

*las vegas open & pro-am doubles*

## GRUNWALD WINS IN VEGAS

**Munitz stops Tsinis in Super JP**

Mid Jersey Backgammon Club director Alan Grunwald rallied to defeat top-rated Arkadiy Tsinis of Las Vegas to win the 23rd Nevada State Tournament. Howard Markowitz directed the ABT event at the Riviera Hotel 23–27 May. 152 players attended—the lowest turnout in Nevada Backgammon Association history. However, the Championship field was still a stellar group including Kazaross, Sax, Woolsey, Fogerlund, Talbot, Nazarian, Robertie, Corbett, Sconyers, and Malcolm Davis.



*Nevada State champion Alan Grunwald*

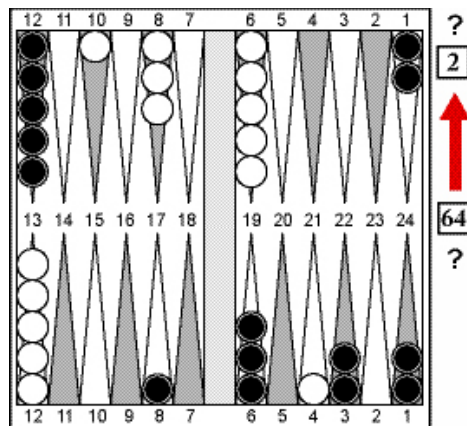
Alan Grunwald, who captured the Nevada State Consolation event in 2006, won the opening game vs. former New Yorker Tsinis. That was his last match lead until becoming the eventual champion.

Probably the most controversial position of the match occurred with Grunwald trailing the 17-point finals 11–15 (Pos 1.)

The diagrammed setup resulted following the sequence White (6-5 running), Black (5-5 hitting), White (4-3), Black (Double). Arkadiy took plenty of time before accepting the cube. Alan went on to win a gammon knotting the score at 15–all.

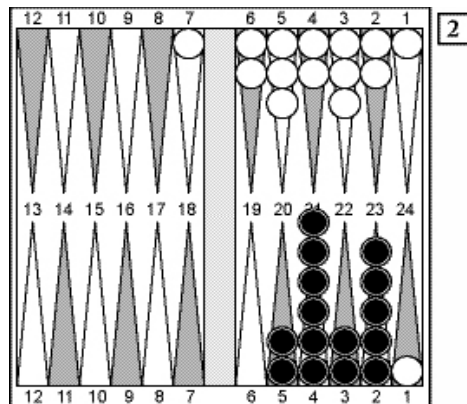
A few of the seeded experts convinced Tsinis that he had made a big mistake accepting the cube at the given match score. However, Snowie rollouts confirm that this is actually no double/trivial take! But if some experts would drop this double, than Alan's cube is clearly correct.

**Pos. 1.** 17-point Nevada State finals. Grunwald (Black) trails Tsinis (White) 11–15. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Alan doubled early in the next game making it DMP. It looked like a cakewalk for him until he rolled a nasty 5-4 while bearing off for the win:

**Pos. 2.** 17-point Nevada State finals. Grunwald (Black) vs. Tsinis (White) at DMP. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



Alan played 5/off, 5/1\*. 720 3-ply, precise Snowie rollouts show that 5/off, 4/off is better at this score as well as for money (–0.047 error). Arkadiy next rolled 5-4 and Alan was the champion. As is often case with the “cruellest game,” had Alan played it correctly, Arkadiy’s 5-4 would have hit and a different champ would likely have been crowned. Congratulations to Alan who won nearly \$12,000 for his achievement.

### SUPER JACKPOT

16 players faced off to do battle in the



*Super Jackpot victor Richard Munitz*

\$2000 entry Super Jackpot. When the smoke cleared, Arkadiy Tsinis was again standing. This time his opponent was 2006 ABT champ Richard Munitz. The match swung back and forth with Richard eventually prevailing 15–11 for the lion’s share of \$30,400 in prize money.

### OTHER RESULTS

Congratulations to Intermediate winner Paul Mangone (CA) who held on to defeat Steward Pemberton (CT) 13–12. The Beginners winner was Glenn Chee (CA) over David Ullrich (OK).

It’s a mystery why an individual who was a member of the winning Monte Carlo World Team event, finished second in the Vegas World Doubles Championship, won the Minnesota Masters and was Minnesota State runner-up, *all in 2006*, would want to enter the Intermediate tournament and Limited Jackpot, but that’s the story with Tim Lawless (MN). He terrorized both divisions winning over \$10,000 in the Limited Jackpot and capturing the Intermediate Consolation.

In the 128 player Senior’s Tournament, chalk up a victory for Perry Gartner (NJ). The Nevada State Doubles winners are Evan Etter (FL) and Cole Parker (TX). Jason Lee (NV) captured the Blitz, Howard Markowitz won the Mini-Match, and the Saturday \$300 Jackpot went to Illinois’ Neil Kazaross.

Howard Markowitz announced dates for the next two Las Vegas events. They will be held at the Riviera Hotel November 7–11 (Las Vegas Open) and April 16–20 (Nevada State). **COMPLETE NEVADA STATE RESULTS ON PAGE 4.**

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## PRAISE FOR LARRY

Thanks to Larry Liebster for his "Cowboy Interview" in the May POINT. I always enjoy his columns. I had the pleasure of playing Larry when I visited the Las Vegas Backgammon Club just before last year's Vegas Open.—*Dan Pelton, Director, Phoenix Backgammon Club, Arizona*

## "LOOKING BACK" COMMENTS

What's the problem? Hit twice! I was there, remember?

How some people just over analyze things :-). Nack was the favorite to win the World Amateur that year. That's only because not a lot of people realized who I was yet! He is a much better player than I ever was, but not at that time. When he lost in the round of 16 or 32 (?), there was a big buzz throughout the room. Thanks for the memories.

Also, my condolences to the families of Al Roth (if not for the Mayfair, I would

[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](mailto:cjc@flintbg.com)

\*Denotes new or revised listing

## NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined*

Jun 8-10	Los Angeles Open, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464
Jun 9	Father's Day Open, Dugout Sports Bar & Grill, Houston, Texas	281/687-1673
Jun 9	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Jun 10	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jun 10	New England Playoffs, Dockside Restaurant, Malden, Massachusetts	718/324-0892
Jun 10	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jun 10*	New York Monthly, Midtown BG & Chess Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Jun 16	Phoenix Free Monthly-USBL, Glendale Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona	602/296-4307
Jun 21*	Third Thursday Bonus (Florida State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jun 23*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/261-4583
Jun 24*	Colorado Monthly, La Loma Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Jun 24*	Southwest Ohio Summer Solstice Tournament, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	513/777-7862
Jul 2*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Jul 4	Michigan Summer Warm-Up, Sheraton Hotel, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 5-8	32nd Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 8*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jul 8*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jul 14*	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/688-9722
Jul 14*	Firecracker Classic, Dugout Sports Bar & Grill, Houston, Texas	281/687-1673
Jul 14*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Jul 19*	Third Thursday Bonus (Wisconsin), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 21*	Phoenix Free Monthly-USBL, Glendale Gaslight Inn, Glendale, Arizona	602/296-4307
Jul 22*	Colorado Monthly, La Loma Restaurant, Denver, Colorado	303/791-0271
Aug 1*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/916-6599
Aug 4*	New Mexico State Championships, Santa Fe, New Mexico	303/519-5711
Aug 5	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Ramada Plaza, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 6*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Aug 3-5	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York	585/396-0969
Aug 11*	Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/688-9722
Aug 11*	Hot as Hades Open, Dugout Sports Bar & Grill, Houston, Texas	281/687-1673
Aug 12*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Panera Bread, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Aug 12*	South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Aug 12*	New York Monthly, Midtown BG & Chess Club, New York, New York	212/222-7177
Aug 16-19	Florida State Championship, Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Aug 19*	2nd Bloomington/Normal Summer Sizzler, Ned Kelly's, Bloomington, IL	309/662-7967
Aug 31-Sep 3	Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin	608/516-9109
Sep 15-16	Jon Viotor Invitational Cup, Jon Viotor's residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 28-30	Colorado State Championships, Hilton Hotel, Denver, Colorado	720/979-3620
Oct 19-21	Illinois State Championships, Holiday Inn City-Centre, Peoria, Illinois	309/224-9579
Nov 9	Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 30-Dec 2	California State Championship, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California	818/901-0464

