www.gnu.org/software/gnubg/gnubg.html](http://www.gnu.org/software/gnubg/gnubg.html). You’ll need OSX to run it, however.—Ed. Δ

Now open two blocks from our tournament!



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# MONTE CARLO...

[Continued from page 1]

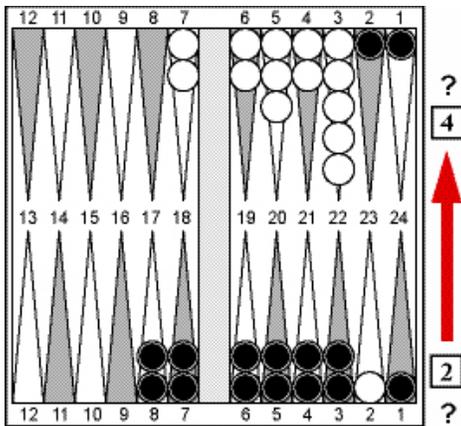
to go up 14-6, eventually winning the match 17-11.

Next up was Tom Zarrinam of California. I took a big lead early in this match. Then we basically traded points giving me a 17-10 victory and a place in the round-of-64.

My next opponent was Michy Kageyama of Japan. I had never played Michy before, but when the book made him a clear favorite in our match, I figured he must be pretty good. Michy did play very well, but a couple of key swing games went my way and I came out on top 19-13.

I faced Sweden's Pawel Bielewicz in the round-of-32. Pawel took an early lead and at one point was up 12-5. So I loosened up my doubles and takes a little bit and started to make a comeback. Trailing 10-13 to 19, the following position arose:

**POS. 2. Round-of-32. John O'Hagan (Black) trails Pawel Bielewicz (White) 10-13 to 19. Black on roll. CUBE ACTION(S)?**



As Black, should I redouble this? I thought a long time about this cube decision. Over-the-board (OTB), I estimated that Pawel's cubeless takepoint (after adjusting for both side's gammons and his limited recube vig) at this score was around 30%. His chances are obviously a lot better than that so there's virtually no chance of getting an incorrect pass here. Nonetheless, it still might be correct to redouble. One good rule of thumb I've learned over the years about DOUBLING WHEN YOU'RE WELL BEHIND IN A MATCH is this:

*If you have four or five market-losers in 36 and your opponent has no recube vig, doubling or redoubling is usually right if you're within 8% of the opponent's gammon-adjusted takepoint.*

How does this position stack up in regards to this rule? The ten single 6s are

all big market-losers unless Pawel rolls extremely well so I'm way over four or five market-losers.

How about recube vig? My takepoint on a recube is around 10%, so although his cube isn't completely dead, it is certainly worth a lot less than normal.

And finally, how close to his 30% takepoint am I? I'm a big favorite after a single 6, probably a slight favorite after an anchoring ace, around even money after 6-6 or 3-3, and a clear underdog after anything else. My OTB estimate was that overall I was about a 55-to-45 favorite in the position. So I'm not within 8% of his takepoint but I do have a lot more than four-or-five market-losers. I decided that most of the above argued for redoubling so I did and he (of course) took. A Snowie rollout shows double/take to be correct here despite the fact that it's probably a beaver for money! The rollout shows my side with 55.6% wins (including 9.8% g/bg's) vs. 44.4% (and 12.2% g/bg's) for Pawel.

I then rolled a good 6-5, Pawel a bad 6-6, and I cruised to an easy 4-point win to take a 14-13 lead. The match eventually went to DMP and I prevailed 19-17.

I next played Doug Mayfield of California who had just beaten Germany's Harald Johanni. My match against Doug was close most of the way, but I gammoned him on a 2-cube late in the match and won 21-15.

In the round-of-8, I played against Michael Heard of England. It could have gone either way, but a lucky 6-1 when I was ahead 19-16 to 21 allowed me to escape my straggler from his 5-prime and win an undoubled gammon and the match 21-16.

In the semifinals, I faced Gil Davidovitz of Israel. The lead swung back and forth in our match, but in the end I was victorious 23-18.



