

wisconsin state championships—abt

MY WIN IS A LABOR OF LOVE First Person Wisconsin Account By Bill Davis

Almost 10 years had passed since I'd won an ABT event—the Minnesota Open in Fall 1997. So I entered the Wisconsin State Championships with my usual mental attitude: *if the dice are with me, I'm going to run with them.* Over the Labor Day weekend, I completed a marathon!



Director Tom Machaj presents trophies to 2007 Wisconsin State Champ Bill Davis (L) and runner-up David Rockwell (R).

Butch and Mary Ann Meese's discontinuance of their annual Indiana event opened up the last weekend of Summer. Madison director Tom Machaj and staff—with help from Butch and Mary Ann—were there to fill the void with a modified Swiss movement format (just like Indy). The record 100+ Radisson Hotel attendees for the most part approved.

Following a tough 9–8 victory over Brian Barber (NY), I rolled over (in order) Sean Garber (IN), Bob Glass (CA), Stick Rice (OH), David Rubin (IL), Ray Fogelund (CA), Steve Brown (MN), and Steve Sax (CA) never losing a doubled gammon in the process. My 8–0 record was enough guarantee a slot in the finals.

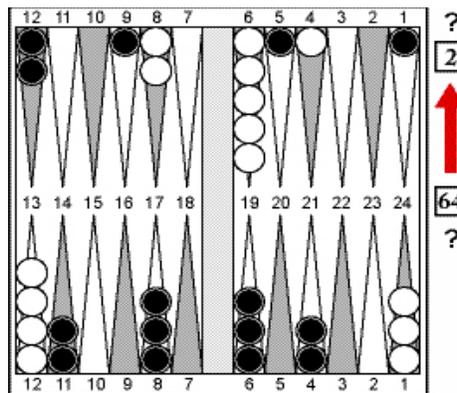
Bar Point Club 2007 point leader David Rockwell stood 7–1 in the tournament and in order to face me, had to go up against the always-tough Ray Fogelund (CA). When David pulled off a thrilling DMP victory, the stage was set for an all-Chicago finals.

David is having a great 2007 and has virtually locked up BPC Player of the Year.

I had been resting for a day while David was in full battle mode, so I was worried.

David won the first two games, but I rallied to take a 4–2 lead. Then in the 5th game, I had to decide whether or not to cube:

13-point Wisconsin finals. Bill Davis (Black) leads David Rockwell (White), 4 to 2. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

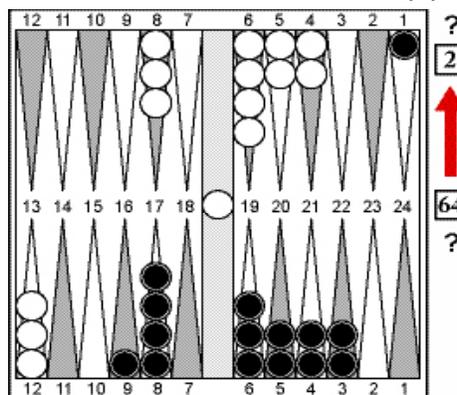


David has three checkers stacked on my ace point and I'm aiming at another blot. Additionally, my board is stronger and I have wood positioned to build my 5-point. 720 3-ply, precise Snowie rollouts show me winning 67.4% of the games of which 24.5% are gammons. David took and did get gammoned which increased my lead to 8–2.

Would you have taken this cube? You should. If you drop, you're making a .161 blunder. In fact, it's the double that's the close decision: correct by only .045.

Skip ahead to game 7:

13-point Wisconsin finals. Bill Davis (Black) leads David Rockwell (White), 10 to 3. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



[Continued on page 4]

colorado state championships—abt

COLO WIN MAKES MUNITZ #1 Malcolm Davis Wins Masters

What a match-up: reigning ABT champion Richard Munitz vs. 3-Time ABT champ Neil Kazaross in the finals of the Colorado State Championships. Talk about “mile high action”!



Richard Munitz is all smiles in his Colorado State final match vs. Neil Kazaross.

This was the 8th Colorado State Championship (held 28–30 September), but the first to be a multi-day event with ABT sanctioning. Lynda Clay did a great job in her first directing effort assisted by a fine staff. The playing room at the Denver Airport Holiday Inn was roomy, the Calcutta conducted by Ray Fogelund was witty, and the mountain lucite trophies were very apropos.

Neil rolled through his first three opponents losing only 2 points in the process. His semifinal vs. David Todd was much tougher as the match went to DMP before Neil pulled it out. Richard's crushing defeat of Curtis Lucas (TX) in the semifinals set up the showcase battle.

Game four of the Sunday final proved to be a turning point in the match. Neil doubled with one man trapped behind a broken prime. Richard had an easy take.



Another title for Malcolm Davis, this time in the Masters.

[Continued on page 7]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis

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

Tel: 773/583-6464 ♦ Fax: 773/583-3264

E-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com

www.chicagopoint.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Joy Cole (MI)	Danny Kleinman (CA)
Mary Hickey (OH)	John O'Hagan (IN)
Jake Jacobs (IL)	Steve Sax (CA)
Duane Jensen (MN)	Phil Simborg (IL)
Neil Kazaross (IL)	Kit Woolsey (CA)

All rights reserved. You may copy any of this for noncommercial purposes as long as you give full credit to "CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504, Chicago, IL 60659-3155." You may not reproduce any part of this publication on the Internet or via other electronic media without the express-written consent of CHICAGO POINT.

Subscription Rates: \$30/12 issues (\$50/24 issues) in US and Canada. \$40/12 issues (\$70/24 issues) international airmail in USD check. Make PayPal payments to bg@chicagopoint.com.

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

LETTERS



c/o CHICAGO POINT

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

E-mail: letters@chicagopoint.com

"VIRTUOUS RULINGS" EDITORIAL

I thought the September POINT was excellent, especially your own article on the history of the doubling cube. But I must take exception to your "virtuous rulings" editorial.

One can wrestle with the ethics of Neil allowing Richard to correct his move from now until Doomsday. And if like me, you think what Neil did is "right," is it then unethical to condone an illegal move? Quite a mental wrestling match.

Once you finish wrestling, you may realize the two reasons why those who bought Neil should have no complaints. If I buy Neil in an auction I know I am getting a good investment in terms of his backgammon ability. And I also know that I am getting a good investment in terms of his sportsmanship. In Neil's judgment, he did the right thing, and in buying him I cannot ask for more than that he make his best judgment.

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BACKGAMMON						
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.

