

illinois state championships

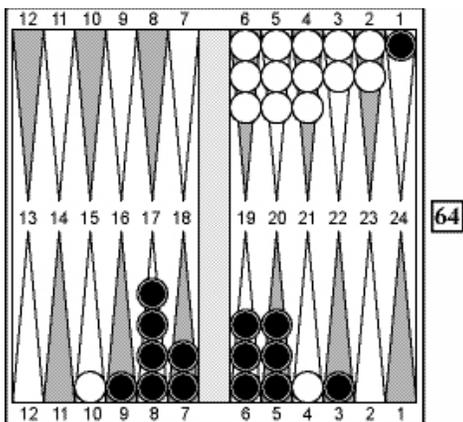
TIM MABEE WINS AGAIN!
Defeats Steve Brown in Wis. Rematch
John Jennings is Lincoln Master

Illinois Pub Club director Tim Mabee is the real deal. Just to prove that his DMP win over Steve Brown in the Labor Day Wisconsin State Championships was no fluke, Tim proceeded to defeat Brown in a 15-13 finals rematch thriller to win the Illinois State Championship.

Linda Rockwell and an all female "Halloween-dressed" staff welcomed 84 players to the Ramada Inn Peoria 10-12 October—up from 81 players in 2007. More than \$800 was raised for staffer Mary Ann Meese's Haitian medical missionary trip.

Tim, who bested top-ranked Chicago Bar Point Club players Phil Simborg, Rory Pascas, and Carter Mattig to reach the finals, quickly found himself trailing his more experienced opponent 0-4 before rallying to take an 8-6 lead. But Steve enjoyed a rally of his own to go ahead 13-9. An interesting sequence occurred in this game:

15 point finals. Tim Mabee (Black) trails Steve Brown (White) 9 to 13. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



Tim played 8/3, 6/4*. Substantially better is 9/4*, 6/4. Although both plays leave the opponent 14 shots, when Steve hits after Tim's play, he only needs to leap a four prime to escape.

But here's the irony. Steve danced with

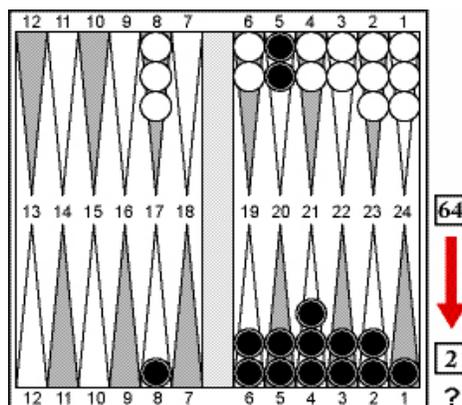


Tim Mabee receives another state championship award from Illinois director Linda Rockwell.

6-5, Tim cubed, and Steve had an easy drop. Following 9/4*, 6/4 and dance, Tim still has a double, but now Steve would have a clear take! So although a blunder, Tim's play generates more quick wins.

The turning point in the match occurred in the next game with Steve on shake:

15 point finals. Tim Mabee (Black) trails Steve Brown (White) 10 to 13. White doubles. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**



Trailing 93-59 in the pip count, Tim has less than a 2% chance in the race and must rely on hitting a shot to win . . . or so it seemed. Even though the take is a massive blunder, Tim, knowing that Steve Brown is one of the best players in America, took and immediately recubed to four. If you are going to make a mistake, make an aggressive one because when you're hot, you'll win tournaments. Tim was beyond hot, bearing off all his pieces in just six shakes (5-5, 4-4, 2-2, 6-6, 6-6, 6-6). Then he won the next game to capture his second state title and

[Continued on page 7]

colorado state championships

JEREMY'S BACK!
Nuniyants Takes Continental Divide

Jeremy Bagai (CA) returned to backgammon with his first ABT win since 2002 by defeating Maryland's Alfred Mamlet in the Colorado State Championships. The event, directed by Lynda Clay, drew 59 main event entrants to the Hilton Garden Inn near the Denver Airport 26-28 September—a five player increase over 2007.



Colorado director Lynda Clay is flanked by Open winner Jeremy Bagai (L) and runner-up Alfred Mamlet.

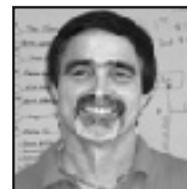
Jeremy defeated Petko Kostadinov (SC), James Bray (TX), Rich Siebold (CO), and Norm Wiggins (CA) before taking on Alfred Mamlet who had big wins over heavyweights Bob Koca and Stick Rice. But the finals was "no contest" as Jeremy blew away his lesser experienced opponent 11-1.

The Open Cons. saw Carter Mattig (IL) come from behind to defeat Rich Siebold (CO) on the strength of this decision:

[See position on page 8]

Although a 720 3-ply, precise Snowie rollout shows Carter to be a 38/62 game underdog, this to be an excellent double because 23.5% of his wins are gammons. Rich took the cube and Carter was able to escape, pick up the second checker, and score a match-ending gammon.

Congratulations also to Stepan Nuniyants (WA) in the Masters,



Stepan Nuniyants

[Continued on page 8]

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)

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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

E-mail: letters@chicagopoint.com



UNFAIR TO TIM?

Upon reading this month's front page article about Tim Mabee's Wisconsin win, I was a bit disappointed in the overall negative tone of your message. Tim has just won his first ABT victory and the focus of your review is on a completely uninteresting race position where Tim miscounted and mistakenly passed a huge (no double) take but still went on to win the tournament. So what are you telling your readers? You can screw up and still win? By the way, congratulations to Tim on getting lucky and beating Steve, who outplayed him by more than 3.5% (which was also mentioned in the article)?

I am sure in that final match you could certainly have found a more interesting position, and preferably one that our new Wisconsin state champ got right, as I am certain there were many. — Alan Grunwald, director, Mid Jersey Club, Morganville, NJ

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

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

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Oct 25*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Oct 26	Colorado Monthly, Bennigan's Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Oct 26	Pair-O-Dice Monthly, Cavendish Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Oct 26*	Northside Club Monthly, Kate Elmore's residence, Tucker, Georgia	770/612-0818
Oct 26*	NYC Mayor's Cup, New York Athletic Club, New York, NY	212/371-9773
Nov 1	Springfield Series #1, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/622-9447
Nov 1*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Westport Flea Market, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Nov 2	Ohio State Club Monthly, Spaghetti Warehouse, Akron, Ohio	330/268-4610
Nov 3	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	480/286-8239
Nov 3	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Nov 8*	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/261-4583
Nov 8*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Nov 9*	South Florida Monthly, NorthRidge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Nov 12-16	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238
Nov 16*	New England Bonus Tournament, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Mass.	781/324-0892
Nov 20*	Third Thursday Bonus (California State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov 21	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 22*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Nov 30*	Colorado Monthly, Bennigan's Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Nov 30*	Pair-O-Dice Monthly, Cavendish Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Dec 1*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	480/286-8239
Dec 1*	Roy's Monthly, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Dec 3*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Westport Flea Market, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Dec 5-7	California State Championship, Airtel Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Dec 6*	Springfield Series #2, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, Illinois	217/622-9447
Dec 7	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Holiday Inn-O'Hare, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Dec 13*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Dec 13*	New England Monthly, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Mass.	781/324-0892
Dec 14*	South Florida Monthly, NorthRidge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Dec 14*	Hoosier Club Fall Trophy Event, McAlister's Deli, Indianapolis, Indiana	317/241-0605
Dec 18*	Third Thursday Bonus (Carolina), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 8-11	New York Metropolitan Open, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, New Jersey	702/218-8238
Jan 16-18	9th Carolina Invitational, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina	704/651-2949
Jan 18-25	BackgammonPoker On Board, Princess Cruise, Ft. Lauderdale to Caribbean	773/583-6464
Feb 20-22*	31st Pittsburgh Championships/ABT Awards, Holiday Inn, Pennsylvania	704/685-3214
Mar 20-22*	2009 Midwest Championships, Wyndham Lisle, Lisle, Illinois	773/583-6464
Apr 3-5*	Ohio State Championships, Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio	330/268-4610
Apr 15-19*	Nevada State Tournament, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/218-8238

