



will it PLAY in? PEORIA?

A first person account of the 1997 Illinois State Challenge Cup.

By Jake Jacobs

I have a conspiracy to report. I dialed 1-800-OLIVERSTONE, but once they learned I had no connection to the CIA they lost interest. So I will expose it here in the POINT.

Sunday, 2 February 1997 was the 17th annual Illinois State Challenge Cup. Eight teams from around the state converged on Peoria to battle it out. In a clever bit of scheduling, one of the "Springfield Series" tournaments was held at River Station Restaurant (the Challenge Cup site) on Saturday, February 1. (Congratulations to winner Cliff Mayoh, runner-up Ben Zemaitis, to 2nd Consolation winner Harry Cohn, and to my dice, who won the Consolation with little help from their roller.) Those of us who had come to Peoria a day early to enter the Springfield Series, had an entire evening to kill. This is when the dire plot was carried out.

Next to our Hotel, the Pere Marquette (a fine old place that just celebrated its 70th anniversary), is a gentleman's club known as Big Al's. One of the conspirators, in fact, was heard to remark: "What a great hotel. It's right next to Big Al's!" (Pere Marquette marketing department take note.)

As the scheme unfolded, members of at least four of the clubs conspired to lure me away from the wholesome environment of Ed and Lisa Zell's pre-tourney party, and into a den of vice and iniquity and general depravity, that being the aforementioned Big Al's. If successful, they hoped that the next day my mind would be focused on EE cups, and not dice cups, and so I would contribute nothing to further my team's cause in the Challenge Cup.

The plan was partly successful. Following their lead, I stayed out all night, drinking

[Continued on page 5]

turkish world cup challenge III

MONSTER PAYDAYS FOR KAARRATIAN AND GRANDELL IN TURKEY

What will 27-year-old Hamid Kaarratian do with \$70,000? That



Turkish Champ Hamid Kaarratian (left) and World Cup Challenge winner Jerry Grandell. [Photos by Elliott Winslow.]

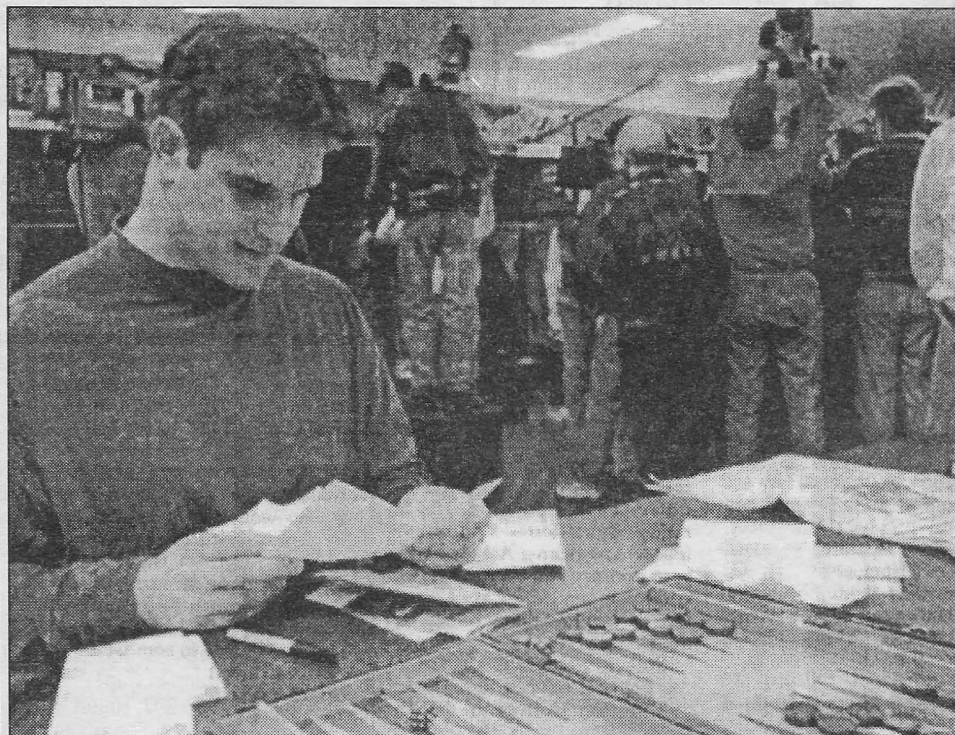
was his paycheck for winning this year's Turkish Championship. The event was held at the Conrad International Hotel 10-19 January with Abraham Eitan (ISR) directing.

Kaarratian, of Bremen, Germany defeated Amschel Nadjar (France) 23-19 to claim the big prize. From *European Backgammon News* accounts, Hamid should have lost in the quarterfinals. Apparently

his opponent, Sven Rümker needlessly exposed a checker on his winning bearoff which Hamid hit to turn the match around.

In the other big event, Jerry Grandell (Sweden) topped Leo Fernández (Argentina) in the \$5,000 Giant Jackpot to collect \$80,000. **Congratulations to all the winners, shown on page 7. Δ**

'PACK'GAMMON



While the World Champion Green Bay Packers locker room buzzes with media coverage, Left Tackle John Michaels takes time to look over a backgammon position. A number of Packers are BG players. [Photo by Mark Gail submitted by Merrill Schrage.]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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1927 MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Great MBC invitation this year. My only "complaint" is that my flyer wasn't perfect; it arrived with "bullet holes" in it!—*David Moeser, Cincinnati, OH*

Is it OK if I bring a claw foot bathtub full of gin to the 1927 Championships? The martini's will taste great, especially if we can get a hot flapper to jump in nude before we dip our glasses in! If that happens, I'll definitely have my martini "UP!" In fact, the hell with the glass. I'll just dive in head first and . . . [CENSORED—Ed.]—*Jim Opre, Downers Grove, IL*

The Corporation of United Backgammon Enthusiasts (Italian stock market symbol CUBE) announces a hostile takeover attempt of Da Family to take place March 21–23 in Chicago. CUBE is sending an executive delegation to the Drake Oakbrook Hotel to