Oct 13	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Oct 13	Columbia Memorial, Dugout Sports Bar & Grill, Houston, Texas	281/687-1673
Oct 14	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Oct 14	New York Monthly, Midtown BG & Chess Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Oct 14	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Oct 14	29th Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 18*	Third Thursday Bonus (Las Vegas), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Oct 28	Colorado Monthly, La Loma Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Oct 28*	35th Hawaii State Championships, Elks Lodge 616, Honolulu, Hawaii	808/295-9234
<u>Oct 19-21</u>	<u>Illinois State Championships, Holiday Inn City-Centre, Peoria, Illinois</u>	<u>309/224-9579</u>
Nov 3*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Westport Flea Market, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Nov 3*	New England Saturday Bonus, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, MA	781/324-0892
Nov 4*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Nov 5*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Nov 5*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
<u>Nov 7-11</u>	<u>2007 Las Vegas Open & American Doubles, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
Nov 9	BPC Fall Trophy Tourney, Holiday Inn (formerly Ramada), Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 10*	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Nov 10*	Turkey Trot Open, Dugout Sports Bar & Grill, Houston, Texas	281/687-1673
Nov 11*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Nov 11*	New York Monthly, Midtown BG & Chess Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Nov 11*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Nov 15*	Third Thursday Bonus (California State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov 17*	Phoenix Free Monthly-USBL, Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona	602/296-4307
Nov 18*	Pittsburgh Monthly, Panera Bread, Wexford, Pennsylvania	412/760-8363
Nov 25*	Colorado Monthly, La Loma Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
<u>Nov 30-Dec 2</u>	<u>California State Championship, Masonic Center, Tarzana, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Dec 2	Bar Point Club Sunday Tourney, Holiday Inn (formerly Ramada), Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Dec 2*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, MA	781/324-0892
Dec 3*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Dec 3*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Dec 5*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Westport Flea Market, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
<u>Jan 10-13*</u>	<u>New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
<u>Jan 13-15*</u>	<u>World Doubles Championship, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey</u>	<u>702/8936025</u>
<u>Jan 18-20*</u>	<u>8th Carolina Invitational, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina</u>	<u>704/814-0850</u>
<u>Feb 29-Mar 2*</u>	<u>2008 Midwest Backgammon Championships, Wyndham Lisle, Lisle, Illinois</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
<u>Mar 28-30*</u>	<u>30th Pittsburgh Championships & ABT Awards, Holiday Inn, Moon Twp., PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Oct 12-14	Swiss Championships & Open, Hotel Marriott, Zurich, Switzerland	4179-3584825
Oct 13-14	5th Roma Open, Hotel Colony, Rome, Italy	393356-031493
Oct 13-14*	20th Bulgarian National Tourament, Hotel Rila, Sofia, Bulgaria	359887-543899
Oct 19-21	Gammonitis 5th Birthday Tournament, Woodside, Kenilworth, England	441634-821107
Oct 19-21*	Cabo Frio Torneio, La Plage Hotel, Cabo Frio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	552194-982218
Oct 20-21	15th Irish Open Championship, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	358-72144270
Oct 20-21	33rd Annual Finnish Open 2007, Hotel Presidentii, Helsinki, Finland	3540-5789579
Oct 26-28	11th Rotterdam Open, Cafe Spiegel, Rotterdam, The Netherlands	316-53579164
Oct 30-Nov 4	EBGT: European Doubles/5th French Open, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Oct 31-Nov 2*	CANCELLED: 4th Caribbean Open, Sonesta Beach, St. Maarten	390331-923537
Nov 1-4*	late Club de Salvador Torneio, Sr. Aliomar, Bahia, Brazil	552194-982218
Nov 3-4	Townharbour Trophy, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Nov 9-11	Backgammon Live in London '07, Spice Island & YHA, London, England	447985-941729
Nov 10-11*	East Coast Movers & Shakers, Bangalow Bowling, Byron Bay, Australia	61413-564838
Nov 10-11	5th Torneo delle Città, Modanella, Italy	393356-031493
Nov 13-18	4th World Doubles & 11th Grand Prix de Suisse, Hotel Ascona, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Nov 15-18	WSOB: Gammonitis UK Masters™, Empire Casino, London, England	441634-821107
Nov 24-25*	Copenhagen Klub Championships, Lejrhytten Harebo, Gørløse, Denmark	4551-949494
Nov 27-Dec 2	5th Cancun Invitational Tournament, Ritz-Carlton, Cancun, Mexico	775/829-8403
Nov 28-Dec 2	EBGT: 19th City of Venice Tournament, Venice Casino, Venice, Italy	393290-513415
Dec 1-2	Gilbertson United Kingdom Finals, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Dec 6-9	14th German Open, Hotel GlockenSpitze, Altenkirchen, Germany	49521-64314
Dec 8-9	Thun Open, Beo Cup & Doubles, Waadtländerstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4811318
Dec 14-16	Gammonitis Jule's Christmas Cracker, Highgate House, Creaton, England	441634-821107
Jan 4-6*	2008 Thailand Open, 19th Hole Superpub, South Pattaya, Thailand	661000-1379
Jan 11-13*	Bright 'n' Breezy, Paramount Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 17-20*	Casino Mountain BG & Poker Open, Kleinwalsertal, Reizlern, Austria	49711-486190

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

And there is another, even better reason for respecting what he did: it is simply good for the game. There is a cutthroat "stab them in the back and then vote them off the island" attitude that permeates so

much of the world today. Aren't we all better off knowing that backgammon is a game populated by champions who are also gentlemen like Neil?

I hope most of us believe the answer to that question is "yes." Else we have lost a great deal more from backgammon than a few dollars equity.—*Jake Jacobs, via e-mail*

I just read your article on Neil vs. Richard. Personally, I think you are totally out of line. Whether or not you would have done what Neil did, unless you believe that he was intentionally dumping the match (something I would never think was the case), he may do anything he chooses. Calcutta and ABT points are totally irrelevant.—*Kit Woolsey, Kensington, California*

Regarding last month's editorial detailing an irregularity in the Munitz-Kazaross

[Continued on page 6]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007

Compiled through 30 Sep. 2007 after 12 tournaments
(Remaining events: Minnesota, Illinois, Las Vegas, California)



Richard Munitz	36.26	David Rockwell	10.20	Jolie Rubin	5.82	Mark Antranikian	3.70
Ray Fogerlund	35.87	Neil Kazaross	10.19	Cem Aslan	5.82	Perry Gartner	3.70
Patrick Gibson	32.77	Arkadiy Tsinis	10.07	Ken Fischer	5.64	David Taniguchi	3.60
Paul Weaver	31.43	Paul Mangone	9.78	Mark Dean	5.41	Sina Bigdeli	3.60
Dana Nazarian	29.36	Steve Hast	9.00	Paul Franks	5.33	Thomas Meyer	3.56
Bill Davis	27.93	Herb Roman	8.94	Yury Millman	5.33	Gil Evans	3.46
Harvey Gillis	24.15	Terry Leahy	8.89	Vadim Musaelyan	5.33	Greg Kurrell	3.20
Gary Bauer	23.11	Paul Strasberg	8.60	Matt Reklaitis	5.33	Doug Roberts	3.04
Bart Brooks	22.56	Steve Maas	8.55	Scott Johnston	5.33	Owen Black	3.00
Steve Brown	21.33	Adam Bennett	8.51	Matt Cohn-Geier	5.33	Paul Teitelbaum	3.00
Alan Grunwald	20.15	Luis Rivera	8.42	Jim Pasko	5.04	J.A. Miller	2.92
Malcolm Davis	19.84	Carmen Webb	8.00	Jinelle Girard	5.04	Vic Morawski	2.92
Ed O'Laughlin	19.25	Stefan Staykov	8.00	Tim Lawless	4.89	Arlene Austin	2.92
Stick Rice	18.87	Petko Kostadinov	7.58	Stewart Pemberton	4.89	Ed Johnson	2.91
Arie Bornstein	18.00	Steve Sax	7.40	Rory Pascar	4.44	Joe Maize	2.91
David Todd	16.49	Walter Trice	7.11	Alfred Mamlet	4.33	Arnold Freeman	2.82
Maurice Barie	14.22	Emil Mortuk	7.11	Michael Valliere	4.30	Jobey Calitri	2.82
Fred Kalantari	12.16	Bud Bowers	6.92	Ray Bills	4.27	Glenn Ramsey	2.67
Phyllis Shapiro	11.68	Charlie Raichle	6.40	Ernie McCombs	4.27	Harold Roberson	2.67
John Herron	11.64	Roz Ferris	6.15	Frank DiMaggio	4.14	Jesse Eaton	2.67
Art Benjamin	11.27	Christopher Yep	6.08	Danielle Bastarache	4.00	Bill Robertie	2.52
John Jennings	10.67	Gregg Cattanach	6.08	Pete Townsend	4.00	Tak Morioka	2.52
Howard Markowitz	10.67	Linda MacLean	6.08	Tom Keith	3.79	Jason Lee	2.52
Kieth Hvamstad	10.67	Vladi Gudgenov	6.00	Bob Zavoral	3.79	Jerry Jabaghourian	2.44
Dave Settles	10.44	Beth Raby	5.84	John O'Hagan	3.79	J. Nunez/G. Goetze	2.44

