

BACKGAMMON

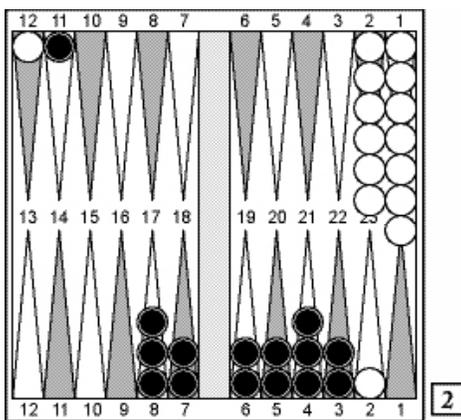


Looking Back In Time

By Bill Davis

In August 1980, I was editing the *Gammon's of Chicago* newsletter. Problem #41 was a very difficult one that I'm not ashamed to say was beyond my analytical capabilities. So rather than just guess at an answer following a few hundred rollouts, I surveyed the top players of the day giving *Gammon's* readers the chance to judge correctness based on expert opinion. Here is the problem along with my survey writeup:

1980 ABC Las Vegas Tournament. 17-point quarterfinal match. Nack Ballard (Black) leads Barry Epstein (White), 16 to 15. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



Although the vast majority of beginner, intermediate, and advanced players would hit both checkers (14/13*, 8/2*), a survey of 12 nationally respected backgammon experts and analysts shows marked disagreement. Many of the

masters feel that by hitting only one blot (8/2*, 4/3) and then closing the board, White will be unable to enter from the bar until Black has already borne men off. but by sending a second checker behind the prime, White gets an opportunity to secure the 1- or 2-point. This occurrence gives White a number of chances to throw a large escape doublet while Black is still bearing in from his 7- and 8-point.

Double hitters contend that when White fails to "anchor up," two on the bar against a closed board is vastly superior to one up.

The following survey of experts reveals extreme difference of opinion:

BARCLAY COOKE: "How can there be any other play than hitting twice? . . . it's not close at all."

PAUL MAGRIEL: "It's close, but I wouldn't hit the second man."

DAVID LIEBOWITZ: "What's the problem? Hit twice."

KIT WOOLSEY: "It's not even close. Hitting the second checker is definitely wrong."

ELLIOTT WINSLOW: "Am I missing something? Hit twice."



Elliott Winslow having a little fun in 1980.

SWAMI ANAND NIVEDANO (Dennis Waterman): "It's not even close. Hitting twice is the only play."

'JERSEY' JIM PASKO: "Anyone who hits both checkers in this situation (where gammons don't count) doesn't know how to play backgammon."

NICK MAFFEO: "I understand the reasoning for not hitting twice, but I still like the double hit."

NACK BALLARD (who faced the problem and only hit once): "Hitting two men is inferior by a 3-to-1 margin."

GABY HOROWITZ: "There are a lot of so-called 'experts' who try to complicate even the most simple situations. Make the obvious double hit."

DANNY KLEINMAN: "I would hit twice, but I'm open to a logical argument as to why I shouldn't."

DENNIS STONE: "I dislike a spare man on the 3-point, but I still only hit once."

What benefit does this opinion sampling serve? Well, at least when the average player is faced with a similar situation, he can hit either one or two checkers in complete confidence. Which ever play he makes is recommended by the experts!—*End of Gammon's article.*

Snowie is a great tool; but sadly, it has eliminated the "expert surveys"—an entertaining aspect of our game. These players made their comments unaware that a quarter century later, computers would be able to roll the position out a full 2880 times using Snowie's incredible program (cubeless three-ply, precise). Before I give you the findings, which play would you make?

14/13*, 8/2* (-0.054)
8/2*, 4/3 (-0.049)
14/13*, 8/2* (-0.035)

Did the survey hurt or help you in trying to determine the correct answer? If you didn't hit two checkers, according to Snowie's default figure (-0.030 or higher), you made a small error.

Because of Snowie, we now know that two men back in positions like this generally make it harder for White to win. But in 1980, experts like Paul Magriel, Kit Woolsey, Jersey Jim Pasko, and even Nack Ballard professed a different strategy.

Looking back in time is a great way to measure how much our backgammon knowledge as a group is advancing.—*Bill Davis* Δ

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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POINT'S 'OCTOGENARIAN RULE'

I just subscribed for two more years and noticed that the number right after my name says I'm subscribed through #216. I thought it would be through #240 due to your Octogenarian Rule!

Anyway, hope all is well. Keep up the good work. I always enjoy CHICAGO POINT.—*Jim Caray, Athens, Greece*

You are correct Jim and we have extended your subscription accordingly. Anyone who is over 80 years old may subscribe to the POINT for half price. But please remember to inform us that you are over 80 when you send in your subscription!—Ed.

MIDWEST FEEDBACK

Once again I had a great time at your tournament. The Calcutta Auction (best in the business) lived up to my high expectation. Also, good playing conditions, fun side

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31				

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

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

May 12	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
May 12	Mother's Day Open, Dugout Sports Bar & Grill, Houston, Texas	281/687-1673
May 12	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
May 13	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
May 17*	Third Thursday Bonus (Los Angeles), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
May 19*	Phoenix Free Monthly-USBL, Glendale Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona	602/296-4307
May 20*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
May 20*	New England Bonus, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	718/324-0892
May 20*	Pub Club Sunday Special (Zavoral's 50th), Ramada Plaza Hotel, Chicago, IL	312/543-0522
May 23-27	<u>23rd Nevada State Tournament, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	702/893-6025
May 27*	Colorado Monthly, La Loma Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
May 27*	Dayton Monthly Free Roll-USBL, Barnes & Noble, Beavercreek, Ohio	937/890-2536
Jun 3	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Ramada Plaza, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jun 3*	New York Monthly, Midtown BG & Chess Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Jun 3*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jun 4*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Jun 6*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Jun 8-10	<u>Los Angeles Open, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	818/901-0464
Jun 9*	Father's Day Open, Dugout Sports Bar & Grill, Houston, Texas	281/687-1673
Jun 9*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Jun 10*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jun 10*	New England Playoffs, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	718/324-0892
Jun 10*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jun 16*	Phoenix Free Monthly-USBL, Glendale Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona	602/296-4307
Jul 4	Michigan Summer Warm-Up, Sheraton Hotel, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 5-8	<u>32nd Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton, Novi, Michigan</u>	810/232-9731
Aug 5*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Ramada Plaza, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 3-5	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York	585/396-0969
Aug 16-19	<u>Florida State Championship, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	954/564-0340
Aug 31-Sep3	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	608/516-9109
Sep 15-16*	Jon Viotor Invitational Cup, Jon Viotor's residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 28-30	<u>Colorado State Championships, Hilton Hotel, Denver, Colorado</u>	720/979-3620
Oct 19-21	<u>Illinois State Championships, Holiday Inn City-Centre, Peoria, Illinois</u>	309/224-9579
Nov 9*	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 30-Dec 2	<u>California State Championship, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	818/901-0464