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

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

E-mail: cjc@flint.org

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Mar 9	14th Fleet Underwood Charity Tournament, Ramada, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 9*	Milwaukee Bimonthly Backgammon, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Mar 16	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Mar 16	Backgammon By The Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Mar 16*	St. Paddy's Day Open House, Coterie Club, New York, NY	212/371-5151
Mar 20*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 21-23	<u>1997 Midwest Championships, The Drake Oakbrook, Oak Brook, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Mar 23*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Mar 29*	Atlanta Spring Doubles Tournament, Tony's Grill & Tap, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Mar 29*	Beverly Hills Monthly Tournament, Clarine's, Beverly Hills, CA	310/273-1632
Apr 1	FIBS 1997 Spring Tournament, via modem. E-mail: davide@sco.com	408/438-7947
Apr 1*	Games Grid Monthly Online Tournament, via modem E-mail: lainer@cyberbeach.net	
Apr 4-6*	<u>38th Gammon Associates Invitational, The Mirage Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Apr 5*	Springfield Series #6, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 6	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Apr 11-13	<u>South Florida Spring Tournament, Ireland's Inn, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/785-1282</u>
Apr 12-13	Nation's Capital Spring Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 13*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Apr 17*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Apr 19*	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 20*	Games People Play Bimonthly Tourney, Mr. Ricky's Note, Chicago, IL	312/734-9430
Apr 20*	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Apr 22-27	4th Worldwide Twin Championships, Four Queens Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Apr 27*	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's Grill & Tap, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
May 13*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
May 23-26	<u>18th Annual Chicago Open, Wyndham Hamilton Hotel, Itasca, IL</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
May 31*	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's Grill & Tap, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Jun 6-8*	<u>New York State Championship, New York Chess & BG, New York, NY</u>	<u>800/520-1809</u>
Jun 20-22	<u>1997 Georgia Championships/Peach Cup, Holiday Inn Select, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Jul 3-6	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 12-13	Nation's Capital Summer Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Aug 1-3*	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Aug 29-Sep 1	<u>45th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 19-21	<u>2nd Minnesota State Championships, Minneapolis Athletic Club, Minnesota</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
Sep 26-28*	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Oct 2-5	Illinois State Champs & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL	847/945-7801
Oct 10-12	Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Oct 31-Nov 2*	<u>Northeast Regional: 4th New England Championships, South Lee, MA</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Nov 3-8	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Dec 5-7	<u>40th Gammon Associates Invitational, Location TBA, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Dec 27-28	<u>Ace Point New York Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Mar 12-13*	2nd European Pro-Am Team Championship, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switz.	4161-2710137
Mar 13-16	Trophée des Alpes: Ted Basset Cup, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Mar 15-16*	BIBA Bonus Tourney, Hilton National, Coventry, England	441522-546993
Mar 20-23	Trophée des Alpes: St. Moritz, Badrutt's Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switz.	4161-2710137
Mar 22-23	3rd Lundia Open, Hotel Lundia, Lund, Sweden	4640-913292
Mar 28-31	9th Nordic "Wide" Open, Scandinavia Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-400607
Apr 3-6	Tornei Sulla Nave "Costa Riviera," mini-cruise, Crociera, Italy	392-29409743
Apr 10-13*	Düsseldorf Open, Hotel Holiday Inn, Kaarst/Düsseldorf, Germany	4921-51501359
Apr 12-13	British Open, Hilton National Hotel, East Midlands Airport, England	441522-546993
Apr 18-19*	<u>New Date: 4th Hong Kong Invitational, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong</u>	<u>852-28461923</u>
Apr 19-20	Italian Championship Big Ten Finals, Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy	393-37583431
Apr 28-May 4*	3rd EBN Internat'l Tournament, San Juan Los Terreros, Almeria, Spain	349-50133009
May 3-4*	Italian Championship Torneo, Hotel Ritz, Rome, Italy	395-55273123
May 16-18	2nd Istrian Open, Hotel Parentium, Porec, Parenzo, Croatia	392-40073420
May 17-18	County Cups Trophy, Hilton Nat'l Hotel, East Midlands Airport, England	441522-546993
May 31-Jun 1*	Italian Championship and Viva Las Vegas, Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy	393-37583431
Jun 19-22	9th "City of Venice" Tournament, Casino Municipale, Venice, Italy	3941-5211029
Jun 26-29*	3rd Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	495-2164314
Jun 28-29*	Hilton Trophy 1997, Hilton Nat'l Hotel, East Midlands Airport, England	441522-546993
Jul 7-13	Monte-Carlo World Championship, Loews Monte-Carlo Hotel, Monaco	305/527-4033
Jul 14-16*	5th Nice Open, Lido Plage Restaurant, Nice, France	334-93879436
Aug 8-10*	Franken Ganz Open 3, Hotel Schwarzer Adler, Nürnberg, Germany	49911-737514
Aug 13-17*	5th Tournament of the Americas, Cariari Hotel, San José, Costa Rica	773/583-6464
Aug 14-17*	Summer Championships, Badrutt's Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	4161-2710137

LETTERS...

(Continued from page 2)

gain control over da Midwest operation:

Wally Swan: MIS Director. Some say Wally's constant confused state suits him perfectly for job of MIS-Information Director.

Dr. Bob Hill: HMO Director. Dr. Hill's medical backgrounds aids him as leader of Health Maintenance Organizations. A small (20% of gross revenue) employer contribution to the HMO will ensure their employees do not meet with any malady such as accidental dismemberment.

Hersal Namdar: Traffic Manager. Hersal has recently been promoted to this position after years of outstanding service as getaway taxi cab driver.

Marc Gray: VP of Gaming Operations: Marc's hands-on attitude attributed to his quick rise within the ranks.

James Roston: VP of Accounts Receivable, Contracts Division. Mr. Roston's motto is "Who'd J.R. shoot?"—*Walt Swan, Newark, NJ*

CLOCKS IN TURKEY

For the first time, the Turkish World Cup Challenge used chess clocks from the round-of-64 through the finals. After this experience, I believe that all backgammon tournaments should be conducted with clocks.

As I see it, clocks have only advantages and no faults. They stop unnecessary slow moves, pace the match lengths, and permit rounds to start at a set time. With clocks, tournament play is easier for both the player and the director.—*Abraham Eitan, Director, World Cup Challenge*

PATTI GETS HER OPPORTUNITY

Y'know, Bill. I gotta tell ya . . . I think you've got horrible taste in women.—*Patti Beadles, S. San Francisco, CA*

So you didn't like our Jan. website CHICAGO POINT girl, Patti? Well here's your opportunity to post whoever



(or whatever) you want at our site. Send your picture choice to us by 1 April (April Fool's Day) and we'll make the posting at: <http://homepage.interaccess.com/~chipoint/> for a week (2-8 April). It will be interesting to check out your taste.—Ed.

EXTENDING THE DECIMAL

Your Jan./Feb. 1997 issue carried a letter from Antonio Ortega asking if a version of Kit Woolsey's match equity table was available with values extended to tenths of a percent. There may be. Readers of my book *Can a Fish Taste Twice as Good?* know that my tables are so extended. What fewer realize is that Walter Trice's MEG software generates values to the hundredth of a percent. This seems like anal retention at its worst until one tries, as I suspect Antonio did, to calculate some extreme takepoint (e.g. 24 away, 3 away) and discovers that whole numbers just won't do the trick.

MEG permits the user to create custom match equity tables, so Antonio (or anyone else) could plug in values that build a two decimal place table approximating Kit's.—*Jake Jacobs, Des Plaines, IL*

MEG software is available from Carol Joy Cole at 810/232-9731.—Ed.