## OUTSIDE USA

Jun 6-9*	10th Brazilian Championship, Village Arrailal D.Ajuda, Brazil	5521-2170300
Jun 7-10	Braunlage-Harz-Cup, Hotel Hohenzollern, Braunlage, Germany	49521-64314
Jun 7-10	PGT: Pasino de Saint Amand Tournament, Saint Amand-les-Eaux, France	3314764-5938
Jun 14-21	Neil Davidson's 2007 Festival of Backgammon, Zakynthos, Greece	447798-614800
Jun 21-28	6th Zakynthos Festival of BG & Poker, Peligoni Club, Zakynthos, Greece	114819-773227
Jun 30-Jul 1	Keren Di Bona Memorial, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Jun 30-Jul 1*	WBF-Turkiye 2nd Karadeniz Championship, Kordon Café, Eregli, Turkey	905322-564360
Jul 6-8*	2nd Lucien Barrière Gold Cup & Nice Open, Casino Le Ruhl, Nice, France	390331-923537
Jul 9-15	32nd World Championship, Fairmont Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 954/527-4033
Jul 13-15	Festival of Games 4th Czech Open, CEZ, Pardubice, Czech Republic	420466-535200
Jul 17-22	PGT: Nations Cup & Riviera 5, Palm Beach Casino, Cannes, France	331-4764-5938
Jul 28-29	12th Liverpool Open, Liverpool Bridge Club, Liverpool, England	441514-283082
Aug 11-12	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Aug 31-Sep 2*	16th Mitteleuropa & 20th Italian Championships, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	390331-923537
Sep 1-2	Backpacker Backgammon Trophy, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Sep 1-2	Danish Doubles Championship, Solrød Strand, Denmark	4533-363601
Sep 6-9	PGT: Partouche Finale 2007, Grand Domain de Divonne les Bains, France	331-47645938
Sep 7-9	17th Norwegian Championship, Rica Park Hotel, Drammen, Norway	47991-53113
Sep 8-9*	5th Antwerp Open, Diamond Edition, Antwerp, Belgium	32475-256734
Sep 14-16*	Gammonitis Highgate Tournament, Highgate House, Creaton, England	441634-821107
Sep 21-23*	2nd Sorrento Coast Tournament, Villa Angelina, Sorrento, Italy	39335-221412
Sep 22-24*	13th Japan Open, Nakano Sunplaza, Tokyo, Japan	81333-733814

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

not be writing this to you) and also of Don Desmond, who I do remember defeating in that tournament.—*Russell Sands, Boca Raton, Florida*

I thought I'd drop a line to let you know how much I enjoyed the front page article "Looking Back in Time." It was highly in-

teresting and I hope you have more to come.

By the way: I wouldn't even consider anything but hitting twice. I understand that an anchor gives my opponent a better position, but look at the race and White's home board. With only one checker, she might disappear and get the lead with a couple of big doubles. True, if White anchors, I could leave a shot, and get hit. But I don't really fear her home board. So the better option in my opinion is to put two of his checkers on

the bar.—*Chiva Tafazzoli, director, World Backgammon Assoc., Munich, Germany*

Read Kit Woolsey's comments on pg. 7.—*Ed.*

## DON DESMOND REMEMBERED

With sorrow I read the passing of Don Desmond, a long time backgammon player and friend. For years, Don was a fixture of the Chicagoland BG scene. I will always remember the 1982 Las Vegas World Amateur Championship when his nephew Chris Stanford lost in the semifinals of the Plimpton Cup. We both had shares of Chris and six figure prize money was involved.

That same year, Don and I played together on the winning Illinois State Challenge Cup team for Gammon's of Chicago. We had wonderful years. Don will be missed.—*Yamin Yamin, Wilmette, Illinois*

## CORRECTION TO "WHICH ONE..."

The answer to question #2 of my "Which One Does Not Belong" quiz as published in last month's POINT should read "(c) The only position that is a *redouble/take*. The others are *no redouble/beaver*."—*Duane Jensen, St. Paul, Minnesota*

## CHRIS'S SECOND OF 2007

My second book of the year "Backgammon to Win" will be released by New Holland at the beginning of June—a month earlier than I anticipated. The book is targeted at beginners and intermediates.—*Chris Bray, London, England*

*Neil Kazaross reviews Chris's first book of 2007, "Second Wind," in the July/Aug. CHICAGO POINT.—Ed. Δ*



**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007**

### AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007

Top 100 through 27 May 2007 after 6 tournaments  
(Upcoming events: LA Open, Michigan Summer Champs)



**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2007**

Dana Nazarian 29.36	Linda MacLean 6.08	Mark Antranikian 3.70	Glenn Chee 1.57
Steve Brown 21.33	Gregg Cattanach 6.08	Thomas Meyer 3.56	Carol Leatherman 1.56
Alan Grunwald 20.15	Christopher Yep 6.08	Gil Evans 3.46	Ryan Hast 1.56
Malcolm Davis 19.84	Vladi Gudgenov 6.00	Doug Roberts 3.04	Andy Palumbo 1.50
Gary Bauer 17.47	Beth Raby 5.84	Paul Teitelbaum 3.00	Elayne Feinstein 1.50
Paul Weaver 17.33	Mark Dean 5.41	Owen Black 3.00	Bear Lumbr 1.22
David Todd 16.49	Matt Reklaitis 5.33	Arlene Austin 2.92	Sam Orandle 1.22
Ed O'Laughlin 14.75	Vadim Musaealyan 5.33	Vic Morawski 2.92	Luis Rivera 1.22
Maurice Barie 14.22	Yury Millman 5.33	J.A. Miller 2.92	Bill Schragel 1.15
Fred Kalantari 12.16	Paul Franks 5.33	Jesse Eaton 2.67	Joe Szvedo 1.15
Phyllis Shapiro 11.68	Matt Cohn-Geier 5.33	Harold Roberson 2.67	Nicole Masarani 1.00
Howard Markowitz 10.67	Scott Johnston 5.33	Glenn Ramsey 2.67	Regina Ragelis 0.89
John Jennings 10.67	Jinelle Girard 5.04	Tak Morioka 2.52	Jamie Evans 0.89
Kieth Hvanstad 10.67	Jim Pasko 5.04	Bill Robertie 2.52	Ron Cohen 0.81
Arkadiy Tsinis 10.07	Stewart Pemberton 4.89	Jason Lee 2.52	Almon Hall 0.81
Paul Mangone 9.78	Tim Lawless 4.89	Gail Goetze 2.44	Timothy Turner 0.78
Terry Leahy 8.89	Rory Pascar 4.44	Justin Nunez 2.44	David Ullrich 0.78
Stick Rice 8.67	Herb Roman 4.44	Patrick Gibson 2.44	Cheryl Holahan 0.78
Paul Strasberg 8.60	Ray Fogelund 4.33	Jerry Jabagchourian 2.44	Tim Johnson 0.58
Adam Bennett 8.51	Bill Davis 4.33	Joe Sylvester 2.22	Glen Arnold 0.58
Carmen Webb 8.00	Alfred Mamlet 4.33	Roz Ferris 2.15	Scott Knowles 0.50
Steve Sax 7.40	Dave Settles 4.30	Samra Hadden 2.15	Gail Newburn 0.50
Emil Mortuk 7.11	Michael Valliere 4.30	Karen Meyer 2.00	Donna Davenport 0.44
Walter Trice 7.11	Pete Townsend 4.00	Nick Grecni 1.78	3 tied with 0.39
Bud Bowers 6.92	Perry Gartner 3.70	Mike Freeman 1.63	



**CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB**

### 2007 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 MAY

David Rockwell 16.28	Tim Mabee 4.20	Shaw Dogan 1.92	Steve Klene 0.72
Phil Simborg 12.08	Ken Tyszko 4.00	Linda Rockwell 1.80	Glenn Martells 0.72
Rory Pascar 11.66	Bill Bartholomay 3.92	Felix Yen 1.68	Richard Stawowy 0.72
Herb Roman 9.68	Steve Klesker 3.60	Adrian Rios 1.60	Ron Wagner 0.64
Bob Zavoral 9.36	Dave Settles 3.56	Jacob Moreno 1.44	Arline Levy 0.64
Tak Morioka 8.64	Royal Robinson 3.44	Alex Owen 1.44	Sargon Benjamin 0.56
Oleg Raygorodsky 8.44	Mark Murray 3.28	Kendra Wesley 1.32	James Roston 0.56
Mike Wolock 8.32	Christopher Shanova 3.28	Dan Simborg 1.28	Elaine Kehm 0.56
Bill Keefe 7.78	Mike Pufpaf 3.08	Denise McDermott 1.16	John Poulos 0.56
Albert Yakobashvili 6.72	Nora Luna Righter 2.80	Peter Kalba 1.12	Jerry Brooks 0.48
Carter Mattig 6.48	Alice Kay 2.80	Eric Johnson 1.12	Tim Stoddard 0.48
Michael Ginat 5.76	Lenny Loder 2.56	Tim Rockwell 1.04	Charles Melidosian 0.48
Mike Sutton 5.44	Georgina Flanagan 2.56	Bob Koca 1.04	Ken Bond 0.48
Willis Elias 5.12	Paul Franks 2.28	Paul Baraz 0.96	Jordan Sanders 0.40
Roger Hickman 4.80	Lucky Nelson 2.24	Les Moshinsky 0.96	Gary Kay 0.40
Bill Davis 4.52	Wayne Wiest 2.24	Dick Nelson 0.84	Wendy Kaplan 0.32
Bob Steen 4.48	Larry Goldstein 2.08	John Jennings 0.84	Mark Penacho 0.32

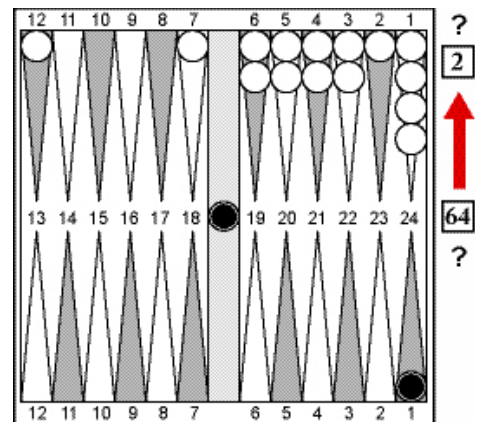
RORY PASCAR scored points in every May BPC event to earn 5.58 points and monthly honors. Phil Simborg was runner-up with 3.60 points and Mike Wolock finished third with 3.56 points.

*your move*

## PROBLEM #328

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

9 point match. Black leads White 7 to 5. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



# ASK DANNY

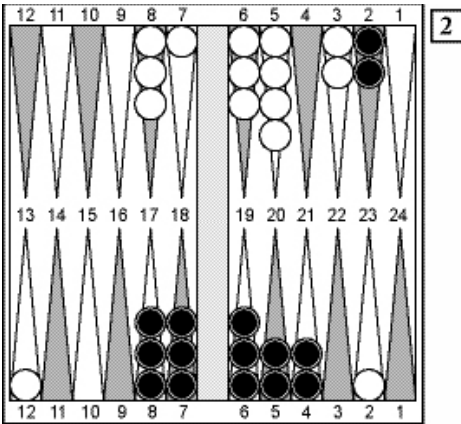


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## UNDERSTANDING A DIFFICULT ONE

*Dear Danny: Here is (in my opinion) an incredible position from a high stakes money game where I made a "blunder" according to Snowie rollouts:*

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



*My move of 8/5 was a blunder ranking second best and my next choice, splitting my back men and playing 6/5 came in fifth. Snowie rollouts show the correct move to be (believe it or not) 6/3! Here is the rollout data (2160 full rollouts each @ 3-ply, precise) for the top five moves:*

BLACK			WHITE		
BGs	Gams	Wins	Wins	Gams	BGs
<b>6/3</b>					
0.4%	11.8%	59.4%	40.6%	10.7%	0.5%
<b>8/5</b>		<b>(-0.108)</b>			
0.4%	11.1%	54.8%	45.2%	9.9%	0.4%
<b>7/4</b>		<b>(-0.120)</b>			
0.4%	11.0%	54.8%	45.2%	11.0%	0.5%
<b>7/5, 6/5</b>		<b>(-0.192)</b>			
0.4%	10.4%	52.4%	47.6%	11.6%	0.5%
<b>23/21, 6/5</b>		<b>(-0.198)</b>			
0.6%	11.8%	54.2%	45.8%	18.4%	0.4%

*So now I know the correct move, but my current problem is trying to figure out why. Snowie's play seems to make White's ace "great" instead of just "good." I also see that if White doesn't hit, Black needs 5s to cover and 5s to escape.*

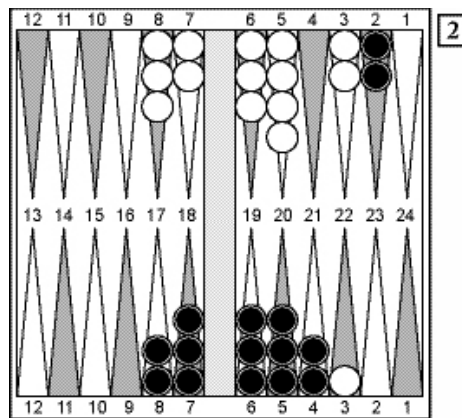
*Snowie is a great tool, but what good is it here? In a million years, I'd never find this play over the board. Do you have any idea what's going on here, Danny? With regards to this problem, just call me—A Lost Soul*

**DEAR LOST:** I too preferred the plays you like before looking at the rollout results. Yes, I considered 6/3, taking advantage of the resulting duplication of White's aces, but just as you did, I rejected slotting the 3-point because that turns merely good aces for White into great aces. How could that be right?