SEPTEMBER CORRECTION

In last month's "Virtuous Rulings" editorial, Richard Munitz, in the act of bearing off one of his pieces, accidentally also removed one of his opponent's pieces from the playfield. His opponent Neil Kazaross was not certain, but thought that if he let the misplay to stand, the director would rule his piece borne off which would allow him to get off a critical gammon. Despite this, Neil allowed Richard to replay the entire move legally.

CHICAGO POINT incorrectly stated that Ms. Cole would have ruled the misplayed checker borne off. That information is false and we regret the error.

When asked how she would have actually ruled, Ms. Cole responded, "You can't 'bear off' an opponent's checker. It's an invalid action, not just a simple misplay. Richard would have to play the roll legally, which means that Neil's checker would end up on the bar." Δ



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2007 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 SEPT.

David Rockwell	29.48	Willis Elias	6.56	Adrian Rios	2.96	Sargon Benjamin	0.96
Herb Roman	21.60	Bob Steen	6.56	Shaw Dogan	2.88	Paul Baraz	0.96
Rory Pascar	21.18	Steve Klesker	6.56	Lenny Loder	2.56	Dan Weymouth	0.96
Phil Simborg	16.32	Lucky Nelson	6.32	Arlene Levy	2.56	Dick Nelson	0.84
Bob Zavoral	15.72	Gary Kay	5.88	Paul Franks	2.28	John Jennings	0.84
Mike Wolock	15.48	Alice Kay	5.80	Allen Tish	2.24	Harold Elgazar	0.80
Tak Morioka	14.64	Georgina Flanagan	5.64	Linda Rockwell	1.80	Steve Klene	0.72
Albert Yakobashvili	13.76	Christopher Shanova	5.52	Felix Yen	1.68	Glenn Martells	0.72
Oleg Raygorodsky	12.16	Nora Luna Righter	5.36	Henry Gray	1.68	Keith Hanson	0.72
Tim Mabee	12.12	Bill Bartholomay	5.36	Roy Cohen	1.60	Ron Wagner	0.64
Bill Keefe	11.46	Mark Murray	5.16	Kendra Wesley	1.32	James Roston	0.56
Jacob Moreno	11.28	Ken Tyszko	5.12	Dan Simborg	1.28	John Poulos	0.56
Bill Davis	9.12	Peter Kalba	4.48	Elaine Kehm	1.20	Tim Stoddard	0.48
Roger Hickman	8.28	Ken Bond	4.32	Les Moshinsky	1.20	Charles Melidosian	0.48
Michael Ginat	7.92	Wayne Wiest	4.04	Denise McDermott	1.16	Bev Loder	0.48
Alex Owen	7.72	Dave Settles	3.80	Neil Kazaross	1.12	David Araiza	0.48
Carter Mattig	7.44	Jerry Brooks	3.52	Ivan Giorgadze	1.04	Jordan Sanders	0.40
Mike Sutton	7.28	Royal Robinson	3.44	Tim Rockwell	1.04	Wendy Kaplan	0.32
Mike Pufpaf	7.24	Richard Stawowy	3.28	Bob Koca	1.04	Mark Penacho	0.32
Larry Goldstein	6.68	Eric Johnson	3.12				

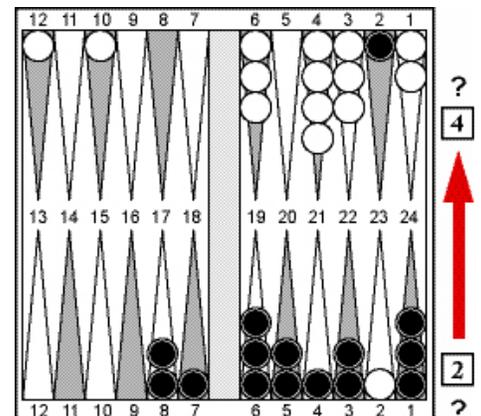
Pub Club director **TIM MABEE** earned 3.60 points to lead our club in September. Lucky Nelson placed second with 3.36 and Herb Roman finished third with 2.64.

your move

PROBLEM #331

to be analyzed by Ray Fogerlund

2007 Wis. State finals. David Rockwell (White) leads Bill Davis (Black), 2-0 to 13. Black on roll. **RECUBE ACTION(S)?**



ASK DANNY

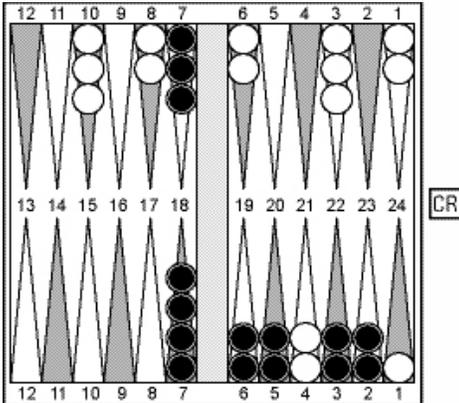


© 2007 by Danny Kleinman

STRUCTURE VS. "SAFETY"

Dear Danny: I faced a puzzling play at my local club the other night:

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

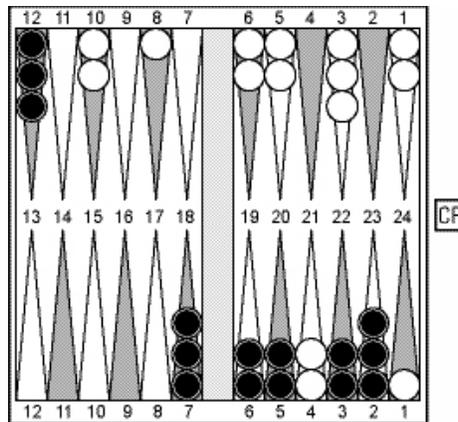


Because losing a gammon could cost me the match, I made the blotless 18/13(3), 7/2 play. My opponent followed with 5-3, making her 5-point and when I was forced to leave a shot with 6-3 (played 13/10, 13/7), my "safe" play turned sour. White hit and from there, it was all downhill.

With my opponent needing a gammon to win the match, please tell me that my safe 5-5 play (leaving no blots) was right.—Seeking Support

SORRY, SEEKING: I cannot support forgoing a highly constructive play in order to avoid a relatively harmless blot when you have a stronger board than your opponent. You would have done better to play 18/8(2), making a useful blocking point while giving yourself another number to attack the blot that your opponent will leave if he breaks the 4-anchor. You need not fear getting sent back from the bar-anchor to the bar when your opponent has only three widely-separated inside points and negligible gammon chances.