OUTSIDE USA

Oct 22-26*	POSTPONED: PGT: Grande Finale & Divonne Open, France	331-47645938
Oct 25-26	16th Irish Open Championship, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	358-72144270
Oct 28-Nov 2	EBGT: European Doubles/6th French Open, Enghien-les-Bains, France	491715-422222
Oct 31-Nov 2	Townharbour Trophy, Barceló Daventry Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Nov 1-2*	Play65 Danish Championships, Prøvehallen, Valby, Denmark	4533-363601
Nov 7-9*	Backgammon Live in London, The King's Stores, London, England	447985-941729
Nov 7-9	6th Torneo delle Città, Castello di Modanella, Siena, Italy	393478-336862
Nov 7-9	Swiss Championships 2008, Casino Barrière, Montreux, Switzerland	4179-3854825
Nov 8-9*	WBF-Turkey 1st Edirne Open, Arslanli Complex, Edirne, Turkey	905332-352555
Nov 13-16	Kitzbuehel BG & Poker Master, Casino Kitzbuehel, Austria	49711-486190
Nov 14-16	17th Mitteleuropa Championship, Park Casino/Hotel, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	390331-923537
Nov 28-30	EBGT: 20th City of Venice Tournament, Venice Casino, Venice, Italy	393283-380725
Dec 2-7*	5th Cancun Invitational Tournament, Ritz-Carlton, Cancun, Mexico	775/829-8403
Dec 5-7	15th German Open, Sporthotel, Recklinghausen, Germany	49520-4880305
Dec 5-7	Gilbertson UK Finals, Barceló Walton Hotel, Warwickshire, England	441522-888676
Dec 12-14	Stockholm Events, Piperska Grottan, Stockholm, Sweden	4676-2335759
Dec 12-14	46th Thun Open, Beo Cup, Doubles, Waadtlanderstube, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4329378
Dec 17-21*	12th Championship of France, Casino Barrière d'Enghien-les-Bains, France	33142-618080
Jan 2-4	13th Thailand Open, Somboone's House, Dongtan Beach, Thailand	668-70826120
Jan 3-4*	5th BG Masters International Open, Café Den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	31653-276835
Jan 8-11*	3rd Casino-Cup, Casino Kleinwalsertal, Riezlern near Oberstdorf, Austria	49711-486190
Jan 9-11*	12th Bright 'n' Breezy, Paramount Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 17-18*	1st Zürich Open, Restaurant Rotel, Zürich, Switzerland	4178-6329404
Feb 6-8*	Jarvis Trophy, Barceló Paramount Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

The point was not to disrespect Tim Mabee who simply miscounted the position, but that Steve Brown who correctly counted it made an error by doubling.

I watched the match and there really was no other interesting moves or doubling

- decisions. Hopefully the position selected:
- A. Shows players the need to take their time and count carefully to avoid careless errors,
 - B. Gives players insight into the repercussions of making overly aggressive doubles when leading the match and/or with positional gaps, and
 - C. Reminds players that anything can happen in backgammon. Tim would be the first

to admit that Steve Brown has more backgammon skills. But the beauty of our game is that on any given tournament weekend, an average player who is rolling well can end up in first place (and Tim Mabee is far above "average")."

BILL'S RILED

Regarding your mention in Amalgamation that Democratic delegate Bob Ciaffone believes you can "bet the house" that Obama will be our next President, I think there is no place in CHICAGO POINT for politics of any sort.

Obviously, Bob Ciaffone is one worthless professional gambler as he'd soon be homeless by "betting the house" on the socialist Obama.—*Bill Riles, Houston, Texas*

Unless things change drastically in the next few weeks, Bob Ciaffone's prediction doesn't look so "worthless" after all.—*Ed.*

'HI' FROM WILCOX

My wife Viria and I have moved to Costa Rica, built a house, etc. We just landed two months ago. Quite a change! We have our son here who just began college and we're all happy. Our daughter visited for a month and is now back in Nevada with her boyfriend.

I have a question about Gérard Duguet-Grasser. He's a good friend, although we lost touch about four years ago. I know he had some medical issues and I'm worried they may have turned for the worse. I certainly hope he's OK. Can any POINT readers direct me to a good backgammon/poker source in France or Europe in general who might have info about him?—*Wilcox Snelings, Costa Rica* Δ

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2008

Top 100 through 12 Oct. 2008 after 16 tournaments
(Final 2008 events: Mid-Atlantic, Las Vegas, California)

Neil Kazaross 43.83	George Matthews 11.27	Rose Sheedy 6.89	Dana Nazarian 4.67
Tim Mabee 36.00	John O'Hagan 11.17	Michael Flohr 6.40	Howard Markowitz 4.67
Ray Foglerlund 31.88	Matt Reklaitis 10.76	David Escoffery 6.40	Jona Alexander 4.52
Chris Knapp 25.27	Greg Merriman 10.67	Alfred Mamlet 6.40	Ed Bennett 4.52
Bob Koca 23.33	Tak Morioka 10.67	Carter Mattig 6.40	Justin Bor 4.52
Stick Rice 23.07	Barry Miller 10.67	Saad Ghiso 6.25	Ed O'Laughlin 4.50
Mike Senkiewicz 22.33	Jolie Rubin 10.56	Owen Black 6.20	Fabricio Schaffrath 4.42
Ray Glaeser 21.33	Jonah Seewald 10.22	Joe Freedman 6.00	Lynn Lusk 4.42
Steve Brown 21.20	Alan Robinson 10.00	Vadim Musaelyan 6.00	Sean Garber 4.30
Bill Davis 20.17	Adam Bennett 9.40	Robert Lessard 6.00	Mark Donaldson 4.27
Richard Munitz 20.00	Justin Nunez 9.04	Steve Hast 6.00	Gary Fishman 4.20
Jon Vietor 18.67	Joe Russell 9.04	Alan Gold 5.71	Milton Gonzalez 4.10
Drew Giovanis 18.07	David Rubin 9.00	John Rockwell 5.64	Julius High 4.02
Jeff Acierno 15.84	Scott Casty 8.84	Eliot Bean 5.64	Maurice Barie 3.92
Christopher Yep 14.80	Kevin Jones 8.83	Rick Barabino 5.58	Steve Sax 3.92
Mike Corbett 14.00	Gary Schachtschneider 8.66	Neil Deutsch 5.58	Lawrence Wilson 3.80
Kit Woolsey 13.77	Faddoul Khoury 8.60	Antonio Ortega 5.58	Ken Bond 3.70
Michael Edge 13.67	Eric Barr 8.33	Les Moshinsky 5.33	Sam Pottle 3.70
Petko Kostadinov 13.18	Reggie Proulx 8.20	Herb Roman 5.33	Murray Bryntesen 3.56
Jeremy Bagai 12.80	Stepan Nuniyants 7.84	Larry Liebster 5.33	Raul Timerman 3.50
Sal Chehayeb 12.50	Mary Hickey 7.83	Bruce Ballance 5.28	Perry Gartner 3.50
Dave Settles 12.46	Paul Berg 7.83	Karsten Busch 5.11	Bob Pietras 3.33
Carol Joy Cole 12.00	Lynn Ehrlich 7.64	Jeff Whitelaw 5.11	S. Maas/C. Blumenstein 3.20
Antoinette Williams 12.00	John Jennings 7.40	Jesse Eaton 5.04	R. Abi-Akar/R. Siebold 3.20
Roy Gandy 11.27	Steve Flam 7.00	Matt Cohn-Geier 4.70	A. Moore/ R. Armbruster 3.20

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2008 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 SEPT.

