

2005 florida state championships

CORBETT WINS IN FLA. Perry Gartner takes Masters

Mike Corbett of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has captured the Florida State Championship—right in his own backyard. Elayne Feinstein directed the event held in Lauderdale at the Sheraton Suites 16–18 September. 103 players from across the US and Canada participated in the main events.



Mike Corbett in the Florida State Finals.

Corbett, who bested Perry Gartner (NJ) and Karen Davis (NY) en route to the finals, was the big favorite over fellow Floridian Chris Spieldenner, a 30-year game veteran with very little tournament experience. Spieldenner faced a tough road to the finals as well, defeating Dennis Culpepper (VA) in the first round, then rolling a mandatory set of big doubles on the last shake of his DMP semifinal match to knock out Alan Martin (FL).



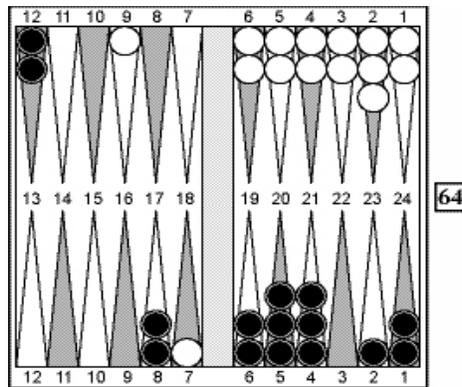
Florida director Elayne Feinstein presents the Tesoro Palm Classic winner's plaque to Perry Gartner in front of the tourney memorial to Al Tesoro.

Mike won the first point of the 15-point finals, but didn't lead again until the score was 12–11. It was "rock'em-sock'em" the rest of the way with Corbett prevailing 15–13.

14 PLAYERS PARTICIPATED in the Al Tesoro Memorial Palm Classic (Al, a Pompano Beach resident, died in July). To honor Al's memory, the club donated \$1400 to charity.

The Palm finals pitted the studious Perry Gartner (NJ) against Chicagoland's "fast action" player Lucky Nelson. Perry eventually won the match 11–5, probably as a result of two critical Lucky errors:

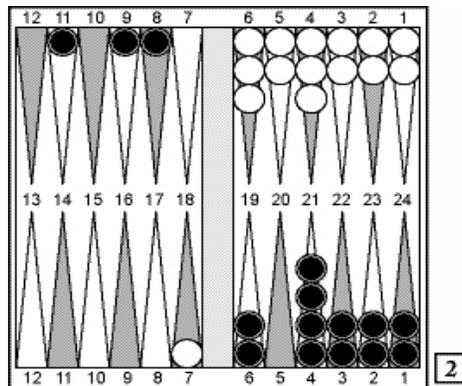
Lucky Nelson (Black) leads Perry Gartner (White) 2–0 to 11. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**



Hitting is crystal clear, but instead Lucky played 5/1, 4/2. Although Black loses 20% more gammons after hitting, he wins 55% plain games compared to a measly 32% after the "safe" play. This move cost Lucky close to 3% in match equity.

At 4-4, Lucky simply played too fast:

Lucky Nelson (Black) and Perry Gartner (White) are 4–4 to 11. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-3.**



[Continued on page 8]

HOWARD RING 1959–2005



Howard Ring, a derivatives trader by profession, but better known throughout Chicago for his charitable donations, and around the world for his backgammon skills, is dead. Howard died of liver cancer that was first diagnosed in August.

In 1989, Howard Ring's profession as a trader first brought him to Chicago. He earned his first Bar Point Club points in 1990. At the time of his passing, Howard was ranked 22nd in the world according to the most recent "Giants of Backgammon" listing. He is survived by his wife Linda and his three young children, Julia, Philip,



Howard and Linda at the 1992 Midwest Championships (the year they married).

and Elizabeth.

If you would like to send your condolences to the family, their address is: 3445 Dauphine Avenue; Northbrook, IL 60062.

Jake Jacobs, a good friend of Howard for

MY INTRODUCTION TO HOWARD RING was at a Chicago Open 15 years ago when, shortly before I was to play him for the first time, someone asked me why I was having a beer with my dinner when I would be playing a match with a player "like Howard Ring."

I'm not sure if there are players "like Howard Ring;" I am sure I know no person

[Continued on page 5]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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POSITION ERROR FROM LAST ISSUE

You have probably already received several comments about this, but the doubling position as shown on page 6 of the September POINT can't be correct for Dave Wetzell to double out Neil Kazaross.—*Michael Flohr, director, Bloomington/Normal Backgammon Club, Illinois*

Sorry about that! The position should have been shown with one of Neil Kazaross's men on the bar and seven borne off (35.1% to win).—Ed.

COME BACK, PHIL!

Seeing our pic [*Phil with Jennifer Tilly in issue 176.—ed.*] on the front page of CHICAGO POINT was so ultra mega cool. Funny . . . after I left gammon for poker, I never imagined I would be gammon news ever again. The world is a funny place. I miss the game sometimes . . .

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731
cjc@tir.com

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

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 9*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Oct 14-16	Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois	217/528-0117
Oct 16	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/784-8132
Oct 16*	Pittsburgh Monthly Tournament, Hartner's Lounge, Cranberry Twp., PA	412/826-1334
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*	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Purple Hotel, Lincolnwood, Illinois	773/583-6464
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 13*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Nov 16-20	<u>2005 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
Nov 17*	Third Thursday Bonus (California), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov 19*	Atlanta Fall Doubles Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Nov 20*	Pittsburgh Monthly Tournament, Hartner's Lounge, Cranberry Twp., PA	412/826-1334
Dec 2-4	<u>California State Championship, Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Dec 3	Bar Point Saturday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Dec 3*	Austin Saturday Bimonthly Tournament, JC's Steakhouse, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Dec 4*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/945-1257
Dec 4*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Dec 5*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/561-4330
Dec 5*	Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Dec 6*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Dec 10*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Dec 10*	Tournament of Champions, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Dec 11*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jan 13-15*	<u>6th Carolina Invitational, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina</u>	<u>704/814-0850</u>
Feb 17-19*	<u>Pittsburgh Championships, Holiday Inn Airport, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Mar 17-19*	<u>2006 Midwest Championships, Wyndham Lisle, Lisle, Illinois</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Oct 6-9	Austrian Open & Doubles Championship, Veronika Hotel, Seefeld, Austria	39337-303804
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 25-30*	3rd Lucien Barrière Open & European Doubles, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Oct 28-Nov 1*	2nd OWL-Cup/Kaiserbrunnen Open/Amateur-Cup, 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 London2005, Spice Island & YHA, London, England	442077-001798
Nov 19-20	Gammonitis League Tournament, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038
Nov 29-Dec 4*	Cancun Invitational, Ritz Carlton Hotel, Cancun, Mexico	775/829-8403
Dec 3-4*	Gilbertson United Kingdom Finals, Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, UK	441522-888676
Dec 10-11*	Gammonitis Christmas Tournament, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038
Dec 27-30*	2nd Weihnachts-Open, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-48190
Jan 2-8*	10th Thailand Open, 19th Hole Superpub, South Pattaya, Thailand	669544-3047
Jan 6-8*	Swiss Championships, Grand Casino Baden, Switzerland	4179-4015811
Jan 14-15*	Bright 'n' Breezy, West Pier Hotel, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 27-29*	4th Cotswold Fireside BG & Hold'em Poker, Crown Inn, Blockley, England	441453-821479

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

Recently, I have been poking around on Snowie, for the aesthetics of it. Something as pure and beautiful as gammon cannot just be left behind.

You da man, sir. I miss the Pig-Rolling at your Midwest Championships! Chill my brother.—*Phil Laak, Los Angeles, California*

BACKGAMMON IN ADVERTISING

It's nice seeing Eddie Bauer using backgammon in their fall clothing ad.—*Joel*

Achtenberg, Webster Groves, Missouri



Eddie Bauer using BG in this fall ad.

