

michigan summer championships

MARKOWITZ WINS MICHIGAN

Strasberg edges Kalba in Intermediate

Nevada Backgammon Association director Howard Markowitz never said it would be easy to win a second Michigan Summer Championship title. But now the 1984 champ can add 1993 to his victory collection—by the skin of his teeth.

Carol Joy Cole's 14th annual competition drew a main event crowd of 165 players to the beautiful Novi Hilton Hotel over the 4th of July weekend. With dozens of extra players entering side events, it was the best attended MSBC since 1990.

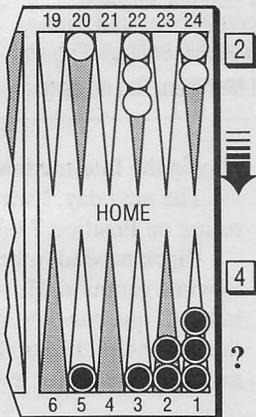


Michigan Champ Howard Markowitz

Markowitz scrambled through the Main Bracket winning three 11-10 nail-biters. Then he faced Second Chance winner Al Jones from Ontario. Al whipped Howard 11-0 in the first match which gave both competitors one loss. Then Jones jumped out to a 7-1 lead in the rubber match. It looked like another Main Sheet winner was going down in flames.

Howard rallied to cut his deficit to 7-5 and in the next game, was able to offer this powerful recube:

Michigan Summer Championships 11-point finals. Howard Markowitz (White) trails Al Jones (Black), 7 to 5. White re-doubles. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**



Larry Strommen's BPA 4.01® computer program says that at this match score, Howard's can redouble with 56.01% chances and Jones' minimum take point is at 24.57%. Since the cubeless probability of winning (CPW) this position is 80.85%, it's a double and drop. Jones took a shot at the win now and accepted the 4-cube. He lost the game and the two that followed. Markowitz had pulled it out 11-7.

Congratulations to Paul Strasberg (MI) who held off CBPC co-director Peter Kalba (lucky headband and all) at double match point to win the Intermediate. Congratulations also to the staff of the Michigan Championships: John Carrico, Woody Woodworth, Mary Ann Meese and David Todd. By general consensus, it was their smoothest effort ever. Results: Δ

MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

- OPEN (80): 1-Howard Markowitz (NV), 2-Al Jones (CAN), 3-Alan Steffen (NY), 4/5-Ken Cohen (PA) / Bob Wachtel (CA); 1C-Bob Holyon (WI), 2-Dean Muench (IL), 3C/4C-Stu Hosen (TX) / Carl Sellars (CAN)
- INTERMEDIATE (64): 1-Paul Strasberg (MI), 2-Peter Kalba (IL), 3-Dave Pink (MI); 1C-Jeff Kane (WI), 2C-Leo Tuin (CAN), 3C/4C-Mark Donaldson (MN) / Fred Gehlhoff (MI)
- NOVICE (21): 1-Dale Haukenfreres (CAN), 2-Gurbachan Khosa (MN); 1C-Noah Monro (MI), Javad Farjood (IL)
- SUPERJACKPOTS—#1 (16): 1-Frank Talbot (MI), 2-Hossein Zafarian (TX); #2 (16): 1-Bob Wachtel (CA), 2-Quint McTyeire (KY)
- OPEN DOUBLES (32): 1-Al & Casey Jones (CA), 2-Brian & Ron Vance (MI), 3/4-Rick Barabino & Alan Steffen (NY) / Butch Meese (IN) & Walter Trice (MA)
- LIMITED DOUBLES (13): 1-Abdul Alchalabi & Janice Newman (MI), 2-Todd Doucet (PA) & Greg Shoults (OH)
- OVERFLOW DOUBLES (8): 1-Mark Domanski & Nick Stingelin (CAN)
- BLITZ (128): 1-Vaughn Derderian (MI), 2-Ken Wroblewski (MI)
- FLINT \$500 (8): 1-Abbas Zaltash (PA)
- SUMMER FREEZE-OUT (32): 1-Harry Cohn (IL), 2-Marilyn McMaster (MI)
- SUNDAY JACKPOT (8): 1-Jon Vietor (CA)
- EARLYBIRD JACKPOTS—Open (8): 1-Walter Trice (MA); Limited (16): 1-Richard Armbruster (CA), 2-Takis Sakkalis (MI)
- BACKGAMMON AT SEA—\$1000 Jackpot on Emil Mortuk's Yacht (8): 1-Bob Wachtel (CA)

las vegas open

GERMANY'S JONAS IS TOPS IN LAS VEGAS

Tino Lechich in big Super Jackpot win

Germany's Ralph Jonas had the biggest win of his life defeating Gus Contos in the Las Vegas Open. The Nevada Backgammon Association's summer event was held 16-20 June at the Mirage Hotel. 250 players from all over the world attended.

Hot off his April Tournament of the Americas victory in Costa Rica, Tino Lechich bested Mike Svobodny to win the Super Jackpot event.

An overall expression of player discontent for Mirage Hotel playing room has prompted NBA director to seek another property for future Vegas tournaments. Complete results: Δ

LAS VEGAS OPEN

- CHAMPIONSHIP (114): 1-Ralf Jonas (GER), 2-Gus Contos (CA), 3/4-Harry Cohn (IL) / Rich Sweetman (NH), 5/8-Steve Jacobson / Herb Roman (IL) / Mark Schiffer (OR) / Alan Steffen (NY); 1C-Odis Chenault, 2C-Hal Heinrich (CAN), 3C/4C-Clarine (CA) / Ken Truman; 1LC-Eliot Bean, 2LC-Hossein Zafarian (TX)
- INTERMEDIATE (108): 1-Scott Cole (NV), 2-Dave Williams (CA), 3/4-Marv Arnol (WI) / Les Senour, 5/8-Buddy Ashmore (CAN) / Marilyn Faller (PA) / Denny Leatherman (PA) / Arnold Zousmer (CA); 1C-Tom Keisler, 2C-Steve Sion, 3C/4C-Jeff Seidel (FL) / Glenn Abney (NV); 1LC-Donald Bernstein (CA), 2LC-Bert Zamanian
- BEGINNER (38): 1-Estelle Wurmbbrand (NV), 2-Don Greening, 3/4-Linda Compton (NV) / Blair Harris; 1C-John Michael Rohr (NV), 2C-Mona Lisa (GA); 1LC-Charles Hoffman, 2LC-Lisa Luiders
- SUPER JACKPOT (32): 1-Tino Lechich (AUSTRL), 2-Mike Svobodny (NY)
- LIMITED JACKPOT (64): 1-Chuck Jones (WA), 2-Mike Shadkin
- DOUBLES (32): 1-Sandy Kaplan (MI) & Carol Starr (NV), 2-Clarine & Ray Baker
- \$50 BLITZ (168): 1-Herb Avram, 2-Dave McNair
- \$25 BLITZ (160): 1/2/3/4-Richard Armbruster (CA) / Joe Harris / Ed Koreen / Tom McEvoy
- SUNDAY JACKPOTS: Championship (16) 1-Tom Wheeler; Intermediate (16) 1-Carol Falk (MI); Beginner (8) 1-Matthew Armbruster (CA)