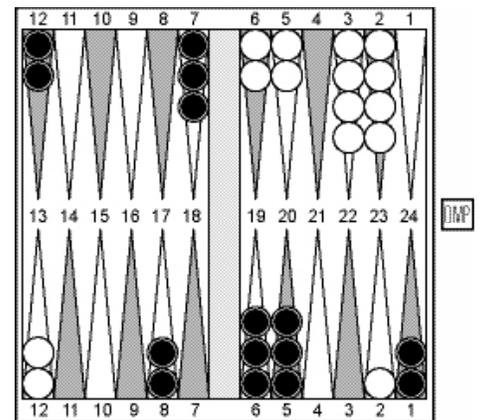
John O'Hagan (left) and Dennis Carlston battle down to the wire. [Photo: Peter Bennet]

So that put me in the finals against fellow American Dennis Carlston. I had never played Dennis before and actually had just met him for the first time a few nights before at the gala dinner. I did recall seeing some of his games in Papazian and

Kennedy's 1981 book *Backgammon Master Games*, so I knew I was up against one of the stars of the 1970s. 29 games and six hours later, Dennis won our match 25-24 to become the 2005 World Backgammon Champion. It was a pretty well-played match although we both made our share of mistakes.

Two of mine were in the DMP game. Here's the first one:

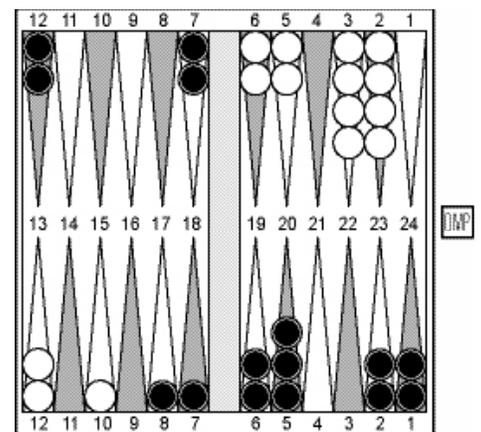
**POS. 3. 25 point finals. John O'Hagan (Black) and Dennis Carlston (White) are tied at 24-all. BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



Unfortunately, I wasn't a good enough player to find the right play here. I pointed on the deuce, but 18/8 is clearly better. That gives Dennis some really bad 6s plus 4-2, 3-3, and 3-1. If he rolls a 5 to get junior out of my home board, I get a direct shot from the mid-point plus an excellent bar point holding game if I miss. A Snowie rollout has my side winning 56.2% after 18/8 but just 52.2% when I make the 2-point.

A couple moves later:

**POS. 4. 25 point finals. John O'Hagan (Black) and Dennis Carlston (White) are tied at 24-all. BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**



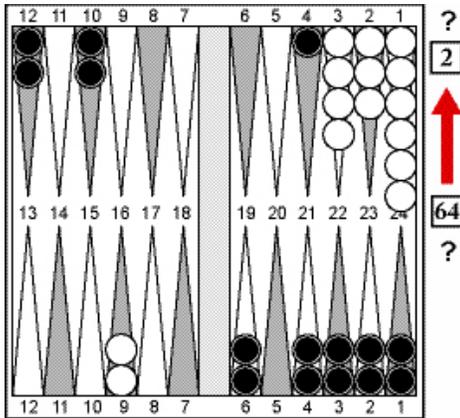
The right play is pretty obviously 13/10\*8. Instead I hit and played 13/11 with the deuce. Making the 8-point blocks Dennis's 4-4 and gives me lots of return

[Continued on page 9]

# PROBLEM #311 ANALYZED

by Steve Sax

5 point match. Black and White tied at 1-1. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



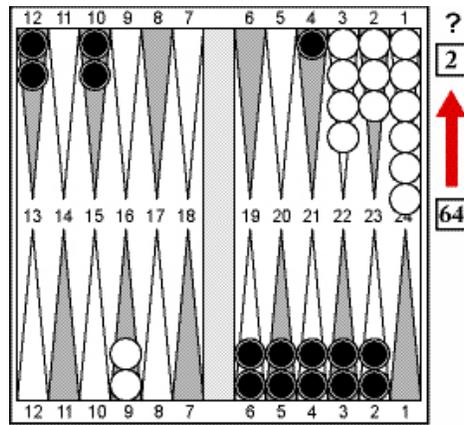
How did White get herself into such a mess? If an expert were playing White's pieces, then she would likely have taken a chance and left a volunteer shot to break her back anchor before her board crushed and her opponent's board was so strong. This makes me believe that White is something less than an expert which adds another dimension to Black's decision-making process.