OUTSIDE .USA

May 10-13	PGT: Lyon Open, Casino le Lyon Vert, Lyon, France	331-4764-5938
May 11-13	19th WBF European Championship & 6th Velden Open, Velden, Austria	390331-923537
May 16-20	EBGT: 2nd Portuguese Open & Grand Prix d'Estoril, near Lisbon, Portugal	491715-422222
May 17-20	12th Kaiserbrunnen-Cup, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	495272-6050
May 25-27	Gammonitis Woodside, Woodside, Kenilworth, England	441634-821107
May 25-27	Kalakukko Kuopio Open, BG Suomi, Kuopio, Finland	358407-550492
May 25-27*	Rock-the-Boat F1 Celebrity BG & Poker Invitational, Monte Carlo, Monaco	491715-422222
May 25-28	3rd Aix-les-Bains Open, Casino Grand Cercle, Aix-les-Bains, France	336-60639726
May 25-28	Xciting-Cup, Mercure Hotel, Köln/Cologne, Germany	497111-486190
Jun 1-3	Austrian Masters Finale, Cafe Heine, Vienna, Austria	436642-404285
Jun 2-3	Hilton Trophy, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Jun 2-3*	Swedish Championships, LogInn Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	46708-541362
Jun 2-3*	19th Bulgarian National Tournament, Hotel Rila, Sofia, Bulgaria	359887-543899
Jun 7-10	Braunlage-Harz-Cup, Hotel Hohenzollern, Braunlage, Germany	49521-64314
Jun 7-10	PGT: Pasino de Saint Amand Tournament, Saint Amand-les-Eaux, France	3314764-5938
Jun 14-21	Neil Davidson's 2007 Festival of Backgammon, Zakynthos, Greece	447798-614800
Jun 21-28	6th Zakynthos Festival of BG & Poker, Peligoni club, Zakynthos, Greece	114819-773227
Jun 30-Jul 1	Keren Di Bona Memorial, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Jul 9-15	32nd World Championship, Fairmont Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 954/527-4033
Jul 13-15	Festival of Games 4th Czech Open, CEZ, Pardubice, Czech Republic	420466-535200
Jul 17-22	PGT: Nations Cup & Riviera 5, Palm Beach Casino, Cannes, France	331-4764-5938
Jul 28-29	12th Liverpool Open, Liverpool Bridge Club, Liverpool, England	441514-283082
Aug 11-12	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Sep 1-2*	Backpacker Backgammon Trophy, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Sep 1-2*	Danish Doubles Championship, Solrød Strand, Denmark	4533-363601
Sep 6-9*	PGT: Partouche Finale 2007, Grand Domain de Divonne les Bains, France	331-47645938
Sep 7-9*	17th Norwegian Championship, Rica Park Hotel, Drammen, Norway	47991-53113

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

events, nice venue, with everything artistically prepared and decorated. And I also must mention the friendly and knowledgeable staff. Everything your tournament is known for.—*Chuck Bower, Bloomington, Indiana*

You and your crew were absolutely wonderful at this year's Midwest Championships. I look forward to next years cowboy-themed MBC and will jokes to the Calcutta.

It was a great, fun event and we are honored by your group's \$5700 donation!—*Dr. Gene Mueller, president, Anti-Cruelty Society, Chicago, Illinois*

You have made a mistake in the amount

the Midwest Championships raised for the Anti-Cruelty Society. It is not \$5,700—it is \$5,800. I will likely never play in one of your tournaments as Chicago's March temps don't appeal to me. But I am a big animal lover, and every dog I have ever owned came from a shelter. Enclosed find a \$100 donation to the ACS.—*Russell Sands, Boca Raton, Florida*

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW

I have had the privilege of receiving a pre-publication copy of the new Nack Ballard/Paul Weaver book. Wow! It's sensational.—*Perry Gartner, Englewood, New Jersey*

Look for a review of Backgammon Openings—Book A in an upcoming CHICAGO POINT.—*Ed.*

A RESUBSCRIBER

I received the April Point yesterday. Special items that brought a smile to my face were: (1) Long time GammonZone friend Patty Geoffroy winning the Taki-Bakelite board; (2) Miss Lonelyblots's response to Ruthless Ray; and (3) the generosity shown by Gil Evans at your tournament. After a short hiatus, I'm glad to have resubscribed.—*Owen Black, Neptune Beach, Florida*

THE DOUBLE IS OUT

I emailed John Wallis to request a sample copy of The Double magazine months ago and never received anything. What happened? Did he cancel or what?—*James Milner, San Francisco, California*

The Double is finally out and you can still get the sample premiere issue by emailing John Wallis: jwallis@sunnygrp.com.—*Ed.*



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007

Compiled through 13 April after 4 tournaments
(Upcoming events: SE Champs, Nevada State, LA Open)



Dana Nazarian	24.32	Emil Mortuk	7.11	Bill Davis	4.33	Roz Ferris	2.15
Steve Brown	21.33	Bud Bowers	6.92	Ray Fogelund	4.33	Karen Meyer	2.00
Paul Weaver	17.33	Christopher Yep	6.08	Michael Valliere	4.30	Nick Greci	1.78
David Todd	16.49	Gregg Cattanach	6.08	Dave Settles	4.30	Mike Freeman	1.63
Ed O'Laughlin	14.75	Linda MacLean	6.08	Pete Townsend	4.00	Ryan Hast	1.56
Maurice Barie	14.22	Beth Raby	5.84	Thomas Meyer	3.56	Carol Leatherman	1.56
Fred Kalantari	12.16	Mark Dean	5.41	Gil Evans	3.46	Joe Szwedo	1.15
Phyllis Shapiro	11.68	Paul Franks	5.33	Doug Roberts	3.04	Bill Schragel	1.15
John Jennings	10.67	Yury Millman	5.33	J.A. Miller	2.92	Jamie Evans	0.89
Howard Markowitz	10.67	Vadim Musaelyan	5.33	Vic Morawski	2.92	Regina Ragelis	0.89
Kieth Hvamstad	10.67	Matt Reklaitis	5.33	Arlene Austin	2.92	Almon Hall	0.81
Terry Leahy	8.89	Scott Johnston	5.33	Glenn Ramsey	2.67	Ron Cohen	0.81
Stick Rice	8.67	Matt Cohn-Geier	5.33	Harold Roberson	2.67	Cheryl Holahan	0.78
Paul Strasberg	8.60	Herb Roman	4.44	Jesse Eaton	2.67	Glenn Arnold	0.58
Adam Bennett	8.51	Rory Pascar	4.44	Joe Sylvester	2.22	Tim Johnson	0.58
Carmen Webb	8.00	Alfred Mamlet	4.33	Samra Hadden	2.15	Donna Davenport	0.44
Walter Trice	7.11						

CHICAGO BACKGAMMON MEMORIES

1970s old time hustling at Faces private club (Rush & Oak, Chicago). Hustling women in the bar area and on the dance floor; hustling men in the six table backgammon area . . . adjacent to a huge fish tank (lol).

Although it was easy to beat the drunks (pre-Snowie era), money could be lost due to bouncing checks and losers who never returned from the bathroom near the front exit.

My working (hustling) hours at Faces were 10:00 P.M. to 3:00 A.M. I still have Faces membership card #1036. I still have the Faces 1970s disco music cassette tape.

