

24th nevada state tournament—abt

GIOVANIS WINS THIRD MAJOR NEVADA TITLE

Nack And I Battle In The Super JP
By John O'Hagan

The 24th annual Nevada State Tournament was held April 16–20, once again at the top of the Riviera in Las Vegas. Co-directors Howard Markowitz and Lynn Ehrlich and their experienced tournament staff did another fine job directing the action. The ABT tourney included two new events: The Open Jackpot and the US Team Championship. The main events in all three divisions also used a new grid which featured not only a progressive consolation but a progressive last chance as well. Despite all of this, turnout was down a bit with 61 players in the Championship, 69 in the Intermediate, and 15 in the beginners.

CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

The big Championship winner was Drew Giovanis (NV). Drew defeated 1989 World Champion Joe Russell (CA) in the finals 17–14. Congrats to Drew on his third big victory in the state of Nevada. He had won previously in 1990 (Caesars Lake Tahoe) and 1992 (Las Vegas Open).

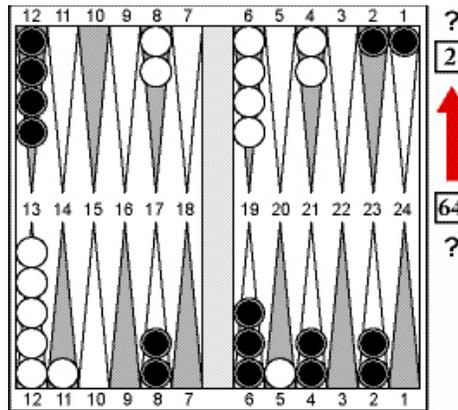


Champ winner Drew Giovanis with runner-up Joe Russell. [Photos by Carol Joy Cole]

Drew's path to the finals included defeating 1994 World Champion Frank Frigo (KY) after spotting him a 13–6/15 lead. These are the kind of breaks you need to win a big tournament like Las Vegas, and Giovanis took full advantage.

In the 17-point final, Joe Russell jumped off to a 9–1 lead, but Drew again rallied to tie it at 11–all. The score saw-sawed back and forth a bit until this:

POS. #1. 17-point Champ finals. Joe Russell (White) leads Drew Giovanis (Black) 14–13. **BLACK ON ROLL. CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Giovanis correctly doubled here and Joe had a close take. Drew then rolled a 6-2 (13/11*/5*), Joe danced with both and never moved again losing a gammon and the match.

IN OTHER RESULTS . . .

Jonah Seewald (CO) won the Intermediate title over Jeff Whitelaw (NV), while Richard Wisniewski (CA) captured the Beginner event over Josh Racko (CA). Stacy Turner (GA) beat Collin Harris (TX) to win the Limited Jackpot and Bill Riles (TX) defeated Raul Carregha (Mexico) to win the \$400 Open Jackpot. In the Doubles Event, it was Rob Rosetti (CA) & Gary Schachtschneider (MN) over Hsiao-Yee & Nack Ballard (CA).

12 teams competed in the 1st US Team Championship for prize money with watches generously donated by Alan Grunwald (NJ). The local Vegas team of Howard Markowitz, Hugh Sconyers, & Peter Wagner were the winners over Frank Ley (CA), Lynn Lusk (CO), & Don Thompson (Japan).

SUPER JACKPOT

I entered the Super Jackpot prepared to face many of the top players in America:

Ballard, Woolsey, Sax, Corbett, Russell, Malcolm, Sconyers, Robertie, O'Laughlin, Munitz, Fogelund, Giovanis, Glass, and so on. There were very few easy draws.

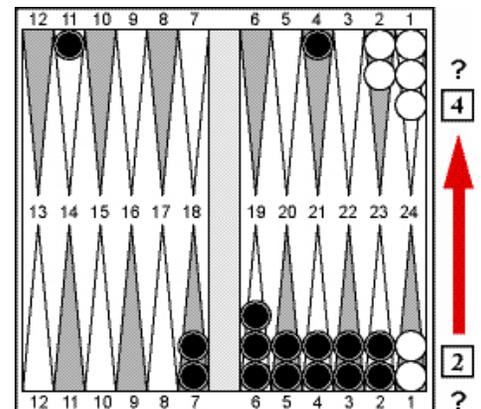


Super Jackpot winner John O'Hagan.

I was fortunate enough to win this event over Nack Ballard, the recently-voted #2 "Giant of Backgammon." Much like Giovanis in the main event, I needed some luck to even get to the finals. My big break came in the semifinals against the extremely strong Richard Munitz (NY). At DMP, I hit a lucky deuce shot to advance to the finals.

The 15-point final between Nack and I was not recorded so I'll describe the match in general terms along with a couple of positions from memory:

POS. #2. 15-point Super JP finals. John O'Hagan (Black) and Nack Ballard tied at 2-all. Black on roll. **RECUBE ACTION(S)?**



I redoubled here for a couple of reasons:
1. It's a close double/no double decision but I thought there was a good chance of getting

[Continued on page 4]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS



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CONGRATULATIONS FROM ARIZONA

Congratulations on publishing your 200th issue of CHICAGO POINT. Reaching such a milestone shows your true love of the game and its players.—*Dan Pelton, director, Arizona Backgammon Club*

HOW MANY PLAY BACKGAMMON?

I am doing some research and wonder if you can estimate how many people play backgammon in leagues, clubs and major events in the US and the World? I am not having any luck finding this information in any articles in print or online.—*Eric Levine, via e-mail*

Excluding online play and only considering live events, we will guess 2000 people play annually at a tournament or local club in the United States. A world estimate is harder, but a good guess would be more than 10,000.—Ed.

[Continued on page 6]

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.

May 10	New England Bonus, Docksider Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	781/324-0892
May 10*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
May 11	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
May 15*	Third Thursday Bonus (Chicago Open), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
May 18*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly, Cavendish Bridge Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
May 18*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
May 23-26	<u>28th Chicago Open, Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, Illinois</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
May 25*	Colorado Monthly, Bennigan's Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
May 31*	Austin Club Bimonthly, Doubletree Hotel Lounge, Austin, Texas	512/251-3719
Jun 1	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jun 1*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jun 2*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/296-4307
Jun 2*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Jun 6-8	<u>Los Angeles Open, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Jun 8*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jun 8*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jun 8*	New England Monthly & Playoffs, Docksider Restaurant, Malden, MA	781/324-0892
Jun 14*	Anti-Cruelty Society Invitational, Ambassador East Hotel, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jun 14*	Southwest Ohio Summer Solsitce Tournament, Peter's, West Chester, Ohio	513/777-7862
Jun 14*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Jun 19*	Third Thursday Bonus (Florida State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jun 29*	Colorado Monthly, Bennigan's Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Jun 29*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly, Cavendish Bridge Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Jul 2*	Michigan Summer Warm-Up, Sheraton Hotel, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 3-6	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi, Novi, Michigan</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 7*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/296-4307
Jul 7*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Jul 12*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Jul 25-27	<u>Minnesota Open, Marriott Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota</u>	<u>612/718-2613</u>
Aug 1-3	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	<u>585/752-5393</u>
Aug 3*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 15-17	<u>Florida State Championship, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Aug 29-Sep 2	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	<u>608/516-9109</u>
Sep 26-28	<u>Colorado State Championships, Holiday Inn, Denver, Colorado</u>	<u>303/791-0271</u>
Oct 10-12	<u>Illinois State Championships, Ramada Hotel, Peoria, Illinois</u>	<u>847/845-3579</u>
Oct 17-19	<u>Mid-Atlantic Championships, Days Inn, Timonium, Maryland</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Nov 12-16	<u>Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
Dec 5-7	<u>California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Jan 18-25	BackgammonPoker On Board, Princess Cruise, Ft. Lauderdale to Caribbean	773/583-6464