We agree, Joel, but wonder why they always get the board setup wrong when backgammon is used as a prop. For example, look at the setup in this picture from the October Playboy pictorial, "College Girls of the Pac 10."—*Ed*



Pac 10 coed Kierstin Kim displays her set in the October Playboy.

BRINGING IN NEW PLAYERS

What do you think about this idea for attracting new players to the Bar Point Club? They don't have to pay an entrance fee until they have earned a master point? I

[Continued on page 4]

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005

Top 100 compiled through 25 Sept. 2005 after 14 events
(Remaining events: Illinois, Minnesota, California)

Neil Kazaross 68.78	Bill Minser 10.40	DeWayne Derryberry 5.60	Karen Chung 3.20
Phil Simborg 40.24	Eden Windish 10.21	Bob Glass 5.60	Cookie Frazin 3.20
Jeb Horton 31.05	Sal Chehayeb 9.96	Jim Wark 5.40	Bruce Ballance 3.19
Mike Corbett 26.79	George Barr 9.04	Tom Green 5.27	Fred Lindsay 3.00
Steve Sax 23.53	Mark Rozans 8.64	Mary Ann Meese 5.27	Jim Zimmerman 3.00
Ray Glaeser 18.39	Richard Armbruster 8.45	Michael Plog 5.20	Ralph Byrns 2.94
Gregg Cattanach 17.38	Dana Nazarian 7.74	Randy Armstrong 5.09	Cole Parker 2.93
Howard Shirey 16.71	Todd Obadal 7.74	Boris Dekhtyar 4.99	Tim Ferrell 2.91
Ed O'Laughlin 15.50	Ernie McCombs 7.71	Jeff Acierno 4.94	Katherine Denison 2.91
Ben Elliott 15.40	Joe Feldman 7.66	Wayne Wiest 4.92	Doug Roberts 2.90
Carlos Azcarate 14.92	Vadim Musaelyan 7.60	Joe Freedman 4.67	Steve Goldstein 2.90
Renee Rosenbloom 14.44	Mary Hickey 7.17	Lee Pflugrad 4.63	Molly Anderson 2.80
Jason Lee 14.40	Tak Morioka 7.17	Don Sloan 4.49	Connie Tipton 2.80
Jeremy Bagai 14.35	Dave Wetzell 7.11	Jack Takala 4.49	Neville Kerr 2.67
Carter Mattig 14.11	Doug Mayfield 7.04	Carol Joy Cole 4.32	Lenn Schneider 2.67
Chuck Bower 13.51	Ray Foglerlund 7.04	Patty Geoffroy 4.19	Sasan Taher 2.64
Malcolm Davis 13.06	Stacy Turner 6.29	Mark Murray 4.11	Tim Mabee 2.58
J. A. Miller 12.64	Chris Spieldenner 6.22	Petko Kostadinov 3.80	Jonah Seewald 2.58
Ed Zell 11.99	Mike Friedman 6.22	Ed Johnson 3.68	Kathy Sorci 2.56
Michael Edge 11.55	Brad King 6.01	Murray Bryntesen 3.61	Edward Steinberg 2.53
David Rogers 11.30	Kit Woolsey 5.88	Rick Todd 3.57	Les Moshinsky 2.53
Stephan Nuniyants 11.20	Alex Juskovic 5.83	Al Jones 3.57	Bob Carpenter 2.51
Perry Gartner 11.18	Herb Roman 5.80	Marc Gray 3.53	Alan Martin 2.51
Larry Strommen 10.61	Neil Garvie 5.72	Jona Alexander 3.52	3 tied with 2.50
Bob Hathaway 10.54	Stuart Thomson 5.65	Lynn Lusk 3.20	

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2005 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 SEPT.

Tak Morioka 27.22	Eric Johnson 7.20	Paul Franks 2.00	Greg Merriman 0.72
Herb Roman 20.24	Oleg Raygorodsky 6.88	Vadim Genkin 1.92	Michael Brand 0.72
David Rockwell 18.56	Norma Shyer 6.72	Randee Simborg 1.76	Mary Franks 0.72
Phyllis Smolinski 16.32	Michael Ginat 6.04	Linda Rockwell 1.68	Jim Gibbs 0.72
Carter Mattig 14.68	Bill Bartholomay 6.04	Sargon Benjamin 1.52	Bob Sexton 0.64
Paul Baraz 14.44	Larry Goldstein 5.64	Kwong Chan 1.44	Roland Dieter 0.64
Albert Yakobashvili 13.90	Georgina Flanagan 5.32	Shaw Dogan 1.38	Cookie Frazin 0.56
Phil Simborg 13.86	Jerry Brooks 5.04	J. A. Miller 1.32	Julia Ring 0.56
Bill Davis 13.76	Yamin Yamin 4.84	Elaine Andrews 1.28	Nan Feiber 0.56
Lucky Nelson 13.72	Howard Ring 4.56	Vai Zimnicki 1.28	Don Marek 0.48
Tim Mabee 11.48	Mark Murray 3.96	Josh Riddell 1.28	Mark Phillips 0.48
Gary Kay 9.64	Joann Feinstein 3.92	Michael Peters 1.24	Les Moshinsky 0.48
Steve Klesker 8.92	Roger Hickman 3.84	Royal Robinson 1.20	Bob Bartolone 0.48
Bob Steen 8.68	Richard Stawowy 3.48	Will Thomsen 1.20	Roz Ferris 0.44
Alice Kay 8.48	Arline Levy 3.12	Barbara Levinson 1.12	Bill Stegich 0.40
Bill Keefe 8.28	Igor Kaplunovsky 2.80	Ken Tyszko 1.12	Joe Szewedo 0.40
Boris Dekhtyar 8.20	Dan Weymouth 2.40	Elaine Kehm 1.08	Lisa Nelson 0.32
Wayne Wiest 8.04	Adrian Rios 2.28	Kurt Thompson 0.96	James Roston 0.32
Ken Bond 7.88	Dave Cramer 2.04	David Marcus 0.80	Dave Settles 0.24
Mike Wolock 7.32	Joe Auszmann 2.04	Ken Tibbs 0.72	

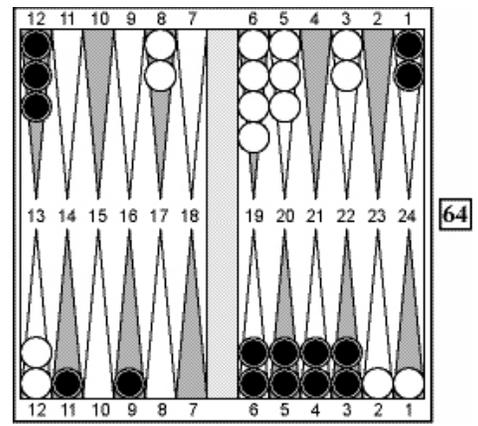
In a Bar Point Club first, it was a 4-way tie for September monthly honors between **TAK MORIOKA**, **DAVID ROCKWELL**, **HERB ROMAN**, and **MIKE WOLOCK**. Each player earned 2.88 points.

your move

PROBLEM #313

to be analyzed by Paul Weaver

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



SHADES OF GRAY

A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

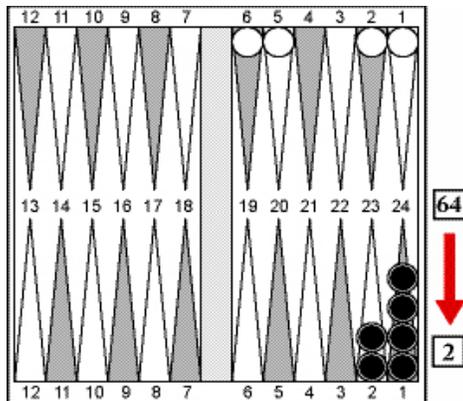
© 2005 by Danny Kleinman

DANNY'S 2005 RULING QUIZ

It's time for four challenging ruling questions taken directly from American Backgammon Tour competition over the past year. See how well your rulings match up with those of Danny Kleinman, one of the authors of the US Tournament Rules and Procedures.—Ed.