Consider, for example, White's 6-1. Without worrying about whether it might be even better for White to use this fine roll to escape into the outfield, let's suppose that he moves to the edge of the prime with the 1 and covers his bar-point with the 6.

If Black has made the "obvious" safe play, 8/5, the position will be:

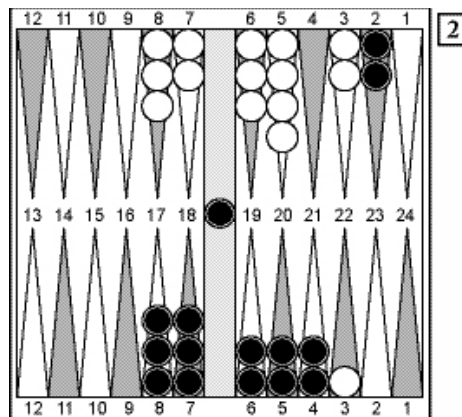
**Pos. A.** Black plays his 2-1 roll 8/5. White rolls 6/1 and plays 23/22, 13/7. **NOW BLACK ON ROLL.**



Here only 2s are excellent for Black, whose priority is to spring the two back men before his prime collapses. Black's pointing rolls are moderately useful, but his other rolls are destructive, forcing him forward on his own side of the board.

If Black has slotted the 3-point, the position will be:

**Pos. B.** Black plays his 2-1 roll 6/3. White rolls 6/1 and plays 23/22\*, 13/7. **NOW BLACK ON ROLL.**



Here 4s are excellent for Black, along with double 2s and 3-1, for they allow him

to recirculate a checker, or slot the 4-anchor without breaking the 2-anchor, when he can't make the 4-anchor outright. A third man back is not necessarily a liability when the opponent has a "broken prime." Meanwhile, combinations of 6s, 5s and 3s, which force Black forward destructively when he is not on the bar, are harmless when he is on the bar.

When I looked at the problem initially, that is what I failed to see: although White will hit 22/21\* with an ace, Black is little the worse for wear after getting hit. And if White fails to roll an ace, Black is substantially better off having slotted the 3-point than needing to make it "naturally" with pointing rolls. So White's aces are still merely good aces, not great aces.

Only knowledge of the rollout results spurred me to see this.—*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*

## 23RD NEVADA STATE TOURNAMENT

**CHAMPIONSHIP (68):** 1-Alan Grunwald (NJ), 2-Arkadiy Tsinis (NV), 3/4-Jinelle Girard (Canada) / Dana Nazarian (CA); 1C-Gary Bauer (NJ), 2C-Jim Pasko (NV), 3C/4C-Tak Morioka (IL) / Bill Robertie (MA); 1LC-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2LC-Jason Lee (NV). **INTERMEDIATE (66):** 1-Paul Mangone (CA), 2-Stewart Pemberton (CT), 3/4-Gail Goetze (OK) / Justin Nunez (CA); 1C-Tim Lawless (MN), 2C-Patrick Gibson (CA), 3C/4C-Bear Lumbra (VT) / Sam Orandle (NV); 1LC-Jerry Jabagchourian (CA), 2LC-Luis Rivera (Mexico). **BEGINNERS (18):** 1-Glenn Chee (CA), 2-David Ullrich (OK), 3-John Osborne (OK); 1C-Timothy Turner (GA), 2C-Angel Houghtaling (NV); 1LC-Don Thompson, Sr. (NV), 2LC-Barbara Nash (CO). **SUPER JACKPOT (16 @ \$2,000):** 1-Richard Munitz (NY), 2-Arkadiy Tsinis (NV). **LTD JACKPOT (16 @ \$1000):** 1-Tim Lawless (MN), 2-David Levy (CA). **SENIORS TOURNAMENT (128):** 1-Perry Gartner (NJ), 2-Steve Brown (MN). **BLITZ (224):** 1-Jason Lee (NV), 2-Art Moore (CA). **DOUBLES (32 teams):** 1-Evan Etter (FL) & Cole Parker (TX), 2-Stacy Turner (GA) & Timothy Turner (GA). **MINI-MATCH (64):** 1-Howard Markowitz (NV), 2-David Taniguchi (CA). **SATURDAY JACKPOTS \$300 (16):** 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Kit Woolsey (CA). **\$100 (26):** 1-Mark Antranikian (CA), 2-Yusuke Itagaki (Japan). **\$50 (4):** 1-Abby Biss (New Zealand), 2-Glenn Chee (CA). **AFTER TOURNAMENTS \$50 (20):** 1-Ted Chee (CA), 2-Kakhaber Gogoladze (NY). **\$20 (9):** 1-Lynn Ehrlich (NY), 2-J.A. Miller (IL).

## WARNING: Backgammon may be hazardous to your marriage.

An in-depth report by *Duane Jensen*



Backgammon is a great game, but is it also great for a marriage? Here are a few unsuccessful examples:

**1.** Shortly after finishing the 2004 movie *Troy*, Brad Pitt gave an interview and was asked if he and his wife Jennifer Aniston still played board games. Brad answered,



Jennifer Aniston & Brad Pitt played 'vicious' backgammon prior to their 2005 breakup.

"Yeah, we do. We haven't gotten to play a lot of them. We like backgammon. That's our favorite right now, but it gets a little vicious."

Just a year later in 2005, the backgammon and the marriage ended.

**2.** Rolling Stones lead singer Mick Jagger became involved with English-American supermodel Jerry Hall in the late 1970s. Jerry Hall was rumored to be the "other woman" who broke up the marriage between Mick and Bianca while she was engaged to Bryan Ferry at the time.



Mick Jagger on vacation in the Barbados playing backgammon with future wife Jerry Hall in December 1983.

In 1985, after having two children with Hall, Jagger famously claimed that marrying her would give him "claustrophobia." However, despite this claim the two were married in 1990.

But the marriage came to an ugly ending in 1999 when Jerry Hall separated from Mick Jagger after model Luciana Gimenez stated she was pregnant with Jagger's child. Hall then filed for divorce when a DNA test proved this to be true.

**3.** Howard Thurston (1869–1936) was one of the greatest magicians the world has ever known. He was the last of the great vaudeville magicians, whose lavish "Wonder Show of the Universe" featured both beautiful women and an element of humor. He was also the first to bring his show to Broadway. At the peak of his career his popularity was such that he would actually have two separate shows touring the land at the same time and he would require ten railway baggage cars to transport all of his stage equipment.



Famous 1920s magician Howard Thurston pictured with his daughter and often-assistant Jane Thurston.

His adopted daughter Jane, one of only a few women to achieve success as a stage illusionist, often assisted him. Jane's marriage announcement in the March 10, 1930 *Time* magazine read:

"Married. Jane, daughter of Prestidigitator Howard Thurston; to one Harry Harris; six weeks ago under assumed names, again in a civil ceremony at Newport, Ky., again last week by a Catholic Priest in Cincinnati."

Jane's divorce announcement in the December 12, 1932 *Time* magazine read:

"Sued for Divorce. By Jane Thurston Harris, 21, daughter of Conjuror Howard Thurston: Harry Harris, 29, Pittsburgh theatre scion; in Pittsburgh. Charges: because she refused his backgammon advice, he hurled backgammon board, glasses and a ginger

ale bottle, tore off her clothes before guest. Not mentioned: the 1931 fight in a Detroit hotel between Defendant Harris & Father-in-law Thurston, leaving two Thurston ribs broken, Harris nearly blinded by a volley from Thurston's tear gas fountain pen."