In a small Faces backgammon tournament, I even remember beating Paul Magriel! Thanks for the memories.—*Nice-NEasy Mike Wolock, Chicago, Illinois Δ*



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2007 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 APRIL

David Rockwell	13.68	Bill Davis	4.04	Wayne Wiest	2.24	Dick Nelson	0.84
Herb Roman	9.12	Ken Tyszko	4.00	Christopher Shanova	2.16	Paul Franks	0.72
Phil Simborg	8.48	Steve Klesker	3.60	Larry Goldstein	2.08	Steve Klene	0.72
Tak Morioka	7.20	Royal Robinson	3.44	Shaw Dogan	1.92	Glenn Martells	0.72
Bob Zavoral	6.72	Bob Steen	3.28	Linda Rockwell	1.80	Richard Stawowy	0.72
Oleg Raygorodsky	6.48	Dave Settles	2.96	Felix Yen	1.68	Ron Wagner	0.64
Rory Pascar	6.08	Tim Mabee	2.88	Adrian Rios	1.60	Arlene Levy	0.64
Michael Ginat	5.76	Nora Luna Righter	2.80	Jacob Moreno	1.44	Sargon Benjamin	0.56
Bill Keefe	5.68	Alice Kay	2.80	Alex Owen	1.44	James Roston	0.56
Mike Wolock	4.76	Mike Pufpaf	2.60	Kendra Wesley	1.32	Jerry Brooks	0.48
Mike Sutton	4.72	Lenny Loder	2.56	Dan Simborg	1.28	Tim Stoddard	0.48
Albert Yakobashvili	4.32	Georgina Flanagan	2.56	Denise McDermott	1.16	Eric Johnson	0.48
Willis Elias	4.32	Mark Murray	2.56	Peter Kalba	1.12	Jordan Sanders	0.40
Carter Mattig	4.32	Bill Bartholomay	2.48	Paul Baraz	0.96	Gary Kay	0.40
Roger Hickman	4.20	Lucky Nelson	2.24	Les Moshinsky	0.96	Wendy Kaplan	0.32

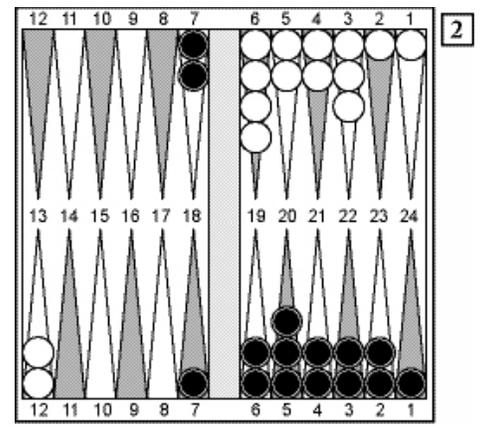
In a rare occurrence, **TAK MORIOKA** and **KEN TYSZKO** tied for April Player of the Month with 4.00 points each. In third place, David Rockwell extended his 2007 lead earning 3.44 points.

your move

PROBLEM #327

to be analyzed by Walter Trice

7-point match. White leads Black 5 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-5.**



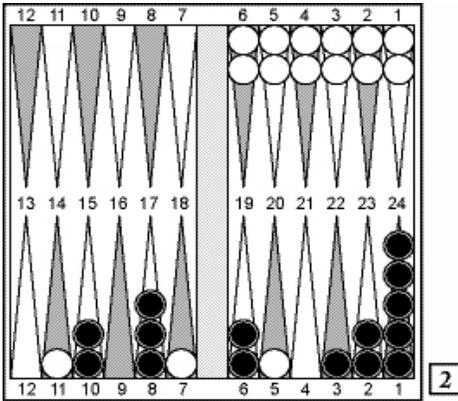
ASK
DANNY

© 2007 by Danny Kleinman

WHEN TO PLAY CAUTIOUS

Dear Danny: Here's a nasty little position that I faced last week at our local weekly club finals:

9 point match. Black leads White 7 to 6.
BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.



As you can see, my position has deteriorated into a very awkward setup. Double-aces gives me a number of options. I spent

a long time with the problem eventually deciding to continue with my cautious ways playing 10/8(2). I saw the immediate 6-3 shot-leaving roll, but still thought my play was the safest. I simply couldn't afford to be hit!

The good news is that I never left a shot. The bad news is that White immediately disengaged with 6-6 and went on to win the race.

So what do you think, Danny? Should I have opted for one of the hitting plays? And if so, which one? — *Cautious Conrad*

DEAR CONRAD: I'm far less cautious than you. At the table, I would have made a different play instinctively: hitting twice, 8/7*, 6/5*(2), 3/2, with the plan of keeping White dancing. Then if I didn't roll lucky pointing numbers, I would try to pick-and-pass whenever White entered. If I got very lucky, I could even win a gammon.

Meanwhile, I'd be securing my lead in the race, which you neglected to do. Your huge lead in pips, 64 to 94 after playing double-aces, is deceptive. You have five men to bring home, and after your immediately safe play, your rolls of 5-3 and 4-3 next force you to waste pips inside to continue to play safely. So long as White keeps a sentry on your 5-point, your bear-in continues to be

impeded. When you finally do bear in, your pileups on the 1-point and your gaps on the 4- and 5-points will keep you from bearing off as quickly as you would with a smooth distribution in your home board.

... Oops, my instincts led me astray! Leading 7-6 in a match to 9, and owning the cube at 2, I have no use for gammons; but my instinctive play is based on experience at money play and other match scores, where gammons provide the vigorish that justifies risky plays.

Under the circumstances, your timid play may have been right. Maybe you just got unlucky. After all, your opponent didn't have to roll double-6s, and even after rolling them, he didn't have to win.

And maybe, in positions like this of which we have relatively little experience, you'd do better to seek the truth by doing voluminous rollouts using highly-advanced computer programs like Snowie and Gnu to see just how often various plays succeed. Perhaps technology has made me obsolete. — *Yours, Danny Δ*

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

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BG Peeves

By Larry Liebster



COWBOY INTERVIEW

This BG Peeves column will consist of an interview with one of the interesting characters on the backgammon tournament tour. All names and locations in this article have been changed to protect the guilty.

LL: They call you “Cowboy.” Why?

Cowboy: I guess it is because I am always seen at tournaments in a cowboy hat and a native American Bolo.

LL: But you are from *New Joisey!*

CB: Yes. That is a state where one can dress any way he likes.

LL: I heard of an unusual high cube in a chouette after the recent tournament in *Chicargo*.

CB: Do you want to hear about it?

LL: Absolutely.

CB: A lot of interesting things happen as backgammon tournaments wind down on Sundays. Baggage is in the playing room as the players wait for their airport limo. The elated winners are walking around distributing prize money; the dejected losers are dealing with their frustration.

Having just beaten Carver in the Blitz qualifier in a very exciting come-from-behind victory, I quickly lost in the Blitz playoffs. Looking for some late action, I walked over to the “spotlight” chouette where I was welcomed to join. I said,

“OK,” and my name was added to the bottom of the crew list. The participants were:

- *Deetee (Box)*. He won the previous big tournament but did not score in this one.
- *Jayjay (Captain)*. He came in second in this tournament after being ahead 10–2 in the 15-point finals.
- *Tacky (Crew)*. Backgammon board-maker supreme. Tacky hasn’t placed in any recent events.
- *Carlo (Crew)*. Carlo is a young lion from Florida.
- *Me* (A senior citizen with an arthritic back.)

About three rolls into the game Deetee doubles. Jayjay and Tacky drop. Carlo and I take.

Several rolls later Deetee has a blot where we can hit with 17 shots to put him behind a broken 6-prime (3- through 8-point with a gap on the bar). I taunt Deetee by saying that there are only 17 shots that hit and it might be an opportunity for him to beaver.