David Rockwell 24.12	Alice Kay 8.04	Jerry Brooks 2.60	Mary Franks 0.96
Rory Pascar 22.70	Mike Sutton 7.44	Arline Levy 2.52	Les Moshinsky 0.80
Phil Simborg 19.72	Michael Ginat 7.32	Paul Baraz 2.48	Chiva Tafazzoli 0.72
Herb Roman 19.56	Christopher Shanova 7.24	Eric Johnson 2.32	Tim Rockwell 0.68
Tim Mabee 14.30	Gary Kay 7.00	Mark Murray 2.08	Wendy Kaplan 0.60
Bill Davis 14.20	Jacob Moreno 6.32	Ken Tibbs 1.84	Sherry Nelson 0.56
Carter Mattig 13.14	Bill Keefe 6.32	Elaine Kehm 1.76	Bill Gradl 0.56
Nora Luna Righter 12.40	Wayne Wiest 6.20	Dan Cox 1.76	Bill Devine 0.56
Steve Klesker 11.88	Alex Owen 6.20	Henry Gray 1.56	Cookie Frazin 0.56
Ken Bond 11.44	Richard Stawowy 6.08	Dan Weymouth 1.44	Kathy Sorci 0.52
Albert Yakobashvili 11.04	Mike Wolock 5.88	Yamin Yamin 1.28	Andrew Mack 0.48
Tak Morioka 10.36	Roger Hickman 5.28	Linda Rockwell 1.28	Mark Swanson 0.40
Lucky Nelson 10.28	Royal Robinson 5.20	Nicole Tibbs 1.12	Amy Trudeau 0.32
Dave Settles 9.48	Bob Steen 4.56	Tom Machaj 1.12	Roz Ferris 0.32
Oleg Raygorodsky 9.40	Georgina Flanagan 3.72	Efim Liberman 1.12	Phyllis Smoliński 0.24
Larry Goldstein 8.80	Adrian Rios 3.36	Ray Lass 1.04	Lucia Armenta 0.24
Bob Zavoral 8.54	Mike Pufpaf 2.76	Sargon Benjamin 1.04	Jeff Fischer 0.24
Bill Bartholomay 8.48	Scott Casty 2.72		

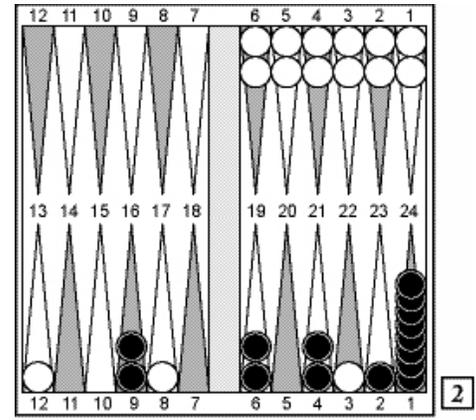
Through steady play, **KEN BOND** won his first Player of the Month honor earning 4.56 points by cashing in four out of five events. Tim Mabee and David Rockwell finished 2nd/3rd with 3.36 points.

your move

PROBLEM #340

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

9-point match. Black leads White, 7 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**

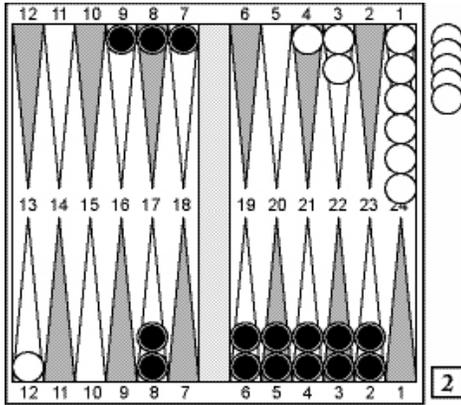


ASK
DANNY

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A SICK ROLL, BUT . . .

Moey game. **SHOULD BLACK RE-DOUBLE?** Then, **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



Dear Danny: Backgammon is a sick game. It's easy to calculate my chances of hitting White in this position. I miss only when I roll 2-1. White only has five men off with a gap on her 2-point, but I refrained from doubling. Thank goodness, as

I tossed that dreaded 2-1. Now how should I play it?

I decided to block double 2s and double 4s by playing 18/16, 8/7, but my play didn't matter, as White rolled 5-2 and it was "game over." My dice deserted me and I ended up getting gammoned to lose four points.

Did I blow the doubling decision, Danny? Can White take my recube when only two rolls in thirty-six miss? —Simply Unsure

DEAR SIMPLY: "Unsure" is the key word about your redoubling decision.

From a technical standpoint, you can afford to wait until *after* you hit. Yes, you risk losing your market, but no, you won't lose your market by a lot, because it is *not* "game over" when you hit. You have neither a closed board nor a full prime, and White will win some of the time by entering and escaping before you can close her out; having five men off already, White will also win some of the time by prompt reentry after you close her out and start bearing off.

From a practical standpoint, however, redoubling looks right, no matter what the robots and the rollouts might say. That's because White may look at your thirty-four hitting rolls and wonder, just as you did, if

she can take. If you're unsure whether your opponent can afford to take the cube, or if you think you'll get a mixture of passes and takes in a chouette—turn it!

Your play after keeping the cube was based on the wrong goal. Blocking two of White's rolls helps you a little, but maximizing counterplay helps you a lot. Slotting your bar-point with the ace in preparation for making it is a good idea; but a better use of your deuce than "buckling up" in the outfield is to leave your rearmost men where they are and simply advance 16/14, keeping your men in White's outer court separated. Yes, White will often hit, but will seldom avoid return shots after hitting. All of White's small rolls (no die higher than a 3) maintain contact and so do White's combinations of 6s, 5s and 2s (other than double-5s).

It's tempting to keep all three of your rearmost men where they are and move 8/6 with the deuce, but that removes a valuable builder for the bar-point, and so is merely a close second choice.— 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

2008

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WE DETERMINE
THE 2008 ABT
PLAYER OF THE YEAR



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Patrick Gibson, Director: 818/901-0464

pgibsonmfic@roadrunner.com

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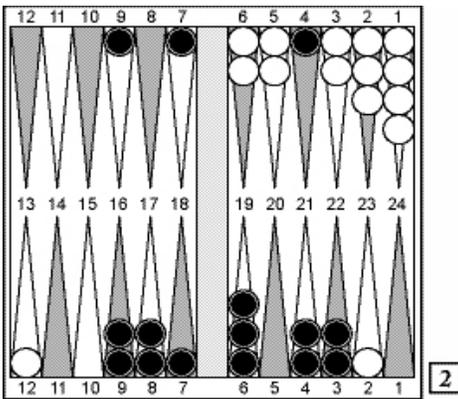


ONE-PLY THINKING

By Jake Jacobs

If “To be or not to be?” is the ultimate philosophical question (so claims Albert Camus) then “Is the cup half full or half empty?” at least makes the top ten. And if the “cup” is my Inbox, the answer is it is Philled with positions sent to me by Phil Simborg. Like this one:

POS. 1. Money game. Black on roll. SHOULD BLACK REDOUBLE?