If both players were experts and somehow White couldn't be blamed for getting herself into this position, then the correct cube actions would be "double" for Black and "take" for White. Black must cube here because of the position's extreme volatility. It's true that White could roll double 5s on her first shake; but barring that, she really has no exit strategy from this game but to leave multiple shots on her first roll in hopes of getting missed. Even then she is hard-pressed to safety her loose blots and isn't likely to have an efficient recube.

Still, it's Black's shake first and since Black won't be breaking his board on his first move, his decision will be either to move his back piece or to break his midpoint. After playing his roll, Black is a solid favorite no matter how he moves. Snowie says that in most cases, he should break his midpoint by moving one or both pieces. This gives Black the maximum containment value by keeping the 15-anchor along with a sentry back on the 21-point.

Black's open 5-point coupled with White's 3-point board provides White with enough scrambling vig to take this cube. However, give Black a five point board—6-point to 2-point inclusive—and the position becomes a monumental pass:

**Position 311A.** Black doubles. This is a huge pass for White.



After Black makes his "likely play" of moving off his midpoint, White will be on roll. Unless she rolls 2-1, a double, or hits Black, she will be forced to break her anchor and be at the multiple shot mercy of Black. Even if Black misses the first shot (depending on where White was forced to move), White may only have a marginal redouble.

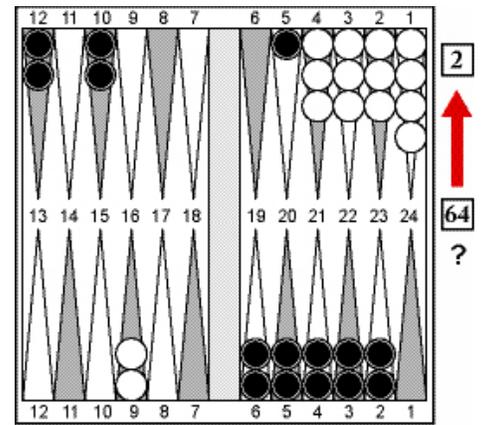
Additionally, one of the main determinants in taking a cube at 4-away/4-away is one's powerful recube equity. If you redouble your opponent and she passes, you are 2-away and she is 4-away leaving you about a 68% favorite to win the match. This should make the doubler at 4-away/4-away somewhat cautious in cubing many positions because his recube takepoint is 32% instead of 22% as for money or the mid to high 20% value as in many other match recubes.

This position is an exception to that concern since White is hard-pressed to get in an efficient recube. The nature of mutually volatile positions is such that it's great for the doubler but not for the taker who often doesn't get his money's worth: he either wins 2 points by overshooting his market, or he redoubles inefficiently trying for 4 points.

Black has decent gammon chances himself winning nearly 18% gammons, which makes the initial double even more enticing. Another good reason for doubling is that White might pass.

To be truthful, if I were doubled in this position there's a reasonable chance I would pass. It just seems too hard to win. Even though a long rollout shows this position to be a solid double and an easy take, it just doesn't seem that easy. Give White a four point board (Position 311B) and it's not even a double since White's defenses would be nearly twice as formidable.

**Position 311B.** Black does not have a double in this position.



In the final analysis Black must double no matter who he is playing. The strength of the position dictates this by itself; but in tandem with the strong likelihood that White may pass, the double is much stronger. I would even double an intermediate player in this position knowing she was taking. Additionally in Black's favor, White might miss a recube in which case (if she wins only 2 points) Black still has excellent match-winning chances trailing 4-away/2-away.