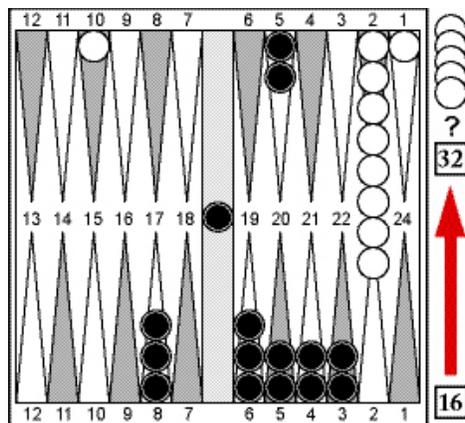
Undaunted, he takes and beavers. Carlo, meanwhile, doesn’t cube.

Carlo rolls a 5 to hit. Deetee comes in, but does not escape to the outer board. Carlo doubles and Deetee drops.

Now, Deetee holds my cube on 8. He escapes to the outfield and is greeted by my three checkers within direct range. Over 30 of my next 36 rolls hit him. I roll a 4-3 missing and go from odds-on favorite to scrambling to prevent being hit again. A crowd is beginning to gather.

The action is furious eventually leading to this unusual position:

“Chicargo” chouette. Cowboy (Black) vs. Deetee (White). Black on roll holding a 16-cube. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



With 20 ways to hit, I decide to apply a little pressure and recube to 32. Deetee takes. The crowd applauds and murmurs.

I roll 2-2—the only number that fans. Again, I go from slight favorite to scrambling.



Cowboy ponders Deetee's 64-cube in a memorable chouette from “Chicargo.” The characters are blurred to protect the guilty.

Deetee sends the cube over at 64. I study the position and take. Applause, discussion.

Deetee rolls 6-1 leaving me all 4s plus 3-1 to hit. I miss. He then proceeds to roll well and I cannot get off the gammon.

LL: Both positions were analyzed by Snowie. You blundered by cubing to 32, but Deetee also blundered by not beaver-ing. Then Deetee blundered by recubing to 64 (because he is too good) and you blundered by taking.

CB: There are many factors in taking a cube and Snowie does not consider all of them. Mountain climbers climb in all kinds of weather unnecessarily risking their lives. Similar dangers exist for skiers, scuba divers, and auto racers.

High stakes 64-cubes played center stage happen once in a lifetime. I can only lose money. I felt I had a decent chance. I took it. No regrets.

Backgammon players fall into two classes; the conservative, chess-derived, Snowie-oriented type; and the aggressive gambling casino type. The first rarely has large cubes and has difficulty in handling them. The gambling player knows how to handle his bankroll and can tolerate large swings. Let your readers ask themselves, forgetting Snowie, what they would have done. Another question to ask is “Are you in the game for money or excitement?”

LL: You said that Snowie does not take all factors into consideration. Could you expound on that?

CB: What is the value of being the star in a memorable chouette that has attracted a crowd, creating applause and great discussion? With tickets to Broadway shows and some sporting events costing upwards of \$100, what is the entertainment value of being in this situation?

[Continued on page 6]

BG PEEVES...

[Continued from page 5]

Please have your PR experts evaluate the cost of creating all the publicity I received following that fateful game.

I have played the best in the world. In Abu Dhabi it was stated that the German players salivated when I walked into the playing room. Yet I was willing to play them all. I can stroll into any tournament in the world and quickly find a game. Does this have any value?

Having played the best means that when I win, I beat the best: Nak, Howord, Milcolm, Parry, Fill, Carver, etc. (If I left someone out, it's because the list is so long that you can't expect a man of my age to remember everybody.) In what other sport can one play the best, let alone have the opportunity to beat them?

In senior communities, experts are paid to provide mind-stimulating exercises to the residents, so there is definitely a value in having an avenue to exercise my mind.

So, to all you mercenary bean-counters I say, we are humans playing a game and the rewards are more than just the cash prizes. How many people come to a tournament time after time expecting to win?

Okay, Snowie has changed the game; but have you ever seen the way it bears in against a back game? I am not saying that I can quantify the extent of all the other factors, but there is no question that they do exist.—Larry Liebster Δ