OUTSIDE USA

May 9-12	13th Kaiserbrunnen-Cup, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-486190
May 10-11*	Greek Monthly Tournament, Bridge Club, Athens, Greece	306973-990985
May 14-18	20th WBF European Championship & 7th Velden Open, Velden, Austria	390331-923537
May 16-18	NetGammon's Montreal Open, Hotel Novotel, Montreal, Quebec, Canada	661/618-9940
May 16-18	4th Oulu Open 2008, Holiday Club Hotel/Spa Eden, Oulu, Finland	358456-760512
May 29-Jun 1	PGT: Eden Tournament, Eden Casino, Juan-les-Pins, France	331-47645938
May 30-Jun 1	Austrian Masters Finale, Cafe Heine, Vienna, Austria	436642-127412
Jun 5-8	2nd Braunlage-Harz-Cup, Hotel Hohenzollern, Braunlage, Germany	49521-64314
Jun 6-8	Barceló English Open, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Jun 6-8*	Strawberry Hill High Stakes Tournament, Irishtown, Jamaica	876/999-0471
Jun 19-22	PGT: Forges Gammon Challenge, Grand Casino, Forges-les-Eaux, France	331-47645938
Jun 19-26	7th Zakynthos Festival of BG & Poker, Peligoni Club, Zakynthos, Greece	447946-801801
Jun 20-22*	Córdoba Open, Restaurant Arcadia, Córdoba, Argentina	543514-522885
Jul 4-6	Keren Di Bona Memorial, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Jul 6-15*	33rd World Championship, Fairmont Hotel, Monte-Carlo, Monaco	USA: 212/222-7177
Jul 15-20*	WSOB/PGT: Nations Cup & Riviera 6, Palm Beach Casino, Cannes, France	331-47645938
Jul 19-20*	13th Liverpool Open, Liverpool Bridge Club, Liverpool, England	447931-553829
Jul 21*	WSOB: Championship Finale, Palm Beach, Cannes, France	3314764-5938
Jul 31-Aug 5*	EBGT: Gogi Bukia Memorial & Georgian Open, Tiflis, Tbilisi, Georgia	491715-422222
Aug 1-3*	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Aug 7-10*	2nd Casino-Cup, Casino Kleinwalsertal, Riezlern near Oberstdorf, Austria	49711-486190
Aug 8-10*	Pohojanmaa Open, Backgammon Suomi, Alavus, Finland	3540-5789579
Aug 23-24*	Newcastle Open, Kotara Bowling Club, Kotara, NSW, Australia	612-49469222

STEVE HAST RETIRES FROM PITTSBURGH CHAMPIONSHIPS

After 18 years, Steve Hast will no longer direct the Pittsburgh Championships. CHICAGO POINT spoke to him last month and this is what he had to say about his "retirement."—Ed.

I started playing competitive backgammon in 1988 after a head-on auto collision in South Carolina in the summer of 1987. Having broken nearly every bone in my body from the waist down, I was not able to continue

playing competitive softball or racquetball. But I still craved competition and was the best backgammon player among my lunchtime office group for five years. So I explored the backgammon scene in the outside world and discovered the Pittsburgh Backgammon Club.

At the time, Rich Catalano was the director of the annual Pittsburgh tournament. In the late 1980s, he began having trouble finding enough time to properly run the event. Attendance in 1988 was around 80, but fell to 37 in 1990. Then in 1991, I agreed to take over. The Pittsburgh Championships reached

a zenith of 194 main event players in 2006 making it the fourth best-attended backgammon tournament in the world.

When I contracted with the Marriott Hotel in 1991, I wanted to be able to offer coffee, soft drinks, pizza, and munchies for the weekend. I had learned from participating in bowling tournaments that after the event, you didn't remember the bowling . . . but you did remember the hospitality. We would grade those weekends on hospitality more than the bowling. This taught me that psychologically, the quickest way to planting positive thoughts into player's brain is through his stomach. So I started providing hospitality at a value price.

I will remain involved with the tournament as an advisor for several years. Effective immediately, Rob Maier, who has been on staff both at Pittsburgh and Indiana tournaments, will take over as the new director. He will be assisted by another Pittsburgh tournament regular: Jeff Sutker.

Tournament dates for next year are set: February 20–22, 2009. We are avoiding President's Day weekend in 2009 because Valentine's Day falls on that Saturday. But our intention is to return to President's Day weekend beginning in 2010.

In the future, I'll play in tournaments whenever possible and help Rob continue the great tradition of the Pittsburgh Championships. Additionally, I am making myself available as an advisor to tournament directors if they want to improve their event. For the next six years, a lot of my participation will depend on work and my sons' college costs. Thanks to all of you who have supported my efforts in the past. This is not "good bye;" it's simply the beginning of a new backgammon chapter in my life.—Steve Hast Δ

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2008

Compiled through 4 May 2008 after 7 tournaments
(Upcoming events: Chicago Open, Los Angeles Open, Michigan)