Phil says he was perplexed; was this position too good to redouble? He couldn't decide, so he flipped a coin and redoubled. He was pleasantly surprised to get a take, and a redoubled gammon.

I'd be flipping a mental coin too. I wasn't sure this was a redouble, never mind it being too good. Phil did a Snowie 3-ply evaluation which showed it to be a solid redouble, but an even more solid take. I did a short rollout (360 times, 2-ply, truncated after 7) which showed it really was a coin flip: redouble .683, no redouble .682. In practice you must redouble. If your opponent is Phil, who sees the position as possibly too good, you would get a pass, and I am sure he isn't alone in his evaluation.

What is it about the position that is filling Phil's cup and emptying mine?

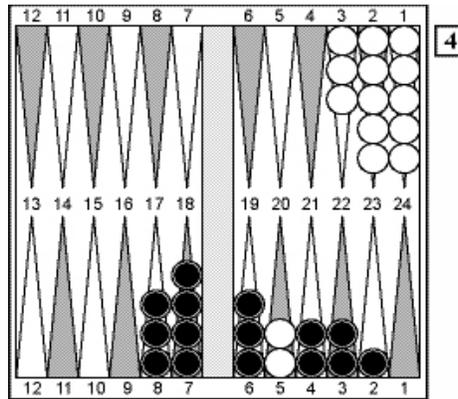
Phil, I'm sure, listed these as his assets: one checker already behind a broken five-prime; another checker exposed to 27 shots; good gammon chances if he hits; White's board maybe cracking and exposing more blots if he hits (say with 5-4 followed by 5-4). All of these might be distilled into one observation that arouses his berserker bloodlust: “I am a big favorite to hit, and if I hit I am a favorite to gammon.”

In truth, as we start draining Phil's overflowing cup, while Black is a favorite to hit, he is not a favorite to gammon even

after doing so. Black only has a three-point home board. It would be nice if we could buy our home boards from Best Buy, sold with a warranty: “guaranteed to win a gammon during the next year, or we'll replace it with a home board as good or better.” Unless Black rolls 4-4, it will still be a three-point board after hitting—if Black hits. Which means White is a favorite to come in immediately and rejoin the fight. A fight in which she has a five-point home board. Even after an ugly sequence like the 5-4 followed by 5-4 mentioned above, she will still have a four-point board: a board that is better than Black's.

Even when Black hits White's second checker her strong board prevents him from being too frisky about attacking her. Would something like this be a surprising variation?

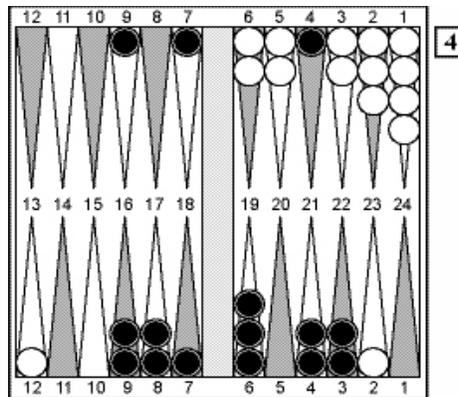
POS. 2. Money game. White on roll. WHO IS WINNING?



White is only a tiny underdog (owning the cube).

There is also the matter of Black's broken five-prime. His prime has two breaks—that's almost as much exposure as Britney or Paris climbing out of a limousine. Unless Black rolls a lucky 5-4 or 6-5, or an even total that includes a 2, his prime will not only not improve; it will get worse. How do you play these?

POS. 3, 4 & 5. Money game. Black on roll. BLACK TO PLAY (A) 2-1, (B) 6-3, (C) 5-3.



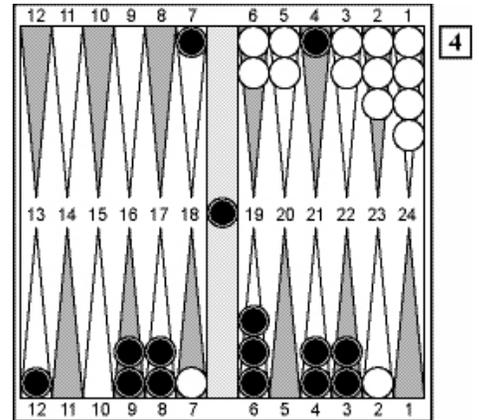
The correct play for (A) 2-1 is 18/16, 7/6. The correct play for (B) 6-3 is 18/12*, 7/4. So much for your barpoint.

And finally, what would you do with that little (C) 5-3 beauty roll?

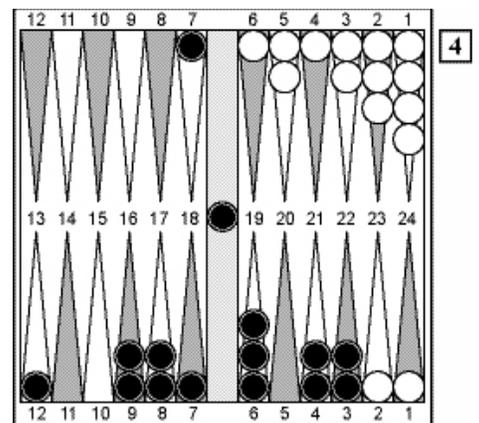
The best play is 21/16, 7/4. How do you like your game now?

Now suppose you hit with 1-1, 3-1, or 5-1: how many numbers hit back? The answer is eleven. Yes, three of those break the board; are you happy? Here are the positions after a good or bad return hit by White.

POS. 6. Money game. Black on roll after Black's 3-1 followed by White's 6-1.



POS. 7. Money game. Black on roll after Black's 3-1 followed by White's 2-1.



Snowie and the other bots use multiply evaluations. In the first ply they see the glass is half full. But in the second ply they also see it is half empty. There is no rule restricting multi-ply evaluations to robots. We all see the first play, but it isn't hard to see the second play as well. A moment's pause to picture some of the different variations, as above, is all it takes. That will be enough to stop you from hanging onto the cube because you think it is “too good,” and enough from the other side to stop you from dropping (for the same reason).—
Jake Jacobs Δ

PASS/FAIL QUIZ

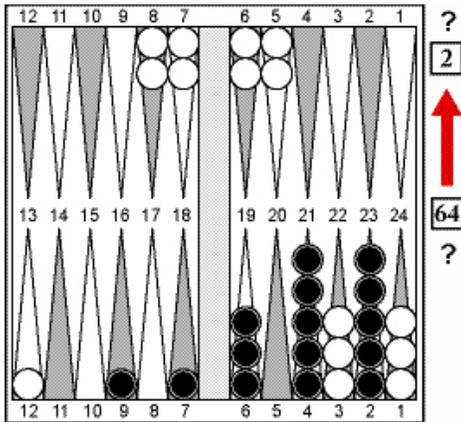
For many years, the Monday night chouette at the Little Wagon Bar has been a frequent destination for backgammon players in Minneapolis. In the past, the dime chouette was often large with six to twelve players. In a group that big, it was common to find disagreements about cube decisions, checker plays, and settlements.