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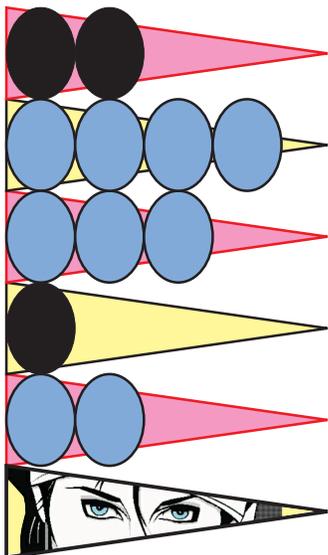
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Howard Markowitz	467.01	Charles Peres	69.87	Roz Ferris	35.39	Fred Badagnani	21.76	George Cihak	14.44
Yamin Yamin	369.48	Lenore Steelman	68.83	Allen Zimmerman	34.94	Andy Bittman	21.74	Gene Ex	14.38
Jake Jacobs	341.25	Marlene Weinstein	68.53	Boris Mindich	34.92	Frank Mrozek	21.68	Jay Bauder	14.28
Tim Mabee	337.44	David Libchaber	68.52	Bentley Fender	34.72	Paul Johnson	21.60	René Wojtyasiak	14.16
Phyllis Smolinski	321.25	Mike Siegel	68.14	Lou Salzman	34.52	Tom Fahland	21.58	Linda Rappin	13.95
Herb Roman	315.12	Paul Larson	67.73	Alex Itkin	34.44	Don Shields	21.32	Dave Zysk	13.92
Gary Kay	297.76	Mike Sutton	67.71	Albert Yakobashvili	33.78	Dave Settles	21.20	Rich Galeba	13.80
Joann Feinstein	294.05	Howard Ring	67.38	Marshall Frishman	33.69	Rory Pascar	21.16	Boris Dekhtyar	13.60
Bobbie Shifrin	283.91	Greg Shore	67.08	Ara Artinyan	33.46	Jay Bleiman	21.08	Tom Shields	13.47
Bob Zavoral	276.77	Rick Bieniak	66.04	Judy Brown	33.34	Michael Ginat	20.88	Chuck Shadoan	13.46
Joe Wollick	274.39	Ollie Mullenbach	65.13	Alber Najjar	32.98	Andy Sloan	20.40	Ollie Linberg	13.44
Ed Buerger	266.84	Paul Klein	60.76	Dave Utermark	32.96	Tim Wisecarver	20.38	Joe Seigman	13.25
Sarg Serges	261.87	Barbara Levinson	60.65	Jeff Eisner	32.92	Roger Bressler	20.32	David Wells	13.14
Don Desmond	260.97	Judy Feinstein	60.34	Stanley Steele	32.91	Arnold Kapp	20.28	Peter Berkman	13.12
Lucky Nelson	248.74	Bob Holyon	59.58	Rich Sweetman	32.84	Elliott Winslow	20.20	Bob Bringham	13.12
Chris Stanford	245.36	John Arahamian	58.96	Marc Rosset	32.64	Stan Kucharz	19.98	Jill Ferdinand	13.11
Harry Cohn	244.82	Eileen Cohen	58.80	Tom Holmberg	32.28	Ellen Goldsmith	19.94	Steven Coren	13.04
Peter Kalba	240.50	Richard Lloyd	58.72	Marty D'Alexander	32.18	Joan Leventhal	19.88	Nora Luna Righter	13.04
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Don Jayhan	233.67	Andy Krenitz	57.25	Betsy Walsh	31.92	Sid Bourne	19.52	Barbara Jacoby	13.00
Paul Friedman	223.26	Mike Cohen	57.20	Wayne Wiest	31.92	Norm Kraitsik	19.46	Ed Fagel	12.99
Ed Bauder	221.26	Dennis McKown	56.92	Gloria Stevens	31.64	Roger Tuttrup	19.36	Tom Head	12.97
Paul Franks	215.97	Steve Mellen	55.32	Arnold Zousmer	31.00	Linda McMillan	19.33	Bill Schragel	12.88
Dave Cramer	212.75	Eric Johnson	53.99	Richard Lloyd (NBL)	30.48	Les Moshinsky	18.84	Hertz Hackamov	12.54
Val Zimmnicki	211.07	Joe Cara	53.77	Frank Frigo	30.32	Paul Slusarski	18.79	Dave Roberts	12.35
John Demian	204.81	Craig Chellstorp	53.55	Bill Chibnik	30.26	Dave Williams	18.74	Howard Chow	12.24
Earl Risch	202.40	John Brussel	53.28	Jan Rudas	30.24	Bart Costa	18.68	Robert Heller	12.15
Norma Shyer	200.86	Kathy Posner	53.20	Bruce Wittert	30.24	Joe Sylvester	18.60	Len Ernst	12.09
Randy Cone	199.94	Chris Kenik	53.08	Pat Rottman	30.08	Charles Witz	18.57	Alan Martin	12.08
Stuart Katz	197.78	Jerry Brooks	53.00	Mort Rosenberg	30.03	Frank Callea	18.40	Sinan Yoyen	12.08
David Rockwell	191.88	Joe Koucharian	52.62	Lenny Loder	29.86	Randy Coleman	18.16	Shelly Kleinman	12.00
Deeb Shalati	190.82	Fred Leinweber	52.14	Isaac Platt	29.63	Dan Millea	18.09	Phil Loeb	11.91
Neil Kazaross	187.65	Rick Munchkin	51.13	Tony Schroeder	29.28	John O'Hagan	18.08	Marcia Hovey	11.87
Kent Maynard	177.97	Bruce Mackenzie	50.64	Bobby Anderson	29.25	Jack Goldberg	17.93	Beth Dolnick	11.83
Alice Kay	173.30	Elaine Kehm	50.49	Marcia Walanka	29.03	Ted Mann	17.88	Lance Novak	11.80
Gene Chait	170.14	Chuck Walanka	49.90	Harvey Miller	28.85	John McGoogan	17.80	Steve Potashnick	11.72
Barry Epstein	169.74	Henry Schwartz	49.21	Josh Riddell	28.58	Adrian Rios	17.80	Roman Mankus	11.68
Mark Murray	168.43	Don Muellner	49.18	Greg DeFotis	28.46	George Hause	17.61	Al Dolnick	11.65
Phil Martorelli	167.91	Glenn Martells	48.04	Wendy Kaplan	27.96	Harold Seif	17.44	Franki Lerman	11.57
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Ron Garber	158.98	Mark Ryan	47.66	Ken Goodman	27.81	Bob Goldstein	17.26	Dan Golovach	11.48
Ira Hoffberg	156.60	Tom Meyer	47.60	Laila Leonhardt	27.68	Mike Ginsburg	17.21	Fred Tarazi	11.45
Dean Morehouse	153.92	Dave Dietrich	47.46	Al Steelman	27.60	Dan Cramer	17.02	Carol Joy Cole	11.42
David Rubin	149.32	John Spatafora	47.20	Bernie Pygon	27.52	Ron Washington	16.96	Jay Magnusson	11.24
Phil Simborg	148.48	Ron Stur	47.10	Amy Trudeau	27.46	Bill Hoeflich	16.86	Chris Wilson	11.24
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Tim Carroll	110.44	Richard Stawowy	44.12	Irv Zeman	25.74	Andrew Smith	16.24	Rich Casler	10.82
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Tim Serges	103.78	Phil Barrett	43.60	Keith Kuligowski	25.52	Barry Miller	16.16	Bruce Shin	10.76
Jeff Henry	100.26	Fred Chamanara	43.23	Bob Bress	24.39	Marv Weinstein	16.08	June Steinberg	10.75
Arline Levy	99.26	David Marcus	42.60	Steve Neidecker	24.37	Karen Kertz	16.07	Carl Stephens	10.69
Jim Gibbs	98.65	Jay Ward	42.40	Oleg Raygorodsky	24.32	Elijah Miller	16.02	David Dury	10.64
Paul Baraz	97.32	Brian Barber	42.25	John Featherstone	24.08	Terry Weiss	16.02	Joanne Wert	10.64
Brooks Robinson	96.82	Bob Ebbeler	41.28	Karen Gatherer	23.96	Steve Katz	15.92	Sharon Steffens	10.60
George Barr	95.21	Mike Wollock	39.94	Frankie Farjood	23.84	Steve Cohen	15.90	Alyce Wallen	10.56
Jolie Rubin	94.26	Frank Dickerson	39.40	Adair Karlin	23.73	Larry Lau	15.84	Steve Alawerdy	10.38
Dean Muench	91.92	Jim Shapiro	38.97	Phil Tavins	23.71	Jim Pappas	15.82	Ali Malik	10.30
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Roger Hickman	87.65	Jim Opre	38.26	Lloyd Esses	23.28	Paul Reiner	15.60	Mike Hewson	10.18
Marcy Sloan	85.02	Ken Slou	38.16	Rich Sniezek	23.14	Hy Rahimzadeh	15.52	Mark Jones	10.18
Femi Owiku	84.64	Gary Oliver	37.62	Paul Lombardo	22.92	Rich Siebold	15.44	Jack Foreman	10.17
Ralph Levy	83.28	Michael Peters	37.30	John Gatherer	22.92	Allan Meinecke	15.20	Laura Platt	10.02
Kurt Schurecht	82.88	John Stryker	37.16	Cookie Frazier	22.76	Don Pearson	15.20	Royal Robinson	10.00
Don Marek	81.10	Maury Frishman	36.77	Bruce Jones	22.36	Art Vaughn	15.12	Mike Sachs	9.95
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J.A. Miller	78.86	Elaine Andrews	36.36	Dan Judd	22.22	Kwong Chan	14.80	Nick Forsea	9.92
Dale Barker	75.56	Michelle Peiser	36.31	Jacob Moreno	22.16	Abe Ellenberg	14.76	Danny DeRoche	9.86
Joe Auszmann	75.40	Thad Cole	36.16	Jodie Kraft	22.11	Phil Arnowitz	14.72	Roman Sikaczowski	9.78
Sam Hakimi	74.66	Joe Szwedo	36.12	Jeff Mandell	22.10	Randy Gingiss	14.66	Walter Rhodes	9.78
Leslie Lockett	74.28	John Valenti	36.12	Paul Peiser	22.00	Roz Shapiro	14.59	Ira Pogodin	9.76
Bill Bartholomay	73.18	Steve Burke	35.96	Bobbie Epstein	21.96	Johnny Johnson	14.57	Judy Berliant	9.74

Which one does NOT belong?