Bob Koca	23.33	Rose Sheedy	6.89	Scott Casty	3.44	Tom Rebelo	2.05
Mike Senkiewicz	22.33	Owen Black	6.20	Bob Pietras	3.33	Charles Toots	2.05
Ray Glaeser	21.33	Vadim Musaeayan	6.00	Beth Raby	3.10	Judy Field	1.72
Jon Vietor	18.67	Joe Freedman	6.00	Joseph Jemal	3.10	Chris Scott	1.67
Drew Giovanis	18.07	Steve Hast	6.00	Stuart Thomson	3.00	Roy Cohen	1.67
Jeff Acierno	15.84	Robert Lessard	6.00	Malcolm Robertson	3.00	Ben Elliott	1.55
Michael Edge	13.67	Alan Gold	5.71	Neil Kazaross	3.00	Evan Etter	1.55
Carol Joy Cole	12.00	Antonio Ortega	5.58	Tami Jones	2.86	Josh Racko	1.54
Antoinette Williams	12.00	Neil Deutsch	5.58	Harold Roberson	2.67	Richard Wisniewski	1.43
John O'Hagan	11.17	Rick Barabino	5.58	Lynda Clay	2.67	Ryan Hast	1.38
Matt Reklaitis	10.76	Les Moshinsky	5.33	Mark Donaldson	2.67	Julius High	1.32
Tak Morioka	10.67	Eric Barr	5.33	Peggy Neubig	2.67	Alan Epstein	1.30
Greg Merriman	10.67	Larry Liebster	5.33	Lynn Ehrlich	2.64	Bob Weigel	1.30
Barry Miller	10.67	Herb Roman	5.33	Gary Fishman	2.64	Karl Pearson	1.28
Jolie Rubin	10.56	Bruce Ballance	5.28	Arthur Sutton	2.64	Bob Sahagian	1.28
Jonah Seewald	10.22	Jeff Whitlaw	5.11	Jesse Eaton	2.64	Raul Carregha	1.28
Kit Woolsey	9.85	Karsten Busch	5.11	Neal Rosensweig	2.60	Josh Rechnitz	1.25
Ray Fogerlund	9.33	Dana Nazarian	4.67	Kate Elmore	2.60	Joan Grunwald	1.11
Dave Settles	9.30	Howard Markowitz	4.67	Frank Ley	2.56	Kim Messina	1.06
Joe Russell	9.04	Ed Bennett	4.52	Kamyar Hosseinian	2.56	Lyle Rubin	1.06
Justin Nunez	9.04	Jona Alexander	4.52	Dennis Rutkowski	2.56	Alan Lawrence	1.00
David Rubin	9.00	Justin Bor	4.52	Carsten Muecheberg	2.56	Jacqueline Singleton	0.71
Chris Knapp	8.72	Ed O'Laughlin	4.50	Gary Schachtschneider	2.26	Charlene Britton	0.69
Reggie Proulx	8.20	Bill Davis	4.50	Petko Kostadinov	2.26	Andrew Vallo	0.69
Stepan Nuniyants	7.84	Milton Gonzalez	4.10	Susie Hathaway	2.13	Camille Lawrence	0.50

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2008 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED THRU 30 APRIL

David Rockwell	12.16	Jacob Moreno	4.08	Ken Bond	1.68	Dan Weymouth	0.72
Rory Pascar	10.82	Michael Ginat	4.08	Bill Keefe	1.44	Wendy Kaplan	0.60
Herb Roman	10.68	Mike Sutton	3.84	Mike Pufpaf	1.40	Henry Gray	0.60
Nora Luna Righter	8.40	Adrian Rios	3.36	Albert Yakobashvili	1.36	Linda Rockwell	0.56
Phil Simborg	8.36	Richard Stawowy	3.36	Roger Hickman	1.28	Lucky Nelson	0.56
Bob Zavoral	7.82	Alex Owen	3.12	Mike Wolock	1.20	Sherry Nelson	0.56
Steve Klesker	5.24	Carter Mattig	2.82	Nicole Tibbs	1.12	Bill Gradl	0.56
Bill Davis	5.16	Georgina Flanagan	2.48	Tom Machaj	1.12	Elaine Kehm	0.56
Gary Kay	5.12	Wayne Wiest	2.44	Eric Johnson	1.12	Kathy Sorci	0.52
Bill Bartholomay	4.80	Alice Kay	2.16	Sargon Benjamin	1.04	Arline Levy	0.48
Tak Morioka	4.60	Jerry Brooks	2.12	Ray Lass	1.04	Mark Swanson	0.40
Royal Robinson	4.48	Scott Casty	2.04	Mary Franks	0.96	Roz Ferris	0.32
Tim Mabee	4.38	Larry Goldstein	2.00	Les Moshinsky	0.80	Dave Settles	0.24
Christopher Shanova	4.32	Ken Tibbs	1.84	Paul Baraz	0.80	Phyllis Smoliński	0.24
Oleg Raygorodsky	4.16	Bob Steen	1.76				

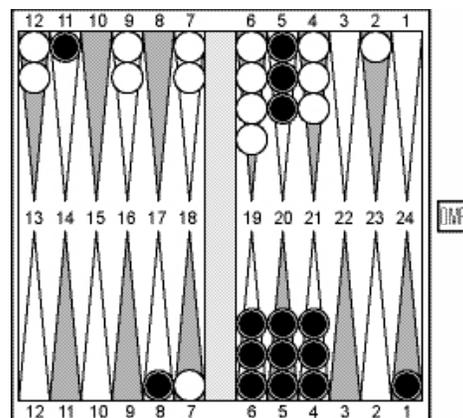
DAVID ROCKWELL is back! The 2007 BPC Player of the Year has returned to the top of the current points race earning 4.88 points. Runner's up were Christopher Shanova (3.36) and Tim Mabee (3.06).

your move

PROBLEM #336

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Tournament double match-point.
BLACK TO PLAY 3-3.



ASK DANNY

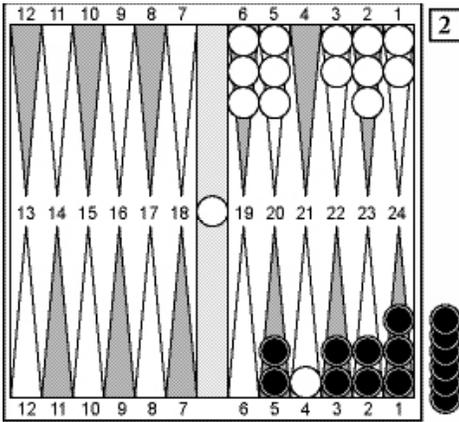


© 2008 by Danny Kleinman

HIT OR PEEL?

Dear Danny: I have been playing backgammon for only two years. Every time I go to my local backgammon club, I feel that I am donating \$10 to the better players. Last week this position came up and naturally, I didn't have a clue regarding which play to make:

7-point match. White leads Black, 5 to 4. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



There is so much going on here with regard to both checker play and the score that I couldn't even figure out where to begin. Can you give me a road map that at least shows a path to understanding what I'm up against? —Lost in the fog.

DEAR LOST: You can begin by playing the forced part of your roll, 5/Off. Then compare the two plausible aces, *hit* (5/4*) and *peel* (1/Off). Your next steps require you to count.

After you *hit*, White has 11 rolls to hit you back, four rolls that enter both men without hitting, nine dancing rolls and 12 rolls that enter one man without hitting (a total of 21 rolls that leave you with continued jeopardy). Under continued jeopardy, you have 24 blotting rolls (all rolls but aces and double-deuces). The parlay (21/36 times 24/36) has a probability of 7/18, so the 11 shots you leave next turn translate to slightly more than four shots (but these shots are less harmful than immediate shots because you have more men off).

After you *peel*, White has 15 hitting rolls (all 5s plus 4-1 and 6-1), nine dancing rolls and 12 rolls that enter without hitting. Under continued jeopardy, you have 15

blotting rolls (all rolls but aces, deuces and double-3s). The parlay (9/36 times 15/36) has a probability of 5/48, so the 11 delayed shots translate to slightly more than one shot (as after the *hitting* play, less harmful than immediate shots).

If nothing else were involved, I would find this too close to call. Though *peeling* incurs a larger danger of getting hit, the hits will be less damaging because with one fewer man left to bear off you will have a significantly greater chance of rescuing the game after White hits you and closes you out.

However, two other features of the position are involved. One is winning a (match-ending) gammon. *Hitting* increases your gammon chances slightly, not only because of the four pips you set White back but also because of the time White will lose dancing with a second man on the bar. The other is reducing White's chances of closing you out after hitting you. If you *hit*, many of White's return hits will still leave him with one man on the bar. Then, timely reentry on White's open 3-point will let you escape more easily than when he has all his numbers to play.