**4.** Cary Grant met his first wife was actress Virginia Cherrill at the premiere of *Blonde Venus*. After a whirlwind romance, they married on February 10, 1934 in England. Just weeks into the marriage, the lovebirds enjoyed playing backgammon and even invited a studio photographer into their home for a BG publicity picture.



Cary Grant with his first wife Virginia Cherrill playing backgammon at home in Hollywood in 1934.

Around the time the photo was snapped, the marriage began to fail and it was reported in some newspapers that Grant attempted suicide. Years later, he recalled "I had been drinking . . . most of the day before and on that day. I just passed out. The servant found me, became alarmed, and called the cops. You know what whiskey does when you drink it all by yourself . . . it makes you very sad. I began calling people. I know I called Virginia. I don't know what I said to her, but things got hazier and hazier. The next thing I knew they were carting me off to the hospital."

The couple divorced just over a year later on March 26, 1935. To quote Grant, "My possessiveness and fear of losing her brought about the very condition I feared: the loss of her."

In fact, [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org) reports that the divorce occurred following charges that Grant had hit her . . . and not with a backgammon piece! — *Duane Jensen* Δ

### CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB SUNDAY BACKGAMMON

August 5, 2007 @ 12:00 noon  
Ramada Plaza Hotel, Chicago

Call for information: 773/583-6464



**Inaugural SE Champs Report**  
By Steve Sax

Whenever I show up at a backgammon tournament that Malcolm Davis attends, I notice that he is always in the middle of the action. He doesn't come through every time, but as one of the consummate students of the game and one of the most resilient opponents you will ever come across, he gives himself the best chance to be there in the end.



Malcolm Davis displays winning form at the Southeast Championships.

Having been defeated by Malcolm in the finals of the 2003 Midwest Backgammon Championships, I had been waiting for a chance to avenge my loss with another shot at him in the finals of a big event. That chance would finally come over the May 4-6, 2007 weekend. Malcolm and I would face off in a match to determine the 2007 Southeast Backgammon Championship. The inaugural event was deftly run by Gregg Cattanach and Jeb Horton at the Holiday Inn Dunwoody in Atlanta, Georgia. More than 80 players attended.

Malcolm and I used first round byes to our best advantage, needing to win only four instead of five matches to reach the finals. In my opening match, I would eventually defeat 2002 Las Vegas Open Champion Curtis Lucas (TX). A miracle win at DMP against Gary Bauer (NJ) was what it took for me to reach the quarterfinals. There I would face off against Atlanta's best player, Stuart Thomson. My fortunate gammon on a two cube leading 7-5 to 11

secured me a spot in the semifinals.

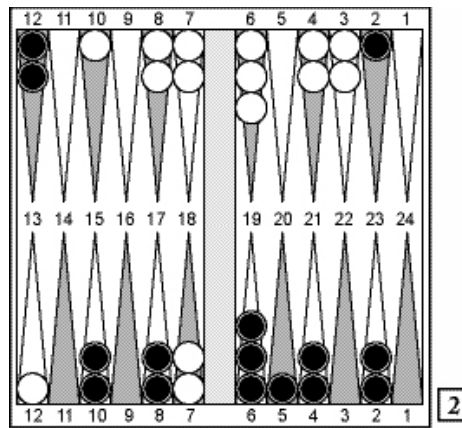
In the semi's, I would have to get by David Rogers, another solid Atlanta player. I had the best of the dice in that contest and after a four year wait, my chance for a finals rematch vs. Malcolm was a reality. (Malcolm had just beat Mark Antranikian (CA) in his semifinal match, having previously defeated Matt Reklaitis (PA), Ken Fischer (CA), and Felix Yen (IL).)

The 13-point finals began in my favor. Leading 1-0, I won a double game needing 2-2 or better on the last shake. Later in the match, luck would continue as I gammoned Malcolm on a 2-cube to go ahead 10-3.

At this point, Malcolm took a well-timed break. When we resumed play, he scored six straight points reducing my lead to 10-9. I made the correct cube action on two of those three games but at 10-3, Malcolm made a patented "bluff-out," cubing from a position that was only marginally worth doubling.

Leading 10-9, I missed a double in a straight race, fearing that a DMP recube would come back. I rolled a 5-5 and then doubled Malcolm out to go ahead 11-9.

**Pos. 1.** 13-point finals. Malcolm Davis (White) trails Steve Sax (Black), 9-11. **WHITE TO PLAY 5-2.**

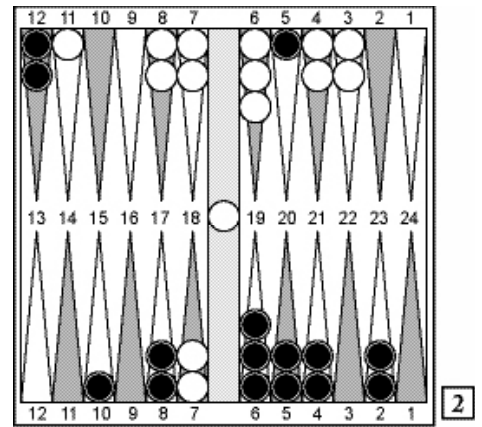


In the next game, Malcolm doubled me in and had a 5-2 to play in this position:

Instead of playing stiff (13/6), Malcolm astutely slotted his 5-point. If he is missed, he has an excellent chance to make a six-prime and go for a match-winning gammon. If he is hit, I don't have the normal benefits I would have early in the match as I couldn't earn a gammon and I had no cube to use. Making the 5-point would have been a reasonable alternative as well but no better than Malcolm's move.

Malcolm would suffer a temporary setback as I hit and covered with a 5-3. The following roll Malcolm made another nice play with his 3-4 roll as he entered with the 3 came out to my bar with the 4 (Pos. 2).

**Pos. 2.** 13-point finals. Malcolm Davis (White) trails Steve Sax (Black), 9-11. **WHITE TO PLAY 4-3.**



Sure he leaves a blot vulnerable to being sent back; but if I don't roll larger than a 3 on either die, he has an additional builder to resume his attack and go for the gammon.

I rolled another good shot (6-5) hitting and lifting the blot on my 10-point. Malcolm stayed out and I rolled an awkward 6-6 making my 2-point but putting a piece out of play and stranding two checkers on my midpoint.

Malcolm stayed out again and I rolled a great 3-2 to make a five point board. Things looked pretty good until Malcolm came in with double aces (entering and making his 5-point). Now I had a very tenuous position as I had to bring in two lone checkers from the midpoint with my only spare builders on my 2-point.

Here I rolled a pretty good double 3s played 13/10(2) and 4/1\*(2), putting Malcolm back on the bar. While Malcolm was fanning twice, I rolled 5-3 followed by 4-3 to bring my last two checkers home.

After taking two checkers off with a 2-1, I arrived at my most promising position of the match. All I had to do at that point was avoid rolling a 6-2 to come ever-so-close to securing the inaugural Southeast Championships.

Unfortunately Ray Fogerlund (who was watching) opened up a branch office "6-2

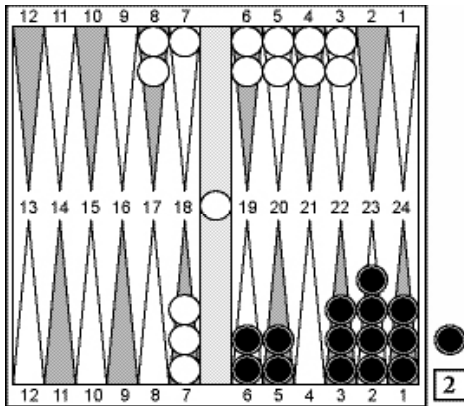


Southeast Masters champ Mike Corbett (R) with runner-up Bob Glass.

not from the bar” which I rolled.