MADONNA BETTER AT BACKGAMMON

I saw the movie *Evita* ten days ago in Milan. Good, but I prefer Madonna playing backgammon with the dog!—*Alberto da Pra, Milan, Italy*

Editor's note: The picture Alberto is joking about is in the June 1995 POINT and at: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~freyjs/madonna/html/versace/versacebackg.jpg> Δ



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1997

Compiled through 16 Feb. 1997 after Pittsburgh tourney (Upcoming: Midwest Champs, G/A Invitational, So. Florida Spring)



Doug Mayfield	21.12	Abbas Zaltash	5.28	Reza Zaltash	2.82	Marty Storer	2.11
Rich Catalano	10.56	Malcolm Davis	4.93	David Levine	2.64	Joe Davidson	1.40
Mike Friedman	10.56	Jon Stephens	4.91	Nayan Shah	2.64	Gary Marchenia	1.40
Steve Sax	9.82	Terry Kayser	4.90	Ed King	2.46	Pete Townsend	1.06
Allen Levien	5.28	Jim Muirhead	4.00	Gary Stern	2.46	Bill Versaw	0.63
Drew Giovanis	5.28						



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1997 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED THRU 28 FEB.

Neil Kazaross	7.52	Jake Jacobs	2.80	Fred Badagnani	0.88	Barbara Levinson	0.56
Bill Keefe	5.76	Don Jayhan	2.72	Marty Tatossian	0.88	Steve Klesker	0.56
Bill Davis	4.56	Stu Katz	2.16	Phil Barrett	0.80	Amy Valerio	0.44
Gary Kay	4.24	Richard Lloyd	1.92	Tim Mabee	0.80	Jay Ward	0.28
Alice Kay	4.04	John Demian	1.84	Arline Levy	0.72	Roz Ferris	0.20
Joann Feinstein	3.84	Harry Cohn	1.76	John Brussel	0.68	Jolie Rubin	0.16
Leslie Lockett	3.60	Roger Hickman	1.60	V.W. Zimnicki	0.64	Mark Murray	0.16
Herb Roman	3.52	Phil Simborg	1.04	Paul Friedman	0.64	Scott Richardson	0.12
Paul Franks	3.32	Paul Klein	1.04	Wendy Kaplan	0.64	Reggie Porter	0.12
Norma Shyer	3.28	Phyllis Smolinski	0.96	Roland Dieter	0.64		

Two tourney victories gave **JOANN FEINSTEIN** (3.84) January top honors to open the 1997 BPC points race. Leslie Lockett (on the strength of her Hawthorne victory) placed second with 2.72 points. Bill Keefe's 2.64 points was good enough for third.

February saw a return of **NEIL KAZAROSS** dominance. Neil collected 5.60 points by splitting first in three events. Bill Davis (3.84) and Bill Keefe (3.12) were runners-up.

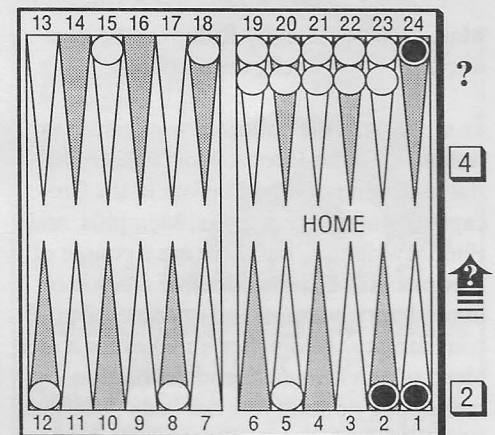
If you finish in the Top 20 for 1997 (bold names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st—Trophy + \$150, 2nd—\$100, 3rd—\$50. 1st through 20th—one ounce solid silver coin. 1st through 6th—Invitation to participate on the Chicago Bar Point Club team in the 1998 Illinois State Challenge Cup.

your move

PROBLEM #232

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Money game. Black on roll with 12 checkers borne off. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



It's a Funny Thing.

Jake Jacobs' new book:

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Four-Point"

Reviewed by **Walter Trice**

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Four-Point ©1997 by Jake Jacobs. Published by ToBak Press. Spiral bound soft cover. 196 pages. \$36 plus postage. Available from Carol Joy Cole; 3003 Ridgecliffe Drive; Flint, MI 48532. 810/232-9731.

I have been asked to review a book where the cast of characters includes an enormous snake, an elephant, and a small woman dressed in "what might be described as a Martian bridesmaid's costume." (Photographs are included, perhaps to allay any suspicions that the author might have drawn his inspiration from a bout of *delirium tremens*.)

You'll encounter Dr. Frankenstein, Igor, and Renfield, all huddled around the, same operating table. There's Little Lamb and the Wolf, Joel Cairo, Brigid O'Shaughnessy, Captain Jacoby Rule, Scrooge and the ghosts, Captain Blood, the Answer Man, the Great Dane, Chick F. Araby, and an endless parade of bar girls, dancers, masseuses, gamblers, and assorted epicsures.

The action takes place in Chicago, Memphis, Las Vegas, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Seoul, Bangkok, the Genting Highlands, the Philippines, and Phuket (Phuket?)

"I know!" the cry rings out as a hand shoots up. "It's a screenplay for the Mel Brooks/Larry Flynt/Tobe Hooper remake of 'Around the World in 80 Days.'"

"Wrong again," replies the Answer Man. "Captain Jacoby Rule was the give-away. This is a backgammon book!"

IT IS, IN FACT, the collected backgammon writings of Jake Jacobs. Most of the material has been published before in the Chicago, Boston, Indianapolis, Memphis, and Flint newsletters, but there are a couple of new pieces and a considerable amount of introductory material and retrospective commentary. Altogether it makes for a nice blend of entertainment and instruction, resembling nothing that has been published since Lewis Deyong's Playboy Book of

Backgammon 20 years ago. Even this comparison is a bit of a stretch—somehow I can't picture Deyong watching Ling Ling do her thing aboard the Shangri-La, or joining Fast Freddie's quest for genuine Dong Dong Ju in a series of Korean dives.

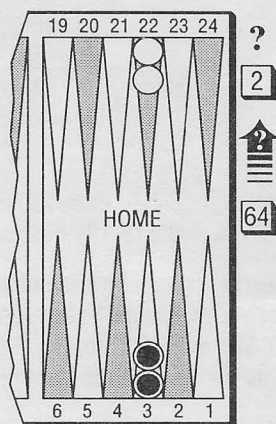
Jake plays well and writes well. In addition to the entertaining chouette-fantasies and travel tales, there is a lot of good instructional material in *A Funny Thing...*, memorably presented. For example, faced with CHICAGO POINT Problem #167, a double-3s play with a confusing array of mixed blitzing and priming options, Jake cuts through the chaos by focusing strictly on the number of response rolls that prevent an effective cube turn, and then pronounces "Jockey Jake's touting report" on each "nag."

This is the sort of backgammon writing that sticks with you, unlike dry unadorned enumeration. Among other things, it teaches the important lesson that it is better to use a decision-procedure that "probably works" than to despair of finding the ultimate "right answer" and resort to vague intuitions and feelings.