1. White correctly doubled the following position, and Black had an easy take.

5 point match. White leads Black, 3 to 1. White doubles and Black takes.



White rolled 4-2 bearing a man off the 6-point. Black, instead of redoubling for the match, began to shake his dice. Immediately, he realized the oversight, but as he pulled his cup back, one die squirted out between his fingers landing on the play-field.

After picking up the die, Black offered a double, but White objected. "You rolled a cocked die so according to the rules, you can't double on this turn." [US Tournament Rule 5.4 states: "Player may double when it is his turn only before rolling the dice, but not after rolling cocked dice."—Ed.]

The director is summoned and firmly:

- (A) Allows Black to redouble.
- (B) Forbids Black's redouble on this turn.

2. A difficult doubling decision presents itself and Black decides to take a picture of the position prior to accepting or dropping the cube. White tells Black that she does not want any pictures taken during the match.

The director quickly rules that:

- (A) Black may take a picture of the doubling position.

(B) Black must first act on the doubling cube; then he can take a picture.

(C) No pictures by either player may be taken during the match.

3. After reporting his second round victory, Steve asks the director, "Who's my next opponent?"

The director says "Jerry," but unfortunately Steve thinks he said "Sherry" who is actually waiting in the quarterfinals for the winner Steve and Jerry's match. Steve tells Sherry that the director said they have a match. The two play and Steve wins. When Steve goes to report his victory, the director realizes the error. Now what should he do?

- (A) Void the match and have Steve play Jerry with the winner playing Sherry.
- (B) If Steve beats Jerry, his victory over Sherry is valid and Steve moves into the semifinals. If Jerry beats Steve, he must play Sherry.
- (C) Sherry is out of the tournament and the winner of the Steve/Jerry match moves into the semifinals.
- (D) None of the above.

4. In a close bearoff, Ed shakes and rolls his dice. One die hangs up on the lip causing it to come out of the cup a split second after the first die. Both dice land legally with 6-6 face up. Of course Ed wants the roll to stand, but opponent Sally demands a reroll because the dice didn't come out simultaneously.

The director is called and both players agree that there was a fractional time lapse between the first and second die leaving the cup. That said, there is no argument about the randomness of Ed's roll. Therefore, the director rules that:

- (A) The dice must be rerolled.
- (B) The 6-6 roll is valid.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

read this for some other game club (maybe chess).—Jolie Rubin, Skokie, Illinois

We'll take that fine idea into consideration, Jolie. But for now, Phil Simborg will continue this offer to new players who live within 30 miles of the Bar Point Club: **Play free on your first visit!** We thank Phil for his generous offer and hope to see a lot of newcomers on Tuesday nights at the Purple Hotel.—Ed. Δ

YESTERDAY'S BG EXPERTS RATED

Enclosed is my renewal for another year of CHICAGO POINT which I still enjoy a lot.

I wonder how good the "experts" from

Danny's Ruling Quiz Answers

1. (A) The director should allow Black to redouble. Black did not roll either of his dice at all. To have a die tumble onto the board accidentally is not to roll it.
2. (A) Black may take a picture, as the only harm is the small delay while he clicks his camera. White has caused a greater delay by summoning the director.
3. (A) The result of the premature match between Steve and Sherry must not stand. To see why, imagine that Sherry had won that match. Then Jerry would still have to play Steve for the right to advance and face Sherry. That would leave Steve without an incentive to play well against Jerry; depending on his attitude toward Jerry and Sherry, he might play better or worse in his match with Jerry. Letting the match between Steve and Sherry stand would also give Jerry an incentive to hedge with Steve and play badly in the match.
4. (B) A split-second delay in the exit of the second die from the cup makes no difference. Only a delay long enough for the roller to see how the first die is landing should void the roll.

Have you ever been involved in a questionable ruling? Get Danny Kleinman's opinion. Write to: Shades of Gray; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or e-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com.

the 1970s were (like Joe Dwek, Kiumars Motakshasses, Gino Scalamandre) compared to today's computer generation. Is it possible to analyze this? Back then, we had to believe what the gurus told us. Nowadays, we turn to "Gnu" or "Snowie."

Kiumars had vision and could count, but he didn't have computer software. How would he do in today's tournament world?—Jaakko Salava, Helsinki, Finland

In his 1995 book *Classic Backgammon Revisited*, Jeremy Bagai, using Snowie, reanalyzed positions in the books of Oswald Jacoby & John Crawford, Joe Dwek, Paul Magriel, Barclay Cooke, and Bill Robertie. Jeremy's book contains 120 significant errors from the masters' old works proving how far our game has come in 30 years.—Ed.

NORMA SHYER'S CAUSE OF DEATH IS UNCERTAIN

Chicagoland backgammon master points were first recorded in 1975. If you look at an old newsletter from that year, you'll find Norma Shyer's name. And now Norma is gone. She passed away on 28 September, just two months before her 68th birthday.



Norma at the Tuesday night Bar Point Club in May 2005. She was a regular.

Norma, who suffered from liver ailments for the past year, seemed to be getting better. But when she played at the Bar Point Club on 20 September, something was wrong. During the last two matches of her life, Norma was shivering—complaining that the room was very cold (which it wasn't).

She left early that night and apparently got into a very bad auto accident, totaling her car. Somehow she made it home without getting a medical checkup. On Thursday, 22 September, she was taken to Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago, complaining of internal pains.

Just six days later, she died.

Norma played organized backgammon all over the United States for 30 years. In Chicagoland, she accumulated a grand total of 200.86 points, placing her 29th all-time.

She also had a passion for art. For many years, Norma displayed her works in a booth at



Norma and Don Jayhan at the 1991 MBC. Don also passed on this year.

Chicago's Gold Coast Art Fair.

The Chicago Bar Point Club will miss Norma Shyer-McKinnon. We send our deep condolences to her husband Burt McKinnon, and sister, Barbara Stanley on their loss. Δ

HOWARD RING...

[Continued from page 1]

quite like Howard Ring. And now, there is no Howard.

Describing his backgammon achievements may be appropriate—this is a backgammon publication—but it just isn't adequate. Howard won the World Cup in 1998. Only five men ever won that ultimate victory; Howard was the last. About Howard's backgammon no more need be said.



Howard with daughter Julia in the 2005 Midwest Doubles Championship finals.

About Howard as a man, space does not permit me to say enough. Howard was perhaps the most complete person that I know. I believe that a young Howard asked himself what it took to make a full and proper life, and set out to fashion for himself exactly that: a woman who would be his life's partner; children he could love; a business he could build; a temple to connect him to the roots of his faith; a team to root for ("Go Gators!"); a hobby to be passionate about; a charity to endow. If that sounds cold because it was calculated, I swear, it wasn't cold. Howard was never cold. All of it was rooted in his belief that a man has responsibilities, to himself, his family, and his society, and for matters so important one must plan; to make sure it all is done right.

The last item I listed in Howard's master plan was a "charity to endow." Howard was on the board of directors of the Gastro Intestinal Research Foundation. (The first GIRF fundraiser I attended had a cowboy theme, and I asked Howard whose twisted mind dreamed up a dinner featuring baked beans and sauerkraut to serve to a gathering of the intestinally distressed!) Howard, you see, had Crohn's Disease, a chronic condition that affects the bowel and colon; a condition he quietly lived with. Recognizing that life is not always fair or pleasant, Howard believed in accepting what he had to, but minimizing the effect he allowed it to have. He gave the condition proper respect, but the long-term damage to his colon masked the cancer that

took root there. In August, when it was first diagnosed, it had already spread too widely for treatment to prevail.