Before that misstep I was nearly 97% to

**Pos. 3. 13-point finals. Steve Sax (Black) leads Malcolm Davis (White), 11–9. BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



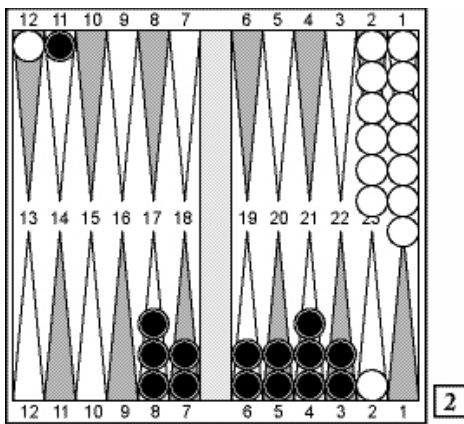
win the match; but in order for backgammon to be interesting, things like this must occasionally happen.

There was a fairly large crowd watching as Malcolm rolled a 4-3 to hit me and snatch potential victory from my grasp. He would go on to prime me in, win this game tying the match at 11–all, then win a final

## KIT DEFENDS 1980 PLAY WOULD STILL HIT ONLY ONCE

Kit Woolsey has chastised CHICAGO POINT for last month’s front page article “Looking Back In Time.” In the article, the August 1980 *Gammon’s of Chicago* newsletter problem was reprinted:

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



The experts of the day, including Magriel, Pasko, Ballard, and Kit Woolsey believed that hitting only one checker was the best play, and most of them thought “... it’s not even close.”

Kit, who would still only hit one

2-cube DMP game to take the title.

Malcolm outplayed me in the match as his Snowie error rate was a stellar 2.9. While I played a respectable 3.9, I didn’t have what it took that day to win the Championship.



Director Gregg Cattanach (R) awards Doubles champs Owen Black and Patty Geoffroy their trophies.

Congratulations to Malcolm Davis for another well-deserved victory and to Gregg Cattanach, Jeb Horton, and their staff for running a smooth and successful first edition of the Southeast Backgammon Championships.—*Steve Sax* Δ

checker, takes issue with our using Snowie rollouts to imply the solution is 14/13\*, 8/2\*.

Here is Kit’s letter to the POINT along with a response from Gregg Cattanach:

I believe your Snowie rollout results on this position are misleading at best, and quite likely, simply wrong. I’m sure that the numbers are accurate from the rollouts. But there are several things which aren’t taken into consideration.

One factor is that when Snowie is doing a rollout, according to my understanding, Snowie does not take the match score into account when choosing its actual play during the rollout. This may well affect things here, since it is double match point but Snowie is possibly trying hard to win a gammon. How this affects things is not clear, but it may make a difference one way or the other.

Another consideration is how Snowie will play the position. Since Snowie thinks that hitting is right, it seems likely that it will continue to do so if it has the opportunity whether in fact hitting the second checker is right or not. As a test, I fed in the single-hitting play of 8/2\*, 4/3, assumed that White had flunked, and asked Snowie how it would now play a 4-1.

Snowie’s 3-ply opinion, which is what would determine its play in the rollout, says to hit rather than to use the ace to make the two point. With gammons not

## 1st SOUTHEAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (37): 1-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2-Steve Sax (CA); 1C-Gary Bauer (NJ), 2C-Mark Antranikian (CA); 1LC-Perry Gartner (NJ). ADVANCED (30): 1-Vladi Gudgenov (NC), 2-Owen Black (FL); 1C-Paul Teitelbaum (GA), 2C-Elayne Feinstein (FL); 1LC-Andy Palumbo (FL). NOVICE (8): 1-Houda Nicole Masarani (CA), 2-Gail Newburn (GA); 1C-Scott Knowles (NC). SOUTHEAST MASTERS (21+1 rebuy): 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Bob Glass (CA). DIXIE CUP (16): 1-Michael Edge (SC), 2-Stacy Turner (GA). TURKISH BLITZ (32): 1-Tim McDonald (GA), 2-Andy Palumbo (FL). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Owen Black (FL) & Patty Geoffroy (MA), 2-Holly Brososky (MI) & Gail Newburn (GA). MINI-MATCH #1 (64): 1-Stacy Turner (GA), 2-Evan Etter (FL). #2 (32): 1-Zia Afshani (GA), 2-Evan Etter (FL). EARLY EXIT JACKPOT (8): 1-Larry Taylor (GA). FIRST-TIMER’S FREE ROLL (8): 1-Houda Nicole Masarani (CA), 2-Rick Burger (NC). SUNDAY JACKPOTS: \$100 (4): 1-Bill Riles (TX). \$50 (8): 1-Samra Hadden (GA). \$25 (8): 1-Elayne Feinstein (FL). \$25 (8): 1-Samra Hadden (GA). \$10 (4): 1-Holly Brososky (MI). SHUTTHEBOX (12 qualifiers): 1-Ray Fogerlund (CA).

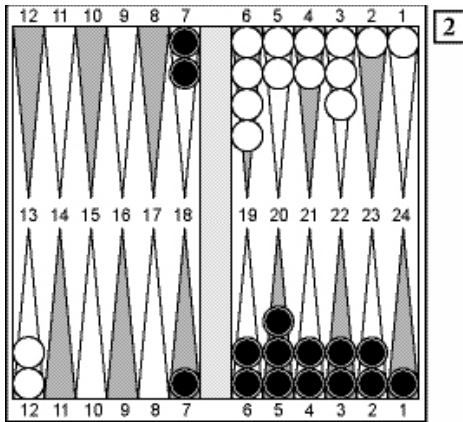
counting, I am quite convinced this is an error. The checker on the three point is too deep, and one should welcome the opportunity to put it to good use. Since Snowie is, in my opinion, misplaying this roll, that is an indication that it is playing the position after the single hit worse than it plays the position after the double-hit, which would of course distort the rollout results.

As a final test, I gave Snowie the position after 8/2, 4/3—flunk, and had it roll it out. The rollout had Black winning 94.5% of the time. I then modified the position by putting the checker on Black’s 14-point onto the 12-point instead. In other words, I made it so Snowie didn’t have the opportunity to hit the second checker even if it wanted to. The results were that from this position where Snowie was forced to play against just one checker the rollouts had Black winning 95.5% of the time—a full 1% better. This is solid evidence that Snowie is misplaying the position by hitting the second checker (when rolling out the single hit play) when it should be using its aces to cover the 2-point. It is also very strong evidence that the single hit is, in fact, superior to the double hit. It is not conclusive evidence, since it is possible (likely, in fact), that although Snowie thinks it should hit the second checker, its play vs. one checker back is superior to its play vs. two checkers back. The

[Continued on page 8]

**PROBLEM #327  
ANALYZED**

by Walter Trice

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

Problem 327 fits a common pattern that is well worth remembering. In a holding game, the presence of two blots in your opponent's home board gives you temporary freedom to carry out your positional objectives with reduced concern about leaving shots at blots of your own. Players often overlook these opportunities. We tend to think of holding game positions as placid and static, offering little in the way of compensation for risky plays. What gets

missed is the fact that the risk, when the opponent has two blots, is often so small, and the resulting freedom so great, that the payoff does not necessarily have to be huge or immediate to justify a bold maneuver.