I would record some of the contentious positions, roll them out using GNU, compile them in a multiple choice quiz and pass them out the following week. The average score for those who took the Thursday quiz was only 50%, and that's the cut-off line for you. YOU NEED TO SCORE AT LEAST 50% TO PASS THIS QUIZ. *Answers on page 9.*

This quiz is pass/fail, like many things in life. You get the job or you don't, you're pregnant or you're not, you pass this quiz or you don't. Circle your answers and good luck!

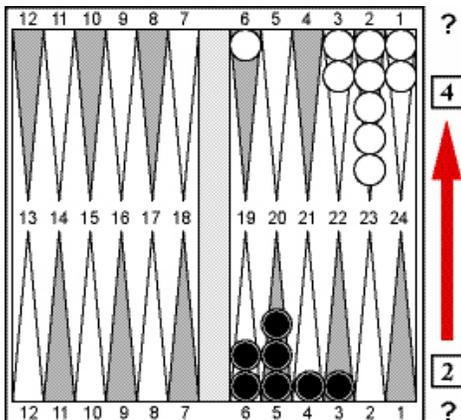
#1. Black on roll. Cube action(s)?

- A. Double / Take
- B. Double / Pass
- C. No double / Take
- D. No double / Beaver



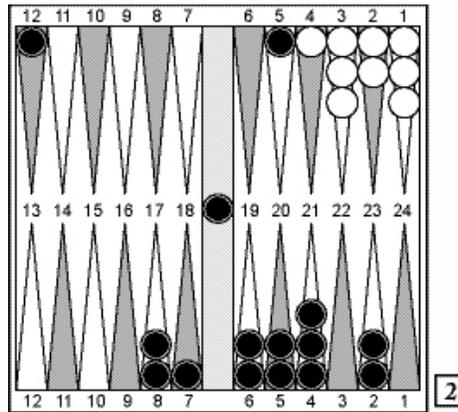
#2. Black on roll. Cube action(s)?

- A. Redouble / Take
- B. Redouble / Pass
- C. No redouble / Take
- D. No redouble / Beaver



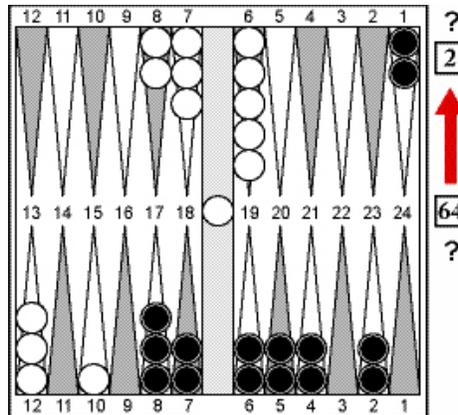
#3. Black on roll. What's the approximate SETTLEMENT if playing for \$10/point?

- A. Black should pay \$36
- B. Black should pay \$26
- C. Black should pay \$16
- D. Black should pay \$6



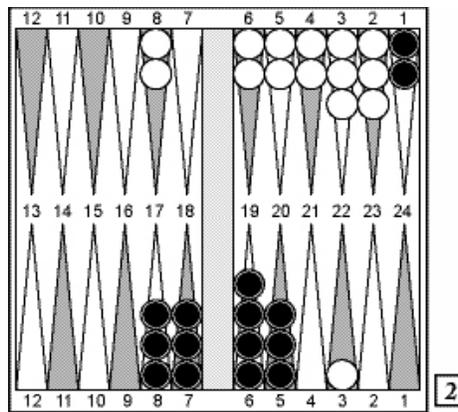
#4. Black on roll. Cube action(s)?

- A. Double / Take
- B. Double / Pass
- C. No double / Take
- D. No double / Beaver



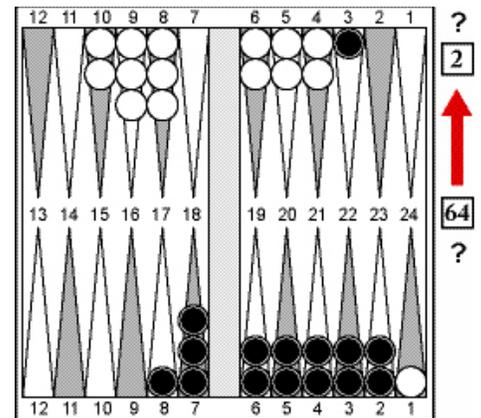
#5. Black to play 6-3.

- A. 24/15
- B. 24/18, 7/4
- C. 24/18, 6/3*
- D. 8/2, 5/2
- E. Some other play is best



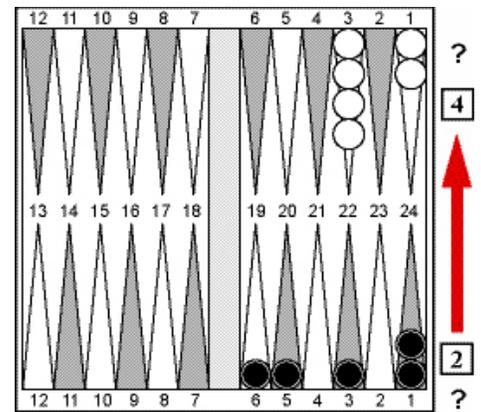
#6. Black on roll. Cube action(s)?

- A. Double / Take
- B. Double / Pass
- C. No double / Take
- D. No double / Beaver



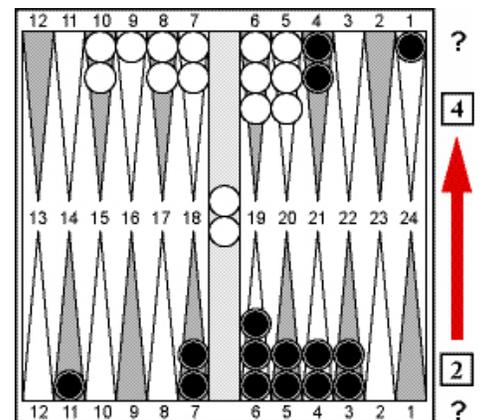
#7. Black on roll. Cube action(s)?

- A. Redouble / Take
- B. Redouble / Pass
- C. No redouble / Take
- D. No redouble / Beaver



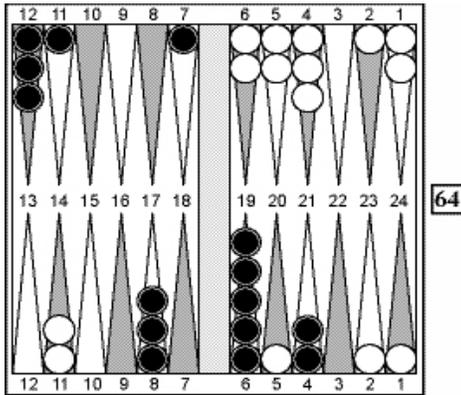
#8. Black on roll. Cube action(s)?