Howard Ring passed away on Saturday the 24th of September, 2005, just before the kickoff to a Gator game.

I cannot end this on such a sad and empty note, so I will share my favorite memory of Howard. Karaoke had come to Northbrook, and Howard, Linda, and I went to the local pub to inflict pain on the ears of total strangers.

"I can't sing!" I warned Linda.

"Don't worry," Linda replied. "No matter how bad you are, I'm worse. And Howard? No one sings worse than Howard!"

She was right on all counts. But Howard didn't know he couldn't sing; no one had the heart to tell him. There have been hundreds of versions of "Kansas City," but only Howard's could have inspired all of Missouri to pack up and move to another state. He belted out that tune until it was black and blue, all the while doing a kind of dance to "sell" the song: shift to the right foot, shift to the left foot, shift to the . . . ("Hmm, lost track!"); don't forget to pump the arm in strange little chops, like punching a midget in the nose. Left foot, right foot, right hand, all keeping time: three different times, none matching the song.

The crowd loved it, and roared approval. Howard came back to the table, beaming. Then, the DJ brought over the recording he had made (they were doing that back then) of Howard's performance. Eagerly, Howard hit "playback."

As he listened, the strangest look came over his face. Howard turned to Linda and me, outraged: "Hey, who doctored the tape!?" —*Jake Jacobs Δ*



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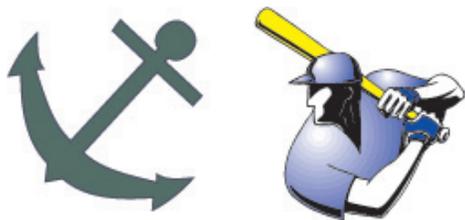
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Damon's Grill, 1701 Fort Jesse Road, Normal. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

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Anchor -OR- Hit with 5-4?

By Nack Ballard

I have made three discoveries that I would like to share with you:

(1) Given the choice of anchoring or hitting, most players hit too often. This includes *Snowie* (backgammon software) which tends to have a bias towards hitting. Only by rolling out dozens of early game

positions have I been able to correct this over-hitting tendency in my own play.

(2) It is efficient to study early game positions. The features are less complicated, making it easier to focus on the relevant subtleties. For all positions diagrammed or mentioned in this article, neither side has played more than twice nor made a weak move, and the cube is in the center.

(3) “Cusps” are powerful tools. These are positions at which certain cube actions or checker plays break even. A learned cusp is a fixed beacon to which you can compare any position that is remotely similar. By memorizing a few cusps, it is possible to make the correct plays in a huge number of related positions just by making common-sense adjustments.

The “C” (or “cusp”) positions are shown in the center. In all of them, Black, with a 5-4 to play, has an essentially equal

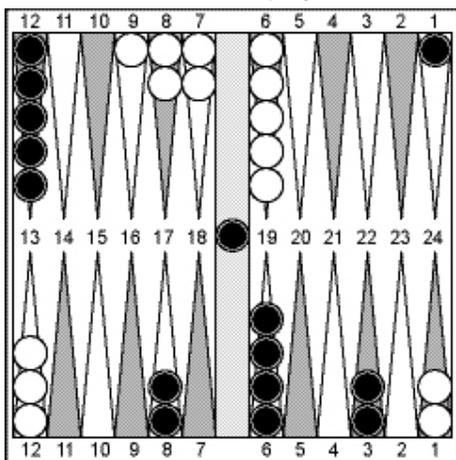
choice of anchoring on his 20-point or hitting (*within 0.01, cubeless 3-ply truncated rollout, 1296 trials*).

In the “A” (or “anchor”) positions shown on the left, Black should anchor. In the “H” (or “hit”) positions on the right, Black should hit.

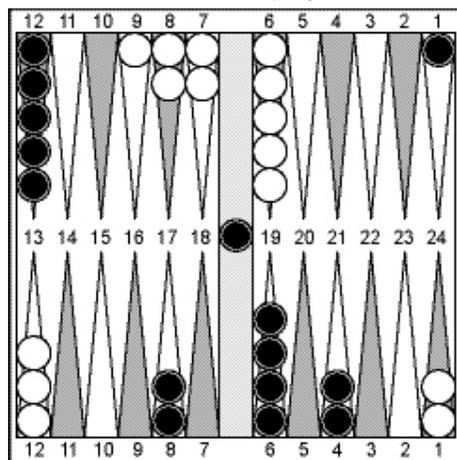
Our first cusp is C1. It is equally strong for Black to play 5-4 by anchoring on the 20-point or hitting on the 16-point. Memorize the C1 position (generated by the roll sequence of 5-3, 6-1, 6-2, 3-1), and you can easily determine the correct play with 5-4 in a bunch of similar positions.

For example, it is easy to deduce that Black should anchor in A1. His inner board is *weaker* than in the break-even C1. Using similar logic, Black should hit in H1 because his inner board is *stronger* than in C1, giving him a better chance to contain the hit checker.

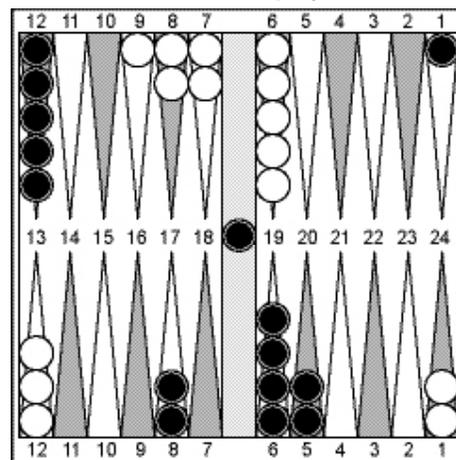
A1 Black to play 5-4



C1 Black to play 5-4



H1 Black to play 5-4



Although shifting an inner board point lower (A1) or higher (H1) impacts Black’s anchor/hit decision, adding or subtracting a point to either side is an even bigger factor. For example, if instead of hitting with 3-1, White has hit with the stronger roll of double 2s (allowing her to also make her 4-point), it is hugely correct for Black to anchor with 5-4 in all three positions. If

Black erroneously hits, there is a greater chance that his remaining back checker (and/or his outfield blot, if it is hit back) will be primed.

By the same token, if Black has not yet made an inside point, his position is weaker than all three positions diagrammed above. Without even the offensive asset of a two-point board, Black’s gain from hitting is

clearly insufficient compared to the value of anchoring with 5-4. Such commonly arising anchor/hit decisions are frequently misplayed.

WHILE THE RELATIVE STRENGTH of the players’ inner boards is an important factor, it is by no means the only factor to examine when comparing a position to a known

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cusps. Check out the next cusp (C2, below, center column). It is equally good for Black to anchor or hit with 5-4. If you memorize C2 (or the roll sequence of 4-1, 6-2), you will be better equipped to handle a sizable range of similar positions.

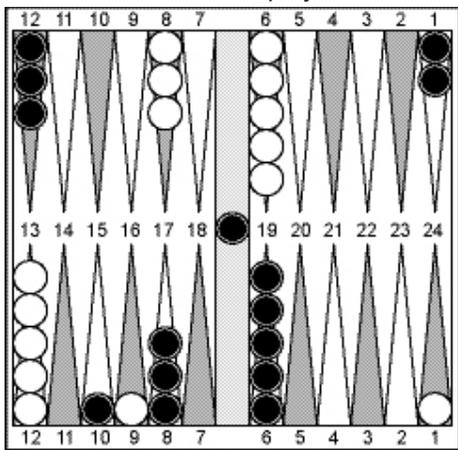
In A2, Black's midpoint has only three

checkers, and will be stripped if he hits. Instead of hitting with 5-4, Black should anchor on his 20-point and play from a position of impregnability. (Note that White gets a useful ace shot either way.)