A puzzler by Duane Jensen

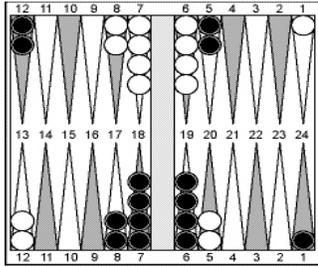
My grade school teacher held up pictures of a turtle, a snake, a lizard, and a dog. She asked the class to choose which creature did not belong in that group. The class answered dog, but I chose the snake. My teacher said that the

turtle, lizard, and snake are reptiles but the dog didn't belong in the group because it was a mammal. I argued that the snake didn't belong in the group because it had no legs while the other animals all had four legs. The teacher admitted that you could look at it that way, but snake was not the correct answer. I learned something that day: the correct answer was whatever answer the teacher wanted.

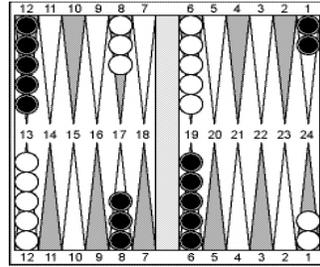
This issue's short quiz is the backgammon version of "Which one does not belong?"

Each question shows four MONEY GAME SET-UPS WITH BLACK ALWAYS ON ROLL OR CUBING. Three of the four positions are linked by a common thread. You must choose which position does not belong in the group.

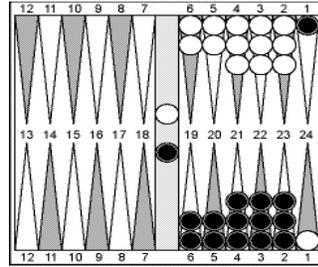
The link that joins the three positions will be obvious, special, or unique (but not ridiculously obscure). To get full credit, you must select the unbelonging position *and* match your reason with mine. **ANSWERS ON PAGE 11.**—Duane Jensen Δ



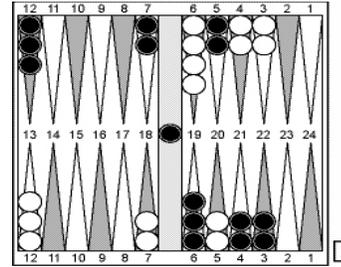
1A



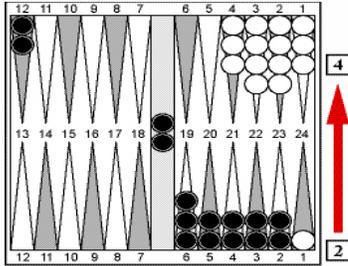
1B



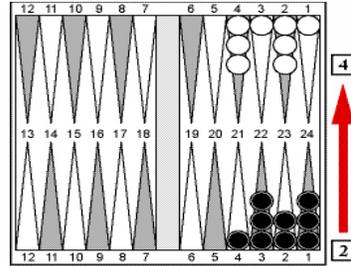
1C



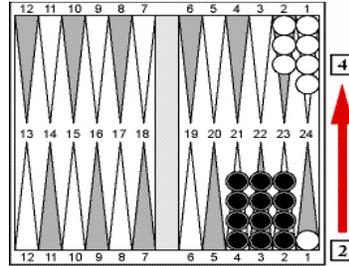
1D



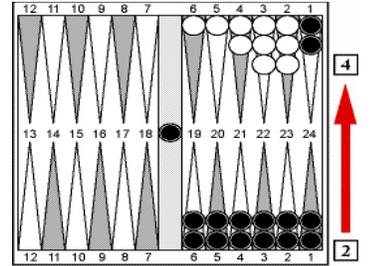
2A



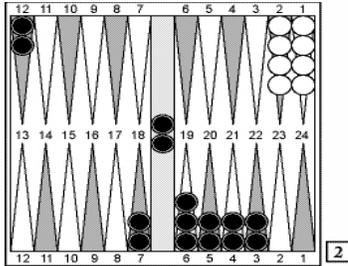
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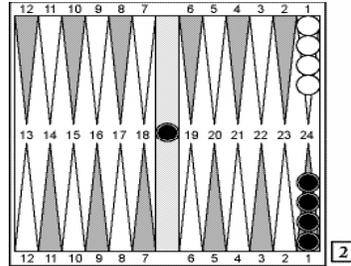
2C



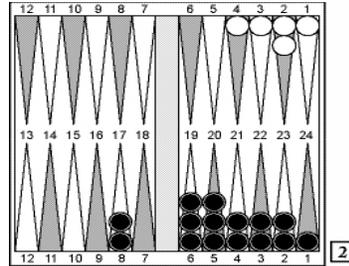
2D



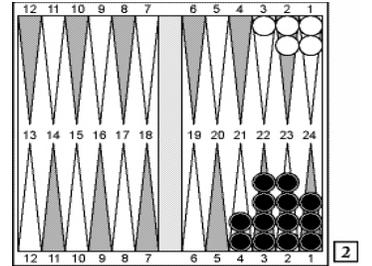
3A



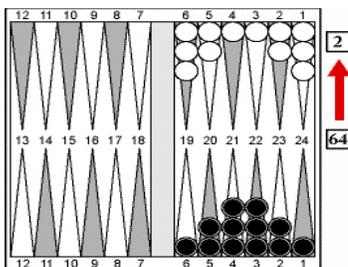
3B



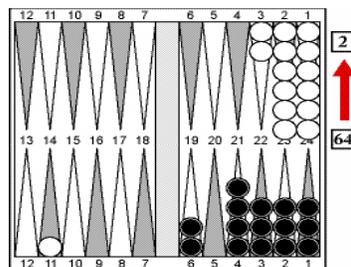
3C



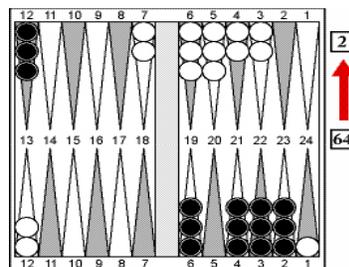
3D



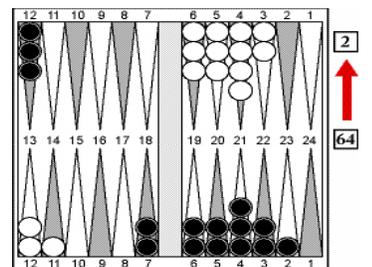
4A



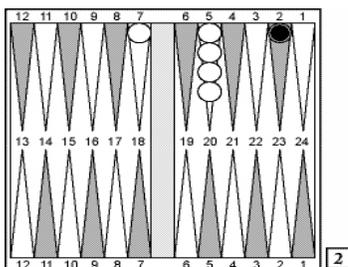
4B



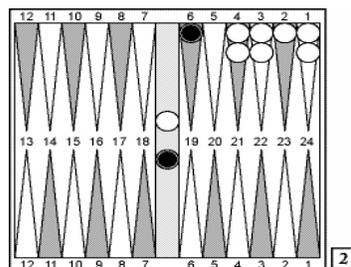
4C



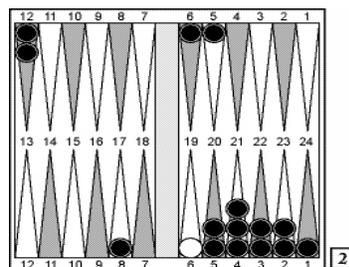
4D



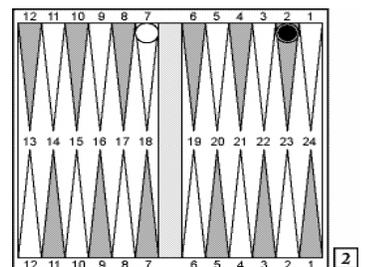
5A



5B



5C

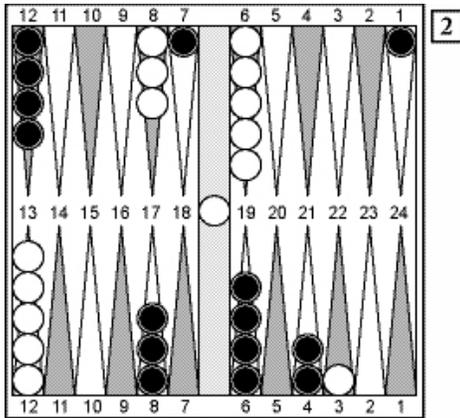


5D

**PROBLEM #326
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

2007 BG on Board 11-point Caribbean Jackpot. Black (Bill Davis) leads White (Nora Luna Righter), 5 to 1. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