- A. Redouble / Take
- B. Redouble / Pass
- C. No redouble / Take
- D. No redouble / Beaver
- E. Too good to redouble / Pass



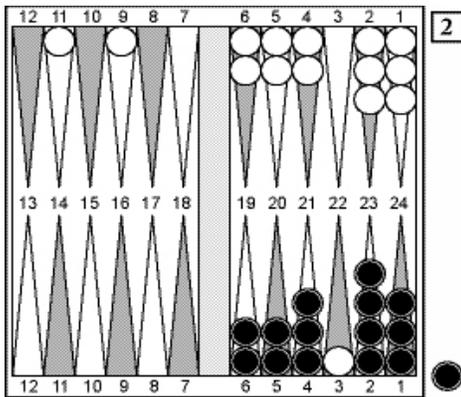
#9. Black to play 6-1.

- A. 8/2*/1*
- B. 8/2*, 6/5*
- C. 13/7, 8/7
- D. 18/12, 13/12
- E. Some other play is best



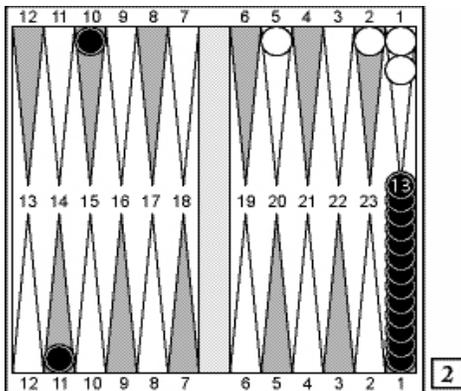
#10. Black to play 2-1.

- A. 2/off, 1/off
- B. 4/2, 1/off
- C. 4/3*/1
- D. 6/5, 6/4
- E. Some other play is best



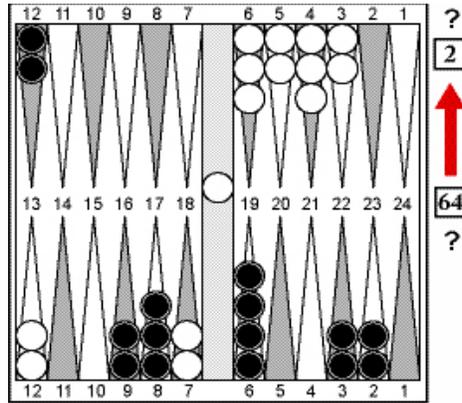
#11. The crew said Black made the WORST PLAY with 6-2. How did he play it?

- A. 11/3
- B. 11/5, 15/13
- C. 11/9, 15/9
- D. 15/7



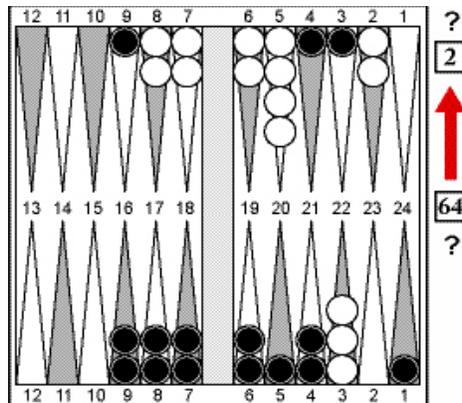
#12. Black on roll. Cube action(s)?

- A. Double / Take
- B. Double / Pass
- C. No double / Take
- D. No double / Beaver



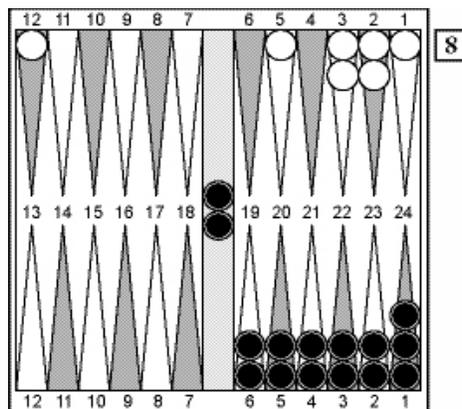
#13. Black on roll. Cube action(s)?

- A. Double / Take
- B. Double / Pass
- C. No double / Take
- D. No double / Beaver



#14. Black on roll. What's the approximate SETTLEMENT if playing for \$10/point?

- A. Black should pay \$8
- B. Black and White should wash
- C. Black should receive \$8
- D. Black should receive \$20



TIM MABEE...

[Continued from page 1]



Master's Champion
John Jennings.



Intermediate champ
Michael Flohr

move into second place in the 2008 American Backgammon Tour race.

Congratulations to Tim Mabee, a class act who once again celebrated by buying drinks for everyone at the Bar Point Club the following Tuesday.

Congrats also go out to Illinois expert John Jennings who stopped this year's "Master's King" Ray Fogelund (CA) in an exciting DMP finals 11-10.

Other winners include Bloomington director Michael Flohr, and cup & doubling cube craftsman Tim Johnson (IL).

A special nod goes to two Intermediate players who moved up to the Open.

Jolie Rubin topped Michael Shanas, Ray Fogelund and had Carter Mattig 10-1 to 11 before here dice ran out. And Canada's Chris Knapp, now certain of finishing in the ABT top 10. Chris, who has won 21 points in Intermediate tournaments this year, took the Championship Last Chance trophy to move into 4th place. Results Δ:

ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

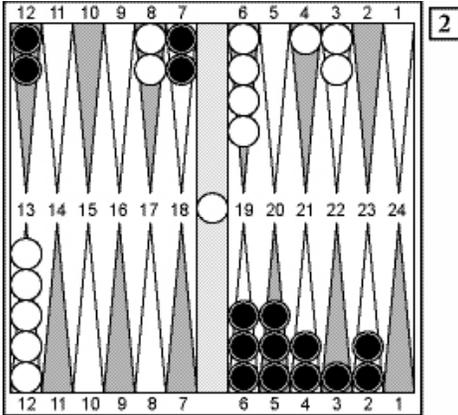
CHAMPIONSHIP (43): 1-Tim Mabee (IL), 2-Steve Brown (MN); 1C-Faddoul Khoury (IL), 2C-Sean Garber (IN); 1LC-Chris Knapp (Canada). INTERMEDIATE (32): 1-Michael Flohr (IL), 2-Ramez Abi-Akar (IL); 1C-Steve Maas (MN), 2C-John Bare (IL); 1LC-Cliff Mayoh (IL). NOVICE (9): 1-Tim Johnson (IL), 2-Jacqueline Singleton (WI); 1C-Casey Sheedy (IN); 1LC-Lyle Rubin (IL). LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (14): 1-John Jennings (IL), 2-Ray Fogelund (CA). PRAIRIE CLASSIC (32): 1-Ramez Abi-Akar (IL), 2-Chris Knapp (Canada); 1C-Michael Flohr (IL), 2C-Ilia Guzei (WI). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Chuck Bower (IN) & Iliia Guzei (WI), 2-Carter Mattig (IL) & David Rockwell (IL). KILL PHIL KO #1 (8): 1-Ray Fogelund (CA), 2-Scott Casty (IL). KILL PHIL KKO #2 (8): 1-Dave Wetzel (MN), 2-Eric Johnson (IL). PEORIA QUICKIES (32): 1-Sean Garber (IN), 2-Joe Potts (TX). AFTER TOURNAMENT (7): 1-Joe Potts (TX), 2-Fouad Malouf (IL).