Opponent's reluctance to be gammoned is normally an important factor, and often the stodgy safe play turns out to be right at double match point, even when money play would call for something a little more imaginative. But this month's problem is posed at the match score of 4-away/2-away, doubled, with a gammon win for Black gaining twice as much equity as a plain win. Here the two-blot opportunity is twice as encouraging to Black as it would be in a money game.

Suppose, for example, that in some sequel to the problem position White can choose between two plays, one of which leaves her even money in a racing position, while the other gives her 70% wins, 10% plain losses, 20% gammon losses. Then if she chooses to race her match-winning chance will be  $(0.5)(50\% + 100\%) = 75\%$ . The alternative gives her a match-winning chance of  $70\% + (0.5)(10\%) = 75\%$ , so the two plays have the same value for winning the match. Being unable to gain from a play that wins the game 20% more often is a very serious handicap!

Such choices do arise for White if Black makes the boldest play, which is 18/13, 7/1. What if White then rolls 4-1? Dare he hit Black's blot with 13/12\*, 6/2? Even though

the roll lets him cover one of his home board blots, Black's direct ace-shot plus the two blots in the outfield result in too many match-losing gammons. White should play quietly with 6/2, 6/5, when his racing chances plus the possibility of a hit next turn make him a slight favorite in the game.

There are three legal plays in Problem 327, and I believe that each one of them is best for some common match score. At double match point I would make the chicken play, 7/1, 6/1. It trashes Black's board and wastes pips for the race, but if Black doesn't gain from a gammon win, getting hit is too costly. For money and at normal match scores 18/7 avoids wastage and gives Black a 6-prime.

Finally, at gammon-go, as in this month's problem, we can go for all the gusto with 18/13, 7/1. Closing the board ensures that White can never anchor on the ace point or make outfield progress toward saving the gammon after a hit. The blot left on the midpoint increases the chance of hitting a second checker after the first return hit. While the possibility that White might hit both Black blots and win a gammon herself makes it more prudent to avoid this second blot in money play, gammon losses don't count against Black at this score. And, as we have seen, White may have to pass up a chance to hit this blot anyway, because of the unusually high price she pays to a gammon loss.—Walter Trice Δ

**KIT DEFENDS...**

[Continued from page 7]

play vs. one checker back is usually quite straightforward, while the play vs. two checkers back, particularly in the critical cases where the opponent forms an anchor, is very tricky and Snowie probably makes some serious errors here.

As to which play is better, I'm not sure. At the time I felt that the single hit was better. However, my play against two checkers in this position has improved from back in 1980, while I doubt if there has been any significant improvement of my play against a single checker. That may be enough to swing things to the double hit. But blindly citing Snowie rollouts of this sort of position as though they are gospel and saying that the single hit is a clear error is very misleading.

Snowie guru Gregg Cattanach comments:

Yes, Snowie4 rollouts are always done moving the checkers as if it was a cubeless money game (i.e. it ignores the match

score). I also agree with Kit when he says "How this affects things is not clear, but it may make a difference . . ."

This simplest test whether the match score makes a difference is to do a Gnu rollout. If Gnu disagees, the match score matters, and Snowie may be making plays that win a lot of gammons and lose more games. (In a DMP situation, you would check for different stuff if it were GammonGo or GammonSave; but if the match score really matters, Gnu and Snowie would likely disagree a lot.) From the Gnu and Snowie rollouts, it appears in this case that the move that wins the most gammons is *also* the move that wins the most games, so Snowie's rollout methodology does not give a bad answer in this DMP situation.

This fear that "the rollout is not according to score so it is bogus" is *highly* overrated, in my opinion. A great deal of the time (maybe 80-90%) the checker play that wins the most games is also the play that wins the most gammons and loses fewer gammons. Generally the gammons and games go up together.

As to whether you should hit after 8/2\*

4/3, fan, then 4-1, Gnu thinks you should play 14/13\*/9 and so does Snowie.

I think Kit is just plain wrong about worrying about sending two back and White possibly making an anchor and forcing and hitting a shot and winning from there. I think the greater risk by not hitting the second checker is that White enters immediately with a 6 when you open your board, rolls big to get around, and outrolls you and wins the race.

Kit is going to have to work hard to "prove" this rollout wrong.—Gregg Cattanach Δ

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## AMALGAMATION

Visiting the Bar Point Club In May: **Bob Koca** (MD)... According to **Daniel Murphy** in a rec. games.backgammon article, **Kit Woolsey** (CA) wrote he is "officially breaking off all contact with play65" and "will no longer be supporting" his old site www.gammonline.com. Woolsey sold the site to the group in January 2007... Congrats to **Mike Wolock** on turning 70.

**Frank Sinatra's** number one fan celebrated at Jilly's May 12. And although in the hospital for a potential heart attack on May 8, he still attended the Bar Point Club tourney right from the hospital!... **Steve Sax** (CA) suggests a Backgammon Hall of Fame in a recent gammonvillage.com article and lists possible candidates. What do POINT readers think of the idea?... What has happened to the big money backgammon events that were supposed to follow the Backgammon Million? No mention of a two million dollar event and no Backgammon Million II event are on the horizon... After a short run, **Clare Riley** is leaving Gammonitis's "Make Your Point" as editor. **Andrew Sarjeant** reports that the new editor will be American **Becca Thompson**. And according to Andrew, there will soon be a Gammonitis gaming site. More details to follow... Congratulations to Jona Alexander (CA) who has lost more than 60 pounds... Due to a couple of strange hotel booking problems, the Midwest Championships and Pittsburgh Championships will effectively switch dates for 2008. The Midwest is scheduled 29 Feb.-2 March and director **Steve Hast** has announced Pittsburgh's dates to be 28-30 March. Pittsburgh will still host the ABT award's ceremony in 2008... Speaking of the ABT, the top ten players will now be honored with awards. 1st through 3rd will continue to receive beautiful trophies. Effective this year, 4th through 10th will get solid silver dollar mementos of their achievement... Did you know that the Bar Point Club has four fireman players? **Royal Robinson**, **Ken Tibbs**, **Mike Pufpaf**, and **Rich Niesel** are all Chicago fireman... **Eric Johnson** (IL) had a medical scare but it turned out for the best. Eric encourages everyone over 50 to have a colonoscopy... Finally, the late **Lucille Ball**, a backgammon aficionado, offers her opinion on luck: "Luck? I don't know anything about luck. I've never banked on it, and I'm afraid of people who do. Luck to me is something else: Hard work—and realizing what is opportunity and what isn't." Δ