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis
2726 West Lunt Avenue
Chicago, IL 60645-3039
Telephone: 312/338-6380
FAX: 312/338-6384

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Harold Branch (KY) **Neil Kazaross (IL)**
Carol Joy Cole (MI) **Danny Kleinman (CA)**
Jake Jacobs (IL) **Kit Woolsey (CA)**
Duane Jensen (MN)

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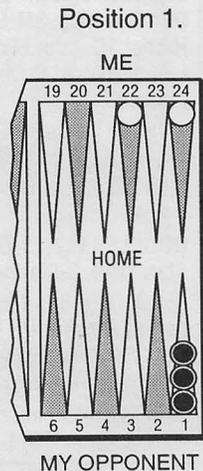
LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT
2726 W. Lunt Avenue
Chicago, IL 60645-3039

ERROR OF THE HAND VS. ERROR OF THE MIND

Years ago, legend has it, a little old lady competing in the Plimpton Cup began placing her borne off checkers in her own outer board instead of into the board's checker gutter. A few moves later, she noticed the checkers in her outer board, and began bearing them back in so that she could bear them off all over again. As the story continues, she outrolled her opponent so crushingly, she won the race anyway.

Recently at the Memorial Day tournament, I was involved in two mismanaged bear-offs. In the first, my opponent (Black) failed to roll a double in Position 1 shown at right.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

coming attractions



by Carol Joy Cole
313/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

1993 American BG Tour events underlined.

NATIONAL

Jul 10	College Park Summer Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Jul 11	Austin BG Assn. Sunday Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/280-5945
Jul 15	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Jul 21	Rscards Summer Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	800/638-9636
Jul 30-Aug 1*	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Aug 1*	Crestmoor Club Monthly Tournament, Crestmoor Downs, Denver, CO	303/388-8849
Aug 8	Summer Cool Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/338-6380
Aug 9-15	<u>Green Mountain Festival of Backgammon, Stratton Mountain Inn, VT</u>	<u>305/527-4033</u>
Aug 19	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Aug 22*	Central Illinois Summer Sizzler Tournament, Sly Fox Pub, Lacon, IL	309/673-7622
Aug 22*	South Florida Summer Tournament, London Pub, Pompano Beach, FL	305/785-1282
Aug 27-29	<u>30th Gammon Associates Invitational, Cavendish West Hollywood, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Sep 3-6	<u>National Labor Day Tournament, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/845-8435</u>
Sep 16*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Oct 1-3	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Oct 3	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Oct 6-10	<u>3rd Illinois State Championships & America Cup, Woodfield Hilton, IL</u>	<u>708/945-7801</u>
Oct 20	Rscards Fall Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	800/638-9636
Oct 21*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Oct 22-24*	<u>Nation's Capitol Fall Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0603</u>
Oct 29-31	<u>New Hampshire Fall Classic, Sheraton Tara Wayfarer, Bedford, NH</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Nov 9	BPG 11th Annual Fall Trophy Tourney, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	312/338-6380
Nov 21*	15th Annual Flint Area Club Championships, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Nov 20-21	<u>Autumn Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA</u>	<u>619/294-2007</u>
Dec 5*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Jan 19*	Rscards Winter Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	800/638-9636

OUTSIDE USA

Jul 10-11	The Hilton National, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands Airport, England	0522/53 68 36
Jul 15-18	European Championship, Hotel des Ambassadeurs, Menton, France	392/48019343
Jul 19-25*	18th World Backgammon Championship, Hotel Loews, Monte Carlo	33/9216 2000
Jul 29-Aug 1	Riviera's Cup Championship, Hotel Martinez, Cannes, France	331/4288 6645
Aug 2	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
Aug 7-8	Annual Sjælland's Championship, Stenløse, Denmark	039/40 06 07
Aug 12-15*	Palace Summer Championships, Badrutt's Palace, St. Moritz, Switz.	061/331 5816
Aug 28-29	BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 3, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522/53 68 36
Sep 2-5	Brazilian BG Assoc. Tournament, Hotel Meridien, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5521/267 6033
Sep 6	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
Sep 23-26	12th Internat'l Austrian Open, Hotel Schloß Seefelds, Pörschach, Austria	08341/12825
Oct 4	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
Oct 14-17*	1st Israeli Open Championship, Moriah Plaza Hotel, Tel Aviv, Israel	3120/6254775
Oct 16-17	Sandy Osborne Memorial Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, England	0522/53 68 36
Oct 21-24	3rd Rio de Janeiro Open Tournament, Hotel Meridien, Rio, Brazil	5521/267 6033
Oct 25-29	2nd S.A. World Cup & XIV Tournament, Las Naciones, Buenos Aires, Arg.	541/790 4769
Nov 1	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
Nov 13*	Mencap Charity Tournament, Piccadilly London, England	0624/851 045
Nov 24-28*	2nd Turkish Open Championship, Penta Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey	3120/6254775
Nov 27-28	BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 4, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522/53 68 36
Dec 2-5	Brazilian BG Assoc. Tournament, Hotel Meridien, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5521/267 6033

Thinking her position hopeless, she picked up her dice without bearing off any men. My next roll was 2-1. Horrified, she went to the tournament director and complained:

"You made me play in the Open, and look what I did!"

"I don't understand," the director replied. "Do you think this is acceptable

play in the Intermediate?"

The next day, I was part of a committee ruling on Position 2 (shown on page 3).

Black needed to bear off both checkers to win a gammon. He rolled 6-1 and sighing, bore off one checker, placed it squarely on the bar and picked up his dice. His opponent now called for a director to determine

[Continued on page 3]