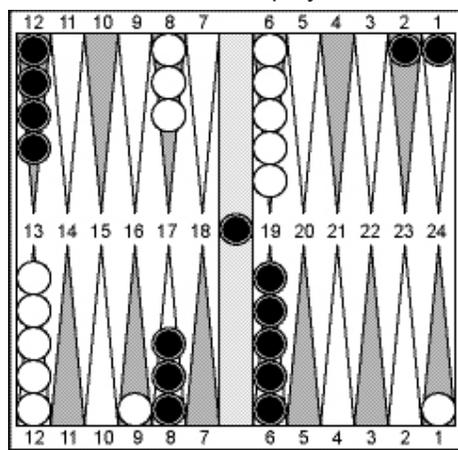
By contrast, in H2, Black has four checkers on his midpoint and has already

started an advanced anchor (the 21-point). If he enters on the 20-point and hits, he has *two* advanced anchors started; his back checkers can fend for themselves. (If Black's 21-point checker were instead on his 18-point, it would likewise be correct for him to hit with 5-4.)

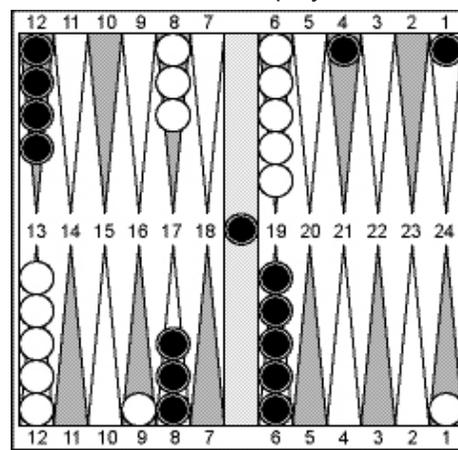
A2 Black to play 5-4



C2 Black to play 5-4



H2 Black to play 5-4



This is so much fun—let's try another. In C3, Black has 5-4 to play from the roof, and again, anchoring and hitting (on the 7-point) are plays of equal value.

In A3, Black's board is weaker than

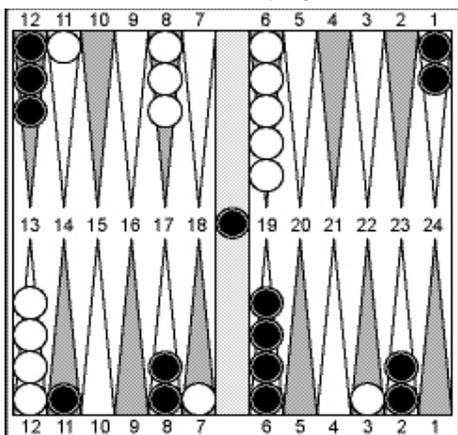
in C3; he should therefore anchor. In H3, Black's board is stronger than in C3; he should therefore hit. Gee, this is easy!

(White's 4s are duplicated in A3; however, that is merely an *extra* reason to

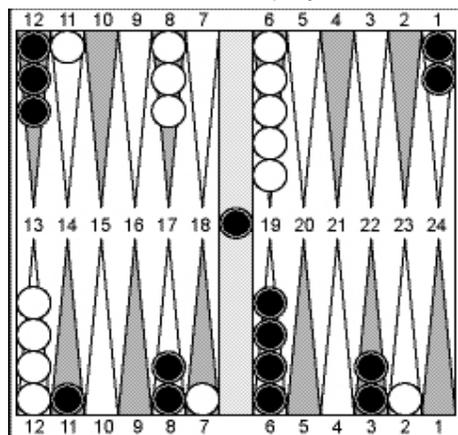
anchor. If White's blot is inched up one pip to Black's 4-point, Black should still anchor with 5-4.)

[Continued on page 8]

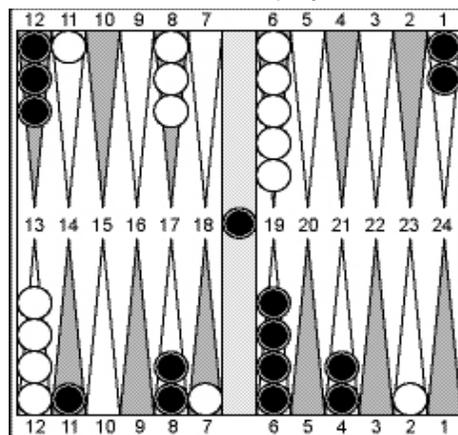
A3 Black to play 5-4



C3 Black to play 5-4



H3 Black to play 5-4



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ANCHOR OR HIT...

[Continued from page 7]

I have a plethora of trios in my arsenal, but unfortunately the space to share only one more. In C4, Black is once again on

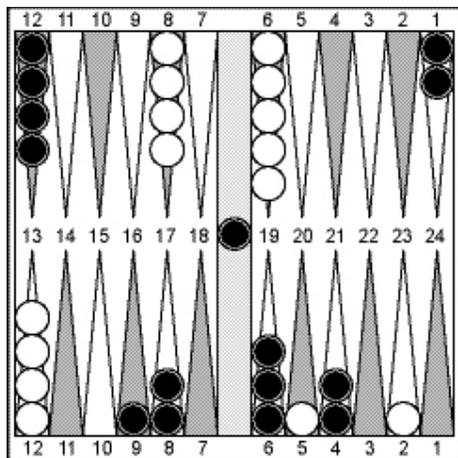
the anchor/hit fence with 5-4. (An aesthetic sidelight of C4 is that a third play, entering and covering the 9-point, is just as strong as Black's two other plays.)

In A4, Black should anchor because White does not have the double shot at the blot in the outfield that she has in C4. (If White's 23-

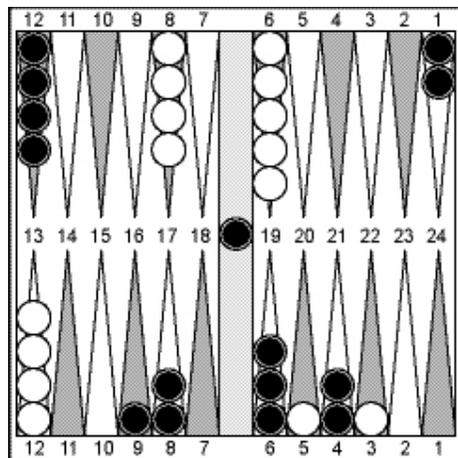
point checker is on her 24-point, anchoring is even *clearer* because White's 4s are duplicated.)

In H4, White has a blot on her 10-point (not present in C4). Black should hit on his 5-point, thereby giving him a better chance to send a third White checker back. As a bonus, Black duplicates White's 5s and 3s.

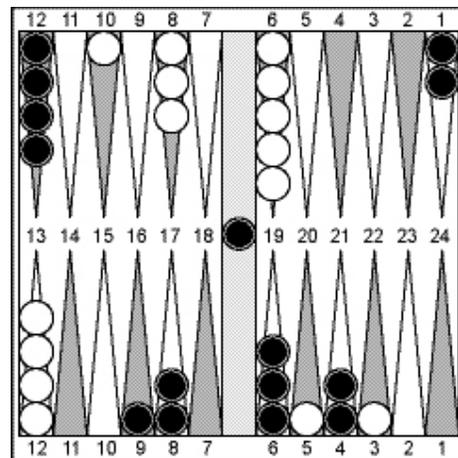
A4 Black to play 5-4



C4 Black to play 5-4



H4 Black to play 5-4



I offer a final cusp that competitive tournament players may enjoy. In C5 (reached by the roll sequence of 4-3, 6-1, 5-5, 6-2), Black has three worthwhile candidate moves with 5-4, each of which is the best play by a significant margin at a particular match score:

(1) At "gammon save" (Black needs 1, White needs 2, Crawford), Black should anchor on the 20-point.