The few errors in the book mostly result from the author's tackling theoretical problems without a complete mastery of the technical tools. Certainly you don't have to be a mathematician to play backgammon, but someone with a scientific background is more likely to grasp the mathematical *big picture* that lets you distinguish infallibly between things you know and things you only think you know.

Jake is quick to admit that when high school math came around, his main ambition was "to be a hoodlum," and that consequently he "don't know much about algebra." Nonetheless, in one essay, he takes on the general problem of the cubeless take-point at 4-away/3-away, and after some rather random number shuffling concludes that "It varies between 27-35%." That would seem to exclude the following bearoff position:

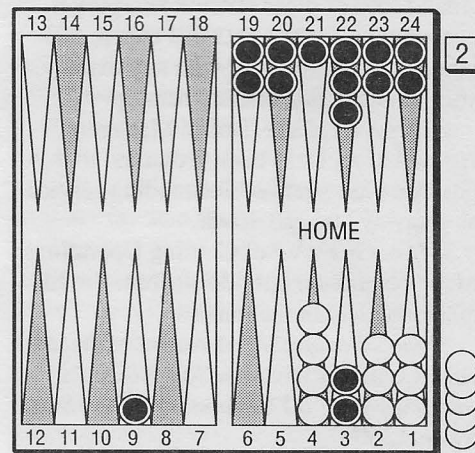
Match to 7 points. Black trails White, 3-4. Black on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Here, the 4-away player can take, though it's a money drop with cubeless chances under 25%. In fact, this situation is typical for the score, and in long races, takes dip well under 24%.

OCCASIONALLY, THE ANALYSIS is a bit too casual for my taste:

Match to 13. White (Jake) leads Doug Roberts 6-4. **WHITE TO PLAY 6-2.**



Jake writes "I reasoned that I would lose less than 1½% additional games with my risky play; surely I would gain more than enough gammons to compensate. According to *Expert Backgammon™*, no I would not. While a hit is not a win for Doug, it is a gammon-saver. Also, in completing my bearoff, I have a good chance of wasting, costing me the roll I 'gained.'"

A few simple facts, none very hard to obtain, would have shed a great deal more light on this problem. If you know that (a) Jake already wins a gammon 75% of the time with the safe play; (b) the safe play results in getting hit 7% of the time vs. 14% for the risky play, and (c) the risky play bears off less than half a roll faster, then it becomes clear that Jake's position is past the point of diminishing returns for aggressive gammon-hunting.

For extra credit he might have told us how many men you have to add to the ace and deuce points to justify aggression (I think the answer is two, but I don't know for sure.)

OVER ALL, THOUGH, compared with most other backgammon books, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Four-Point* is at least as accurate and vastly more entertaining. The book is well produced with a plastic comb binding and an attractive cover, and the text (including the 136 backgammon position diagrams) is crisply printed and easy to read.—Walter Trice Δ

PEORIA...

[Continued from page 1]

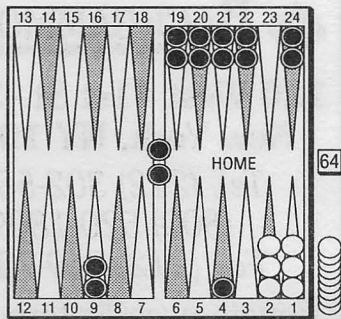
beer and helping a deserving young lady pay for her college education. What the sinister cabal never dreamed was that overseas, my usual training regimen consists of staying out all night drinking beer and helping a deserving young lady pay for her family's water buffalo. As is well known, too much thought tightens up the muscles of the rolling arm, and by the next morning I was nothing if not loose.

As I stated, there were eight Illinois clubs participating in this year's Challenge Cup: Pub Club, Bar Point, Winnetka, Sangamon Valley, Central Illinois (Peoria), Bloomington-Normal, Prime, and the newest entrant from Chicago, Games People Play. The format this year allowed each team to face only six of its seven competitors. The six highest available master point finishers from each club comprised the teams. Players would face the other team members of like ranking.

Playing first board for the Pub Club, I drew Neil Kazaross, the Bar Point Club's "numero uno," as my first round opponent. Neil soon had me down 4-2 Crawford (all matches were to 5 points) and was closing me out for the kill when I entered with a 2-5, hitting, then closed out three of his men. Later in the game:

Position #1.

White (Jake) trails Neil 2-4, Crawford. **BLACK ON ROLL.**



Neil, a sweetheart of a guy, was kind enough to roll 2-1 here. I rolled 6-1, then he rolled another 2-1. I now rolled 5-1, which was just enough to give Neil a flicker of hope. This is what Bob Ebbeler calls "teasing the animals." Neil entered with 6-3 and was backgammoned for the match.

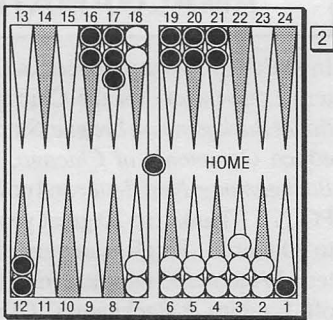
Besides being one of the world's best match players, Neil is a terrific sport, and was the first to shake my hand—after he got through breaking his board over my head.

NEIL WAS NOT THE UNLUCKIEST of my victims. That distinction belongs to Winnetka's Paul Friedman. But unfortunately (or fortunately for Paul's sake), whatever I did to him was so terrible, that even I have blotted out the memory. I do, however, recall this from my match with

downstater Dick Nelson:

Position #2.

Double match-point. **WHITE (Jake) TO PLAY 6-5.**

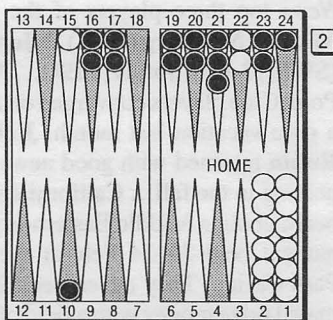


I hope we all agree that the 5 should be played 18/13? Now it's just a choice of 6s. Most players, especially as they rationalize that it's double match-point and gammon wins are of no extra value, want to keep the 6-prime. This is hugely wrong for money, and is merely gigantically wrong here. The difference in win percentage is 78.1% for the timid play, and 83.5% for the hit. I hit. Dick rolled 1-1. Yikes!

Some time later things had improved for me all the way to here:

Position #3.

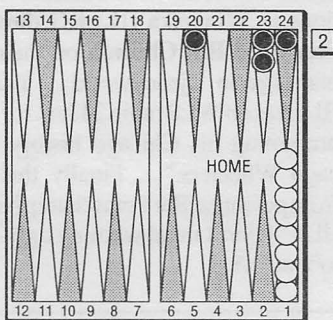
Double match-point. **WHITE (Jake) TO PLAY 4-3.**



It is very tempting to run with 22/15, making an intermediate bid to escape. In fact, Dick's 4-1 would have left a double shot. However, I kept the anchor, which turns out to be best: 17.9% vs. 10.4%. I was rewarded with a 4-4 the next roll, but found I lacked a follow through:

Position #4.