Howard Markowitz	26.66	Frank Frigo	7.24	Carl Adamec	3.76	Javad Farjood	1.92
Ben Lang	26.00	Dave Orandle	7.20	Sam Hanna	3.76	Arkady Kuperman	1.87
Marty Storer	23.83	Ron Weingrad	7.20	Belle Pronman	3.73	Jerry Padova	1.87
Frank Talbot	22.16	Gabe Stiasny	7.18	Carol Joy Cole	3.60	Jill Ferdinand	1.76
Woody Woodson	21.12	Alan Steffen	6.68	Jerry Ungar	3.53	Mark Damish	1.73
Bob Holyon	19.52	Jim Lakdawala	6.50	Randall Witt	3.53	David Rubin	1.65
Ken Bond	16.16	Mike Pettigrew	6.50	Bob Wachtel	3.34	Kurt Schurecht	1.65
Quint McTyeire	14.53	Ken Cohen	6.28	Stu Hosen	3.34	Bob Howington	1.61
David Hochron	14.40	Peter Kalba	6.09	Carl Sellars	3.34	Mike Lawless	1.50
Al Jones	13.32	Jeff Kane	6.09	John Lear	3.20	Allen Levien	1.35
John Mansey	13.00	Marty Kohler	5.85	Dave Pink	3.06	David MacBryde	1.32
Ralph Levy	11.44	Fred Gehlhoff	5.63	Leo Tuin	3.06	Farzan Garmroodi	1.32
Dean Muench	11.33	Mike Shanas	5.60	Jan Carlstrom	2.94	Peter Zacks	1.32
Arnold Zousmer	10.85	Ed Pavilonis	5.21	Denny Leatherman	2.90	Ray Fogelund	1.32
Perry Gartner	10.84	Lila Swan	5.21	Nayan Shah	2.90	Lance Jenkins	1.29
Paul Strasberg	10.63	Rich Sweetman	5.21	Michael Sharp	2.50	Johnnie Roberts	1.25
Felix Yen	10.44	Larry Lau	5.20	Holly Stowe	2.41	Gurbachan Khosa	1.25
Mike Nelson	10.44	Carol Falk	4.95	Ed Zell	2.40	Noah Monro	1.25
Jake Jacobs	10.07	Norma Shyer	4.92	Ed Buerger	2.13	Gardner Soule	1.00
Jorgen Granstedt	9.69	Mark Donaldson	4.82	Dale Hauenfreres	2.13	George Photias	1.00
Andy Palumbo	9.05	Dean Adamian	4.03	Wally Watson	2.12	Randy Peterson	0.93
Ami Tennenbaum	8.82	Joe Sylvester	4.03	Walter Trice	2.12	Alex Perry	0.88
Ira Hoffberg	8.40	John Rockwell	3.96	George Barr	2.08	Ed Nyitray	0.88
Herb Gurland	7.88	Norm Wiggins	3.96	Larry Strommen	2.08	Marc Poe	0.88
Yamin Yamin	7.34	Bill Bartholomay	3.79	Miriam Bureson	2.00	Tony Pascuzzi	0.88

Howard Markowitz (NV), Chicago's all-time master point leader, jumped into first place at the 1993 ABT halfway point with a big win in the 80-player Michigan Summer Championships.

The 1993 American Backgammon Tour top three finishers will receive personalized trophies to be awarded at the Nevada State Championships Calcutta Auction in Winter, 1994.



**1993 CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB
PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

COMPILED
THRU 30 JUNE

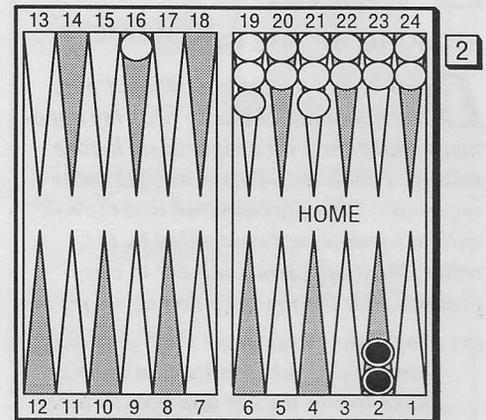
NEIL KAZAROSS	16.16	Tim Mabee	3.44	Steve Grubart	1.60	Greg Roland	0.60
GARY KAY	13.24	Dave Cramer	3.44	Tony Schroeder	1.56	Kurt Schurecht	0.60
YAMIN YAMIN	12.84	Stan Kucharz	3.32	Amy Trudeau	1.44	Steve Katz	0.60
JOHN DEMIAN	11.04	Bob Ebbeler	3.16	Andy Krenitz	1.36	Mike Spiropoulos	0.56
JAKE JACOBS	9.84	Norma Shyer	3.12	Lou Salzman	1.32	Dick McCall	0.56
DAVID RUBIN	9.40	Sarg Serges	3.12	Jill Ferdinand	1.28	Richard Beagarie	0.56
TAK MORIOKA	9.28	Georgina Flanagan	3.12	Joann Feinstein	1.28	John Stryker	0.48
DON JAYHAN	8.52	Ed Buerger	3.12	Betsy Miller	1.28	Joe Koucharian	0.48
DEEB SHALATI	7.52	Alex Itkin	3.04	Jim Pappas	1.12	Graham Sievers	0.48
PHYLLIS SMOLINSKI	7.44	Marcy Sloan	3.04	Larry Strommen	1.12	Jerry Brooks	0.48
PAUL FRIEDMAN	6.24	Peter Kalba	2.80	Marty Tatosian	1.00	Frank Callea	0.44
HERB ROMAN	6.16	Stu Katz	2.80	Ron Stur	0.96	John Meyers	0.40
BOBBIE SHIFRIN	5.60	Femi Owiku	2.72	Roland Dieter	0.96	William Frierson	0.32
RALPH LEVY	5.28	Bill Keefe	2.36	Dave Rockwell	0.96	Harry Hayward	0.32
PAUL FRANKS	5.24	Bruce Wittert	2.16	Tad Wilson	0.96	Jay Ward	0.32
MARY FRANKS	5.20	Leslie Lockett	1.96	Elaine Kehm	0.96	Katy Clark	0.32
JOHN BRUSSEL	4.80	Chuck Olson	1.92	J.A. Miller	0.96	Greg Try	0.32
KEN BOND	4.72	Wilcox Snellings	1.92	Barry Miller	0.88	Andy Argy	0.24
ALLEN ZIMMERMAN	4.40	V.W. Zimnicki	1.92	Ray Kershaw	0.88	Joe Mangine	0.24
BILL DAVIS	4.16	Phil Simborg	1.84	Peggy Fleming	0.80	Mark Kay	0.24
Danny DeRoche	3.84	Howard Markowitz	1.84	Reggie Porter	0.80	Mark Murphy	0.24
Jolie Rubin	3.84	Arline Levy	1.76	Dan Judd	0.64	Mary Vitale	0.20
Howard Ring	3.76	Tim Serges	1.76	Larry Yakowenko	0.64	Andy Bittman	0.16
Richard Stawowy	3.52	Don Desmond	1.60	Jeff Kane	0.64	Barry Epstein	0.16
Alice Kay	3.48						

JOHN DEMIAN placed in four out of the six June tournaments to collect 5.04 points and top monthly honors. June runners-up Yamin Yamin (4.08) and Gary Kay (3.80) both gained on leader Neil Kazaross as well.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

Position 2. BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.



how to proceed. Without a direct reference to this situation in the "U.S. Tournament Rules & Procedures," the director chose to convene the aforementioned 3-man ruling committee.

My initial reaction was that the man on the bar should be ruled as "closed out," but my fellow committee members convinced me that ruling the checker borne off was more in keeping with the spirit of the game. Their argument was that this was not an error comparable to the error my opponent had made. In this case, it was an error of the hand, not the mind.