It is often said that 2-2 is the most difficult roll to play. There are many different possibilities and sorting through all of them can be complicated. This position is a good example. Where does one begin?

The best approach is to break down the moves into categories which involve the same theme. Some of these categories may have only one candidate; others may have several. Within each category, choose the play which looks best. By doing this, the candidate plays to be examined are reduced to a reasonable number.

Note that the resulting candidates are not necessarily the best candidates. For example, suppose play A and play B are in the same category. Play A may be a tiny bit better than play B, but both of them may be considerably better than play C in another category. That doesn't matter. The goal is to find the best play, not to rank all the plays. Once play A is judged to be better than play B, play B can be eliminated from consideration and plays A and C can be compared later. It might also be possible to completely eliminate one category by determining that another category is clearly superior.

In this position, there are five different themes. They are:

- 1) Make the 2-point with 6/2(2);
- 2) Make the 9-point with 13/9(2);
- 3) Make the 18-point. Here we have 13/11 and 6/4 for the remaining deuce;
- 4) Make the 11-point. There are several possibilities for the other 2s;

5) Don't make any points—a ton of possibilities here.

For starters, category 5 can be eliminated. Making the 11-point has to be better than any play which doesn't make any point. Assets are assets, and there aren't any particularly valuable ways to shuffle the other 2s around.

In category 3, 13/11 is better than 6/4. The builder on the 11-point is valuable. The third checker on the 4-point may look good, but that is an illusion. Black already has a good 3-1 to play, so the only real value for the third checker on the 4-point would be if Black rolls 5-1. Against that, this checker is very cramped.

Spares on the 6-point are much more valuable in the long run, both for making the 5-point and for future flexibility to help swallow awkward rolls later on. 6/4 harms Black's front position rather than helps it.

In category 4, we can dismiss any play which involves 6/4, since as we have seen, that hurts Black's position while any 2 moved by the back men helps Black's position. 24/20 doesn't look right. It gives White return 6s and aces, as well as other jokers. It is better to move the checker off the enemy bar point. Both 24/22, 18/16 and 18/14 look reasonable. 24/22, 18/16 connects the back checkers, but leaves a return 4 which hits. 18/14 leaves fewer return shots, and covers the potentially important 9-point. The choice is close, but 18/14 looks a bit better.

So now we are down to four candidate plays: 6/2(2); 13/9(2); 24/18, 13/11; and 18/14, 13/11(2).

If Black had some more ammunition in place, 6/2(2) might be reasonable. In this position, it isn't. The play strips the 6-point, leaving Black nothing to follow through with. Black needs builders before he can mount an attack. All of the other plays are structurally superior. So 6/2(2) is the first candidate to go.

Let's compare 13/9(2) with 18/14, 13/11(2). Making the 9-point is strong for two reasons. If White enters with a 3 to anchor, Black will like having the 9-point locked up to hem White in. If White flunks or enters elsewhere, those checkers on the 9-point may be used for attacking purposes. Thus, making the 9-point leads to two possible game plans, priming or attacking, depending upon the dice. The 11-point isn't nearly as strong. The checkers there are builders for the 5-point, but that isn't the point White is currently on.

Also the 11-point and the made 4-point do not form part of the same prime, while the 9-point and the 4-point do. There is

certainly gain from moving 18/14, but that gain doesn't appear to compensate for the difference between the 9-point and the 11-point. Thus, 18/14, 13/11(2) can be eliminated.

24/18, 13/11 is an entirely different animal. Moving the last back checker to make an advanced anchor is always strong. This cuts down on White's counterplay considerably. If Black fails to anchor, there is always the danger that White might enter and hit. If that happens and Black fails to hit back, White has the potential to get something going on his side of the board. The final two, 13/11, gives Black a valuable builder for making any of the important points Black wants to make. However, in addition to failing to simply make the 9-point, 24/18, 13/11 has other drawbacks. They are:

1) The bar point may not be so easy to clear later. If Black rolls doubles, that will be fine. Otherwise Black may get stuck on the bar point. If White can make a defensive anchor, she will be quite happy to play a mutual holding game where Black's temporarily superior offense won't be so important. In fact, Black may be tempted to run off the anchor quickly depending on the dice. So, it could turn out better for Black to just bring one back checker around, giving him 14 checkers for attacking purposes, and let the other checker stay back. Black isn't currently in much danger of being attacked.

2) By moving the back checker up, Black gives White freedom to slot points in her inner board. Right now White is potentially starved for moves, and the part of her move she plays after entering may be awkward if Black stays back. White needs to make inner board points quickly, and the fastest way to make them is to start them. White can't afford to do this if Black stays back.

3) The blot on the 11-point gets hit with a 6-5. If White rolls that, she is suddenly well back in the game. Even if White just enters, Black has to do something with the checker on the 11-point. If it can be used to make a new point that is fine, but otherwise the checker will potentially be exposed to more indirect shots.

For all these reasons, I believe that 13/9(2) is the best play. The 9-point is definitely a good point to have. White has no board, so there is little danger of a counterattack. Black has the advantage, and this is a great roll for him to build on that advantage. Making the 9-point is the most effective way to accomplish this goal.—*Kit Woolsey* Δ

WINNER'S CIRCLE



APRIL 2007

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 1 Apr.)... OPEN (18): 1-Ken Tyszko, 2-Mark Murray, 3/4-Linda Rockwell / David Rockwell; 1C/2C-Tak Morioka / Lenny Loder. INTERMEDIATE (7): 1-Dave Settles, 2-Royal Robinson.

•**Kansas City Club Monthly** (Kansas City, MO; 4 Apr.)... OPEN (11): 1-Rory Rowland, 2/3-Phil Hickman / Eric Barr.

•**TrueMoneygames Nordic Open** (Helsingør, Denmark; 5-9 Apr.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (81): 1-Thomas Jespersen (DEN), 2-Norbert Wiebusch (GER); 1LC-Henrik Løber (DEN). ADVANCED (77): 1-Jakob Andersen (DEN), 2-Johnny Pedersen (DEN); 1C-Mark Larsen (DEN). INTERMEDIATE (73): 1-Michael Pedersen (DEN), 2-Vinni Gertsen (DEN); 1LC-Carsten Kruse (DEN). BEGINNER (65): 1-Helle Rasmussen (DEN), 2-Stig Olesen (DEN); 1C-Kenny Jørgensen (DEN); 1LC-Hans Christian Frost (DEN). NATION'S CUP (4 teams): 1-Team Japan: Michihito Kageyama / Masayuki Mochizuki / Poem Nishimura. JAPAN OPEN QUALIFIER (32): 1-Fabrizio Lo Surdo (ITA), 2-Achim Müller (GER). WORLD CHAMP QUALIFIER (32): 1-Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN). DOUBLES (24 teams): 1-Lennart Kurland & Peter Lygteskov (DEN). TEAM (24 teams): 1-The Italian Job (ITA): Giorgio Castellano / Fabrizio Lo Surdo / Laura Monaco.