Conversely if Black is an intermediate and White is world class, White may elect to pass such an unplayable position and take her chances down 4-away/3-away.

The main lesson to be learned in this position is not let it occur in the first place. Make your bold anchor-breaking plays when you have a decent board and your opponent is still assembling his.

Until next time play well and have fun.—Steve Sax



## ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis  
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Tuesday, 6-7 P.M. at Whistler's Restaurant, 3420 W. Devon, Lincolnwood. 847/673-9270.

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 Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. at Krieger's Sports Bar, 1975 Wabash Ave., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

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

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Thurs., 6:45 P.M. at Playoffs Bar, 720 E. North Ave., Carol Stream. Tim Mabee (630/606-2388).

PEORIA BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/689-1964).

**WINNER'S CIRCLE**



JUL./AUG. 2005

•**Keren di Bona Memorial** (Daventry, England; 2-3 Jul.)... OPEN: 1-Martin Barkwill, 2-David Nathan; 1C-Kevin White, 2C-Uldis Lapikens; 1LC-Simon K. Jones, 2LC-Dave Motley. **KAMIKAZI** (24): 1-Ron Havenhand, 2-Ann Pocknell. **DOUBLES** (4): 1-Dead 8. **FRIDAY WARM-UP** (8): 1-Martin Barkwill. **£50 JACKPOT** (8): 1/2-John Slattery / Chris Ternel. **POKER** (8): 1-Mick Vacarey.

•**17th City of Venice** (Venice, Italy; 7-10 Jul.)... **CHAMPIONSHIP** (16): 1-Martin de Bruin (USA/SPN), 2-Vittorio Castro (ITA/SWZ); 1C-Peter Bardehle (GER). **INTERMEDIATE** (23): 1-Franca Boscarri (ITA), 2-Domenico Torrielli (ITA); 1C-Lorenzo Lagana (ITA). **AMATEUR** (24): 1-Nadia de Sandro (ITA), 2-Girolamo Castiglioni (ITA); 1C-Gianfranco Luccarda (ITA). **SUPERLAST CHANCE** (32): 1-Franco Modena (ITA), 2-Babis Drouvis (GRE). **WARM UP** (32): 1-Ryuzo Suzuki (JPN), 2-Raffaele Castro (SWZ). **DOUBLES** (14): 1-Lorenzo Lagana & Ivano Zanenghi (ITA). **TROFEO ROMAGNOLI DEI CLUB**: 1-Luca Boni & Stefano Sinopoli (Backgammon Club Venezia).

•**Riviera's Challenge III** (Cannes, FRA; 19-24 Jul.)... **CHAMPIONSHIP** (77): 1-Didier Assaraf (FRA), 2-Yanju Shimoni (ISR), 3/4-Maria Krancheva (Bulgaria) / Lothar Wolf (GER); 1C-Yomi Peretz (FRA), 2C-Malcolm Davis (USA); 1LC-Slava Pryadkin (UKR). **Ladies Prize**: Maria Krancheva (BUL). **ADVANCED** (32): 1-Manuel Avetissian (ARM), 2-Kolya Mosoyan (ARM), 3/4-Nadya Marinova (BUL/FRA) / Nicky Niknam (USA); 1C-Sirazh Gambaryan (ARM), 2C-Frederic Andrieu (FRA); 1LC-Marion Eber (SOA). **INTERMEDIATE** (20): 1-Anette Amsted (DEN), 2-Ha Tuan Bao (FRA), 3/4-Anne Jeppesen (DEN) / Laura Nobile (SWZ). **BEGINNERS** (10): 1-Victoria Smirnova (RUS), 2-Edith Afchani (GER); 1C-Gisèle Ardisson (FRA). **NATIONS CHALLENGE** (20): 1-Israel: Gadi Carmeli / Abraham Eitan / Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon, 2-Bulgaria: Maria Krancheva / Atanas Georgiev, 3-Finland: Matti Haaksila / Teppo Salo, 4-Ukraine: Jakob Garal / Leonid Riskin. **DOUBLES** (32 teams): 1-Patrick Gaillardo & Marc Santo Roman (FRA), 2-Howard Markowitz & Ed O'Laughlin (USA).  $\approx$ 1000 **SUPERJP #1** (16) 1-Ion Ressu (SWZ), 2-Howard Markowitz (USA). **#2** (16): 1/2-Neville Eber (SOA) / Ed O'Laughlin (USA).  $\approx$ 500 **JP** (32): 1-Artur Muradian (ARM), 2-Martin Foldager (DEN). **LADIES TOURNEY** (16): 1-Antoinette-Marie Williams (USA).