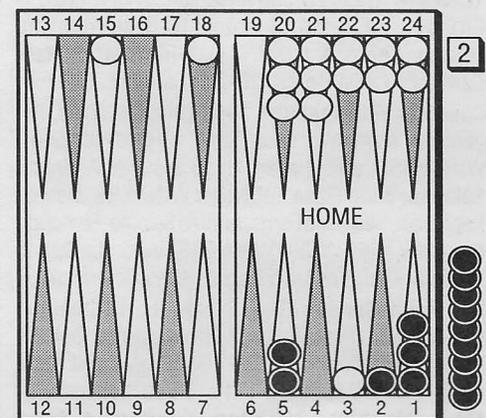
Their feeling was that in non-contact situations, a player should not be able to place himself on the bar (or, like the little old lady, bear out instead of bearing off). I don't feel that backgammon would be any

[Continued on page 5]

your move

PROBLEM #195

Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.



DEAR MISS
LONELYBLOTS

SHAKING UP THE GAME

Dear Miss Lonelyblots: When I play backgammon, I like to hear my opponents shake their dice vigorously before rolling. The sound pleases me, but more important, I am thus assured that the roll will be random, not controlled by the roller. Most opponents adhere to this practice. But the few who do not, worry me.

- (a) Do players who shake their dice only from side to side realize that their shake leaves the top and bottom faces of each die unchanged?
- (b) If my opponent fails to shake vigorously, how may I ask politely that he do so?

- (c) Would it be unsportsmanlike for me to put my hand over the dice of an opponent who has not shaken vigorously as they are landing on the board, and demand that he shake before rolling?
—Always Shakes Thoroughly

DEAR ALWAYS: A vigorous shake before rolling is required, not just because it comforts and pleases you, but by every set of rules I've seen used in backgammon tournaments during the past 15 years. Some backgammon players believe that less-than-thorough shaking permits the roller to alter the presumed equal probabilities of all 36 rolls; others do not. Regardless, no backgammon player should have to worry about this, and any backgammon player who is reluctant to shake vigorously may be presumed to have a dishonest intention to control the dice.

Your questions hint at their own answers:

- (a) Dishonest players who shake their dice only in a horizontal plane realize they are keeping the dice from bouncing in the cup. Honest players do not.
- (b) The first time an opponent fails to shake vigorously, you should ask him to do so—as you say, *politely*. You are simply demanding compliance with the rules.
- (c) Your remedy, putting your hand over dice before they land, is more than “unsportsmanlike”—it is itself a rule violation, for neither player may interfere with the dice. Is it ever appropriate for a *subsequent* offense? That depends on the environment in which you are playing.
- (1) If your *tournament* opponent fails repeatedly to shake vigorously, you should call a director and voice your complaint. Continued violation of this rule should be cause for disqualification from the tournament.
- (2) If the offense occurs in a well-managed club, similarly, you should summon the manager of the club.
- (3) Finally, if the offense occurs in a poorly-managed club or in a private game, you should cease playing with that opponent, and ask others to ostracize him, too.—Miss Lonelyblots Δ

who did what

WINNER'S
CORNER

May–June 1993

Campeonato Argentino 1993 (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in May)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Gonzalo Ramirez Vilches, María Rosa Jodara, Alberto Aguirre, Juan Rosa, Eduardo Khurlopian. JUNIOR WINNERS: Osvaldo Tundis, Enrique Nanni, Natalia Arena, Juan Carlos Kuperman, Oded Minond. BEGINNER WINNERS: Ricardo Bruner, Alberto Cohen, Sergio Sasson Chattas, Mauricio Mandalaoui, Jorge Lanuque

World Series of Backgammon (Nassau, Bahamas; 5–11 May)... OPEN: 1-Mark Rozans (PA), 2-Phyllis Ames (FL); 1C-David Hershleder, 2C-Lee Genud (FL); 1LC-Rageb Shadallah (NY). INTERMEDIATE: 1-John Lear (CA), 2-Alberto da Pra (ITA); 1C-Nancy Nesbaum, 2C-Grace Kahn; 1LC-Frank Dama... Corrections from last issue provided by Colin Roberts.

NEBC Children's Hospital Benefit (Cambridge, MA; 16 May)... EXPERT (19): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Dan Chicoine, 3/4-Rich Sweetman / David Wells; 1C-Walter Trice, 2C-Jim Kasarjian. A DIV. (16): 1-Gil Evans, 2-Ernesto Adrienzen; 1C-Belle Pronman, 2C-John Leonard. B DIV. (12): 1-Ron Mak, 2-Mark Damish; 1C-Bill Doran, 2C-Zita Samuels.

Campeonato Argentino 1993 (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in June)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Daniel Hazan, Hugo Ergueta, Andranik Safarian, Juan Rosa. JUNIOR WINNERS: Beatriz Kaprielian, Bernardo Fornas, Andrés Salama, Fernando Neumark. BEGINNER WINNERS: Verónica Dabul, Mario Kristal, Verónica Dabul, Isaac Poteraica.

Bar Point Sunday (Oak Brook, IL; 13 June)... OPEN (21): 1-Peter Kalba, 2-Neil Kazarov, 3/4-Bill Davis / Tak Morioka; 1C/2C-Gary Kay / Jeff Kane (WI). INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Lou Salzman, 2-Mark Murphy, 3/4-Stan Kucharz / Allen

Zimmerman; 1C-Paul Friedman, 2C-Jolie Rubin.

5th International City of Venice Tournament (Venice, Italy; 24–27 June)... OPEN: 1-David Bridges (GB), 2-Jurgen Scharth (GER), 3/4-Xavier Braun (GER) / Peter Van De Bruck (GER); 1C-Tony Anton (GER), 2C-Rudolf Kempter (AUS); 1LC-Matthias Körner (GER); Ladies Prize-Cathrine Bladh Risselin (SWE). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Enrico Jabara (ITA), 2-Peeter Mühlbek (AUS), 3/4-Andrea Sanki (ITA) / Enrico Colangiulo (ITA); 1C-Sandro Fontanel (ITA), 2C-Claudio Bornino (ITA); 1LC-Sigfried Tonzer (GER); Ladies Prize-Farah Rassouli (IRAN). BEGINNER: 1-Günther Holzinger (GER), 2-Giammichele D'Onofrio (ITA); 1C-Eubenia Ferrari (ITA), 2C-Andrea Marfori (ITA); 1LC-Karim Kegel (GER); Ladies Prize: Eugenia Ferrari (ITA). TEAM: 1-“Greece” (Yannis Tomazos, Andreas Pournaras, Zoe Giakopoulou), 2-“Tuttifrutti” (Nicola De Filippis, Markus Nowack, Walter Jarc). ITALIAN TEAM: 1-“Lignano” (Dario Baso, Andrea Sirch, Paolo Satriani). WARM-UP: 1-Dino Visentin (ITA). JACKPOT: 1-YANNIS TOMAZOS (GRE). SUPERJACKPOT: 1-Dino Visentin (ITA)... Dario De Toffoli reports that 200 players attended.