This swings an otherwise close decision clearly in favor of the *hitting* play, 5/Off, 5/4*. —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



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

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

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

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:00 P.M. at Ride The Nine; 503 N. Prospect Road. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Capitol Teletrack, 1766 W. Wash 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 (309/224-9579).

NEVADA...

[Continued from page 1]

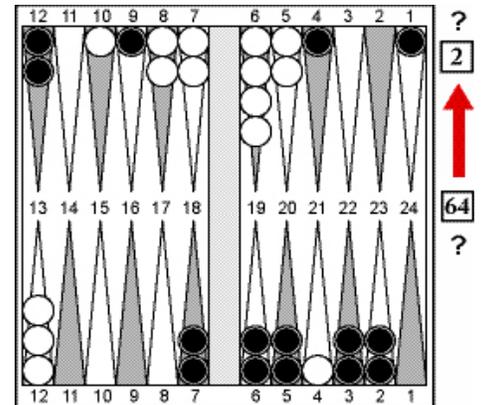
a pass from Nack who had just suffered a disheartening loss in the previous game.

2. The game play seemed pretty clear cut.

So because it's close, there's no great loss if I incorrectly redouble and he correctly takes. On the other hand, I will gain a lot if he incorrectly passes. I thought it was worth the gamble so I recubed. He thought about it for a while, and then passed. A Snowie rollout has my side winning 72% vs. Nack's 28% including 1.2% G's and BG's. Snowie says no redouble gives me 56.58% ME while R/T lowers that to 55.92%, a loss of 0.66%. R/P however gives me 58.42% ME, a gain of 1.84% over not recubing. So as a practical matter, redoubling is correct if there's a 25% or more chance of the opponent passing which I think makes this a clear double.

A few games later, this position arose:

POS. #3. 15-point Super JP finals. John O'Hagan (Black) and Nack Ballard tied at 6-all. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



I doubled and Nack took. Any 1, 3, 6, or 9 plus 2-2 hits and if he then dances, I will have lost my market. Some good sequences (like 3-3 & dance, or double-hit & dance with both) lose the market by a lot. But this really is too early. Nack has an easy take. If I hit outside and he anchors with a 4, he's probably a cubeful favorite. If I hit loose on the 4-point and he hits back, I'm a clear dog. Of my six non-hitting numbers, 5-2 and 5-5 play all right but 4-2 and 4-4 are downright bad. Also, look how loose I have to play with a 4-3. 13/9, 7/4* is pretty much forced but it leaves six (!) blots. A Snowie rollout has my side winning just 54.5% here including 29.1% G's/BG's vs. Nack's 45.5% with 11.8% G's/BG's. The double is wrong by .088 for money and costs me 0.46% ME.

But everything went my way in this game. I hit with 6-1 and he danced. I

[Continued on next page above]

hit again on my 4-point with 2-1 and he danced again. I covered and later closed the board to win a gammon and take a 10-6 lead. From there, I was able to reel in a 15-10 victory in one of the more important wins of my career.—*John O'Hagan* Δ

24TH NEVADA STATE TOURNAMENT

CHAMPIONSHIP (61+21 rebuys): 1-Drew Giovanis (NV), 2-Joe Russell (CA), 3/4-Ed Bennett (NM) / Kit Woolsey (CA); 1C-Justin Nunez (CA), 2C-Jona Alexander (CA), 3C/4C-Stepan Nuniyants (WA) / Gary Schachtschneider (MN); 1LC-Justin Bor (CA), 2LC-Petko Kostadinov (SC). INTERMEDIATE (69+29 rebuys): 1-Jonah Seewald (CO), 2-Jeff Whitelaw (NV), 3/4-Kamyar Hosseinian (CA) / Frank Ley (CA); 1C-Karsten Busch (Germany), 2C-Dennis Rutkowski (CA), 3C/4C-Karl Pearson (WA) / Bob Sahagian (NV); 1LC-Carsten Muencheberg (Germany), 2LC-Raul Carregha (Mexico). BEGINNER (15+3 rebuys): 1-Richard Wisniewski (CA), 2-Josh Racko (CA); 1C-Jacqueline Singleton (WI), 2C-Joan Grunwald (NJ); 1LC-Hsiao-Yee Ballard (CA), 2LC-Lucky Heyn (CA). SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1-John O'Hagan (IN), 2-Nack Ballard (CA). LTD. JACKPOT (16): 1-Stacy Turner (GA), 2-Collin Harris (TX). OPEN JACKPOT (16): 1-Bill Riles (TX), 2-Raul Carregha (Mexico). \$300 JACKPOT (8): 1-Nack Ballard (CA), 2-Rafael Lopez de Lara (Mexico). \$100 JACKPOT (16): 1-Doug Wilson (CA), 2-Bob Schumacher (MN). \$50 BEGINNER JACKPOT (6): 1-Josh Racko (CA), 2-Hsiao-Yee Ballard (CA). SENIORS #1 (64): 1-Doug Johnson (FL), 2-Art Moore (CA). #2 (32): 1-Marv Porten (CA), 2-Patrick Gibson (CA). DOUBLES (32): 1-Rob Rossetti (CA) & Gary Schachtschneider (MN), 2-Hsiao-Yee & Nack Ballard (CA). MINI-MATCH (32): 1-Phil Simborg (IL). US TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (12): 1-Howard Markowitz (NV) / Hugh Sconyers (NV) / Peter Wagner (NV), 2-Frank Ley (CA) / Lynn Lusk (CO) / Don Thompson (Japan). \$50 AFTER TOUR. (16): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Ted Chee (CA). \$20 AFTER TOUR. (9): 1-Emil Sepasy (CA), 2-Troy Longman (MI).



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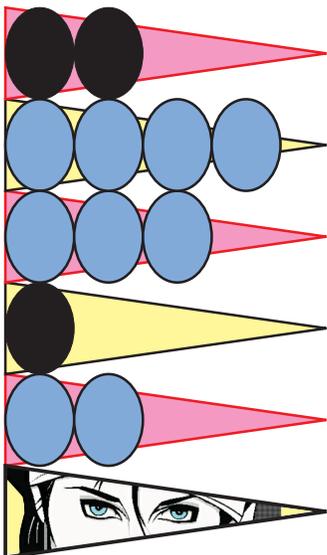


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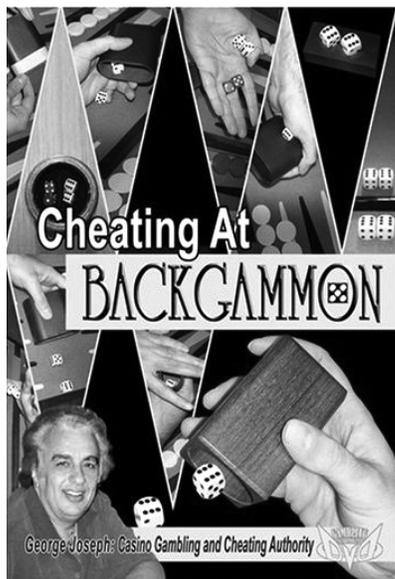
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By Bill Davis

Cheating At Backgammon. DVD Copyright 1981, 2008 by Gambling Incorporated. Running time: 20 minutes. Produced by George Joseph. Price: \$14.79 plus shipping from magicproshop.com.