Double match-point. **WHITE (Jake) ON ROLL.**

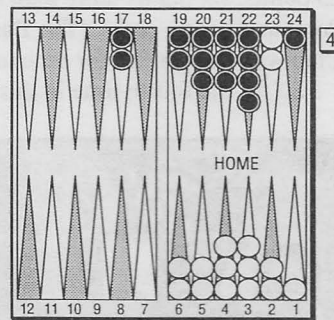


I rolled a set. Dick rolled 5-1. I didn't roll a second set, but Dick rolled another ace. Hugh Sconyers' data base says that I had a 14.6% chance of winning the match from the position above, so next time you find yourself in this spot, you'll know.

MY LAST VICTIM was Games People Play director J.A. Miller. Trust me when I say that my having reached double match point was a miracle. Still, I have been in better positions:

Position #5.

Double match-point. **WHITE (Jake) TO PLAY 5-3.**



It is natural to want to cling to the deuce-point, much like Ahab clinging to Moby Dick as it drags him under. It is imperative to break anchor here, for two reasons. First, once the board is gone, what good is hitting a shot? Second, leaving creates shot leaving numbers for Black. Sure, Black's 6-1 goes from horror shake to joker, but his 6-5 now leaves a double shot, and the other seven 6s now force a shot where there was none.

After splitting 23/18 with the 5, how should we play the 3? I closed the board: 4/1. JellyFish™ gives the equity nod to 23/15 if we are playing for money (I make the assumption that at money, White owns the cube), but only by 0.002 on a 1-cube.

In win percentage, the choice is clear: close the board. Breaking the board wins a mere 12.6%, running wins 16.9%, but splitting and closing wins 17.7%. The upside of closing the board is apparent. What is hard to spot is that, especially at double match-point, there is very little downside. Aces, the numbers that hit, already played well for Black. Black's biggest gain is on 4-1, but notice that White has four numbers (2-6 and 2-5) that hit off the bar, and the other seven 2s remake the deuce.

J.A. rolled 6-3. Aha! Instant gratification. I flunked. Instant pain. J.A. rolled 5-4, and cleared his 6-point. Students of the game know that the dice like to bait their masters by producing the "joker" one roll late. By shifting points, J.A. had cleverly tricked my dice into giving me my joker. You see, they thought, with the ace blot now covered, that 6-1 was no longer a good shake for me. "Hee, hee," they giggled, and tumbled out 6-1. Well, the joke was on them: it was *still* a good shake for me. It was, of course, less good for J.A.

As it turned out, one of my teammates, young mad scientist Kurt Schurecht, also

[Continued on page 6]

PEORIA...

[Continued from page 5]

had a perfect 6-0 record, so we split the side pool. Our team amassed an aggregate 25 points, six points more than the Bar Point and Peoria clubs. (The Bar Point Club won the playoff for second.)

So for the fourth time in this decade,



The Pub Club. 1997 Illinois State Challenge Cup champions. Clockwise from left: V.W. Zimnicki (director), Jake Jacobs, Don Jayhan, Mark Murray, Kurt Schurecht, Tom Fahland.

the Pub Club (shown above) brings home the Cup. Next year, maybe we can convene the whole team at Big Al's for a warm-up session. Who knows what might happen?! Complete results: Δ

17th ILLINOIS STATE CHALLENGE CUP

- 1. PUB CLUB (25-11):** Jake Jacobs (6-0), V.W. Zimnicki (4-2), Kurt Schurecht (6-0), Mark Murray (2-4), Tom Fahland (4-2), Don Jayhan (3-3).
- 2. CHGO BAR PT. CLUB (19-17):** Neil Kazaross (5-1), Tim Mabee (2-4), Richard Lloyd (1-5), Peter Kalba (5-1), Gary Kay (3-3), Alice Kay (3-3).
- 3. CENTRAL ILLINOIS (19-17):** Dick Nelson (0-6), Linda Woods (4-2), Milad Doueihi (4-2), Sue Will (3-3), Doc Rushford (5-1), Cliff Mayoh (3-3).
- 4. SANGAMON VALLEY (18-18):** John Jennings (2-4), Ben Zemaitis (3-3), Patrick Jaeggi (3-3), Mark Kaye (4-2), Randy Armstrong (4-2), Dan Eatherington (2-4).
- 5. GAMES PEOPLE PLAY (17-19):** J.A. Miller (4-2), Phil Barrett (5-1), Roger Hickman (3-3), Femi Owiku (0-6), Reggie Porter (2-4), Marjean Streitmatter (3-3).
- 6. BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL (16-20):** Jim Zimmerman (3-3), Gary Daniels (1-5), Wm. Hutchison (2-4), Greg Tomlin (4-2), Randy Reiff (3-3), Mike Flohr (3-3).
- 7/8. PRIME CLUB (15-21):** Bobbie Shifrin (2-4), Andy Krenitz (1-5), Mary Franks (3-3), John Brussel (4-2), Roz Ferris (1-5), Harry Cohn (4-2).
- 7/8. WINNETKA (15-21):** Paul Friedman (2-4), Frank Dickerson (4-2), Trudie Chibnik (2-4), George Barr (2-4), Ed Buerger (2-4), Marty Tatosian (3-3).

AMALGAMATION

In March 1977, we produced our first newsletter (a one-pager) for the Chicago-based *National Backgammon League*. Since then, we've edited *Gammon's of Chicago*, *Chicagoland Backgammon Newsletter* and now CHICAGO POINT. Thanks for 20 great years and here's to 20 more... **Hugh Sconyers** (TX) has written a Windows95 interface for his three "Bear-off Equities & Backgames" CD-ROM discs. The interface is designed to work with future disks as well. It will also works with Hugh's 3-checker Hyper-Backgammon game in the near future. Best of all its free. Contact Hugh via e-mail at: sconyers@bga.com... Visiting the Bar Point Club in January: **Elliott Winslow** (CA)... Henceforth, the *Hoosier BG Club* newsletter will be two pages and focus on local BG news. But they're going out in style with a grand 40-page issue available now. To get your final collector's copy, send \$10 (postage paid) to **Butch & Mary Ann Meese**, 1008 Tuckahoe St., Indianapolis, IN 46260... The voting is over. 1996 *European Backgammon News* top three players of the year are: 1-**Michael Meyburg** (GER), 2-**Jerry Grandell** (SWE), 3-**Ralf Jonas** (GER)... About 10 Bar Point Club players converged on Acapulco for a pure vacation last month. **Jolie & David Rubin** returned with good news: Jolie is expecting in the fall... Californians might have heard about a Middle Eastern-Style BG tournament held 22-24 Feb. at the Hollywood Park Casino. They advertised \$200,000 estimated prize money with a field of 256. In fact, there were less than 30 entrants... **Phyllis Smoliski** (IL) is making great healing progress following surgery in January... New York City to Las Vegas: former Ace Point director **Michael Valentine**... **Patrik Thelin** tells us that the Swedish Player of 1996 was **Fredrik Reinholdson**. Also, the Double Five Backgammon Club (London) League Play II winner is **Richard Whitehouse**... Congratulations to Winnetka (IL) BG director **Trudie Stern** and **Bill Chibnik** on their 21 January marriage in Disneyworld... **Yamin Yamin** (IL) was on WLS radio 24 Jan. for over an hour promoting his Chicago history game "Chicago Wheelers"... Finally this philosophy from perennial BarPoint champ **Neil Kazaross** (IL): "I don't mind winning ugly—I just want to win!" Δ



Bill Davis
773/583-6464
Peter Kalba
773/252-7755

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LOCKETT & LEVINSON SHARE HAWTHORNE WINNER'S CIRCLE

Leslie Lockett ran away with the winner's trophy at the 1997 Hawthorne Backgammon Classic. The event, held 25 Jan. at the Hawthorne Race Course in Cicero, Illinois, drew nearly 40 attendees in two divisions of play.