3rd Mitteleuropa Tournament (Nova Gorica, Slovenia; 2–4 July)... CHAMPIONSHIP (38): 1-Faik Gousseinov (AZERB), 2-Gerhard Stoll (ITA), 3/4-Andrea Sirch (ITA) / Stefano Boni (ITA); 1C-Mario Sequeira (POR), 2C-Luisa Sequeira (POR); 1LC-Ai Tesoro (USA); Ladies Prize-Cathrine Bladh Risselin (SWE). ADVANCED (20): 1-Claudio Borgnino (ITA), 2-Massimo Palazzi (ITA); 1C-Peter Huber (GER); 1LC-Sergio Fragiaco (ITA); Ladies Prize-Karin Ausserhofer (ITA). LIMITED (14): 1-Davorin Lozej (SLOV), 2-Annalisa Porcu (ITA); 1C-Katherine Willoughby (USA); 1LC-Virginia Fornasir (ITA); Ladies Prize: Annalisa Porcu (ITA). WARM-UP: 1-Ingo Sprogics (GER). FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA CUP: 1-Matthias Körner (GER), Mario Sequeira (POR). CITY OF GORIZIA TROPHY: 1-Nicola De Filippis, 2-Ai Tesoro (USA). BLACKJACK WINNER: 1-Franco Boem (ITA). TENNIS CUP: 1-Katherine Willoughby (USA). Δ

Do you have a backgammon-related question for Miss Lonelyblots involving people problems, game etiquette or the play itself? Write: Dear Miss Lonelyblots, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 2726 W. Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645-3039.



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Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago; 312/792-0424.

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SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at On Broadway, 210 S. Broadway, Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tourn. 1st/3rd/5th Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Lane O'Connor (309/454-1947).

WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Stern (708/446-0537).

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PRIME BG CLUB OF CHICAGO: Tourn. Friday, 7:00 P.M. at T.J.'s Lounge, Radisson Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy, Lincolnwood. Joann Feinstein (708/674-0120).

NORTH CLUB: Daily side play except Sunday at 4747 W. Peterson (402), Chicago. Greg Defotis (312/286-6719).

AMALGAMATION

Do you see a difference in CHICAGO POINT this month? Clarity has been improved with our new Apple LaserWriter Pro 600 dpi printer... **Rick Bieniak**, Backgammon Club of Northwest Florida leader, has a new phone number: 904/773-2013. Rick is serious about Florida gammon growth and will be advertising his club on local CNN and ESPN outlets... *Mathemagics* author **Art Benjamin** had a valid excuse for missing the Las Vegas Open. He and **Deena Dizengoff** were married June 20 at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, CA... Texas beauty **Brook Kennedy** was spotted wearing an arm cast at the Las Vegas Open... NBA director **Howard Markowitz** invites you to his Prime Backgammon Club of Las Vegas. The club meets Mondays (7:00 p.m.) at the Maxim Hotel. For more info, call Howard at 702/893-6025... Add two new backgammon publications to the Chicago scene: *Yamin Point* (The backgammon scene as seen by **Yamin**) and *Winnetka Backgammon Club Newsletter*... **Ken Cohen** (PA), who has been making his mark at recent midwest backgammon events, is one of the very best bridge players in the world. He's won three national bridge championships in the last five years... The \$10,000 entry fee British Invitational (1-6 June) in Gibraltar was cancelled. No official reason was given, but low preregistration was the likely cause... Visiting the CBPC in June: **Howard Maddux** (Saudi Arabia) and **Jeff Vaughn** (NV)... **Joe Sylvester**, new owner of the Cavendish North Club in Southfield, Michigan is resurrecting the Michigan Backgammon League. Play is set to begin 1 September. For more info, contact Joe at 313/642-9616... Illinois to Massachusetts: **Dan Judd**. Illinois to California: **Mark & Christine King**... Should a married couple who play backgammon together be called prime-mates? **Jake Jacobs** says, "Only if they monkey around." Δ

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LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

worse for having such a rule, but I suspect the proper wording might be very tricky. Until such a rule is written, I won't feel comfortable ruling either way.—*Jake Jacobs, Chicago, IL*

I was the individual who called for a ruling in the above-mentioned situation. I was interested to see how the Chicago Open directors would rule on this very controversial situation. My belief is simple. Money games may be different, but in tournament play, if an individual makes a careless error whether of the mind or of the hand, he should suffer the consequences of his actions.

If we are going to begin writing rules to protect careless actions, where do we draw the line? For example, it would be easy to protect Jake's unfortunate opponent in the first position with the following rule:

"When a player's roll and play leaves him in a guaranteed 'off in one roll' bearoff position and his opponent's subsequent shake will decide the outcome of the game, there is no need for

the player to bear off any checkers."

There's enough luck in backgammon. Must we now legislate rules to protect individuals from their own careless actions further diluting the skill/concentration factor of our game?

The last revision to the U.S. Tournament Rules & Procedures was March 1990. It's time for the directors of the United States to make at least one addition to the U.S. Rules and eliminate the controversy of how to rule when a player puts himself on the bar during the bearoff.—Ed.

COMMENTS FROM DENMARK

When I spoke to you in Chicago last fall, you said that compared to *Inside Backgammon*, the CHICAGO POINT didn't contain many theoretical articles. Well, after reading some back issues, I think your newsletter has a nice mix of problems and issue-oriented material. I especially enjoy the topics that are discussed in the "Letters" column.

I read with interest, the "Miss Lonelyblots" article and follow-up letters on the way the Danish Backgammon Federation promoted their Nordic 'Wide' Open tournament this year. I think the invitation was

a market-loser for them. I can understand if some people were more or less outraged when they saw the graphic in the invitation. I know a lot of Danes felt that way, and I know two girls who planned to participate in the event—until they saw the flyer. I see where future Nordic 'Wide' Open invitations will no longer accept ads from these establishments.

I also read about the debate regarding the shortening of tournament match lengths. I feel strongly that it is wrong to do so, and I was very disappointed to learn that the 1992 America Cup finals was shortened because the two competitors would rather play in their \$200 chouette. If backgammon is to be considered a sport of the mind and a gentleman's game, all matches should be played to the designated match lengths.—*Asger Kring, Frederiksberg, Denmark*

According to the Yamin Point newsletter, Yamin Yamin will again allow shortening of semifinal and final matches at his upcoming Illinois State Championships and America Cup (6-10 October, Woodfield Hilton, Arlington Heights, IL), provided that both players agree and the tournament Advisory Council approves.—Ed. Δ

ANTOINETTE



Antoinette-Marie Williams is a highly flammable woman. Her mere presence ignites a tournament. Her emotional energy is overflowing and contagious. She is the life of any party, but cross her and she'll burn you alive. Antoinette wants what she wants when she wants it. No ifs, ands, or buts.

Love her or hate her, you can't ignore her skill over the backgammon board. Her 1685 Kent Goulding Rating ranks 53rd in the world, just ahead of Paul Magriel. She's been written up in Turkish, French, and British newspapers and Cigar Aficionado magazine recently featured a full-page color photo of her playing at the European Championships.