A new esposé DVD, “Cheating At Backgammon,” has recently hit the market. It’s part of a “Cheating At” series produced by Gambling Incorporated including blackjack, craps, poker and gin rummy. All of the DVDs are introduced by George Joseph who remembers backgammon being called “Shesh Besh” as a boy and claims to have a 30 year career in casino gaming protection.

“Cheating At Backgammon” is a fairly low quality video made in 1981, possibly by Paul Son Dice Company of Las Vegas who is thanked in the closing credits. We’re guessing that Gambling Incorporated bought the rights to the video and rereleased it in a DVD format with the following topics: Controlled Shots, The Holdout, Slick Shot, Gaffed Dice, Fair Cups, Butterfly Cup, Switching Dice, and Doubling Hustle.

One of the controlled shots is called the “dump shot.” Here the cheat stacks one die on top of the other in his dice cup

and slides them up and down rather than actually shaking them. Because opposite sides of a die add to seven, if he wants to throw a 3, he simply makes sure that the top die shows a 4. Then he dumps out the first die so it is effectively placed 3-side-up while the bottom die randomly spins out of the cup. This is demonstrated using a see through glass so the viewer can watch what is happening.



A glass shows how the top die is locked in place when it is slid back and forth in a cup without a lip. This maneuver is followed by a “dump shot.”

With the “peek,” the cheat shakes naturally using two hands until the topmost die stacks up on the bottom die. If the cheat wants to roll a 5, he’ll shake and peek until the 2 is stacked facing upward. Then the shaking stops and the dump shot is executed producing a 5.

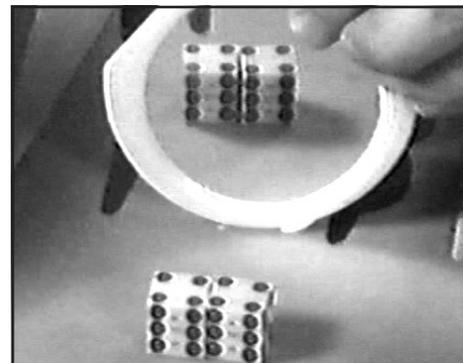


Two-hand shaking as shown above allows the cheat to peek at his dice (by spreading his fingers) to get the desired stacking.

The problem is that half of all demonstrations are executed with inferior equipment: craps-size square dice and a dice cup

with no trip lip. Bottom line: use precision dice and cups with lips!

There are other chapters outlining cheating methods that precision dice and lipped cups won’t protect you against. If the player is skilled enough to palm “tops” into the game, he will roll very well on the bearoff. “Tops” are dice that have only 4s, 5s, and 6s on them. Instead of the 2 being opposite the 5, another 5 is opposite. This greatly increases the odds on rolling a large double. Tops work because no matter how a die lands, it is only possible to see three faces at one time.



“Tops” dice are made up of two 4s, two 5s, and two 6s on opposite sides guaranteeing high rolls and more doubles.

There is also a section on magnetic dice called “juice joint,” dice switching, and one on the “doubling hustle” where the cheat simply matches his opponent’s opening roll with a dump shot in order to increase the stakes via automatic doubles.

At around \$20 including shipping, “Cheating At Backgammon” costs one dollar/minute. But despite some incorrect information such as stating the odds of rolling a specific number on one die as 6-to-1 when it is really 5-to-1, it’s not a bad idea to know what it actually possible in the “cold, cruel world.”

We’ll leave you with George Joseph’s laughable disclaimer at the end of the video: “We don’t advocate cheating in any form. The information here was solely for education and to make you a better, more well-rounded player.” —Bill Davis Δ

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

RULING QUESTION

How would you rule in the following scenario? A player rolls the dice. One die lands flat with an unfavorable number on it. The other die is spinning on top of a checker. The player grabs the die before it has stopped spinning. Does the player get to reroll both dice? One die? Would the ruling

be the same in tournament play as opposed to a chouette?—Elayne Feinstein, director, South Florida Backgammon Club

First off, we believe chouettes are sociable and all rulings should be left up to the participants, unless they request a director’s ruling. In tournament play, we would rule that the offended opponent gets his choice:

1. Player must reroll both dice.
2. Player must reroll only the die that was spinning and the other (unfavorable) die

remains down and counts.—Ed.

NEW HOOSIER CLUB WEBSITE

I have been working on a new website for our club. The URL is different from the one that Butch Meese used when he maintained the site. www.hoosierbgclub.com is the new URL (Butch’s site was a .org site, which although it has expired, I was unable to reregister). I hope your readers will give our new club site a look.—Scott Johnston, Hoosier Backgammon Club Δ

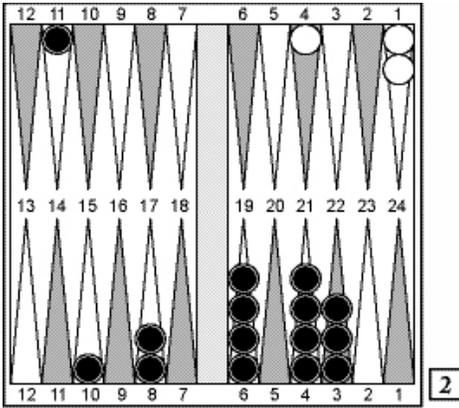


Duane Jensen's
MOVIE QUIZ

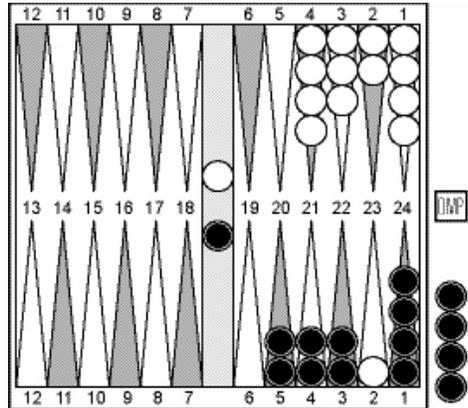
Basil Rathbone played the best “Sherlock Holmes” in the movies. He could decipher the most obscure clues to solve any crime. In this quiz, each question has several clues that point to a specific motion picture. Use the backgammon position, the description of what is happening, the movie actor who starred in the film, and the year of the motion picture to determine the movie title. [Answers on page 8]—Duane Jensen Δ



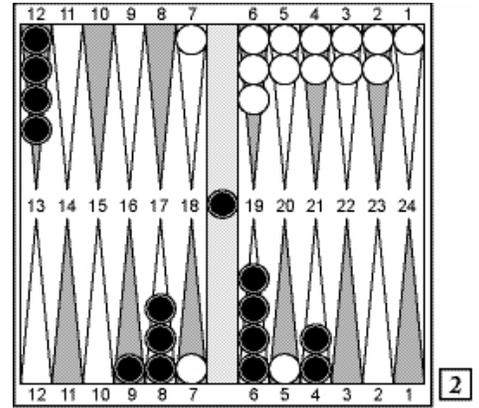
1. Tom Cruise (Black) must play his 6-1 carefully to have any hope of escaping the gammon. [1996]