Leslie raced past Elliott Winslow, Marcy Sloan, Paul Friedman and Jake Jacobs in the finals to enter the Winner's Circle. It was an especially satisfying win for Leslie because the 1989 Hawthorne Classic (premiere year) marked her return to organized backgammon.

Among intermediates, Barb Levinson beat Amy Valerio in a "photo finish." A great win for Barb, who gave up a busy work day to enter.

Thanks to Caryl Meadows of Hawthorne Race Course for offering us the excellent playing facilities at the Hawthorne Race Course for the past nine years. **Results:** OPEN (22): 1-Leslie Lockett, 2-Jake Jacobs, 3/4-Paul Friedman / Wendy Kaplan; 1C/2C-John Brussel / Paul Franks. INTERMEDIATE (14): 1-Barbara Levinson, 2-Amy Valerio, 3/4-Alice Kay / Roz Ferris; 1C-Jay Ward, 2C-Jolie Rubin.



Hawthorne winners: Winning Hawthorne BG race driver Anthony Morgan with Open Champ Leslie Lockett. At right: Intermediate winner Barb Levinson with runner-up Amy Valerio (far right).

TURKISH WORLD CUP III RESULTS

\$5000 GIANT JACKPOT (24): 1- Jerry Grandell (SWE), 2- Leo Fernández (ARG), 3-Ekrem Basdas (GER), 4-Georg Steinherr (GER). **CHAMPIONSHIP (139):** 1-Hamid Kaarratian (GER), 2-Amschel Nadjar (FR), 3-Sergio Gelabert (ARG), 4-Georg Steinherr (GER); 1C-Leonid Riskin (UKR), 2C-Mike Senkiewicz (USA), 3C-Nack Ballard (USA), 4C-Gerhard Maürer (GER); 1LC-Odis Chenault (USA), 2LC-Mario Sacchi (IT); **Ladies:** Antoinette Marie Williams (USA). **INTERMEDIATE (51):** 1-Ronen Iticovici (ISR), 2-Marc Anders (GER), 3-Hendrik Muysers (GER), 4-Thomas Roenn (SWE); 1C-Hans Liby (NOR), 2C-Simon Itucovici (ISR), 3C-Jabri Bozkus (TUR), 1C-Matthias Wagner (GER); 1LC-Andreas Humke (GER), 2LC-Soren Bejder (DEN); **Ladies:** Bai-Ling Nelson (HK). **BEGINNER (36):** 1-John Tonnesen (NOR), 2-Kajik Gasparyan (ARM), 3-Levon Kamalyan (ARM), 4-Vedat Özcan (TUR); 1C-Bernhard Grau (GER), 2C-Dami Plesec (SLO), 3C-Pierre Brochard (FR), 4C-Tobias Müller (GER); 1LC-Mordo Eskinazi (TUR), 2LC-Josephine Baker (USA); **Ladies:** Josephine Baker (USA/SP). **WARM-UP (256):** 1-Mr. Moti (ISR), 2-Emil Mortuk (USA). **SUPER JACKPOT:** #1 - Nack Ballard (USA), #2 - Morris Ben-David (ISR), #3 - Stuart Hosen (USA), #4 - Christian Toth (BRZ). **AMATEURS (40):** 1-Erfran Sentürk (TUR), 2-Feridan Özen (TUR), 3-Hasan Safoglu (TUR), 4-Beyazit Tür (TUR). **DOUBLES (64):** 1-Jacob Omrad & Joel Schiff (ISR), 2-Jes Bondo-Andersen & Peter Jes Thomsen (DEN), 3-Emil Mortuk & Joe Sylvester (USA), 4-Johannes Levermann & Dirk Schiemann (GER). **TEAM (31):** 1-Michael Meyburg (GER)/Bai-Ling Nelson (HK)/Kazuhiro Shino (JPN/UK), 2-Phillip Marmorstein (GER)/Barry Pitt (UK)/Robert Prager (GER), 3-Howard Markowitz (USA)/Steve Nelson (HK)/Antoinette Williams (USA), 4-Emzaz Laitadze/& two fellow countrymen (GEORGIA/RUSSIA).

MAYFIELD RALLYS IN PITTSBURGH 1996 ABT Winners Honored

In a 13-point finals, it's not good strategy to allow your opponent get off to a 10-0 lead. And trailing 12-6 Crawford isn't much better. But Doug Mayfield of Santa Monica, Cal. might beg to differ. This is the path he took to defeat Canadian Mike Friedman 13-12 at the Pittsburgh Championships.



Pittsburgh champ Doug Mayfield.

The 19th edition, directed by Steve Hast of the Pittsburgh BG Association was a sellout in the Open and Advanced divisions with total attendance reaching 157 in the main divisions. The entire tourney drew just 60 players in 1992.

The Calcutta Auction opened with presentation of American Backgammon Tour marble trophies for the top three finishers of 1996: Dennis Culpepper (VA), Dave Cardwell (GA), and Art Benjamin (CA). Ray Fogerlund accepted for Benjamin.

Complete tournament results appear in "Winner's Circle" on page 9. Δ



1996 ABT winners in Pittsburgh: Dennis Culpepper (#1) and Dave Cardwell (#2)

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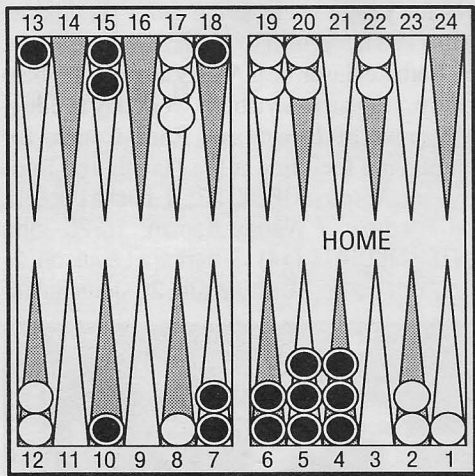
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PROBLEM #231 ANALYZED

by Danny Kleinman

Double match point. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



When Bill Davis first showed me this problem, I studied it for a couple of minutes, just about as long as I'd spend in an important match. I ignored the double-hit 7/1*, 10/8*, which not only put a man out of play on the 1-point, but also broke the bar-point, a vital part of Black's prime.