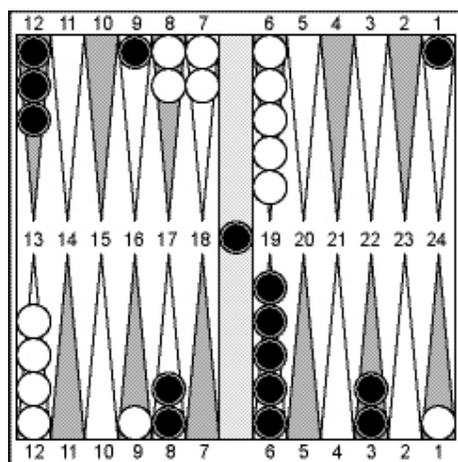
(2) At "gammon go" (Black needs 2, White needs 1, Crawford), Black should hit on his 9-point.

(3) At double match-point, Black should make the 16-point.

(4) At early match scores or in money games, all three plays are tied.

Another purpose of cusp positions is

C5 Black to play 5-4



thereby revealed. When leading in the match, you should lean towards making the conservative play (anchoring in C1 through C5). When trailing in the match, you should lean towards making the aggressive play (hitting in C1 through C5).

By taking the time to study and memorize the handful of cusp positions presented in this article, your game will improve, perhaps considerably. Δ

Many thanks to Paul Weaver, who helped with editing and uncomplainingly rolled out the large number of positions foisted on him so that I could select optimal positions for this article. We are coauthors of the "Backgammon Openings" book series. Volume 1 will be published soon.—Nack Ballard

FLORIDA...

[Continued from page 1]

There are many possible options, but they all involve using three 3s to hit 16/7*. Lucky instead played 17/11, 14/11, 4/1, which reduced his game-winning chances from 67% to 34%. And because he was holding a 2-cube, this oversight was magnified, costing him over 10% in match equity.

CONGRATS to the other main event winners, Carlos Azcarate (FL) over Patty Geoffroy (MA) in the Advanced, Steve Kenney (DE) in the Novice, and Murray Bryntesen & Neil Rozensweig in the Doubles. *Results:* Δ

2005 FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP (36): 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Chris Spieldenner (FL), 3/4-Bob Carpenter (FL) / Alan Martin (FL); 1C-Mike Friedman (Canada), 2C-Edward Steinberg (FL); LC Split—Neil Kazaross (IL)—50%, Malcolm Davis (TX)—25%, Jim Pascoe (CT)—25%. **ADVANCED (51):** 1-Carlos Azcarate (FL), 2-Patty Geoffroy (MA) 3/4-Murray Bryntesen (FL) / Joe Griffith (FL); 1C-Ernest McCombs (TX), 2C-Dixie McGaffick (FL); 1LC-Stacy Turner (FL). **NOVICE (16):** 1-Steve Kenney (DE), 2-Emily Gelblum (FL); 1C-Lois Merriman (MI). **AL TESORO MEMORIAL PALM CLASSIC (14):** 1-Perry Gartner (NJ), 2-Lucky Nelson (IL). **DAVID MENKES MEMORIAL (14):** 1-Edward Steinberg (FL), 2-David Todd (MO). **DOUBLES (30 teams):** 1-Murray Bryntesen (FL) & Neal Rozensweig (FL), 2-José Luiz Canavesi (Argentina/FL) & Fabricio Schaffrath (Argentina/FL). **BLITZ (84):** Split—Jim Pascoe (CT)—50%, Carlos Azcarate (FL)—25%, Tolga Ece (FL)—25%. **LADIES TOURNAMENT (21):** 1/2-Eileen Adere (FL) / Danielle Bastarache (FL). **SUNSHINE CUP (8):** 1-Vic Hunter (FL). **GATOR ROLL:** 1-Lois Merriman (MI).

NUNIYANTS REPEATS IN SEATTLE

Bob Glass has a great event

Washington's Stepan Nuniyants, the 2004 Pacific Northwest champion, has successfully defended his title in Seattle at the Holiday Inn Sea-Tac 23-25 September. Stepan outlasted Ray Fogerlund (CA) in the semifinals, then ousted Bob Glass (CA) 15-4 to cap off his repeat victory. "I think I'm going to start attending a few more events," said Nuniyants.



Pacific Northwest repeat champion Stepan Nuniyants.

The tournament, directed by Clyde Jones, enjoyed a 40% increase in attendance.

In form unbecoming his character, Glass actually threw his dice cup at one point in the match. And although it didn't help matters vs. Nuniyants, his dice certainly behaved in the Mt. Ranier Cup Masters event where he rolled over Ray Fogerlund 11-1, in the semifinals, then shut out Malcolm Davis 11-0 in the finals.

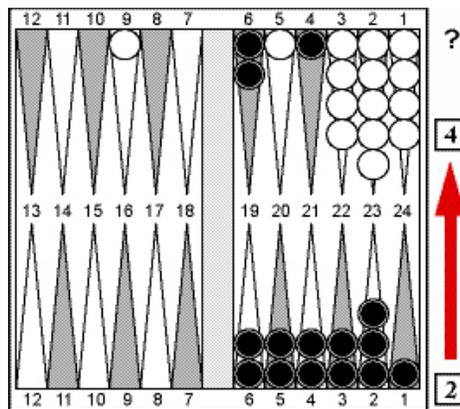


Bob Glass is all smiles after besting Malcolm Davis in the Mt. Rainier Cup Masters.

Although a walkover on the score sheet, the Mt. Ranier Cup Masters was highlighted by an interesting recube decision in game 4. Trailing 5-0, Malcolm offered a cube and a wild game developed. Eventually Malcolm, with two on the 9-point and two on the 5-point, was trying to bring the game home safely and rolled a horrible 6-3

leaving the following position:

11-pt. Mt. Rainier Masters. Bob Glass (Black) leads Malcolm Davis (White), 5 to 0. Black on roll. **RECUBE ACTIONS?**



With little hesitation, Bob recubed to 4 and Malcolm dropped. Trailing 0-5, Malcolm should have taken the 4-cube and thanked Bob for his gift. The position isn't even a redouble. Malcolm's pass cost him 4% in match equity.



Doubles champs Gillis & Jones.

Glass ran out the match to complete a stellar performance in Seattle. Congratulations to the other main event winners: Richard Armbruster (CA) in the Intermediate, Kristine Vig (WA) in the Novice, and the team of Harvey Gillis & Clyde Jones in the Doubles.

If you haven't attended this event, consider a Northwest trip next year, Seattle is a beautiful town, and the tournament has a friendly feel. Complete results: Δ

2005 PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (28): 1-Stepan Nuniyants (WA), 2-Bob Glass (CA); 1C-DeWayne Derryberry (WA), 2C-Molly Anderson (WA); 1LC-Malcolm Davis (TX). INTERMEDIATE (29): 1-Richard Armbruster (CA), 2-Katherine Denison (WA); 1C-Tim Ferrell (WA), 2C-Ken Bronstein (OR); 1LC-Warren Johnson (Canada). NOVICE (10): 1-Kristine Vig (WA), 2-David Burch (WA); 1C-Tim Heinz (WA); 1LC-John Cronin (OR). MT. RAINIER CUP (16): 1-Bob Glass (CA), 2-Malcolm Davis (TX). SEATAC DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Harvey Gillis & Clyde Jones (WA), 2-Ray Fogerlund (CA) & Trina Smith (WA). PUGET SOUND BLITZ (40): 1-Stepan Nuniyants (WA), 2-Mark Antranikian (CA). SASQUATCH QUICKIE (32): 1-Trina Smith (WA).

The Simborg Rule— One Year Later

By Phil Simborg

About a year ago, I recommended a rule-change whereby the player who gets the opening roll cannot make a point. On the recommendation of some experts, we added that 6-5 cannot be played by simply running.

A couple of dozen tournaments around the world have had side events using this rule, calling it either "SimborgGammon," "Kill Phil," or simply the "No-Point Rule."

There are those who dislike the rule. Many simply don't like any change or complication. Some say the game is tough enough, so why make it harder? And another group argues that it doesn't really come up often enough to make any difference.