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



In this position, which you reached after missing the best play on your previous roll, you again had a better play, 7/1*, 13/10. Your actual play, 13/7, 13/10, left 17 shots. 7/1*, 13/10 leaves only 13 shots. Once your opponent has made a fourth inside point and you must leave two blots, her gammon threat is no longer negligible and it becomes important for you to minimize shots.

Furthermore, by hitting loose, you drive White's annoying rearmost man from your 1-point while threatening to cover the 1-point next turn.

As so often happens, the best play for winning the game is also the best play for avoiding the loss of a gammon.—*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

Cruising again in 15 months!
Backgammon & Poker On Board IX
 Caribbean Cruise Tourney aboard the new CROWN PRINCESS
18–25 January 2009
 Bill Davis • bg@chicagopoint.com

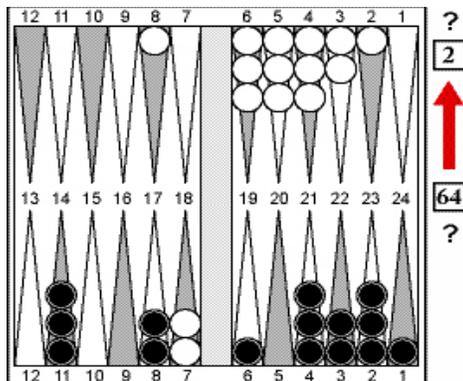
WISCONSIN...

[Continued from page 1]

David dropped my cube. That's correct for money, but at this score, dropping is wrong by .159. 720 3-ply, precise Snowie rollouts show White winning 25% of the games, and although I win 27.8% gammons, I only need three points to end the match. My cube is right by a mere .040.

Finally, ahead 11–3, I was on roll here:

Bill Davis (Black) leads David Rockwell (White), 11–3. **SHOULD BLACK CUBE?**



Up 18 pips, I doubled for the match. I wanted to be aggressive, but cubing here is overdoing it (a .129 blunder). David scooped, but when I tossed 5-5 [11/6(3), 6/1], David's recube had all the "teeth" taken out of it. Final score 13–3.

Congrats to Californian Steve Sax who bested Petko Kostadinov (SC) in the Badger Classic. Also to Steve Maas for his Advanced victory over fellow Minnesotan Ray Bills; and to Susan Simpkins who won her first backgammon trophy in the Limited event.

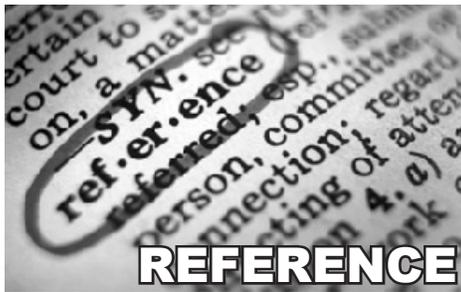


Steve Sax won the Badger Classic.

Kudos to director Tom Machaj, and the Madison Backgammon Club (with special acknowledgement to Auctioneer Sonya Sidky) for successfully upholding the Labor Day backgammon tradition. Job well done!

WISCONSIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (51): 1-Bill Davis (IL), 2-David Rockwell (IL), 3-Ray Fogerlund (CA); 1C-Stick Rice (OH), 2C-Paul Weaver (AL). ADVANCED (47): 1-Steve Maas (MN), 2-Ray Bills (MN), 3/4-Bachan Khosa (MN) / Dave Settles (IL); 1C-Ernie McCombs (TX), 2C-John Baron (OH). LIMITED (5): 1-Susan Simpkins (IN), 2-Cherie Owens (AZ). BADGER CLASSIC (32): 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Petko Kostadinov (SC), 3/4-Fred Kalantari (MN)/David Todd (MO). AMATEUR JACKPOT (16): 1-Bachan Khosa (MN), 2-Jeff Barrows (MN). DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Mark Donaldson (MN) & Elayne Feinstein (FL), 2-Scott Day (IN) & Sean Garber (IN), 3/4-Carol Joy Cole (MI) & Petko Kostadinov (SC), 3/4-Steve Maas (MN) & Dave Wetzell (MN). EARLY BIRD JACKPOT (16): 1-Carol Joy Cole (MI), 2-Art Moore (CA). CANCEL-GAMMON (16): 1-Joe Freedman (VA), 2-Lee Pflugrad (WI). \$100 JACKPOT (8): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA). BLITZ (32): 1-David Todd (MO), 2-Herb Roman (IL). \$20 QUICKIE #1 (8): 1-Howard Markowitz (NV). \$20 QUICKIE #2 (8): 1-Bruce Russell (WI).



REFERENCE POSITION QUIZ

By Phil Simborg

If you want to be a good backgammon player, you'll need to learn some key reference positions. Players who know the number of wins and gammons associated with certain specific reference positions can extrapolate reasonable win estimates when similar setups arise.

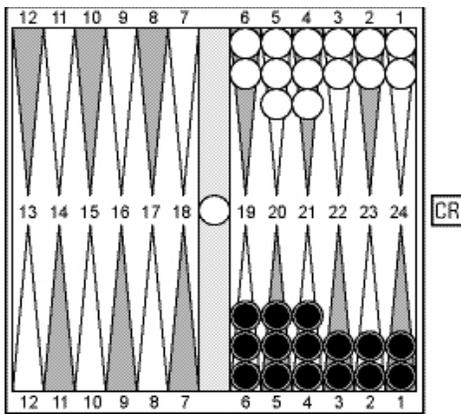
Reference positions help you with both cube and checker play decisions. *The more of these positions you memorize, the better you will play.*

Take this 10 multiple choice question test involving three key reference positions. You'll find out just how much you know (and don't know) about the subject:

Score 10 right, you are **Extra Terrestrial**
 Score 8 or 9 right, you are **World Class**
 Score 7 right, you are an **Expert**
 Score 6 right, you are **Advanced**
 Score 5 right, you are **Average**
 Score 3 or 4 right, you are a **Beginner**
 Score less than 3 right, you are **Paul Franks**

For this quiz, every position is:
WHITE LEADS BLACK 4-3 TO 5 (CRAWFORD). BLACK ON ROLL. So all games are played to completion with no cube, and Black really wants to win a gammon.

Pos. 1. White leads 4-3 to 5 (Crawford).



1. In Pos. 1 with Black on roll, what percentage of Black's wins are gammons?

- (a) About 1%
- (b) About 3%
- (c) About 6%

2. In Pos. 1, what percentage of the time does White win the game?

- (a) About 1.5%
- (b) About 3.5%
- (c) About 5.5%

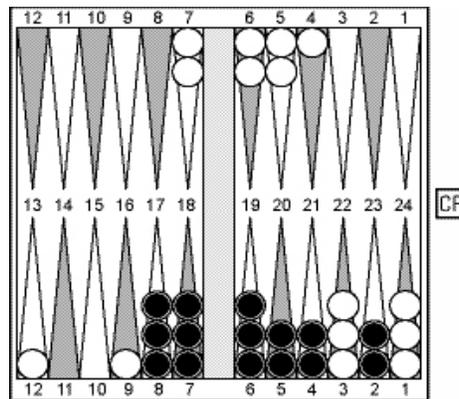
3. In Pos. 1, if Black's three spare checkers on the 6-, 5-, and 4-points are moved to the 1-, 2-, and 3-points, White would win:

- (a) More games
- (b) Less games
- (c) About the same

4. In Pos. 1, if White has two checkers instead of one on the bar, what percentage of the time does Black win a gammon?

- (a) About 40%
- (b) About 50%
- (c) About 60%

Pos. 2. White leads 4-3 to 5 (Crawford).