•**Springfield Series** (Springfield, IL; 7 Apr.)... OPEN (18): 1-Sean Garber (IN), 2-Jena Jennings; 1C-John Jennings, 2C-John Bare; 1LC-Rob Farmer.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 8 Apr.)... OPEN (8): 1-Neal Rosensweig, 2-Carlos Azcarate.

•**13th Ohio State Champs—ABT** (Cleveland, OH, 13-15 Apr.)... OPEN (32): 1-Maurice Barie (MI), 2-Emil Mortuk (MI); 1C-Walter Trice (MA), 2C-Thomas Meyer (IL). ADVANCED (40): 1-Carmen Webb (PA), 2-Bud Bowers (PA), 3-Karen Meyer (IL); 1C-Pete Townsend (PA), 2C-Gil Evans (NH). NOVICE (16): 1-Nick Greci (PA), 2-Regina Ragelis (OH); 1C-Jamie Evans (NH), 2C-Donna Davenport (OH). OHIO MASTERS (16): 1-Ray Glaeser (OH), 2-Sean Garber (IN). AMATEUR JP (8): 1-Darin Campo (OH). MICROBLITZ (32): 1-Farhad Forudi (OH). DOUBLES (22 teams): 1-David & Linda Rockwell (IL), 2-AI Moskos (MI) & Takis Sakkalis (Greece). \$20 QUICKIES #1 (32): 1-Sean Garber (IN). #2 (16): 1-Gregg Cattanach (GA).

•**8th Paris Masters & Open** (Paris, France; 18-22 Apr.)... MASTERS (16): 1-Sander Lyloff (DEN), 2-Karsten Nielsen (DEN/THAI). PARTOUCHE PGT (68): 1-Götz Hildsberg (GER), 2-Marc Santo-Roman (FRA); 1C-Sander Lyloff (DEN); 1LC-Thierry Manouck (FRA). INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Alain Defoucher (FRA), 2-Nadya Marinova (BUL); 1C-Peter Bosse (DEN); 1LC-Bao Ha (VIET/FRA). BEGINNERS: 1-Charles Lecomte (FRA), 2-Julie Bensaid (FRA). DOUBLES #1 (16 teams): 1-Morten Holm Lassen (DEN) & Sander Lyloff (DEN). #2 (8 teams): 1-Christian Faure (FRA) & Cyrille Fouquet (FRA).

•**Springfield Series Grand Finale** (Springfield, IL; 21 Apr.)... OPEN (21): 1-Nick Fady, 2-Rob Farmer; 1C-Cliff Mayo, 2C-Jim Zimmerman; 1LC-Jena Jennings. TAKI-BOARD WINNER: Bill Fady. Δ

AMALGAMATION

Recent out-of-town Bar Point Club visitors: **Matthew Cullen** (VA), **James Roston** (NY), **Paul Franks** (NV), **Bill Minser** (WI)... Come celebrate **Bob Zavoral's** (IL) 50th birthday party at the Pub Club Sunday Special 20 May at the Ramada Plaza in Chicago. For info, call **Tim Mabee** (IL) at 630/606-2388 or **Phil Simborg** (IL) at 312/543-0522... St. Louis to Chicago: **Henry Gray**... **Chris Bray's** (England) new book "Second Wind," a follow-up to "What Colour Is The Wind?" will be reviewed by **Neil Kazaross** (IL) in the June POINT... Condolences to the friends and family of **Paul McGowan** (NJ) who passed away 17 April... Good luck to **Vic Morawski** (MD) who opens the Baltimore Backgammon Club 17 May at the Treehouse Restaurant in Cockeysville, MD. For info, contact Vic at 443/570-0400 or vmorawski@juno.com... **Lessye Joy DeMoss** (TX) is the new director of the Austin Backgammon Club replacing the retiring Jackie Seiders-Smart (TX). You can reach Lessye at lessye@ccsi.com... Bridge master **Alvin Roth** (FL) is dead at age 92. A bridge hall-of-famer, Mr Roth also dabbled in backgammon... Snowie guru

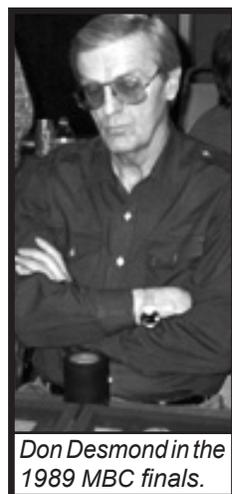
DON DESMOND DIES

Long time Chicagoland backgammon player Don Desmond died in New York from complications due to cancer. He was 72.

Desmond, a financial entrepreneur, began playing backgammon in Chicago in the mid-1970s and was active until he left the Windy City in the 1990s. He still ranks 16th on the Chicagoland all-time master point charts.

Don Desmond's top victories include the 1979 Indiana Open, 1989 Midwest Championships, and 1990 Michigan Summer Championships. Between 1989 and 1992, Desmond was considered one of the finest players in the US. In 1993, he ranked 20th in the world on the KG International Rating List.

Among the survivors are two relatives who also play backgammon: son Patrick Desmond and nephew Christopher Stanford. Δ



Don Desmond in the 1989 MBC finals.

Gregg Cattanach (GA) recommends that you do not update to new version 4.6 due to a number of bugs. If you have already made the update and are experiencing problems, Gregg suggests that you download and install the 4.5 patch (found at www.bgsnowie.com) right over 4.6. Snowie engineers are aware of the problems and working on a new patch. And here's another reason to attend the Michigan Summer Championships 5-8 July: Gregg will present a seminar on "The best ways to use Snowie."... Get well wishes to Ohio State Club director **Joe Miller** who is recovering from recent surgery... Current Pub Club 2007 points leader **Val Zimmnicki** (IL) appears in a new movie short "Love Potion Number 8." It opened 3 May at the Century Theater on Clark Street in Chicago... Twin Cities director **Dave Minikus** (MN) reports that there may still be a Minnesota Open this year in the fall. Stay tuned... Finally this great quote about luck by **Jean Cocteau**: Of course I believe in luck. How otherwise to explain the success of some people you detest? Δ

'Which One Does NOT Belong' Answers

[From Puzzler on page 9]

- (d) The only position that does not have its checkers arranged in a mirror image.
- (c) The only position that is *redouble/take*. The others are *no redouble/pass*.
- (a) The only position that's still winnable.
- (b) The only position that is *double/pass*. The others are *double/take*.
- (a) The only position that could be created with legal plays. Δ



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Ramada Plaza, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago. 773/693-5800.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Ramada Plaza, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago. 773/693-5800

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Ned Kelly's Steak House, 1603-A Morrisey Drive, Bloomington. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. at Capitol Teletrack, 1766 W. 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).

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WBF SANCTIONED

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The tournament will be played on professional Rizzello & Romagnoli Tournament Boards

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