Yet some of the best players in the world believe, as I do, that it is a real improvement to the game, especially for the more advanced players. We all agree it is an unnecessary complication for beginners and novice players, but for skilled players, it accomplishes two very important goals.

First, it takes some of the luck out of the game. Most good players would rather see backgammon more as a game of skill and eliminate at least some of the luck. A player getting a 3-1 opening immediately has a 10% edge, and that's huge. The 6-1, 4-2 and 5-3 don't create such a great advantage, but again, by simple luck, the opening roller takes a real lead.

It's the second factor that makes the rule change really worthwhile. Because the rolls have to be played in a manner that leave blots and immediate opportunities for contact, it creates complexity that formerly was not there. This immediately complicates the game, and as a result, requires more skill to play properly. There will be more back games, and more difficult decisions early in the game (hit vs. make a point, offense vs. defense, etc.).

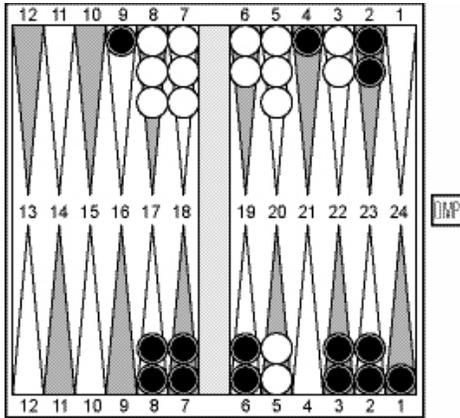
The bottom line is that after a year of actual play, players who have tried the rule generally agree that it does make the game more skillful and interesting. No, I do not want to turn backgammon into a game like chess. Yes, I love the fact that anyone can get lucky and win a game or match, and I agree that luck is part of what makes backgammon so exciting and so much fun. But I do believe that this simple change at the beginning of every game makes backgammon even more fun, exciting, and *skillful* than before.

I never felt that the Simborg Rule should become a "formal" rule for all situations, but it is still my hope that some day, the rule will be adopted for Advanced and Open tournament divisions and used in money games by good players around the world.—Phil Simborg Δ

PROBLEM #312 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

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



Black is in trouble, but he has plenty of counterplay. His big decision will be which anchor to play from. Within that decision he will have to find the best way to follow that theme.

If Black chooses to retain the 23-point anchor, he clearly must hop out with the 6. He then has a choice of deuces. Between 15/13 and 16/14, I have a slight preference for 16/14. This double-covers Black's 9-point, and makes rolls such as 6-2 and 5-3 very poor for White. Moving up to the midpoint allows White to leave only a single shot if she runs with her big non-hitting numbers of 9s and 10s.

There is also the cute 8/6 play. This leaves a direct shot, but not a full direct shot since if White rolls 3-1 or 4-3, she will obviously complete the prime instead of hitting. The advantage of 8/6 is that it best prepares Black for future attack and making his 5- and 4-points. If Black does get hit, that might not be so bad as it could help preserve his timing. 8/6 would obviously be silly if gammons mattered, but at DMP I'd be inclined to make it my choice over the other deuces.

If Black chooses to advance to the 21-point, he has to choose between 16/10 and 7/1 for the 6. I believe he should make the ace point. This is simply a matter of planning ahead. Black will be in very bad shape whichever play he chooses if White hits, so Black must assume that White will miss. Black's game plan will be to take control of the outfield and pounce on White when she tries to run one of her back checkers. If Black succeeds in hitting something, he will want the ace point locked up rather

than blotted. Once Black advances to the 21-point, he is no longer playing a defensive type of game. He is trying to win frontwards brute force. Making the strong inner board is the way to do this.

Now for the big question: From which anchor should Black play?

If Black holds the 23-point anchor, how does he win the game? He will wind up with some kind of 2-point game. The problem is that it doesn't figure to be well-timed. Black is only ten pips behind in the race after this roll, and a 2-point game needs more timing than this to be functional. Of course even badly timed 2-point games win sometimes—there is always the sleaze factor. But most of the time, Black's position will eventually crunch if he plays from the deuce point.

White has some rolls which complete the prime, and if she rolls one of them, Black is likely to run out of maneuvering room pretty quickly. Black has better chances if White doesn't roll one of the point-making numbers. White will probably have to run one of her back checkers, and then Black can start scrambling around hitting White and hoping to either build up a board and escape, win a priming battle, or get hit and generate some decent timing for the 2-point game. The difficulty is that Black has those two checkers stuck on White's deuce point and in order to escape, Black needs to roll two deuces. Thus, even if things go well for Black on the offensive side of the board, he still has the problem of dealing with these two back checkers.

If Black plays 23/21, 7/1, how does he

win the game? For starters, he better not get hit with a 2. That would be bad. But if he is hit, he might roll a 2 back and fall into a 2-4 back game or at worst, a decently timed 2-point game. Black won't like being pointed on either; but if he enters quickly, this won't matter.

If White is unable to hit, Black's prospects are rosier. White has to do something. If White runs one checker, Black will be in good position to attack with his four-point board backing him up. If this attack succeeds, Black can easily win frontwards. He isn't far behind in the race now, so one favorable hit may put him ahead in the race. He only needs another 2 to get the back checker poised for escape. Even if Black can't hit anything and White gets both checkers around, Black isn't lost yet. All he needs is one more 2 to play a decent 4-point game. The race is definitely within reach.

The above analysis indicates that Black has several ways to win by advancing the anchor. He can win by staying back also, but his choices are likely to be restricted. It is usually better to try to win frontwards (if feasible) than by a back game. That is the case here. 23/21, 7/1 is Black's best bet.

The key to this position, as with so many positions, is the race and timing. If Black were another 10 or 15 pips behind, that could easily swing the play. Now Black's chances in the race would be poor, while his chances of maintaining decent timing for the defensive 2-point game would be quite reasonable. In the actual position, Black isn't too far behind, so the racing type of approach is best.—Kit Woolsey Δ



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•**Gammonitis Live Challenge Finals** (Bromley, England; 20-21 Aug.)... OPEN (23): 1-Jon Barnes, 2-Tom Duggan, 3/4-John Broomfield / Martin Hemming; 1C-Dod Davies, 2C-Geroge Miltiadou; 1LC-Peter Bennet, 2LC-David Horner. £50 JACKPOT (8): 1/2-Mike Heard / Malcolm Robertson. TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER (12): 1-Roy Hollands, 2-Rosemary Bensley, 3-John Clark.

•**33rd Hawaiian State Championships** (Honolulu, Hawaii, 21 Aug.)... OPEN (16): 1-Bryan Tanouye, 2-Rich Jacobson; 1C-Ernie Pong.

•**Bristol Wide-Open Wedding Bash** (Bristol, England; 26-29 Aug.)... PROFESSIONALS (41): 1-Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN), 2-Martin Barkwill, 3/4-Mike Heard / Mikael Jensen (DK); 1C-Roland Herrera, 2C-Mogens Knudsen (DK). AMATEURS (32): 1-Michel Lamote (BEL), 2-Anni Bech Nielsen (DK), 3/4-Jorn Nesdal (NOR) / Steffen Nowak; 1C-Steve Ferrer, 2C-Katrine Teigen (DK). WARM-UP (31): 1-Peter Bennet, 2-Steve Ferrer. HATRICK KNOCK-OUT (32): 1-Henrik Veje (DK), 2-Torben Hasseriis (DK). 2-POINT SHOOT-OUT (32): 1-Kristian Stegenborg (DK), 2-Henrik Veje (DK). DOUBLES (16): 1-Jim Remy Nesdal & Ivar Roeynstrand (NOR), 2-Torben Hasseriis & Lars Trabolt (DK). TEAM EVENT (14): 1-*The Bride & the Vikings* (Simonetta Barone, Taus Bøytler, Lone Foldager), 2-*The Lars Chance* (Jo Curl, Dod Davies, Lars Trabolt). LAST CHANCE (42): 1-Blaine Buchanan (UK), 2-Chris Ternel (UK). POKER WINNERS: Martin Hemming, Rosey Bensley, Lars Bonding, Paul Gilbertson, Lawrence Powell.