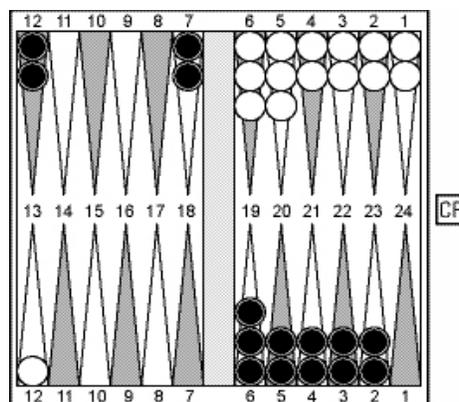
5. In Pos. 2, who is favored to win the game?

- (a) Black is favored
- (b) White is favored
- (c) It's about 50/50

6. In Pos. 2 with Black on roll, what percentage of the time does Black win a gammon?

- (a) About 33%
- (b) About 44%
- (c) About 55%

Pos. 3. White leads 4-3 to 5 (Crawford).



7. In Pos. 3 with Black on roll, what percentage of the time will Black win the game?

- (a) About 35%
- (b) About 50%
- (c) About 60%

8. In Pos. 3, if Black's two checkers on the 13-point are moved to his 1-point, Black will win:

- (a) More games
- (b) Less games
- (c) About the same

9. In Pos. 3, move one of Black's checkers from the 13-point to the 1-point, and move Black's spare on the 6-point to the 1-point (giving Black a closed board). Black's winning chances go up by how much?

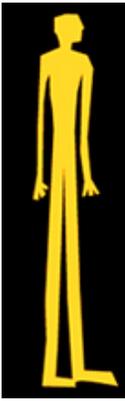
- (a) 2%
- (b) 5%
- (c) 10%

10. In Pos. 3, if it was a money game, cube in the center, Black on roll, what would be the proper cube action for both Black and White?

- (a) No double/take
- (b) Double/take
- (c) Double/drop

ANSWERS AND COMMENTS

1. (b) 3%
 2. (b) 3.5%
 3. (c) It's about the same. Though White does have a better chance of coming in before Black takes off more checkers, often Black will open the 6- and/or 5-points quickly and if White comes in, there is no chance to hit a blot that Black might leave. 4. (a) It's 40% in this position. Move any of Black's spares off the 6-, 5-, and 4-points and there are fewer gammons. 5. (b) White is actually 54% to Black's 46% — an 8% edge.
 6. (a) 33%
 7. (c) 60%
 8. (c) About the same. Black has less shots, but the closed board and pip count make up the difference almost exactly.
 9. (c) 10%. Black now wins about 70% with a fully closed board and improved pip count.
 10. (a) No double/take. Though Black is a 60/40 favorite to win, giving up the cube is a blunder (0.120 error according to Snowie rollout). If Black misses, no matter what the roll, White would have an immediate redouble that Black must pass. — *Phil*

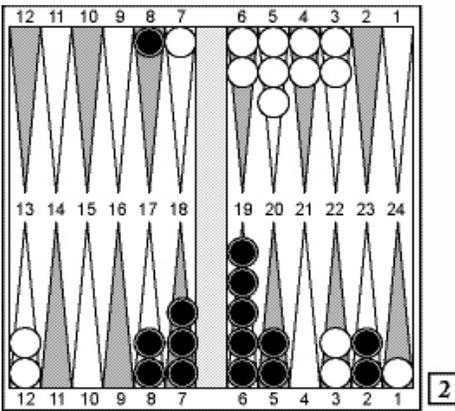


The Tall Norwegian

By Duane Jensen

The tall Norwegian studied the position and chose an option that many backgammon players would reject. Arild Idsoe was playing Frenchman Claude Marbleu in the semifinals of the 2002 Paris Open with a 2-2 to play:

Pos. 1. 19-point match. Arild Idsoe (Black) leads Claude Marbleu (White) 16 to 15. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



For many players, the priority would be to safe up the outfield blot (17/11, 7/5) so

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

match at Novi and your contention that investor (e.g. Calcutta buyers') interests should enter into such decisions, I would like you and all POINT readers to understand that I unilaterally abide by "Legal Moves" whenever I play any form of backgammon. Anyone who shows interest in investing in my Calcutta team would be wise to reduce the team's value accordingly.—Chuck Bower, Bloomington, Indiana

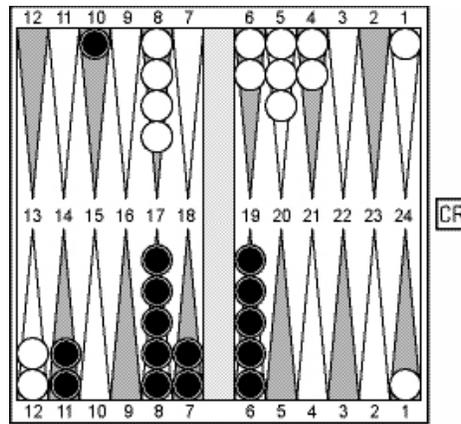
T-SHIRT COMPLAINT

I've been meaning to tell you, but keep forgetting. I wanted to comment on the 2006 Midwest Champs free T-shirt. I really like the art work with the Pirate and all. I think it might be my favorite of all time. However, what on earth possessed you to put that colorful image on the back, instead of the front . . . and with a pocket no less? Now, every time I wear it (and I just started to a couple of weeks ago), I feel that

it couldn't be hit with a direct shot. Arild is a methodical player, not prone to blunders and careless, hasty plays. He found a more valuable play (6/4(2), 17/13), building another inside point to extend his prime. Arild felt that leaving the blot exposed to another attack was worth the risk.

While this position in itself is unremarkable, the checker play options make it interesting. Frequently, a player has the option of building an inner board point that extends a prime or the option of making a constructive play somewhere else on the board. Look at a few positions from Jackpot matches recorded at a Nevada Pro-Am Backgammon Tournament. Judge if you think these experts played correctly.

Pos. 2. 11-point match. Ray Foglerlund (Black) leads Herb Gurland (White) 10 to 8 (Crawford). **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



I should walk down the street backwards so that passersby can admire it.

How do you expect a man to walk around puffy-chested, proud to proclaim his association with our glorious game, when the artwork is relegated to his backside? When I put it on, I feel I might as well be wearing a plain, boring, solid-white T-shirt.—Herb Roman, Chicago, Illinois

This year's Feb. 29–Mar. 2 MBC souvenir cowboy T-shirt (artwork by Ken Bowser) will be on the frontside.—Ed.