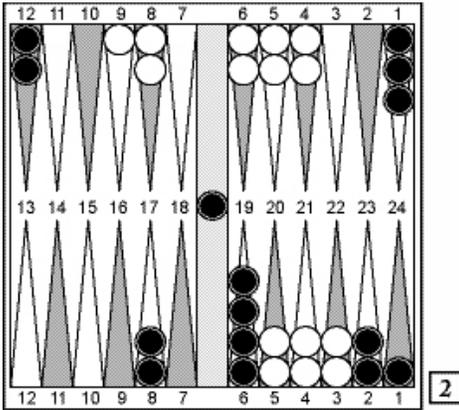

4. Both Richard Gere (Black) and Jennifer Lopez (White) fail to enter a checker for four rolls. [2004]



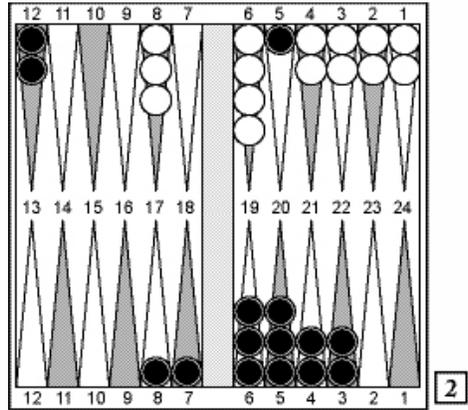

7. Nicholas Cage (Black) gets his best roll. [1998]



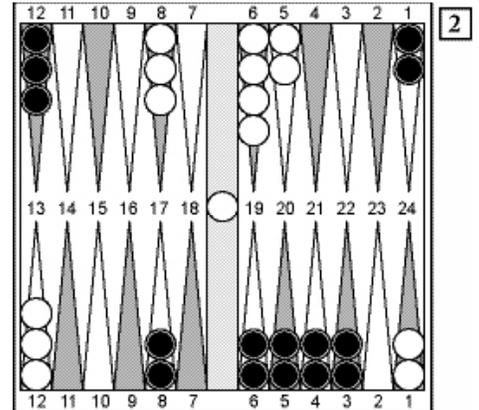

2. Lee Marvin (Black) rolled 3-3 from the bar. He's happy about the first entering 3; but he's not thrilled about the rest of the 3s. [1967]



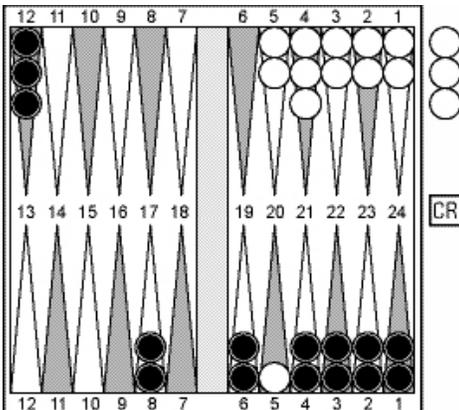

5. Meg Ryan (Black) could have run with her 5-5, but she stayed on the enemy 5-point, risking the hit. [1996]



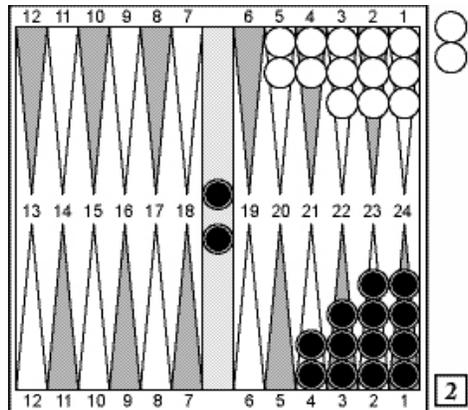

8. How should Gene Hackman (Black) play his 3-2? Should he play 24/22, 13/10 or 24/21, 13/11? [1988]



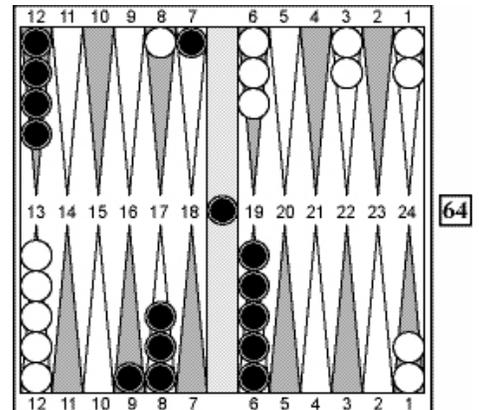

3. Hugh Grant (Black) leads Gene Hackman (White) 6-4 Crawford. Black to play 4-1. Hugh could play 13/8, but a more creative play is required: 13/9, 6/5*. [1996]




6. Tony Curtis (Black) rolls an incredible six sets of large doubles to defeat Jack Lemon (White). [1965]



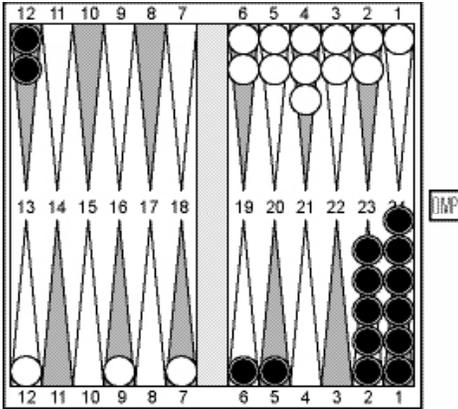

9. The doubles team of Helen Hunt & Bill Paston (Black) fails to come in from the bar. They know what's coming next. [1996]



PROBLEM #335 ANALYZED

by Walter Trice

Tournament double match-point.
BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.



A player who gets Problem 335 right over the board, assuming his decision amounts to more than a lucky guess, will undoubtedly have based his decision on experience and well-honed intuition, or on having in the past seen rollout results for a very similar position. I regard the problem as virtually unsolvable by mental calculation from first principles and common knowledge. Just to determine how frequently Black ultimately gets hit after the various candidates calls for counting a huge number of sequences, looking ahead five rolls or more. I could fill this entire newsletter with lists of rolls and tables of probabilities that no one would read, still needing to fill in a few blanks with guesstimates in order to present an argument in favor of my preferred play. But that would be (pardon me) *Pointless*.

Instead, let us try to sketch a solution. Over the board, one cannot always pin down the best play with absolute certainty, but it still helps to have a good sense of what the relevant issues are. As one of the most influential military strategists of the current century might say, let us try to change some unknown unknowns into some known unknowns.

We still must, at least, count shots after each of the various candidate plays. The legal options are:

- A. 13/4 D. 13/7*, 13/10
B. 13/7*, 5/2 E. 13/7*/4
C. 13/7*, 6/3

For these positions, where Black usually does get hit, we just go through the rolls systematically and count the misses.