•**Thousand Islands—ABT** (Alexandria Bay, NY; 29-31 Jul.)... OPEN (29): 1-Renée Rosenbloom (NY), 2-Eden Windish (Canada), 3-Alex Juskovic (Canada). **DOUBLES** (9): 1-Neil Garvie & Julie Hayward (Canada), 2-Stuart Katz (NY) & Woody Woodworth (IN).

•**Kansas City Monthly** (Kansas City, MO; 1 Aug.)... OPEN: 1-Kathleen Schuler, 2/3-Al Morrone / Denis Vasalinda.

•**Studio Anne Carlton Trophy** (Hinckley, England; 6-7 Aug.)... OPEN (32): 1-Lawrence Powell, 2-Tony Lee, 3/4-Jeff Barber / Chris Ternel; 1C-Steve Rimmer, 2C-James Browning. **FRIDAY WARM-UP** (14): 1-Chris Purchase, 2-Martin Barkwill. **£50 JACKPOT** (4): 1-Peter Bennet. **POKER** (16): 1-Myke Wignall.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 7 Aug.)...

OPEN (19): 1/2-Bill Davis / Boris Dekhtyar, 3/4-Ken Bond / Ken Tyszko; 1C/2C-Tak Morioka / Bill Bartholomay. **INTERMEDIATE** (3): 1-Joe Szewdo.

•**Hot As Hades Open** (Houston, TX; 13 Aug.)... OPEN (17): 1-Phyllis Davidson, 2-David Cohen; 1C-Dr. James Bray, 2C-Ira Hessel.

•**So. Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 14 Aug.)... OPEN (14): 1/2 Steve Flam / Dimitri Vesselinov.

•**Kansas City Classic** (Kansas City, MO; 20 Aug.)... OPEN (8): 1-Bill Yancey, 2-Al Morrone / Kathleen Schuler.

•**12th Georgia Champs—ABT** (Atlanta, GA; 18-21 Aug.)... **CHAMPIONSHIP** (15): 1-David Rogers (NC), 2-Stuart Thomson (GA); 1C-Gregg Cattanach (GA), 2C-Ed O'Laughlin (FL). **ADVANCED** (15): 1-Stacy Turner (FL), 2-Ernie McCombs (TX); 1C-Samra Hadden (GA), 2C-Alan Epstein (GA). **KICKOFF** (16): 1-Gregg Cattanach (GA), 2/3-Gary Bauer (NJ) / Larry Taylor (GA). **LAST CHANCE JP** (8): 1-Samra Hadden (GA), 2-Alan Epstein (GA). **PEACH CUP** (8): 1-Larry Taylor (GA), 2-Gregg Cattanach (GA). **DOGWOOD JP** (8): 1-Petko Kostadinov (SC), 2-Jeb Horton (NC). **DOUBLES** (4 teams): 1-Susan Randall (FL) & Stacy Turner (FL). **CHOUETTE TOURNEY** (4): 1-Stacy Turner (FL). **POKERGAMMON** (20): 1-Ken Carlson (GA).  $\Delta$

**'Where's the Spare?' Answers**

[Problem appears on page 5]

**Black Spare**

Location	Proper Action
6-point	Take
5-point	Take
4-point	Take
3-point	Take
2-point	Pass

When the spare is on the 2-point, it would be a 0.37 error to take. When the spare is on the 3-point, it would be a 0.035 error to pass. Passing is a huge blunder when the spare is on the 4-, 5-, or 6-point.  $\Delta$

**MONTE CARLO...**

[Continued from page 7]

shots if he hits the blot on the mid with 3-1 or 4-1. I just didn't see the play for some reason. Snowie's rollout showed 13/10\*/8 winning 62.46% vs. 60.69% for my play.