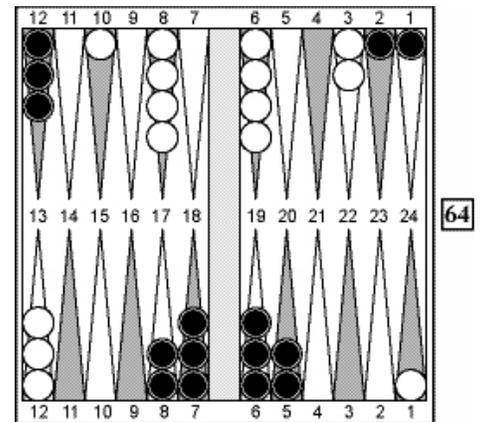
CUBE HISTORY

I wanted to commend you on your investigation into the the doubling cube last month. There are many articles on how to play positions; it's nice to read one about the history of our game.—Malcolm Davis, Dallas, Texas

Readers are encouraged to improve on the ongoing doubling cube investigation. Go to www.chicagopoint.com/doubling.html for the full article with clear photographs.—Ed. Δ

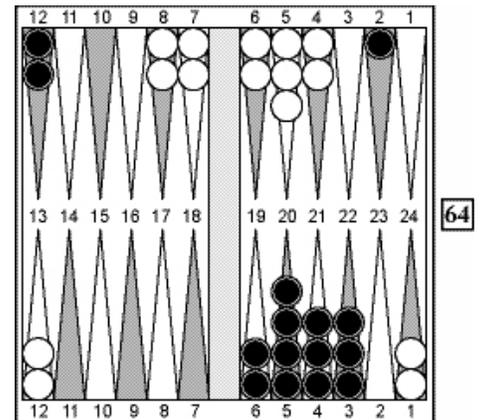
Ray's position is similar to Arild's. He could run the outfield blot to safety or he could build the 5-point. Ray made his 5-point.

Pos. 3. 11-point match. Herb Gurland (Black) leads Fred Kalantari (White) 7 to 2. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



Herb could build his 4-point or, on the other side of the board, anchor on his opponent's 4-point. Herb chose to anchor.

Pos. 4. 15-point match. Steve Brown (Black) leads Frank Talbot (White) 8 to 4. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



Steve could build a 5-point board or use the ace to come up to the edge of his opponent's 5-prime. Steve built his 2-point.

In these four positions, the computer rollouts showed the best play was to build the inner board point, extending the prime. The optional running and anchoring plays didn't measure up. Can you extrapolate or generalize from just these four examples? Of course not. But I will:

If you have two options and one of them extends a prime deeper into you home board, then choose that checker play.

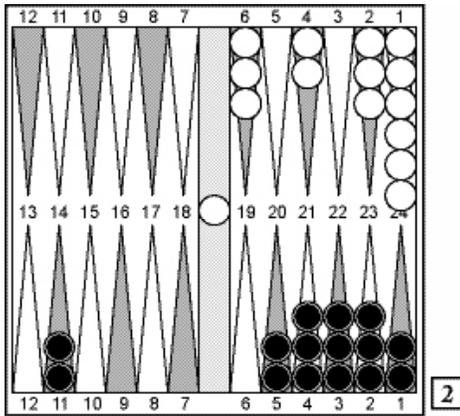
The other option may be superior, but it'd better be *really* exceptional to reject building another home board point.—Duane Jensen Δ

COLORADO...

[Continued from page 1]

Then the game turned around:

13-point Colorado State finals. Richard Munitz (Black) leads Neil Kazaross (White) 3 to 1. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

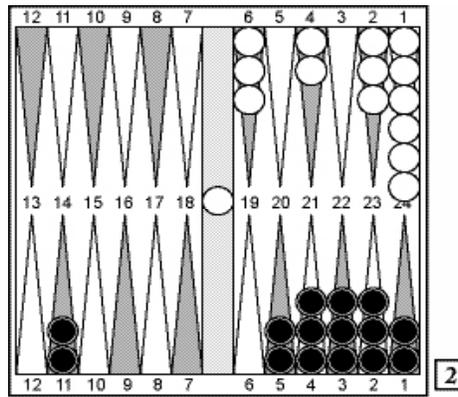


Richard correctly recubed and Neil took. The quick 3-ply Snowie analysis rates Neil's take as a toss-up. But a full 720 roll-out (3-ply, precise) yields the correct result: easy take. Neil wins 24% of these games—plenty when one lucky sequence can result in an 8-cube going Richard's way. But Neil

didn't get lucky and Richard's 7-1 lead would prove to be insurmountable.

An interesting checker play occurred in the eighth game:

13-point Colorado State finals. Richard Munitz (Black) leads Neil Kazaross (White) 10 to 4. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



You're holding a 2-cube and have a big lead. Do you split your outfielders and give some fly-shots, or do you play safe? Richard pondered the decision for over a minute before settling on his eventual choice: 11/9, 11/10. Ray Fogelrund saw the position and was asked about Richard's eventual choice. He responded, "If Richard made that play,

it's probably correct." In fact it is correct, albeit by a tiny margin. 11,520 full Snowie rollouts (3-ply, precise) put Richard's double blot play just ahead of 11/8 and .018 in front of the "no-blot" 4/1.

Neil danced. Now should Richard recube to 4? It's scary because if Neil takes, he'll immediately reshuffle to 8. But rollouts show the recube to be correct by .080. Neil wins only 7.5% from here so he basically has an optional drop/take. Richard played conservatively, doubling at a later stage and instead of winning the match here, he won 13-4 it in the next game.

The win vaulted Richard 0.39 points ahead of Ray Fogelrund with only four ABT event's remaining. Nobody has ever won the American Backgammon Tour twice in a row. Could this be an historic year?



Advanced champ Dave Settles (L) with director Lynda Clay and finalist Dan Pelton.

BEZMA SENSORBOARD DEMOED AT BAR POINT CLUB



Board games promoter Serge Bondar visited the Bar Point Club in September promoting the Bezma Sensorboard™. The board, developed by Dr. Jakob Garal of the Ukraine (now living in Germany), uses electronic sensors to record moves directly into the computer. It could be used to transmit important live backgammon matches right over the Internet in real time. The Bezma Sensorboard™ costs approximately \$2,000. Thus far, two have been sold in the United States and five in Europe. Δ

In other events, Malcolm Davis (TX) captured another Masters title besting Bob Glass (CA) and Petko Kostadinov (SC) in the three-way battle. Dave Settles (IL) scored ABT points in his third event of the year, this time winning the Advanced division, and Colorado's Andrew Mair took home the Novice trophy.

With a hardworking staff and a pleasant location, watch for this event to grow in 2008. Complete results: Δ

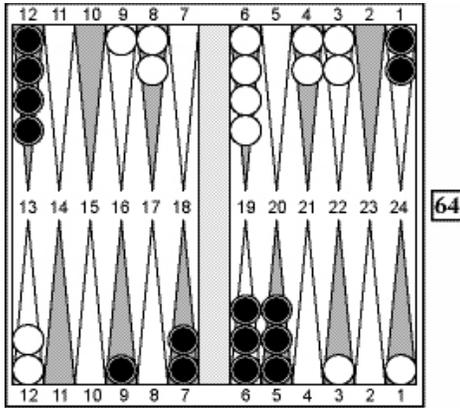
COLORADO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (32): 1-Richard Munitz (NY), 2-Neil Kazaross (IL); 1C-Charlie Raichle (CO), 2C-Bill Davis (IL); 1LC-Greg Kurrell (CO). ADVANCED (18): 1-Dave Settles (IL), 2-Dan Pelton (AZ); 1C-Mark Stone (CO); 1LC-Tammi Cohen (CO). NOVICE (4): 1-Andrew Mair (CO). CONTINENTAL DIVIDE (12): 1-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2/3-Petko Kostadinov (SC) / Bob Glass (CA). ROYAL GORGE (16): 1-Stacy Turner (GA), 2-Joseph Jemal (NJ). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Greg Kurrell (CO) & Jonah Seewald (CO), 2-Carston Clay (CO) & Petko Kostadinov (SC). QUICKIE KNOCKOUT (64): 1-Bart Brooks (Canada), 2-Gregg Cattanach (GA). BLITZ TOURNAMENT (32): 1-Stacy Turner (GA). HOSPITALITY BLITZ (8): 1-Bill Davis (IL).