That left the passive blot-minimizing (a) 18/10 and the natural-looking single-hit (b) 13/7, 10/8*. At any match score where gammons mattered, I'd choose (b). Sending a fourth man back increases Black's shot exposure: 14 shots for (b) versus 22 for (a). But a fourth man back lets White play a back game. How we loved back games 20 or 25 years ago! They offer much better winning chances than deucepoint or treypoint games, and are spectacular when they succeed. Only when we learned their price—excessive gammons—did we start avoiding them. At double match-point, however, White can play a back game for free. This must be the point of the problem! Therefore, I reported to Bill, I'd force White to play with one anchor rather than two by moving (a) 18/10. I was pleased to hear Bill reply that (a) was the play made at the table by X, a top expert who shall remain anonymous.

For several reasons, I convinced myself later, that X and I were wrong.

1. The issue is not only how many anchors White will have but how good Black's position is. After (a), Black's position simply isn't that strong. His 10-point is of no use in conjunction with the already-made 4-, 5-, 6- and bar-points. His

spares on the 4- and 5-points are ill-placed, and he has little chance of making the 3-point (no other active builders for it). Likewise he has little chance to extend his prime backwards to the 8-point. In contrast, (b) gives black four active builders for the 3-point and a slotted 8-point with direct and indirect covers. Black is a big favorite to preempt the 3-point (the strongest anchor for White in a back game).

2. Four men back do not a back game make. After (b), White winds up with three men on the deucepoint and one on the ace-point almost as often as a 1-2 back game, and seldom gets a 2-3 or 1-3 back game.
3. Play (a) often lets White, fearless of gammons, play a back game anyway. White is only two blots away from a Polish Prime (string of six points either made or slotted). On 5-4 next, for example, White can play a blot-happy 17/12*, 8/4. Then black will usually have to send a fourth man back lest he find himself trapped behind an ordinary prime.
4. Play (a) gives White other options. Sometimes White can make an outpost on Black's 8-point. Sometimes White can play a "front" game, hitting and containing Black's blot. Sometimes the game may become a donnybrook of hits and

return hits in which White, with an anchor and a board nearly as good as Black's, will not be at a serious disadvantage.

WHAT GOOD ARE mere human judgments in this era of reliance on computers, however? Table #1 (below) shows what JellyFish™ Analyzer has to say.

Notice JellyFish's remarkable consistency. In the first three rows, (a) yields 0.5% or 0.6% more wins than (b) whether JellyFish is "evaluating" at Level 6 or 7 or performing rollouts at Level 5. In the fourth row, Level 6 rollouts for (b) agree with Level 7 evaluations to the nearest tenth of a percent, not only for total wins but also for gammons and backgammons. Only at Level 6 do the rollouts yield fewer wins for (a) than for (b): by 1 1/2%.

I suspect that Level 6 plays the White side better than Level 5 for (a) but not (b). Recall that (a) gives White more options of different game plans, options of the most difficult kind. Perhaps it is here that Level 6 judges better than Level 5. Even Level 6, however, sometimes misjudges. For cubeless play differs from play at double match-point in that gammons still count. If JellyFish could play heedless of gammons, I suspect, its Level 6 rollouts would show more than a 1 1/2% advantage for (b) 13/7, 10/8*. Δ

TABLE #1

CUBELESS	AFTER (a) 18/10		AFTER (b) 13/7, 10/8*	
	Total Wins	Gammons & BGs	Total Wins	Gammons & BGs
Evaluation (Level 6)	69.9%	22.7%	69.3%	31.7%
Evaluation (Level 7)	71.1%	22.3%	70.6%	33.3%
Rollouts (Level 5)	70.7%	22.5%	70.1%	33.0%
Rollouts (Level 6)	69.1%	25.1%	70.6%	33.3%

1996 WINNERS HONORED AT BPC AWARDS NIGHT



40 players were on hand 14 January at the Golden Flame to honor the Chicago Bar Point Club's Top 20 masterpointers of 1996. Over \$800 in cash and prizes went to the winners. The top 3 (shown at left): Herb Roman (2), Neil Kazaross (1), Tim Mabee (3).

Photo at right (4-20). Women from left to right: N. Shyer (16), A. Kay (20), W. Kaplan (13), P. Smolinski (10), M. Franks (19), J. Feinstein (13). Men from left to right: G. Kay (18), H. Cohn (11), S. Katz (17), A. Krenitz (8), P. Kalba (9), R. Lloyd (4), P. Franks (12), R. Porter (6), J. Demian (15), P. Friedman (7). Missing from the photo: J. Jacobs (5).

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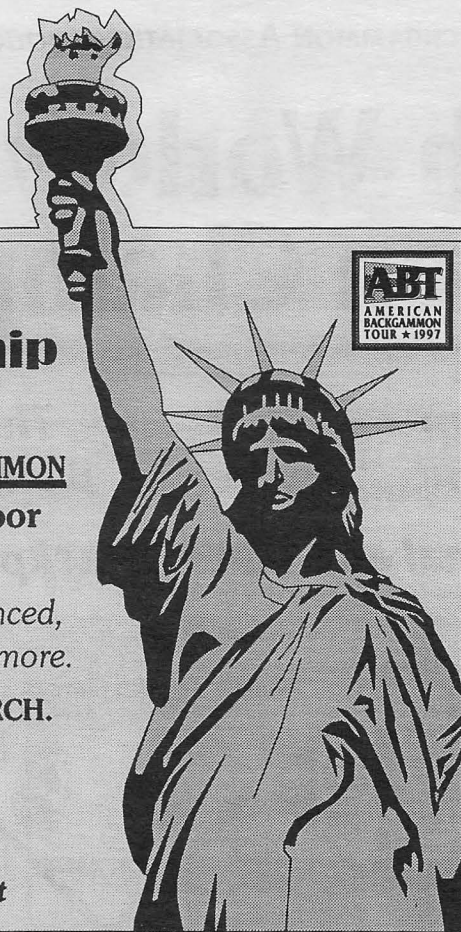
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WINNER'S CIRCLE