Born in New York City, Antoinette attended eight years of parochial schools in Chicago (Holy Angels) and New York (St. Joseph's). She "... had enough of that bullshit" and the following year, switched to Charles Evan Hughes public high school.

Upon graduation, Antoinette enrolled at Manhattan Community College, earning an Associate's degree. She worked for a number of years as a legal secretary. Currently, she is working towards a B.A. in English at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

Antoinette loves New York. The middle of three children (one brother and one sister), she has always been single. If her answering machine answers when you call, she'll serenade you with, "You got the right one, baby. Uh huh!"

CHICAGO POINT conducted a telephone interview with Miss Williams last month. Here are her candid opinions on everything from racism in backgammon to topless bathing:

POINT: Well Miss Antoinette-Marie Williams, what's the story behind your French-sounding name?

Williams: You'd have to speak to my mother.

POINT: Well, are there any other interesting names in your family.

Williams: My sister's name is Suzette.

POINT: So you have no idea as to why your mother gave the two of you French names.

Williams: I guess because she heard them and she liked them.

POINT: You have an illness that makes you limp, but you're always the first one on the dance floor. What's the story?

Williams: I have Multiple Sclerosis which is a disease that affects the central nervous system. The brain tells that part of the body to function like the rest of the body, but it doesn't. It has a mind of its own.

POINT: When did you first develop this?

Williams: Approximately seven years ago.

POINT: What's the prognosis?

Williams: It could go into remission and if

it does, I could be "normal" again but they don't know how you get it and they don't know how to cure it. That's part of the reason why I'm not working right now.

POINT: Well you're still getting around...

Williams: Life doesn't end because you have a disease. You know, I'm not dead. I just can't walk or run like other people.

POINT: What's the deal with your trademark, tight-cropped hairdo?

Williams: There's no "deal" with my tight-cropped hairdo. It's just something that I like. I like it.

POINT: Did you ever wear a full Afro?

Williams: Well, in many circles they were known as Afros. In the black community, they were called "naturals" because that's what our hair looks like if we don't have it processed or straightened.

POINT: Well then, did you ever wear a "natural."

Williams: My hair is natural. I've worn it this way for 25 years.

POINT: What about at college. Were you a

political activist?

Williams: I've always been me: activist, or whatever you want to call me. I've always had opinions about things whether people liked them or not. They're my opinions and I have a right to them.

POINT: How did you get started in backgammon?

Williams: I played cards as a youngster. When I started college back in 1972, I learned to play chess. Then a friend of mine suggested a game called backgammon whose popularity was running rampant in New York.

I played it in the social community at black discos. I was pretty good at it. My friend and I would go to different bars and beat everyone for \$5 a point. We were considered backgammon hustlers.

POINT: Let's talk about your tournament record. What are some of your big wins?

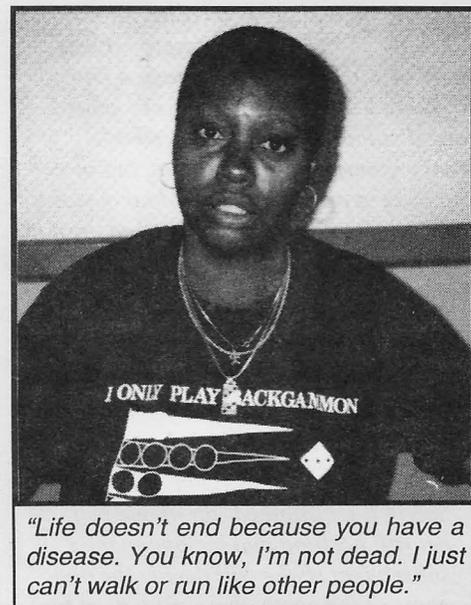
Williams: I won the Intermediate tournament at the Monte Carlo World Championships in (I think it was) 1985. Last year in October, I won the New Hampshire Halloween Tournament on my birthday.

POINT: I remember the Caesars Tahoe Open Consolation finals where you beat me with five-figure prize money on the line.

Williams: What year was that? [Laughs.] I don't even remember when that was.

POINT: That was 1989. You defeated Wilcox Snellings in the semifinals, and then trounced me 15-1 in the finals.

Williams: Oh, yeah. [Laughs.] That was a memorable occasion, too. I also won an event in San Remo beating [former World champion] Luigi Villa which was pretty rewarding.



"Life doesn't end because you have a disease. You know, I'm not dead. I just can't walk or run like other people."

POINT: Aren't you also the current Monte Carlo World Team champion?

Williams: Yeah . . . oh yeah! I forgot about that. [Laughs.] That's great too. Howard [Markowitz], Alan [Steffen] and I were like the Three Musketeers. We called ourselves the "Dream Team" because the USA Olympic basketball Dream Team was at our hotel while the tournament was going on.

We each received a man's watch for our prize. Talk about this being a sexist world. They don't think that a woman can win so they give out three men's watches. So I had to go to the jeweler to exchange my watch. The woman's version cost less than the man's, so in order to make up the difference, the manager asked me if I would like a bracelet charm and lo and behold, he brought out a domino-shaped double 3s. Now that I have it, it does seem that double 3s come up quite a bit for me.

POINT: Does a lucky charm mean you're superstitious?

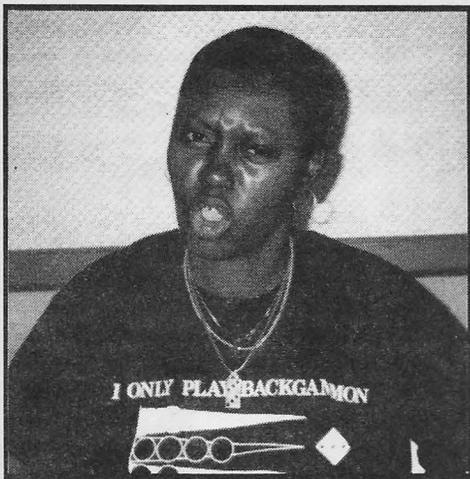
Williams: No, I'm not superstitious. A lot of people believe that the philosophy of positive thinking is a type of superstition, but I don't feel that way at all. If you go through life with negative thoughts, then negative things are going to happen to you, so why do that?

POINT: Marty Storer wrote this limerick about you:

Williams: Oh, come on. [Laughs.]

POINT:

A brazen young wench, Antoinette,
Invaded an all-male chouette.
She stripped to her socks,
And cried, "Who wants the box?"
They haven't stopped arguing yet!



"Talk about this being a sexist world. They don't think that a woman can win [the Monte Carlo Team Championship] so they give out three men's watches."

Williams: It's not clear that this limerick is about me!

POINT: The reason that I mention it is that you obviously compete in chouettes with a lot of men because there are more male than female backgammon players at this point . . .

Williams: At this point? At *any* point.

POINT: Yeah. I wonder why that is.