PROBLEM #330 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

5-point match. Black trails White, 2 to 3.
BLACK TO PLAY 6-6.



Black has just rolled a great number which gives him the advantage. He is behind 3-away, 2-away in the match, so his doubling point and White's take point are lower than usual. Black may not need to completely crush White this roll. Black merely needs to lock in a solid advantage so he will have an efficient cube.

If Black is making the defensive bar point, his two logical choices appear to be 24/18(2), 13/7, 9/3* and 24/18(2), 7/1(2)*. Let's examine these two plays.

If Black hits loose on the 3-point, White hits back with any 3, 1-1, 2-2, 4-2, 2-1. That's 17 rolls. Getting hit is very serious, since White does have a strong board. Non-hitting rolls are pretty poor for White, and with the exception of 4-4 which would nicely play B/16, she would probably have to pass a cube at this match score. If White should flunk, Black could play on for a gammon. Thus, Black will be claiming the game (or better) on 18 rolls, but on 17 of

the other 18 he is on the bar and in trouble.

If Black plays 24/18(2), 7/1(2)*, White hits back with 2-6, 3-6, 4-6, and 4-5 (8 rolls). In addition, White makes an advanced anchor with 5-3, 4-3, 4-1, 3-2, 3-1, 2-1 and 3-3 (13 rolls). Again, 4-4 plays nicely for White. On 2-4, 2-5, or 2-2 White would be in trouble and I believe have to pass a cube. If White flunks, Black can play on for a gammon. With this move Black can claim the game (or better) on 14 rolls, but he gets hit only eight times instead of 17 times. Getting hit is big. I believe that is sufficient enough to go with making the ace point.

If Black doesn't make the advanced anchor, he will be hitting twice. The two choices are 24/18, 9/3*, 7/1(2)* and 13/1*, 7/1, 9/3*. Between these, 13/7 looks right for the fourth 6. If White doesn't hit back, Black will be attacking hard (assuming it hasn't gone double/pass), and every bit of ammunition is important. Black should have time to escape his back checkers later. If White does hit back, Black will be pretty nervous with blots on both White's bar point and White's ace point.

Let's suppose Black plays 13/1*, 7/1, 9/3*. White hits back with all 3s. In addition, White anchors with 2-2 and 4-4. In any of these variations, Black will be a clear underdog. He will have at least two checkers back, and will be stuck with his ace point made with White having the stronger board. On other rolls, Black is in good shape. I'm pretty sure White can take a cube if she rolls 4-2 even at the match score—her winning chances would just be too good. If White enters with one checker and doesn't hit, she would probably have to unhappily pass a cube—it would be an easy take for money, but at this match score with such a high gammon percentage, I think White would have to let it go. If White fails to enter either checker, Black can probably afford to play on for a gammon.

In all the good variations where White flunks, it isn't clear which way Black is better off. Having two of White's checkers on the bar and threatening to make the fourth inner board point is big, of course. However, having those back checkers anchored on White's bar point and threatening to hit White's other blot is big also. In both cases Black will likely be good enough to play on for a gammon; but unless things go very well, he'll probably wind up cashing soon. Let's call these variations about equal.

If Black double-hits and White hits back, Black is in big trouble. His blitz will likely be busted, and he will have to extricate three back checkers. In contrast, if Black plays 24/18(2), 7/1(2)* and White hits the indirect shot, Black is definitely alive and kicking. He has the advanced anchor to fall back on, so he doesn't have to worry about being stuck with a made ace point in a priming battle. White will have the advantage, but it won't be overwhelming. If White just anchors, then it is anybody's ball game.

What it appears to come down to is that if Black double-hits, he can claim the game more often—any time White doesn't hit back or enter both men. That comes to 21 rolls. If Black makes the defensive anchor he can claim the game unless White hits back or anchors—only 14 rolls. However, when things go badly they are a lot worse when Black hasn't made the anchor. For this reason, I believe that 24/18(2), 7/1(2)* is the best play.

When faced with a choice of plays which are thematically much different, it is often worthwhile to examine the classes of possible return rolls and estimate the effects of these rolls. My conclusions about this position may not be correct if some of my estimates are off. That is not important. It is the methodology which matters.—*Kit Woolsey* Δ



The event that decides the 2007 ABT.

2007 CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov. 30–Dec. 2, 2007

Boulevard Masonic Center
Tarzana, California

Patrick Gibson: (818) 901-0464

Invitation: www.chicagopoint.com/ca2007.pdf

WINNER'S CIRCLE



AUG.-OCT. 2007

•**Backgammon By the Bay** (Cupertino, CA; 25 Aug.)... OPEN (9): 1-David Levy, 2-Jenann Nakamura; 1C-Ken Bame.

•**16th Mitteleuropa Championship & 20th Italian Championship** (Nova Gorica, Slovenia; 31 Aug.-2 Sep.)... MASTER FLIGHT (30): 1-Christos Groutsos (GRE), 2-Claus Weissbarth (GER), 3/4-Peter Bennet (ENG) / Nino Di Bella (ITA); 1C-Walter Jarc (CAN/SPA), 2C-Federico Toledo (ITA), 3C/4C-Andrea Riebler (AUS) / Werner Schmuck (AUS); 1LC-Ricardo Malas (LEB/SPA), 2LC-Jakob Garal (UKR/GER). Ladies Prize: Andrea Riebler (AUS). CHAMPION FLIGHT (36): 1-Vicenzo Di Clemente (ITA), 2-Riccardo Percacciolo (ITA), 3/4-Thomas Leitner (AUS) / Giuseppe Ricciardi (ITA); 1C-Alfredo Maccallini (ITA), 2C-Roberto Piccioni (ITA); 1LC-Marco Tamigi (ITA), 2LC-Yannis Vallianos (GRE). Ladies Prize: Laura Monaco (ITA). INTERMEDIATE (36): 1-Massimo Trovò (ITA), 2-Maria Grigis (ITA), 3/4-Fabio Gergolet (ITA) /

Vittorio Molé (ITA); 1C-Charilaos Ladis (GRE), 2C-Andrea Marfori (ITA); 1LC-Alessandro Stradiotti (ITA), 2LC-Adriana Del Fabbro (ITA). Ladies Prize: Maria Grigis (ITA). LADIES TOURNEY (8): 1-Laura Monaco (ITA), 2-Meltem Gücer (TUR). HEINER HAUSSLEITER MEMORIAL (53): 1-Walter Jarc (CAN/SPA), 2-Roland Klein (GER). ONE-POINT TORNEO DEL PRES. #1 (64): 1-Federico Toledo (ITA). #2 (64): 1-Adriana Del Fabbro (ITA). SPERTI TROPHY (58): 1-Silvina Curros (ARG), 2-Adam Prager (ISR). 20th ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP - Master: Nino Di Bella. Champion: Vicenzo Di Clemente. Intermediate: Massimo Trovò.

•**Arizona Club Monthly** (Phoenix, AZ; 3 Sep.)... OPEN (6): 1-Pete Campbell, 2-Michael Ramsey, 3-Proctor Ritchie.