[Quiz answers on page 9]

PROBLEM #339 ANALYZED

by Steve Sax

11-point match. White leads Black 4 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



When CHICAGO POINT editor Bill Davis asked me to write an analysis of this problem, I said that it would be my pleasure. Bill then put me on the spot asking, "What move would you make now?"

I am happy to say, that I guessed the (albeit barely) right move; but was I correct for the right reasons? We'll take a look at some of those reasons for each choice now.

The first choice (and my play) is to break the midpoint, creating two additional builders. The second play is to break from the back, attempting to escape your pieces while White is on the bar. The third choice is to make your ace point, reducing the number of times White can come in from the bar.

The assets of the first play (13/9, 13/8) are that if you don't get hit back, you stand an excellent chance to make your 3-point with an eye on closing White out in the ensuing rolls. The play's drawback is that you are double hit on 6-3 as well as 5-3.

If the nature of those hits was fatal (or even critical), you might want to consider making the safer move of breaking your back anchor. However, even a double hit is far from critical as White is slotted in her board and only has two points.

Additionally, her 8-point is stripped so any ensuing counterattack is tenuous in that she may have to trade her 8-point for her 4-point.

If White only hits one checker, Black has quite a few counter-hits as he can hit a White checker on his 3-point with 2s, 3s, 5s, and 6s. Additionally, if White comes in with 1-1, 4-1 or 5-1, Black has all those covers as well as 2s, 4s, and 5s to hit loose on or make his acepoint.

I generally favor an aggressive attack if it is reasonable and it is quite reasonable in this circumstance; however, there are still two more plays to look at.

The conservative (18/13, 18/14) isn't nearly as risky as play number one, but still has the benefits of a possible attack without the drawbacks of play one.

After play one or two, White will still stay out 16 times, and even after play two, Black will cover the blot on his 3-point with 26 numbers whereas with the "big" play, he will cover his blot with all but 4-4.

The main benefit of play two, is that if your immediate attack isn't going so well, you are still very close to locking the

game up as you have already accomplished a very big goal of extracting your back pieces from White's home territory.

In truth, both plays are reasonable. It's just that play one trades off about 1.8% extra losses for 4.4% extra gammon wins. With the gammon price close to money (.55), that is enough to make both plays about a dead heat.

A third play, which I didn't consider before doing the Snowie rollout, is making your own ace point. According to the rollout it's also quite close, as it wins more gammons but loses more games.

In this case, I like the potential attack more than the actual one. What I mean by that is that when you make your acepoint, you are indeed executing a blitz, but it takes away your two pronged gambits of closing out White, or just priming her in.

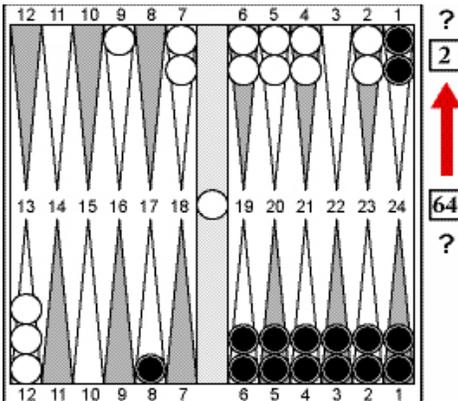
Should making the acepoint (6-1, 5-1) not be immediately successful, you may spend a decent portion of the remainder of the game trying to scramble two stripped points home, when you could have opted for a more cohesive attack or a quick break for it.

In this particular problem, the three candidate moves are quite close after analysis, so it comes down to style. My style as I stated before, is to play aggressively while giving myself options. But if your style is to play conservative as in play two, or hyper-aggressive (play three), those are just as reasonable under this circumstance so if you chose play one, two or three, you got it right! What's important is getting it right for the right reasons. Did you?—Steve Sax Δ

JEREMY'S BACK...

[Continued from page 1]

15 point finals. Tim Mabee (Black) trails Steve Brown (White) 9 to 13. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



Lawrence Wilson (CO) in the Advanced, and Jerry Golley (CO) in the Novice. Δ

COLORADO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (32): 1-Jeremy Bagai (CA), 2-Alfred Mamlet (MD); 1C-Carter Mattig (IL), 2C-Rich Siebold (CO); 1LC-Neil Kazaross (IL). ADVANCED (19): 1-Lawrence Wilson (CO), 2-Marc Emrich (CO); 1C-Neville Kerr (Australia/CO), 2C-Mark Stone (CO); 1LC-Ed Gazvoda (CO). NOVICE (8): 1-Jerry Golley (CO), 2-Gloria McCracken (CO); 1C-Bart Guim (CO). CONTINENTAL DIVIDE MASTERS (13+3 rebuys): 1-Stepan Nuniyants (WA), 2-Petko Kostadinov (SC). ROYAL GORGE AMATEUR JP (17): 1-Ed Gazvoda (CO), 2-Julius High (NY). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Ray Foggerlund (CA) & Bob Koca (MD), 2-Tami Jones (ID) & Bill Riles (TX). DOUBLES OVERFLOW (8 teams): 1-Lynn Lusk (CO) & Norm Wiggins (CA). BLITZ (32): 1-Bill Davis (IL), 2-Dave Settles (IL). QUICKIES (32): 1-Jim Allen (NV).

ILLINOIS ACTION



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

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

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Holiday Inn O'Hare, 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. 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 (309/224-9579).

WINNER'S CIRCLE



AUG.-OCT. 2008

•**Iowa State Fair Backgammon Championship** (Des Moines, Iowa; August)... DIV. #1: 1-Brian Bemisdarfer, 2-Norm Mandelraum. DIV. #2: 1-G. David Peterson, 2-Mark Davidson.

•**Underwater BG World Championship** (Mallorca, Spain; September)... OPEN: 1-Ilya Petrou, 2-Lottie Uden, 3-Henrik Uden. To view the event and news about next year's tourney, go to www.underwaterbackgammon.com.

•**2nd Nice Casino Ruhl Open** (Nice, France; 5-7 Sep.)... MASTERS (19): 1-Werner Schmuck (AUT), 2-Alex Lehmann (USA/FRA); 1C-Hans-Uli Koch (GER), 2C-Tassilo Rzymann (AUT); 1LC-Nihat Sorgüven (TUR). INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Renato Sovani (ITA), 2-Alfredo Sperti (ITA); 1C-Seda Koc (TUR). DOUBLES (8): 1-Werner Schmuck & Tassilo Rzymann (AUT). LADIES (5): 1-Marion Bambi de Bruin (GER/SPA). WARM-UP (19): 1-Hans-Uli Koch (GER). SPERTI TROPHY (16): 1-Arda Findikoglu (TUR), 2-Hamza Nar (TUR). 1-POINT (PRESIDENT'S) TOURNEY: 1-Abdullah Sorgüven (TUR).

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 14 Sep.)... OPEN (9): 1-Steve Flam, 2-Neal Rosensweig.

•**Aix-en-Provence Partouche Cup—PGT** (Aix-en-Provence, France; 18-21 Sep.)... OPEN (42+11 rebuys): 1-Hans-Uli Koch (GER), 2-Piergiorgio D'Ancona (ITA), 3/4-Frank Brinkmann (GER) / Thierry Manouck (FRA); 1C-Mario Sequeira (POR), 2C-Minh Nguyen (FRA), 3C/4C-Ed O'Laughlin (USA) / Peter Van de Bruck (NED); 1LC-Rassoul Rasti (SWZ), 2LC-Frédéric Andrieu (FRA). BEGINNERS (16): 1-Raphael Brun (FRA), 2-Laurent Pascal (FRA). WARM-UP (38): 1-Tassilo Rzymann (AUT). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Gary Bauer (USA) & Michel Hileyen (FRA), 2-Hans-Uli Koch (GER) & Ed O'Laughlin (USA). FAIR PLAY PRIZE: Fabrizio Lo Surdo (ITA).