*Mike Wolock sucking down a Martini wearing a hospital bracelet*

who did what

## WINNER'S CIRCLE

NOV.—DEC. 2007



- New York Monthly** (New York, NY; 6 May)... Open (7): 1-Ira Siegler, 2-Victor Ashkenazi. Intermediate (2): 1-Paul Schulman
- Arizona Club Monthly** (Phoenix, AZ; 7 May)... OPEN (16): 1-Bob Baxter, 2-Proctor Ritchie, 3-David Hilton, 4-Mawzoon.
- First Lyon Backgammon Open** (Lyon, France; 10-13 May)... PARTOUCHE GAMMON TOUR OPEN (48+16 rebuys): 1-Pia Jeppesen (DEN), 2-Sander Lylloff (DEN); 1C-Bartolomeo Migliore (ITA); 1LC-Sami Sallak (GER). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Serge Dahan (FRA) & Thierry Manouck (FRA), 2-Ed O'Laughlin (USA).
- 19th WBF European Championship & 6th Velden Open** (Velden, Austria; 11-13 May)... MASTERS (36): 1-Werner Schmuck (AUS), 2-Zbigniew Szczerek (Poland); 1C-Peter Raugust (GER); 1LC-Götz Hildsberg (GER). CHAMPIONSHIP (37): 1-Oliver Schneider (GER), 2-Feza Diyarbekir (TUR); 1C-Marco Tamigi (ITA); 1LC-Arda Findikoglu (Turkey). INTERMEDIATE (34): 1-Sureyya Sertasi (Turkey), 2-Stefano Sinopoli (ITA); 1C-Marius Cornelius Veres (ROM); 1LC-Alberto da Pra (ITA), 2LC-Vasilios Kyrkos (GRE/BEL). WARM-UP (58): 1-Zbigniew Szczerek (POL). SPERTI TROPHY (56): 1-Hormoz Shahrokhshahi (GER). LADIES EVENT (10): 1-Seda Koc (TUR). €500 SUPERJACKPOT (8): 1-Piergiorgio D'Ancona (ITA), 2-Stefano Selvi (ITA). ONE-POINTER, Yalkin Erk (TUR).
- South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 13

May)... OPEN (12): 1/2-Carlos Azcarate / Neal Rosensweig.

•**2nd Portuguese Open & Grand Prix d'Estoril** (Estoril, Portugal; 16-20 May)... GRAND PRIX d'ESTORIL (32 teams): 1-Jean-Philippe Rohr (FRA), 2-Franz-Josef Berg (AUS) & Werner Schmuck (AUS). CHAMPIONSHIP (49): 1-Michel Serrero (FRA), 2-Tomaz Neto (POR); 1C-David Todd (USA); 1LC-Thomas Jespersen (DEN). INTERMEDIATE (14): 1-Dobromir Kyurkchiev (BUL), 2-Rumen Nikolov (BUL); 1C-Marc Steyvers (BEL); 1LC-Carlo Facchetti (ITA). LADIES EVENT: 1-Julie Thabault (FRA). PRES. 1-POINTER (courtesy of *XcitingGames.com*): 1-Ed O'Laughlin.

•**Phoenix Backgammon Club—USBL** (Glendale, AZ; 19 May)... OPEN (4): 1-Dan Pelton, 2-Joni Brummer, 3-Robert Salem.

•**Miami Valley Club Monthly—USBL** (Dayton, OH; 20 May)... OPEN (10): 1-Tom Siebold, 2-Darin Campo.

•**Pub Club Sunday/Bob Z 50th Birthday Event** (Chicago, IL; 20 May)... OPEN (28): 1-Bob Zavoral, 2-Mike Pufpaf, 3/4-Harold Elgazar / Michael Ginat. KILL PHIL DOUBLES: 1-Roy Cohen & Don Marek... *Harold Elgazar won the Bob Z board. The event was directed by Tim Mabee and Phil Simborg.*



*Bob Zavoral won his birthday event!*

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 3 Jun.)... OPEN (28): 1/2-Peter Kalba / Jacob Moreno, 3/4-Mike Pufpaf / Tim Mabee; 1C-Allen Tish, 2C-Neil Kazaross. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Bev Loder, 2-Dave Settles. Δ

## 2007 FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



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Marriott North Fort Lauderdale

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## Worldwide Backgammon Federation

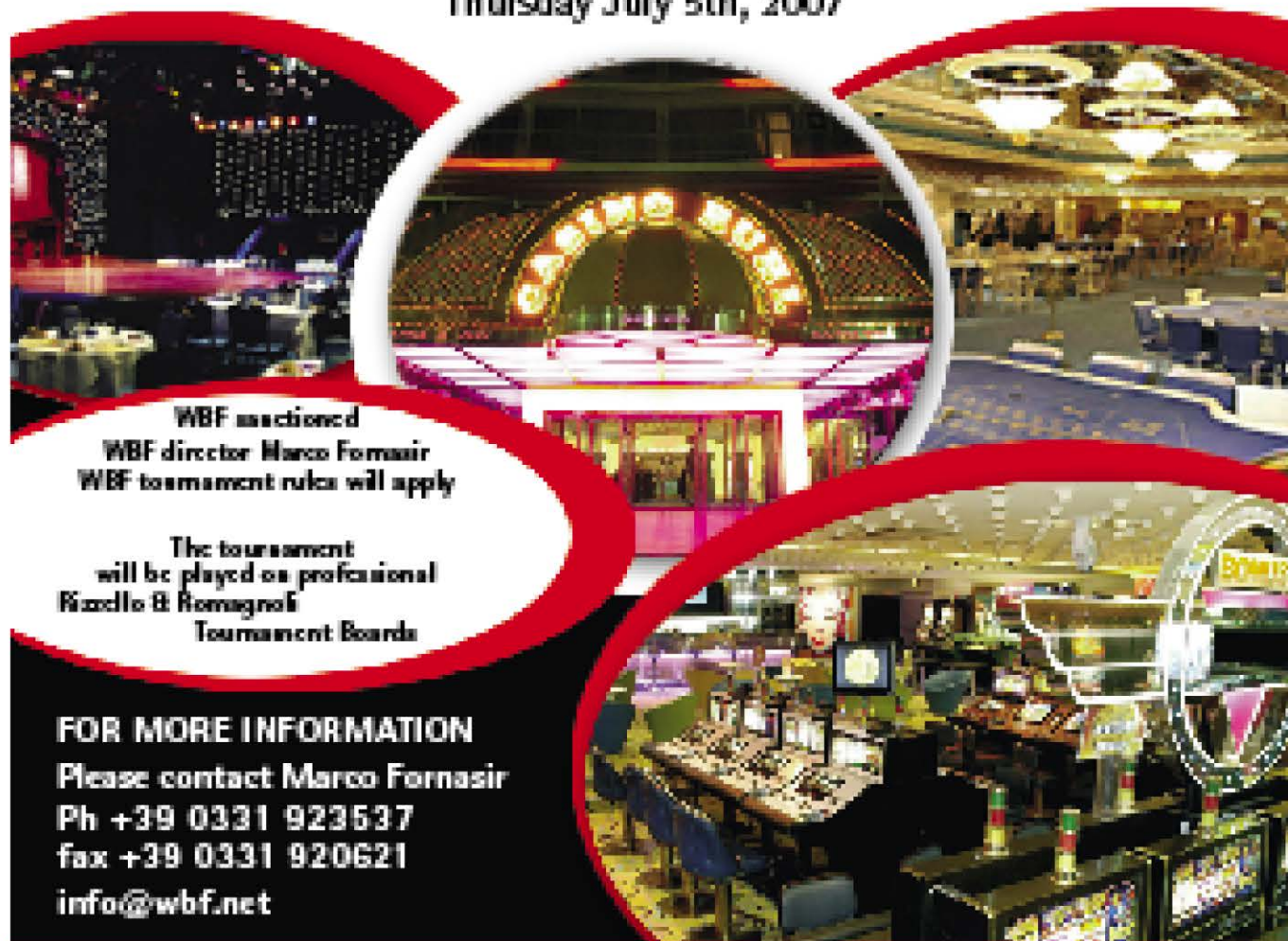
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**Friday July 6th - Sunday July 8th, 2007**

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Thursday July 5th, 2007



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