•**PGT-Partouchegammon Tour 2007 Grand Finale & Divonne Open PGT 2008** (Divonnelles-Bains, France; 6-9 Sep.)... PARTOUCHEGAMMON TOUR 2007 GRAND FINALE (29): 1-Götz Hildsberg (GER), 2-Morten Holm (DEN), 3/4-Thierry Manouck (FRA) / Chris Ternel (ENG). DIVONNE OPEN PGT 2008 (39): 1-Zoran Maric (BOS/FRA), 2-Morten Holm (DEN), 3/4-Alain Babillon (FRA) / Andreas Humke (GER); 1C-François Tardieu (FRA), 2C-Frank Brinkmann

(GER), 3C/4C-Emmanuel Pantin de la Guère (FRA) / David Todd (USA); 1LC-Mario Sequeira (POR), 2LC-Miki Suzuki (FRA). 7

•**Kansas City Club Monthly** (Kansas City, MO; 8 Sep.)... OPEN (6): 1-Kathleen Davis.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 9 Sep.)... OPEN (8): 1-Adrian Golde, 2-Neal Rosensweig.

•**Ohio State Club Monthly** (Akron, OH; 9 Sep.)... OPEN: 1-Mike Hendrickson, 2-Mike Vasilatos.

•**Phoenix Backgammon Club—USBL** (Glendale, AZ; 15 Sep.)... OPEN: 1-Dan Pelton.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 30 Sep.)... OPEN: 1-Walter Trice, 2-John Leonard, 3/4-Dan Chicoine / Eric Wicklund; 1C-Herb Gurland, 2C-Gil Evans.

•**Arizona Club Monthly** (Phoenix, AZ; 1 Oct.)... OPEN (11): 1-Dan Pelton, 2-Michael Ramsey, 3-Pete Campbell.

•**Kansas City Club Monthly** (Kansas City, MO; 3 Oct.)... OPEN (7): 1-Kathleen Davis.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 7 Oct.)... OPEN (23): 1/2-Bill Bartholomay / Albert Yakobashvili, 3/4-Rory Pascar / Peter Kalba; 1C/2C-Mike Wolock / Tak Morioka. INTERMEDIATE (4): 1-Les Moshinsky, 2-Elaine Kehm. Δ

AMALGAMATION

Our condolences to **John Jennings** (IL) on the sudden loss of his brother **Mark "Sarg" Jennings**. Mark, a 23-year Army veteran, died in a bicycle accident 30 September in Springfield. He was 48... Visiting the Bar Point Club in September: **Sal Pittelli** (Canada) and **Joe Freedman** (VA)... **Michael Flohr** (309/662-7967) has moved his Tuesday night Bloomington/Normal Club to Los Potrillos in Normal, Illinois... **Gregg Cattanach** (GA) informs us of a new backgammon club open in the Atlanta area: Northside Backgammon Club. For info, visit www.northsidebg.org... "Backgammon & Poker On Board IX" will sail the Caribbean 18-25 January 2009. Although still 15 months away, start thinking about joining us for fun on the high seas. Contact **Sue Will** (IL) at the Travel Consultants (309/699-6005) for more information... The Kansas City Club is now playing at the Westport Flea Market. **Eric Barr** has the info at www.kcbackgammon.com... We wish Ohio State director **Joe Miller** a speedy recovery following back surgery... Condolences to the family of Californian **Paul Dingwell**, a long time POINT subscriber who died last month at the age of 49... **Orrill Martin**, backgammon promoter of the early 1980s died of cancer a few months ago in Clearwater, Florida. Mr. Martin, director of the American Backgammon Association, staged a number of events between 1979 and 1981 culminating in the \$100,000 US Gold Cup in Washington DC in March 1981. That event, won

by poker great **Dan Harrington**, was Martin's last as financial difficulties ended his BG career... The March 1990 "US Backgammon Rules" are getting polished. Look for a new version to begin the 2008 ABT calendar season... On 20 September at Woodbine Race Track in Toronto, Canada, "Backgammon" won the second race. We're told he has a good running game... Last month's President's Cup golf match pitted a US Team against a non-European Team. Commentating on match play, NBC golf analyst **Roger Maltbie** said, "It's almost like playing backgammon with the doubling cube."... **Chris Bray's** (UK) newest book is being printed under the title, Backgammon For Blood. Don't confuse it with **Bruce Becker's** 1974 fiasco. This is simply a new title for Chris's very well written Backgammon To Win (2007)... **Maurice Barie** (MI) has two pieces of backgammon artwork for sale: Eradicate BG Bonfire A.D. 1547 and Japanese Ban-Sugoroku.



Maurice Barie is selling these two art pieces (Eradicate BG Bonfire, and Japanese Ban-Sugoroku). Approx. cost: \$80 w/frame.

The cost of each print is between \$70 and \$90 framed. For information, contact Maurice at 248/543-8199... Could there finally be a US Open Championship in backgammon's future? We should know very soon... **Phil Laak** and **Ali Eslami** won a Man vs. Machine poker challenge in July. Laak and his partner edged the poker program Polaris in a four session challenge... **Roland Dieter** (IL) found this gem: "Those who have knowledge, don't predict. Those who predict, don't have knowledge."—**Lao Tzu**, 6th Century BC Chinese Poet. 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

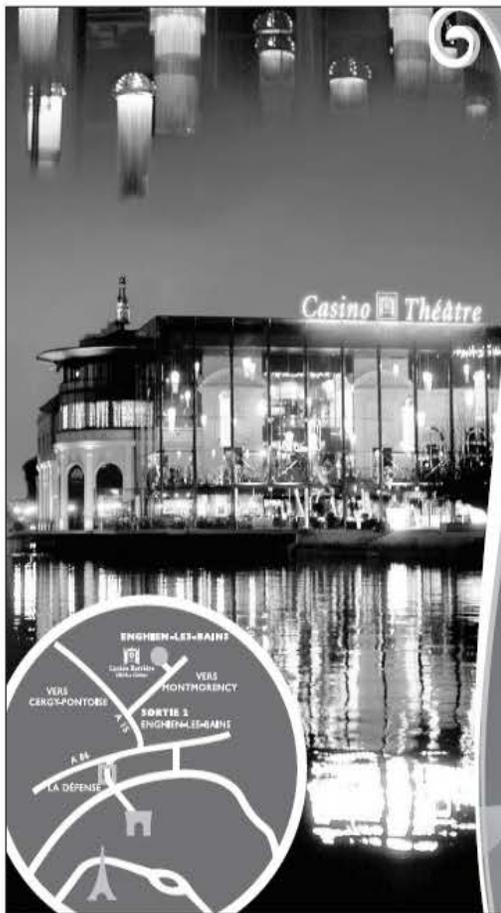
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Los Potrillos, 201 Landmark Drive, Normal. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

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).



3rd
European Backgammon
Doubles
Championships
 5th
French Open
d' Enghien-les-Bains



30TH OCT. – 4TH NOV. 2007

TOTAL ADDED PRIZE

UP TO **50.000 €**

LAST YEAR'S TOTAL PAYOUT 220.000 €



www.world-backgammon-association.com
info@world-backgammon-association.com



19th city of venice
 & 1st double davis european championship
 international backgammon tournament

29th november > 2nd december 2007

you can't miss

- you play in an historical palace on the canal grande in venice city center
- € 10,000 added prize money • a lot of benefits for the players

thursday, 29th november
 registrations / jackpot programme
 quarter entries: champion & immediate
 Trofeo Casino di Venezia (kick off)
 double davis european championship
 superjackpot

saturday, 1st december
 progressive consolation
 tournament on tables
 superjackpot
 swing tournament

friday, 30th november
 registrations
 playoff circuito nazionale di backgammon
 quarter entries: double & kick off contest
 public draw
 tournaments start

sunday, 2nd december
 est. chance
 finals
 prize-giving & cocktails

info www.studiogiochi.com