Play E is the easy one: Everything that

enters hits—we only need to check 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3—so there are 32 hitting rolls for White.

After play D we find that the only rolls that miss are the dances and 4-4, so there are 31 hitting rolls.

Play C leaves nine misses for White: 6-2, 6-6, 4-2, and the four dancing rolls, for 27 hits.

Play B gets missed on 5-5, 5-3, 3-2 plus the dances: nine misses and 27 hits.

Play A gets missed on 5-2, 5-3, 3-2, and 5-5. That's seven misses and 29 hits.

The shot-count is enough to dismiss plays D and E. These plays resemble plays C and B but give White extra shots for free. Play C is like play B but it leaves an extra blot exposed and looks a bit harder to clean up because of the second blot in Black's board.

So our candidates are reduced to A, which leaves White 29 rolls to hit, and B, which leaves 27. It might be tempting to just go with the play that leaves the least immediate jeopardy, when getting hit is almost always going to lose. But there are factors that favor play A, even though it results in getting hit immediately with extra probability 2/36.

First, when Black gets hit after play A, only one checker is sent back and the other blots are (at least temporarily) safe. Black's chances of surviving a hit must be better with one back than two, whether he gets closed out or has a chance to roll a hitting ace. The possibility of anchoring on the ace with two back, which would be better than being closed out, is not sufficient to offset the other disadvantages of having two back.

Second, and more important, when Black gets missed after play A, it is much easier to clean up the mess and avoid getting hit on the second roll or later. This is the main issue, and this is where one might go nuts trying to figure out the answer by calculation. What I *might* do in live play, depending on how ambitious I was feeling and how much the game really mattered, is to estimate the long-term survival chance for a somewhat representative position after each play.

Consider play A first. If White misses, she probably moves the checker on the midpoint and leaves blots on the 18 and 16. This seems best even if the roll is 5-5, which requires White to give up her 6-point and make her ace to have the best chance of hitting. In this case, we find that 18 rolls can be played safely and the rest range from rolls like 3-2, leaving an 11-number direct shot, to 6-4 (the worst) leaving a 24-number double-direct-plus. If one were to guess that the average bad roll left 16 shots,

then Black's chance of getting hit on White's second roll, given that she was missed on the first, would be $(16 \times 18)/1296$, or a little over 20%. The good news for fans of play A is that most of the action is over after White's second roll. If Black lasts that long he is probably home free.

Play B is harder to evaluate. One finds that if White enters on the 20-point with 5-5 missing, then Black gets hit next turn just a little more frequently compared to play A. The bigger difference is that in most cases, Black has significant jeopardy even the roll after that. For instance if his roll is 4-2, he will play 13/7 leaving White direct aces to hit. If White misses, she keeps the contact with most rolls and then Black still has 18 numbers to leave yet another direct. This means that Black gets hit more than 40% of the time in this variation, despite having been missed on White's first shot. If White enters on either the 4- or 3-point, then she will be hitting even more often.

An interesting variation occurs when White dances after play B. White's dance is a mixed blessing for Black, the immediate tactical edge being offset by the deep contact. It turns out that if White dances after play B, she can still easily take a double in a money game. Black has many rolls that leave no direct shot but with the indirects adding up to the equivalent of a direct or more. (Thus, for instance, 4-2 should be played 13/9*, 6/4, keeping a blot in the home board.) All in all Black is still somewhat worse off with play B when White fans than he would be after play A with a typical White miss.

So we see that the problem of continuing contact and a position that is not so easy to clean up erases a significant part of the safety difference between seven shots and nine shots. I'm not certain it erases all the difference, but if Black picks up as little as half a percent in winning chances from having fewer blots exposed when he gets hit, the two factors combined could well suffice to make play A the best play.—Walter Trice Δ

MOVIE QUIZ ANSWERS [From page 7]

1. Mission Impossible
2. The Dirty Dozen
3. Extreme Measures
4. Shall We Dance?
5. Courage Under Fire
6. The Great Race
7. Snake Eyes
8. Split Decisions
9. Twister

If you got six or more right, you're quite a movie buff.—D. J. Δ

WINNER'S CIRCLE



APR.-MAY 2007

•**Lyon Partouche BG Trophy 2** (Lyon, France; 3-6 Apr.)... TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP (53+11 rebuys): 1-Minh Nguyen (FRA), 2-Thierry Manouck; 1C-Mario Sequeira (POR), 2C-Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN); 1LC-Goetz Hildsberg (GER). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1/2-François Coignard (France) & José Rodriguez (FRA) / Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN) & Tassilo Rzymann (Austria).

•**Nicky Check Birthday British Open** (Davenport, England; 4-6 Apr.)... OPEN (79): 1-Ann Pocknell, 2-Uldis Lapikens; 1C-Peter Christmas, 2C-Mike Heard; 1LC-Brian Lever. THE NOODLE (32): 1-Tony Fawcett, 2-Marcus Wrinch. FRIDAY 500 (40): 1-Paul Gilbertson, 2-Julian Fetterlein. TEAM EVENT (12): 1-Marcus Wrinch. POKER (32): 1-Steve Hallett, 2-Jon Sharp, 3-Kevin Stebbing.

•**Bar Point Club Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 6 Apr.)... OPEN (15): 1/2-Tak Morioka / Rory Pascal, 3/4-David Rockwell / Gary Kay; 1C-David Rockwell, 2C-Nora Luna Righter. INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Les Moshinsky, 2-Mark Swanson, 3/4-Dave Settles / Scott Casty; 1C-Ray Lass, 2C-Christopher Shanova.

•**Pair-A-Dice Monthly** (New York, NY; 6 Apr.)... OPEN (6): 1-Brian Glubok. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Bob Carpenter (NY).

•**New England Club Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 6 Apr.)... OPEN (18): 1-Roger Rondeau, 2-Phyllis Seidel; 1C-Dave Metz, 2C-Walter Trice.

•**Arizona Club Monthly** (Phoenix, AZ; 7 Apr.)... OPEN (10): 1-Keith Ambrose, 2-Gary Crain.

•**ABT-Ohio State Championships** (Cleveland, OH; 11-13 Apr.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (27): 1-Antoinette-Marie Williams (NY), 2-Robert Lessard (Canada); 1C-Steve Hast (PA), 2C-Neil Kazaross (IL). ADVANCED (31): 1-Rose Sheedy (IN), 2-Chris Knapp (Canada); 1C-Scott Casty (IL), 2C-Judy Field (MI). NOVICE (11): 1-Ryan Hast (PA), 2-



Antoinette Williams

(IL). QUICKIES (16): 1-Jon Stephens (OH). BLITZ (8): 1-David Rubin (IL)... *Antoinette is back in a big way defeating Robert Lessard 13-6 in the finals.*

•**Springfield Series Grand Finale** (Springfield, IL; 12 Apr.)... OPEN (16): 1-Sean Garber (IN), 2-Chris Scott; 1C-Scott Johnston (IN), 2C-Jim Zimmerman; 1LC-Ed Zell. "Z" Board Hold'em: 1-John Jennings.