•**New England Club Monthly** (Malden, MA; 20 Sep.)... OPEN (16): 1-Jacob Mashak, 2-Dan Chicoine, 3/4-Greg Jukins / Alex Zamanian; 1C-Dave Metz, 2C-Tom O'Riordan.

•**2008 Vietor Cup** (La Jolla, CA; 20-21 Sep.)... OPEN (28): 1-Simon Reeves, 2-Odis Chenault; 1C-Bob Wachtel, 2-Justin Nunez... The annual event was directed by Patrick Gibson at Jon Vietor's residence.

•**30th Flint Club Championships** (Flint MI; 21 Sep.)... OPEN (27): 1-Carol Joy Cole, 2-Sal Chehayeb, 3-Brad King, 4/5/6-Jim Airgood / Maurice Barie / Paul Berg. INTERMEDIATE (16): 1-Steven Sherbel, 2-Jeff Clark, 3-Max Levenstein. NOVICE (6): 1-Jenna Longman, 2-Dan Posen.

•**1st Egyptian International Tournament** (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt; 20-26 Sep.)... OPEN:

1-Antoinette-Marie Williams (USA).

•**11th Austrian Open** (Seefeld, Austria; 1-5 Oct.)... MASTERS (27): 1-Giorgio Castellano (ITA), 2-Ronald Reinhardt (AUT), 3/4-Juan Bautista Liriano (Santo Domingo) / Fabrizio Lo Surdo (ITA); 1C-Manfred Holleder (GER), 2C-Harald Johanni (GER); 1LC-Stefan Bobenhausen (GER). Ladies Prize: Andrea Riebler (AUT). CHAMPIONS (38): 1-Christian Liebe-Harkort (GER), 2-Giuseppe Ricciardi (ITA); 1C-Cristian Matei (RUM/ITA), 2C-Bartolomeo Migliore (ITA); 1LC-Giuseppe Rigon (ITA). Ladies Prize: Fatima Simonsen (BRZ). INTERMEDIATE (21): 1-Christian Derichs (GER), 2-Stephen Taylor (ENG); 1C-Alfredo Sperti (ITA), 2C-Fritz Winkler (AUT); 1LC-Emil Benattar (ITA). Ladies Prize: Fritz Winkler (AUT). DOUBLES (12 teams): 1-Walter Jarc (CAN) & Damian Plesec (SLO), 2-Marian Manaila (RUM) & Marian Popescu (RUM). WARM-UP (44): 1-Dorin Vianu (RUM), 2-Renato Sovani (ITA). LADIES TOURNAMENT (11): 1-Laura Monaco (ITA), 2-Petra Jobst (GER). SPERTI TROPHY (34): 1-Ronald Reinhardt (AUT), 2-Neculai Draganuta (RUM). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Mario Sequeira (POR), 2-Ronald Reinhardt (AUT). PRESIDENT'S 1-POINT #1 (64): 1-Kemal Aksu (TUR). #2 (64): 1-Andrea Riebler (AUT). #3 (64): 1-Denise Kaiser (SWZ).

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 5 Oct.)... OPEN (23): 1-Bill Davis, 2-Carter Mattig, 3/4-Rory Pascar / Ken Bond; 1C-Christopher Shanova, 2C-Ken Tyszko. INTERMEDIATE (7): 1-Les Moshinsky, 2-Cookie Frazin; 1C-Amy Trudeau.

•**14th Japan Open/Japanese Backgammon Championship** (Tokyo, Japan; 11-13 Oct.)... JAPAN OPEN (52): 1-Junko Nakamura (JPN), 2-Noriaki Hosaka (JPN), 3/4-Jake Jacobs (USA/SNG) / Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (ISR); 1st Consolation: 1C-Tomoya Mitsuyoshi (JPN); 2nd Consolation: 1C-Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN). CHAMPIONSHIP (128 with re-entries): 1-Kiyokazu Nishikawa (JPN), 2-Kazuya Nagai (JPN), 3/4-Yusuke Itagaki (JPN) / Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN). INTERMEDIATE (112 with re-entries): 1-Mayumi Kanno (JPN), 2-Kazuhito Mukai (JPN). \$1,000 SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1-Sander Lylloff (DEN), 2-Masayuki Mochizuki (JPN). NORDIC OPEN TOURNAMENT QUALIFIER: Yoshito Takeuchi (JPN). 1-POINT MATCHES: 1-Tatsuya Tanaka (JPN). Δ

Duane Jensen's PASS/FAIL QUIZ

ANSWERS. You need 7 correct answers to "pass."

- | | |
|------------------|-------|
| 1. D | 8. B |
| 2. C | 9. A |
| 3. B | 10. A |
| 4. B | 11. B |
| 5. E (8/2, 6/3*) | 12. A |
| 6. A | 13. C |
| 7. B | 14. B |

AMALGAMATION

When **Stick Rice** (OH) entered the weekly Bar Point Club tournament 23 September, **Phil Simborg** put a bounty on his head: a bag of rice! New Jersey to Las Vegas: **Larry Liebster** (who visited the BPC 5 October). Las Vegas to Chicago: **Howard Markowitz**... Sexy Transformers star **Megan Fox** admits to being a geek. She claims she stays at home and plays backgammon. It's an endearing quality and makes her feel like the girl next door... Four men (**Joseph Ingargiola, James Harrison, Stephen Phillips, and Steven Forte**) were indicted 2 October in a high-tech gambling scheme at the Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City. They're accused of rigging a nearby room with



Backgammon hottie Megan Fox

surveillance equipment and computers to cheat high rollers in Chinese poker, chess, and backgammon... A by-invitation-only reading of **Lee Tannen's** "I Loved Lucy" was presented 10 October in Manhattan, NYC. The upcoming play will tell the story of a friendship between **Lucille Ball** and Tannen during the decade of Lucy's life where she stayed out of television and primarily played backgammon... "MotionX-Dice" is an amazing new app for the iPhone. You literally shake the phone and the dice "roll" on the screen before stopping on a number. Speaking of the iPhone, you can now play backgammon using the FIBS server with Multi-media Go's app "Backgammon Online." Price: \$4.99... **Roland Dieter** spotted the vanity Illinois license plate "Think BG" in Deerfield... A 2 October Reuters news report on **Barack Obama's** health plan draws positive support from Commonwealth Fund president and backgammon expert **Karen Davis** (NY/FL)... **Joann Feinstein** (IL) suffered an infection following her hip fracture which delayed her physical therapy treatment... Speaking of **Barack Obama**, he leads our CHICAGO POINT online poll with 93 votes to 64 for **John McCain**. Voting online ends 26 October... Backgammon for Dummies by **Chris Bray** can be advance-ordered at Amazon.com. Look for a review in December's POINT... Congrats to newlyweds **Kim and Brian Barber**, married in New York 6 September... Join us for poker and backgammon on board the Crown Princess as it sails the Caribbean 18-25 January for BG on Board IX. Hurry! Call **Sue Will** (309/699-6005) to reserve your cabin today. Δ

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