•**15th Mitteleuropa Championship/18th Italian Championship** (Nova Gorcia, Slovenia; 2-4 Sep.)... MASTERS (31): 1-Michel Serrero (FRA), 2-FRAsco Mauri (ITA), 3/4-Alfonso Russo (ITA) / Werner Schmuck (AUT); 1C-Fabio Gullotta (ITA), 2C-Piergiorgio D'Ancona (ITA), 3C/4C-Massimo Moretti (ITA) / Andrea de Zandonati (ITA); 1LC-Atanas Georgiev (BUL), 2LC-Eric Guedj (FRA). CHAMPIONS (47): 1-Roberto Catalano (ITA), 2-Fabio Cultrera (ITA), 3/4-Rosemary Bensley (ENG) / Piero Gallo (ITA); 1C-Dieter Siegfried (GER), 2C-Edgar Sorin Altmayer (ROM), 3/4C-Enrico

Ferrucci (ITA) / Damjan Plesec (Slovenia); 1LC-Simonetta Barone (ENG), 2LC-Andrea Riebler (AUT). Ladies Prize: Rosemary Bensley (ENG). INTERMEDIATE (58): 1-Florin Popa (ROM), 2-Nigel Merrigan (ENG), 3/4-Alberto da Pra (ITA) / Anna Nguen (BUL); 1C-Andrea Sgardi (ITA), 2C-Fabio Gergolet (ITA), 3C/4C-Stefano Catani (ITA) / Riccardo Percacciolo (ITA); 1LC-Dragan Churlinovski (MAC), 2LC-Roberto Pantaleo (ITA). Ladies Prize: Anna Nguen (BUL). SUPERJACKPOT (8): 1-Eric Guedj (FRA), 2-Nino Di Bella (ITA). HEINER HAUSSLEITER MEMORIAL WARM-UP (42): 1-François Tardieu (FRA), 2-Andrea Simonetta (ITA). ONE-POINT TORNEO DEL PRESIDENTE (64): 1-Anna Nguen (BUL), 2-Giuseppe Rigon (ITA). SPERTI TROPHY (44): 1-Domenico Torrielli (ITA), 2-Roland Herrera (ENG). SIMONETTA & ROLAND'S WEDDING CHALLENGE (43): 1-Harald Johanni (GER), 2-Martin Barkwill (ENG). 18TH ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: *Master* - Francesco Mauri, *Champion* - Roberto Catalano, *Intermediate* - Alberto da Pra. MITTELEUROPAPOKER TOURNAMENT: 1-Piergiorgio D'Ancona (ITA), 2-Christian Liebe-Harkort (GER), 3-Lorenzo Laganà (ITA). MITTELEUROPA BLACK-JACK TOURNAMENT: 1-Piergiorgia D'Ancona (ITA), 2-Carla Porrini (ITA), 3-Dieter Siegfried (GER), 4-Giangiulio Giungegìa (ITA), 5-Claudio Callà (ITA), 6-Gaia Guigni (ITA), 7-Romolo Morri (ITA).

•**Red, White & Blue Open** (Houston, TX; 10 Sep.)... OPEN (17): 1-Scott Ward, 2- Gary Fomby, 3/4-Tom Wright / Bill Riles; 1C-Abraham Magshoudi, 2C-Gregg Bell.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 11 Sep.)... OPEN (8): 1/2-Mike Corbett / Danielle Bastarache.

•**Kansas City Club Monthly** (Kansas City, MO; 12 Sep.)... OPEN (9): 1-James Worley, 2/3-Eric Barr, Bill Yancey.

•**2005 Vietor Cup Invitational** (La Jolla, CA; 17-18 Sep.)... OPEN (31): 1-John Rockwell, 2-Doug Mayfield; 1C-Steve Sax, 2C-Norm Wiggins.

•**Greater Columbus Club Monthly** (Hilliard, OH; 18 Sep.)... OPEN: 1-Stick Rice, 2-Chris Yep; 1C-Mary Hickey.

•**Bar Point Saturday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 1 Oct.)... OPEN (13): 1-Bill Bartholomay, 2-David Rockwell; 1C-Ken Bond, 2C-Tak Morioka. INTERMEDIATE (2): 1-Joe Szwedo.

•**Ohio State Monthly** (Copley, OH; 2 Oct.)... OPEN: 1-Bob Hickey, 2-Bob Green. Δ

AMALGAMATION

Although the BPC's old home *Whistler's* has reopened (following a fire in late May), we've decided to stay at our "temp" location, *The Purple Hotel*. The BPC exclusively occupies the entire coffee shop on Tuesday evenings allowing plenty of room for expansion. Additionally, it's right off Eden's X-way at Touhy and Lincoln in Lincolnwood. The Purple Hotel will host our Fall Trophy Tourney Friday, Nov. 11. Make plans to attend... **Hugh Hefner** (CA) is shown playing backgammon with his bunnies in the new "Weezer" video of the group's song "Beverly Hills." Download it at (www.weezer.com/downloads). Get well



Hugh Hefner's idea of rolling "the girls."

wishes go to hospitalized BPC players **Roger Hickman** and **Phyllis Smolinski**. Both are recovering nicely... Visiting the Bar Point Club in September: **Ken Bronstein** (OR)... **Martha Ghio** (NY) is in great shape and for good reason. She is training for an Olympic-style Triathlon... **Rhonda Monroe** (MI) had gastric bypass surgery in April and thus far has lost 40 pounds... With his brother **Munchkin's** (NV) help, POINT contributing editor **Jake Jacobs** (AZ) has posted a new backgammon website; www.thedoublingcube.com... Yikes! Prior to the Florida State Championship, Snowie guru **Gregg Catatanach** (GA) suffered a mild heart attack and had to be hospitalized. He's fine now... **John Jennings** (IL), an Allstate claims adjuster, is buried in work due to the hurricanes down south. John may not even be able to attend his home club's Illinois State Championships 14-16 October in Springfield, IL... **Andy Bell** and 8mm Productions are still trying to sell a US cable TV outlet their 2005 Monte Carlo World Championship documentary. It includes commentary by **Paul Magriel** (LV) and poker great **Gus Hansen**. Additionally, Mr. Bell has offered to stream portions of the film to our website (www.chicagopoint.com) within the next month. Keep checking... Snowie owners can now upgrade to Snowie 4.3 for free by visiting www.bgsnowie.com... Finally, is it true that Mr. **Ballard** has the "Nack" for making the right play? Δ

The Nevada Backgammon Association's High Roller lead-in to the Las Vegas Open

Backgammon

Pro Am

Riviera Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

November 11-16, 2005



Pro-Am Doubles Event

- (a) 2-person teams (each team may have only one player of a high championship level).
- (b) Entry Fee: \$10,000 per team. 100% of entry fees collected will be returned as prize money.
- (c) Registration Fee: \$800 per team.
- (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

Howard Markowitz (Director)
Lynn Ehrlich (Assistant Director)
702/893-6025 • Fax: 702/893-0043
E-mail: howard114@cox.net
Website: nvbg.com/05lvproam.html

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November 16–20, 2005

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Championship, Intermediate, Beginner, Super Jackpot, Limited Jackpot, Blitz, Mini-Match, Doubles, Seniors Tourney, Jackpots & After Tournament Tournament



HOTEL RESERVATIONS

\$74/night • 800/634-6753 or 702/734-5110
Cut-off reservation date: October 18
Info: Howard Markowitz or Lynn Ehrlich
702/893-6025 • Fax: 702/893-0043

Tournament website: nvbg.com/05lvopen.html • To request an invitation, e-mail: howard114@cox.net