Jan.-Feb. 1997

- Springfield Series #3** (Springfield, IL; 4 Jan.)... OPEN (16): 1-John Jennings, 2-Ed Zell; 1C-Larry Whittenburg, 2C-Jim Zimmerman; 1LC-Randy Reif.
- Midtown "Sweet 16"** (New York, NY; 4 Jan.)... OPEN (24): 1-Herb Meadow, 2-Al Hodis, 3/4-Jeff Acierno / Alan Martin.
- Northern Ohio Monthly** (Akron, OH; 5 Jan.)... OPEN: 1-Mary Hickey, 2-Farhad Forudi.
- Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 6 Jan.)... OPEN: 1-Don Rae, 2-Jonathan Barnes; 1C-Steve Nelson, 2C-Sunil Balani. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Peter Phillips, 2-Samson Tang; 1C-Chris Roberts, 2C-Richard Goss.
- Thailand Open** (Pattaya, Thailand; 9-12 Jan.)... OPEN (32): 1-Göran Hasselquist (THAI), 2-Bernd Schmude (GER), 3/4-Jonathan Barnes (HK) / Carsten Linder-Emden (GER); 1C-Jake Jacobs (US), 2C-Gerhard Schulze (GER); 1LC-Claus Vollø (DEN). INTERMEDIATE (16): 1-Michael Burkart (GER), 2-Peter Kolle (GER); 1C-Werner Rupp (THAI), 2C-Jorg Rieser (SWIT); 1LC-Boris Grozovsky (RUS). SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1-Robin Swaffield (HK), 2-Carsten Linder-Emden (GER). DESPERADO CUP (16): 1-Vichai Kwatra (THAI), 2-Jonathan Barnes (HK)... *Results courtesy of Director Göran Hasselquist and Jake Jacobs.*
- NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 12 Jan.)... EXPERT (26): 1-Linc Bedell (NH), 2-Mel

Drapkin, 3/4-Evan Diamond / Garbis Zerdelian; 1C-Marty Storer (NH), 2C-Herb Gurland. A DIV. (8): 1-Joe Moore, 2-Howard Clouse; 1C-Roy Chatalbash.

- Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 19 Jan.)... OPEN (18): 1-David Simpson, 2-Kevin Mansfield, 3/4-Carmi Brandis / Dan Braden; 1C-Kit Woolsey, 2C-Sally Woolsey. INTERMEDIATE (16): 1/2-Jim Mason / David Nordlinger; 1C/2C-David Escoffery / Duane Fuller. BEGINNER (9): 1-Amy Bauer, 2-Julie Turner; 1C-Peter Carlsson.

- Beverly Hills Monthly** (Beverly Hills, CA; 25 Jan.)... OPEN (13): 1-Jerry Hays, 2-Mike Fujita.

- Nation's Capital Winter Open** (Bethesda, MD; 25-26 Jan.)... OPEN (23): 1-David Montgomery, 2-Sam Orandle; 1 Cons.-Ed Maslansky; 4-Herb Avram, 5/6-Mel Leifer / Bob Faucon, 7/8-William Counts / Mark Davis; 1LC-Bruce Hall.

- Springfield Series #4** (Peoria, IL; 1 Feb.)... OPEN (34): 1-Cliff Mayoh, 2-Ben Zemaits; 1C-Jake Jacobs, 2C-Harry Cohn; 1LC-Greg Tomlin.

- Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 3 Feb.)... OPEN: 1-Jerry Godsey, 2-Steve Nelson; 1C-Andre Hoffman, 2C-Robin Swaffield. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Harry Turner, 2-Cynthia Roberts; 1C-Nancy Wong, 2C-Chris Roberts.

- BPC Anyway's Grand Opening Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 9 Feb.)... OPEN (29): 1/2-Paul Franks / Don Jayhan, 3/4-Phil Barrett / Herb Roman; 1C-Bill Keefe, 2C-Bill Davis. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Alice Kay, 2-Amy Valerio, 3/4-Reggie Porter / Scott Richardson. 1C-Mark Murray, 2C-Phyllis Smolinski.

- NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 9 Feb.)... EXPERT (22): 1-Evan Diamond, 2-John

Mansey, 3/4-Jay Giutari / Marty Storer (NH); 1C-Dan Chicoine, 2C-Herb Gurland. A DIV. (18): 1-Fred Ferguson, 2-Jim Williams, 3/4-Ruth Moss / Joe Moore; 1C-Zita Samuels, 2C-Doreen Johnson.

- 19th Pittsburgh Championships—ABT** (Pittsburgh, PA; 14-16 Feb.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (64): 1-Doug Mayfield (CA), 2-Mike Friedman (Canada), 3/4-Drew Giovanis (FL) / Abbas Zaltash (PA); 1C-Steve Sax (CA), 2C-Jon Stephens (OH); 1LC-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2LC-Marty Storer (NH). OPEN OVERFLOW (4): 1-Jim Muirhead (MI). ADVANCED (64): 1-Rich Catalano (PA), 2-Allen Levien (PA), 3/4-David Levine / Nayan Shah (PA); 1C-Terry Kayser (OH), 2C-Gary Stern (OH); 1LC-Ed King (OH), 2LC-Pete Townsend (PA). NOVICE (25): 1-Reza Zaltash (PA), 2-Joe Davidson (PA); 1C-Gary Marchenia (MI), 2C-Bill Versaw (PA). MASTERS JP (30): 1-Drew Giovanis (FL), 2-Neal Young (NY), 3/4-Jeff Acierno (NY) / Bob Bishop (NY). LTD JP #1 (16): 1-Richard Del Furia (MN), 2-Marc Gray (NY); #2 (8): 1-Laila Azoulay (Denmark). OPEN DOUBLES (8): 1-Sam Orandle & Dave Orandle (MD). LTD DOUBLES (8): 1-Troy Longman (MI) & Janice Newman (IN). MICROBLITZ #1 (64): 1-Ray Foglerlund (CA); #2 (32): 1-Peter Kalba.

- Coterie Doubles Tournament** (New York, NY; 22 Feb.)... OPEN (16 teams): 1-Jason Lester & The Croc, 2-Brad Moss & Greg Rosoff... *Coterie proprietor Louise Goldsmith tells us that all entrants received Paul Magriel's new reprint of Backgammon.*

- Beverly Hills Monthly** (Beverly Hills, CA; 22 Feb.)... OPEN (14): 1-David Kaufman, 2-John Rockwell. Δ

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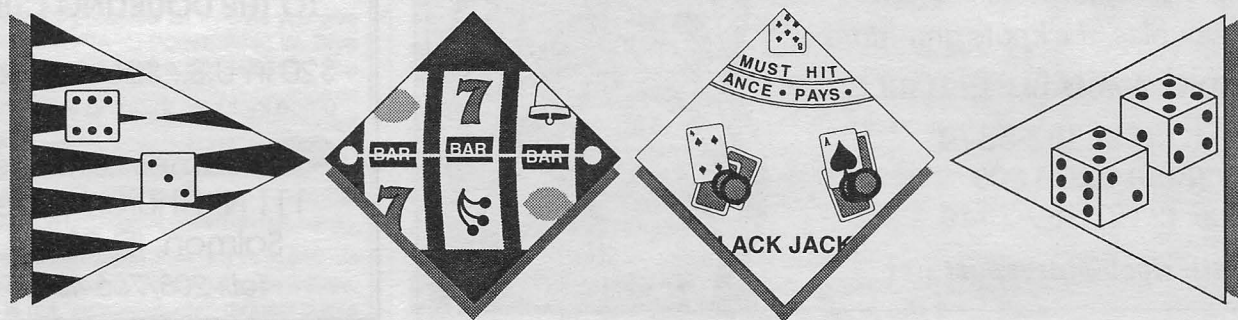
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