Williams: Probably because women don't . . . [Pauses.] I don't know. It's hard to answer this question. In my travels and my talking to other women, I guess they're just not that interested in competitive backgammon.

But I'm trying to do something about that. I've been working with three women who have taken an interest in the game.

Most women aren't gamblers. It takes something extra to play games; maybe something in the background. In general, I would say that women are not games players, per say.

POINT: But yet you are.

Williams: Well, I played card games as a kid with my family. Then I played poker on Friday nights with some guys who owned a disco. I always liked the action.

POINT: So you have no problem competing with men.

Williams: I have no problem competing with anybody. It never occurred to me that I should be afraid to compete. Women compete with men in many other avenues in the world.

POINT: Except that in many competitive games, women have their own divisions. In backgammon, men and women compete on the same level.

Williams: Well if they didn't, I'd have to take up another sport where women competed equally.

POINT: Tell me somebody that you have a difficult time against over the board. Who's tough for you to beat?

Williams: Nobody.

POINT: *Nobody* is tough for you to beat?

Williams: Because people that were tough for me when I first moved to the Open Division, I beat the shit out of now. You know, I might not beat them consistently, but I've beaten them. I beat Kit [Woolsey], I beat KG, I beat Wilcox [Snellings], I beat Corbett, I beat Senkiewicz, I've beaten Jason [Lester], I've beaten Horan.

POINT: Do you enjoy traveling to backgammon tournaments all over the world?

Williams: I love to travel and have a good time. I like to see things. Happily, my

Antoinette Williams Personality Profile



If I had to live in one city outside of New York, it would be: New York.

Favorite animal: Jaguar.

One thing I still want to see: Equality in the world.

It used to be fun to: Go roller skating.

All-time favorite TV show: "I Love Lucy."

My love life is: Hot and heavy.

It would have been great to have dinner with: Malcolm X.

Favorite color: I like all colors.

mother got us into traveling when we were very young and it stuck.

POINT: Whenever you're at a tournament in a country where topless bathing is the custom . . .

Williams: What is this? What has this got to do with anything?

POINT: . . . you're one of the only Americans to take off your top.

Williams: I'm not answering this question. [Strident.]

POINT: What's the statement you're making here?

Williams: What statement? [Pauses.] I feel more comfortable now in Europe going topless than I do wearing a bathing suit in America. It's all a state of mind.

When I first went to Europe, I had the same hangups that most American women have: worrying about degenerate backgammon players looking at you and ogling you. Or I should say, degenerate *American* backgammon players. Europeans are accustomed to seeing women topless—or for that matter, totally nude—and not ogling them.

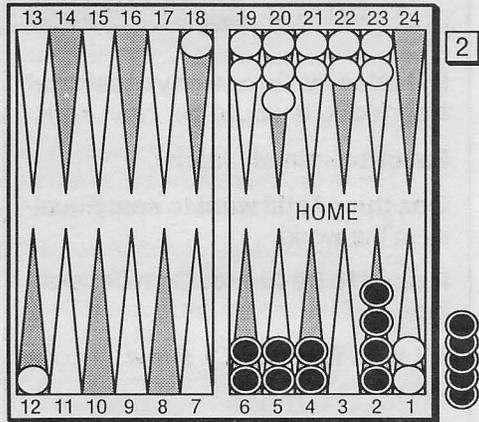
American men haven't been brought up that way. That's probably why we have so much rape and child molestation in this country. We haven't evolved to the level where we can deal with nudity, not as a

[Continued on page 9]

**PROBLEM #194
SOLVED**

by Kit Woolsey

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



Several years ago when both backgammon and computers were in relative infancy compared to today, I attempted to write a program that would analyze bearing off against an ace-point game. Due to computer time problems as well as programming difficulties, I made some simplistic assumptions. They were:

- 1) The only goal is safety. Number of men off when hit does not matter.
- 2) The two point is "infinitely" held, regardless of what the follow-up rolls are.
- 3) The opponent will not split off the ace-point. (In some cases, this may be his best strategy.)
- 4) Ultimate safety is deemed to be achieved when the 3- through 6-points are cleared safely.

Given these assumptions, the program calculated the exact probabilities of being hit for all configurations of up to 12 checkers on the 3- through 6-points. This was not a simulation—it was an exact calculation. While today's more advanced programs such as Sconyers' CD-ROM data base "laugh" at my puny effort, at the time, it was quite an achievement and led to a much better understanding of how to bear off against an ace-point game.

From comparing the safety levels of various similar positions, I developed several valuable axioms for determining the safest play. Some of these are as follows:

- 1) Every point cleared is very important.
- 2) A gap with only one point to clear beyond the gap is much safer than it looks. However, a gap with two points to

clear beyond the gap is quite dangerous.
3) Stripped positions can be very dangerous.

From these axioms, there was little doubt in my mind that 6/5(2), 4/3(2) would turn out to be the safest play. However, it didn't hurt to check the results from my old program. They are as follows:

6/5(2), 4/3(2):	0.3288
5/3(2):	0.3674
6/4(2):	0.3699

The numbers on the right are the probability that a shot will be hit for each of the plausible plays, given the assumptions used by my program. As you can see, 6/5(2), 4/3(2) is by far the safest play.

WHAT ABOUT the number of men taken off?

This could be important. The gammon could clearly be close, so plays which lead to taking men off quickly could come out ahead. In addition, every checker off increases the winning chances if a blot is hit. My program doesn't take these things into consideration, so we need another source to see if they matter. It looks like 5/3(2) might do better using the new criteria, since it will be quicker to peel checkers off after that play. However, it seems unlikely that this will be enough to overcome the considerably greater safety following 6/5(2), 4/3(2).

For this one, I decided to try rolling the three plays out on Expert Backgammon®. While this program plays a fair game, often its rollouts must be taken with a grain of salt. (If the program is unable to handle a certain type of position properly, then the results of a rollout can be way off.) In this

position, however, I was fairly confident that the relative results between the three plays would be meaningful, since the goal of the program will always be to bear in safely regardless of the play.

Note that the absolute equities may be quite inaccurate, since the program is not proficient in such things as walking a prime home or maneuvering to jar a second checker loose. Hence, it is almost certain that White should do much better than the results of the rollout will indicate. However, since the program will misplay White's position equally bad regardless of which initial play is chosen, the mistakes will tend to balance out and the relative rankings of the three plays figure to be believable.

The results from 1296 rollouts of each position were:

Play	Win %	% Gamms and BGs	Equity on 2-cube
6/5(2), 4/3(2)	84.13%	41.39%	2.304
5/3(2)	83.26%	41.28%	2.258
6/4(2)	80.40%	38.50%	2.082

5/3(2) did pick up a bit in the standings, presumably due to the ease of taking men off after this play, but 6/5(2), 4/3(2) still came out the clear winner. A perfect verification of what we expected.