•**PGT-Paris Master & Partouche Open 9-PGT** (Paris, France; 23-27 Apr.)... OPEN (71): 1-Carlo Melzi (ITA), 2-Rassoul Rasti (IRN/SWZ), 3/4-Andy Bell (ENG)/Chris Ternel (ENG); 1C-Oliver Schneider (GER), 2C-Bob Wachtel (USA); 1LC-Didier Assaraf (FRA). Ladies Prize: Filomila Karantzali (GRE). PARIS MASTERS (8): 1-Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (ISR). WARM-UP (44): 1-Nodar Gagua (RUS). 500 SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Lars Trabolt (DEN). 100 JACKPOT (8): 1-Nodar Gagua (RUS). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Jan Jacobowitz (GER) & Falafel Natanzon (ISR), 2-Uli Koch (GER) & Ed O'Laughlin (USA). BLITZ #1 (16): 1-Volker Sonnabend (GER). BLITZ #2 (16): 1-Franck Stepler (FRA).

•**EBGT-2nd Davis Doubles & 3rd Portuguese Open** (Estoril, Portugal; 29 Apr.-4 May)... DAVIS DOUBLES (18 teams): 1-Thomas Kazemieh (IRN/GER) & Tilo Knierim (GER), 2-Fernando Braconi (ITA) & Fabrizio Lo Surdo (ITA). MASTERS (50): 1-Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (ISR), 2-Götz Hildsberg (GER); 1C-Adrian Jones (ENG); 1LC-Georgy Balkandjiysy (BUL). INTERMEDIATE (30): 1-Jose Torres (POR), 2-Scarlett Serrero (FRA);

1C-Christian Setzpfandt (GER); 1LC-Dobromir Kyurkchiev (BUL). AMATEURS (5): 1-Daniel Grange (SWZ). "JOSE SALEMA" SUPER-JACKPOT (8): 1-Tassilo Rzymann (AUS). DOUBLES PRO/AM (24 teams + 8): 1-Jörg Balschuweit & Mirco Podchul (GER), 2-Wolfgang Griese & Michael Schmidt (GER). SASSANGAMMON FREEROLL (89): 1-Scarlett Serrero (FRA).

1C-Christian Setzpfandt (GER); 1LC-Dobromir Kyurkchiev (BUL). AMATEURS (5): 1-Daniel Grange (SWZ). "JOSE SALEMA" SUPER-JACKPOT (8): 1-Tassilo Rzymann (AUS). DOUBLES PRO/AM (24 teams + 8): 1-Jörg Balschuweit & Mirco Podchul (GER), 2-Wolfgang Griese & Michael Schmidt (GER). SASSANGAMMON FREEROLL (89): 1-Scarlett Serrero (FRA).

•**ABT-2nd Southeast Championships** (Atlanta, GA; 2-4 May)... CHAMPIONSHIP (30): 1-Carol Joy Cole (MI), 2-Joe Freedman (VA); 1C-Vadim



Carol Joy Cole / Alan & Joan Grunwald

Musaelyan (NC), 2C-Malcolm Robertson (Hong Kong); 1LC-Stuart Thomson (GA). ADVANCED (26): 1-Dave Settles (IL), 2-Kate Elmore (GA); 1C-Neal Rosensweig (FL), 2C-Bob Weigel (TN); 1LC-Alan Epstein (GA). NOVICE (6): 1-Joan Grunwald (NJ), 2-John Hochberg (GA); 1C-Timothy Turner (GA). SOUTHEAST MASTERS (10+2 rebuys): 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Perry Gartner (NJ), 3-Malcolm Davis (TX). DIXIE CUP (15+1 rebuy): 1-Stacy Turner (GA), 2-Andrew Lipscomb (TN). DOUBLES (14 teams): 1-Bill Davis (IL) & Elayne Feinstein (FL), 2-Carol Joy Cole (MI) & Harvey Gillis (WA). TURKISH BLITZ (32): 1-Jim Hickey (GA), 2-Gail Newburn (GA). MINI-MATCH (64): 1-Sтивен Keats (NY), 2-Jerry Godsey (GA). FIRST-TIMER'S FREE ROLL (10): 1-Andrew Lipscomb (TN), 2-Harry Georgiou (GA). EARLY EXIT JACKPOT (8): Gail Newburn (GA). SHUT THE BOX CHARITY EVENT: 1-Owen Black (FL)... *Congrats to Carol Joy Cole on winning her first ABT event. Also to Alan Grunwald who won his second Master's event this year. Director Gregg Cattanach's "Shut the Box" raised \$350 for Children's Health Care of Atlanta.* Δ

AMALGAMATION

Can you guess the top-ranked female on the American Backgammon Tour All-Time leader board? Answer later in this column...

Dale Kerr of Melbourne, Australia is trying to compile an accurate historical listing of all World Backgammon Championship results at tinyurl.com/3c2rhm. If you have anything to add, e-mail Dale at dalekerr@mail.com... Congratulations to **Val Zimmicki** (IL) who in April, officially passed **Ed Bauder** (IL) as the all-time Pub Club master point leader with over 140 points... World Backgammon Association director **Chiva Tafazzoli** brings his tournament expertise to the United States in 2009. The US Open Backgammon Championships (an ABT

event) will be held June 2009 in Washington, DC. Stay tuned for the particulars... The Midwest Champs got a nice write-up and picture on page 6 of the Spring *Anti Cruelty Society* magazine. The Bar Point Club (773/583-6464) is hosting the Anti-Cruelty Society Backgammon Invitational June 14 at the famous Ambassador East Hotel in Chicago. Only three \$600 slots remain for this "jacket & tie" event. Approximately \$2000 will be raised to help the animals... Although the Memorial Day Chicago Open invitation lists the Eaglewood Resort room rate at \$89/night, it is actually \$99. But if you take a room, co-directors **Roz Ferris** & **Howard Markowitz** will give you a \$10/night refund. Nice gesture... Best wishes to **John Drexel** who has stepped down as director of the Grand Rapids (MI) Club. **Bob**

Kamp (616/956-1910) is the new contact... What's happening to the Nevada State Tournament attendance? It has fallen every year from 239 players in 2003 to 145 this year... **Jay Ward** (IL) informs us that his father **A. John Ward** (FL) passed away last June at the age of 86. Both John and Jay were Midwest BG regulars in the 1990s... Turkey's Islamist-rooted government is cracking down. A new regulation in Istanbul now bans playing backgammon outside on the streets. That's crazy... US News & World says that Marines are stepping up training for the complexities of Iraq including learning backgammon... The top-ranked ABT female is **Jolie Rubin** (IL) whose 43.74 points places her within the top 80. **Carol Joy Cole**'s (MI) big win in Atlanta moves her into second. **Mary Hickey** (OH) is third. Δ



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Austria

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WBF director Marco Fornasir - WBF tournament rules will apply
The tournament will be played on professional
Rizzello & Romagnoli Tournament Boards.

RIZZELLO & ROMAGNOLI
PROFESSIONAL BACKGAMMON BOARDS

CASINO VELDEN

Play your game



For more information, please contact Marco Fornasir
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*Come to Velden and join
one of the best tournaments in the world!*

Philip Wechsger

Philip Wechsger
2006 Backgammon World Champion