The game eventually turned into a straight race which Dennis Carlston won handily. So it was disappointing to have lost, but Dennis played very well. Maybe it will be my turn next time.

Other Americans who cashed this year in Monte Carlo include: Perry Gartner (Semifinalist in the Championship 2nd Consolation), Nicky Niknam (Semifinalist in the Intermediate 2nd Consolation), Elayne Feinstein (Semifinalist in the Beginners Main Flight), and Howard Markowitz (Finalist in the 2nd Super Jackpot). Congratulations to them as well. —John O'Hagan  $\Delta$

**AMALGAMATION**

Multiple construction delays have postponed the Bar Point Club's return to Whistler's until at least 20 September. Check [chicagopoint.com/bpc](http://chicagopoint.com/bpc) for updates... Recent out-of-state BPC visitors: **James Roston** (NY), **Paul Franks** (NV)... Results correction: **Patrick Gaillardo**, not **Artur Muradian** was the winner of the July Cannes Open... **CHICAGO POINT** contributing editor **Kit Woolsey** (CA) was recently inducted into the American Contract Bridge League Hall of Fame... Have you visited [www.sportal.com](http://www.sportal.com)? There is a great collection of short video BG reports including interviews with Americans **Bob Wachtel** (CA), **Howard Markowitz** (NV), and **Malcolm Davis** (TX)... "Bravo" to TrueMoneygames for their live coverage of the Monte Carlo World Championship. And we are thrilled to announce that TrueMoneygames/Snowie along with **CHICAGO POINT** will be sponsoring the 2006 Midwest Championships next year which will allow us to return 100% in all events! More exciting details to follow... Attention Chicago area residents: Greektown Restaurants are the venue for a charity Tavli tournament (backgammon without the cube) 17-18 Sept. with a first prize of \$1000. Call (312) 655-1234 x28 for details... Condolences to the family and friends of **Al Tesoro** who passed away



The late Al Tesoro at the 2005 Midwest Championships.

15 July at his home in Florida. **Elayne Feinstein** has added a Memorial event in his honor at her upcoming Florida State Champs. Friends of Al will donate \$100 to charity for every entrant...

**Dan Pelton** reports that a power failure didn't stop the Arizona Backgammon Club from continuing play last month. They just pulled out a few flashlights!... Play65 has announced a \$1,000,000 backgammon tournament that will be held at a site to be determined in Summer 2006. Players will earn a seat in the tourney by qualifying online. For more info, contact **Claire Allen** ([claire@tcads.net](mailto:claire@tcads.net))... Congratulations to **Adrian & Gloria Rios** (IL) who were married in Durango, Mexico on 30 July... Before ravaging Louisiana and Mississippi, Hurricane Katrina whacked Fort Lauderdale knocking out **Elayne Feinstein's** power and slowing her Florida State tourney preparation by three days... Finally, I sadly announce the passing of my brother **John Davis** who died 10 August. John, who suffered from Schizophrenia, always found the time to help me with **CHICAGO POINT** mailings. He was 52.  $\Delta$



www.world-backgammon-association.com

1<sup>st</sup>  
European Backgammon  
Doubles  
Championships

3<sup>rd</sup>  
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The Nevada Backgammon Association's High Roller lead-in to the Las Vegas Open

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First Prize  
(Based on  
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- (d) Prize Money: Winning Team—60%, 2nd Place—20%, 3rd/4th—10% each.

### Special Jackpots

\$500 & \$1000 JPs with 90–95% return.

### Qualify at Reduced Rates

Qualify for as little as \$1250/team in Las Vegas on Friday, Nov. 11. Or contact Bill Davis (Illinois 773/583-6464), Carol Joy Cole (Michigan 810/232-9731), or Patrick Gibson (California 818/901-0464) for Advance Qualifier info in your area.

### Hotel Information

\$74/night room rates (single or double occ.). Reserve your room before Oct. 18 at 800/634-6753 or 702/734-5110.

### Tournament Information

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