Perhaps the most striking result of this rollout is just how much difference a seemingly innocuous play can make. 6/4(2) is a reasonable looking play which many players might well make over the board. In fact, it costs more than 0.2 points on average compared to the best play. This shows just how important every play can be. Little technical things can make a big difference. Δ

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ANTOINETTE

[Continued from page 7]

deviant form, but as an art form.

POINT: You're very strict about rules at backgammon tournaments. When you're on time and ready for a match, if your opponent isn't there, you will, under almost all situations, demand your penalty points.

Williams: If the rule is there, then it should be stuck to 100%. I'm only asking for what's rightfully mine. If someone is late, then they don't have the same kind of interest in playing that everyone else does and they should be penalized.

POINT: Do you consider yourself a black woman or a woman who just happens to be black?

Williams: I consider myself a black woman.

POINT: Do you see a difference between the two?

Williams: That's what I consider myself. If there is a difference, then OK, there is a difference. But I consider myself a black woman.

You don't see me as a woman first; you see me as a black first. And then you see me as a woman. And to clarify it, I'm an African-American woman.

POINT: Have you come across any racism in backgammon?

Williams: Two women in New York once called me something other than my name.

POINT: What's that? What did they call you?

Williams: The "N" word.

POINT: You mean they called you a "n"?

Williams: Well it's not a word—and I don't want you to put that word in it—because it's not a word I appreciate. It's not part of . . . it's not something I care to dwell on, or a word that I think is part of the world vocabulary. It should be something that is taken out just like "kike" or any other derogatory words that people call other people.

POINT: So how were you discriminated against?

Williams: At a club in New York quite a few years ago, I was in the midst of a pretty terrible game and this lady got carried away with my bad luck, so I asked her not say anything. I don't want people sympathizing with me after I lose a difficult game. I'd rather go on to the next game and put the last one out my mind. I let her know this and she called me a name.

POINT: Is this the only incident that you can recall?

Williams: No, there was a crazy woman that used to hang around the club, and she would just randomly call me the name.

POINT: Any problems in Europe?

Williams: Once I had a situation with a player in a team tournament event who didn't want to play a black person. He was eventually forced to play me and *I beat him like I owned him!*

POINT: Three incidents. That doesn't sound too bad.

Williams: Well, yeah, but how many

incidents have you had? The situation is that there should not be any incidents at all.

POINT: What techniques have you found are most successful in improving your game?

Williams: Positive thought. Reading Robertie books, playing for money, talking to people about the game.

POINT: Do you believe in hot streaks in backgammon?

Williams: Oh absolutely. You have your peaks and valleys. Absolutely. I think we all have them.

POINT: What do you still want to accomplish in backgammon?

Williams: I want to win Monte Carlo. That's it. Also, I'm trying to bring more "color" into the game and we'll see what happens with that.

Incidentally, by August or September, you should have some big news. This interview is the quiet before the storm.

POINT: What are you talking about?

Williams: I'll be going to Menton, Monte Carlo and Cannes in the next few months. I'm going to do some good stuff, so with this interview, you got me first.

POINT: Is that an expression of your philosophy towards this game?

Williams: Yeah, positive thought. Positive thought brings about positive things.

POINT: That could translate over into the real world as well.

Williams: Absolutely. It's my motto for life.—*b.d. Δ*

High (Stakes) Anxiety

by Tom Christner

Oh no!
It looks like
You're getting a shot.
Don't role any number
That hits on my blot.

Oh my!
I can sense,
Here comes a double.
If you role the right number,
I could be in trouble.

Could be a take,
Could be a drop.
My heart says "Grab it,"
My head says "Stop."

Could be a gammon,
May lose four.
And then if I recube,
I'll probably lose more.

Oh yes!
It looks like
You missed your chance.
Maybe I'll hit you,
And maybe you'll dance.

Oh yes!
I can tell
The tide, it is turning.
You're not only steaming,
Baby, you're burning.

Okay.
Looks as though
You need double-5.
It's the only number
That keeps you alive.

Okay.
I can see
You just didn't get it.
If I have to open,
You'd still have to hit it.

Oh no!
As I feared,
I'm crunching my prime.
I've rolled my worst number
At the very worst time.

Oh no!
I can tell,
It's down to one shake.
Definitely a double;
Maybe a take.

What are you thinking?
What will you do?
The cube sits there waiting
For a decision from you.

What?
Are you dropping?
Oh Lord, you are taking.
Outside, I am calm.
But, inside I'm shaking.

Oh, wow!
The dice tumble.
And now here they go.
But I cannot look
At the numbers that show. Δ

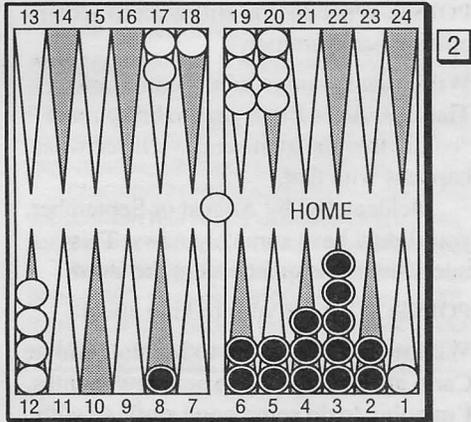
HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

Bear-in and bear-off attempts at playing completely safe often create more problems down the road. Let's look at two examples where Black makes the "safest play" but gives his opponent more chances to build an anchor.

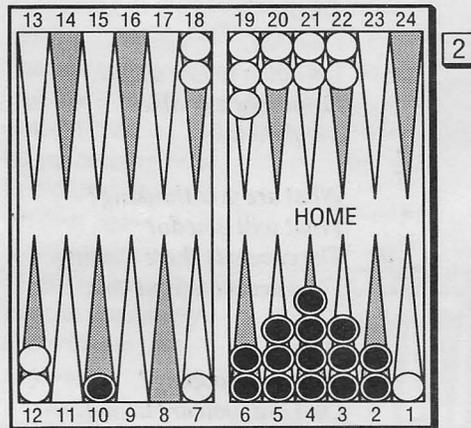
Example 1. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



Black chose safe play 8/4, 3/2. A better play is 6/2, 6/5, positioning builders to attack the ace point blot. Even if White should anchor on her next roll, this play leaves a safer, more flexible bear-off position.

Breaking the 6-point with 4-1 leaves Black open to a 6-2 flyshot, but the small risk is worth it.

Example 2. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**



Black played 10/7*/6, leaving no return shots for White. Instead, Black should switch points [2/1*(2)], play 10/9 and 4/3. Though this play leaves a 2-2 return shot for Black, it's superior because it doesn't hit the second checker and allow Black to anchor. Δ

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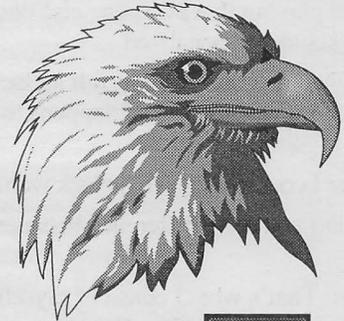
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