

CHICAGO POINT

NUMBER 70

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

JULY 1994

michigan summer championships

MUENCH TOPS BIG FIELD IN MICHIGAN

There's no doubt that Dean Muench's 4th of July weekend was filled with fireworks this year. Muench, a Palatine, Illinois computer programmer, prevailed over a strong 79-player Open field to win the Michigan Summer Championships. The Flint Area Backgammon Club's 15th annual festival of backgammon drew an international crowd of 200 (including 171 main event players) to the Hilton Hotel in Novi, Michigan.

Muench defeated three KG Top-100 players (Karen Davis, Joe Sylvester, Al Jones) en route to his final match-up vs. the less experienced Mike Friedman of Canada. Friedman, with one loss, would have to beat Dean twice to win the tournament.

In the first 15-point match, Dean was trailing 8-7 when he was redoubled to 4. "I was in a 3-4 backgame, trapped behind a 5-prime," recounts Dean. "I probably wouldn't have taken, but it was the first match and I wanted to get home early. As it turns out, I was gammoned for the match."

In the rubber match, Dean's strategy was grind his opponent down with careful checker play. "I wasn't going to let any big cubes happen this match." The strategy worked as Dean jumped off to a big 9-2

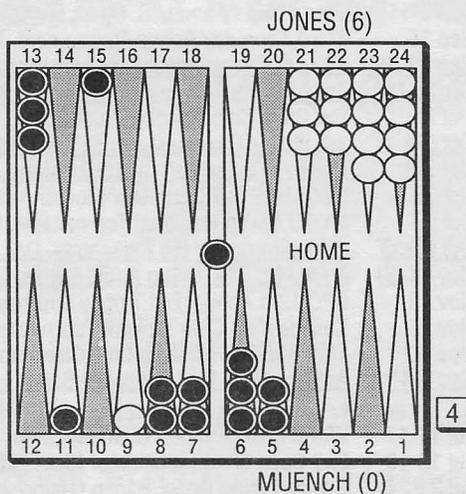


Chicagoland's Dean Muench advances to the Open finals with son Kevin looking on.

lead and never looked back. Final score: Muench-15, Friedman-8.

Muench's toughest match occurred in the round-of-8 against Canadian Al Jones:

Open undefeated bracket round-of-8. 13-point match. Dean Muench (Black) trails Al Jones (White) 6 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



This position occurred after Dean (Black) hit a back door shot to save the gammon and match, and Al (White) countered with a 5-4 from the bar. Dean entered with the 6 and incorrectly played the ace from 15 to 14. "In fact, compared to the correct move of 11/10, my play is more likely of being hit by about 40 shots in 1296. I was simply too tired to calculate this over the board.

"But it's funny. Had I made the right play, I could very well have been gammoned for the match because Jones rolled a 3-1 which would have hit me. It looks like I was in the wrong place at the right time!"

IN OTHER EVENTS, Harry Cohn (IL) and Antonio Ortega (Costa Rica) each won \$5,000 in the two World Cup Qualifiers, Bill Szirtes (Canada) bested 77 Intermediates, and Greg Shoults took the Novice trophy. Also, Bill Davis & Tak Morioka captured their second Michigan Doubles title since 1991.

Director Carol Joy Cole and staff conducted the type of relaxed summer event backgammoners from across North America have learned to expect from her. This year, the players seemed very happy



World Cup smiles. Qualifiers Harry Cohn (IL) and Antonio Ortega (Costa Rica).

to have a fourth day (1-4 July) to complete all the matches. Cole is seriously looking into holding next year's event from Saturday, 1 July through Wednesday 4 July. Complete results: Δ

MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (79): 1-Dean Muench (IL), 2-Mike Friedman (CAN), Neil Kazaross (IL), 4/5-Ed Pavilonis (NY) / Abbas Zaltash (PA); 1C- Mike Darooge (MI), 2C-Ralph Schaffner (CAN). **INTERMEDIATE (77):** 1-Bill Szirtes (CAN), 2-Darl Brooks (OH), 3-Jim Muirhead (MI), 4/5-Paul Farah (MI) / Bill Slater (CAN); 1C-Andy Palumbo, 2C-Nancy Takala (MI). **NOVICE (15):** 1-Greg Shoults (OH), 2-Irv Taylor (OH); 1C-Casey Jones (CAN), 2C-Joe Farah (CAN), 3C/4C-Michelle Colpo (PA) / Wally Wolf (MI). **WORLD CUP QUALIFIER I (16):** 1-Harry Cohn (IL), 2-Jack Kissane (NY). **WORLD CUP QUALIFIER II (16):** 1-Antonio Ortega (CR), 2-Frank Talbot (MI). **OPEN DOUBLES (32):** 1-Bill Davis & Tak Morioka (IL), 2-Al & Casey Jones (CAN), 3/4-Joann Feinstein (IL) & Howard Markowitz (NV) / Doug Roberts (MA) & Walter Trice (MA). **LIMITED DOUBLES (12):** 1-Evie Merecki & Bev Mulholland (MI), 2-Mike Charison & Gail Latter (MI). **OVERFLOW DOUBLES (10):** 1-Mike Fujita (CA) & Drew Giovanis (FL), 2-Don Jayhan & Arline Levy (IL). **MICHIGAN BLITZ (128):** 1-Fred Kapuscinski. **BONUS BLITZ (64):** 1-Darl Brooks (OH). **SUMMER FREEZE-OUT (32):** 1-Dan Cramer (DC), 2-Carol Falk (MI). **\$300 SUPER JACKPOT (16):** 1-Al Jones (CAN). **OVERFLOW SUPER JACKPOT (8):** 1-Ray Foglerlund (CA). **\$100 LIMITED JACKPOT (16):** 1-Denny Leatherman (PA). **\$100 FIRE-CRACKER JACKPOT (8):** 1-Ray Foglerlund (CA). **EARLYBIRD JACKPOTS (16 ea.):** Open—Oscar Schön (CAN), Limited—Jorge Tsao (CR).

CHICAGO POINT

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT
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THE "PUBLIC" COMMENTS ON PUBLIC DRAWS

The June POINT had an interesting editorial concerning public draw for pairings. When I first started playing tournaments, there didn't seem to be any question that the pairing draws were held behind closed doors. As I advanced through the ranks, I realized that there was potential for abuse in this procedure. Then came the day when I found that preferential draws were being done on a regular basis in a couple of tournaments. When I inquired (in a manner befitting a king) why this was being done, I was called various names and not invited back to those tournaments. I know for a fact that these abuses are occurring and I for one will not play another tournament that doesn't have a public draw for pairings. There is absolutely no reason why these draws must be done in secret. It only leaves for someone to question even if in fact it was fair.—*Ken Bruck, Fort Wayne, IN*

I was appalled to read about the incident in Greece. This just shows how much of a problem one player can cause. It's hard to

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

coming attractions

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

by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Jul 16	College Park Summer Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Jul 20	RSCARDS Summer Computer Modern Tournament, GEnie	810/348-0580
Jul 21	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jul 23*	Mayfair One Thousand Tournament, Mayfair Club, New York, NY	212/779-1750
Jul 24	Austin BG Assn Sunday Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/280-5945
Jul 24*	Michigan BG League Awards Picnic, McMaster Residence, Fenton, MI	810/642-9616
Jul 29-31	<u>42nd Indiana Open, Radisson Plaza Suites Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/845-8435</u>
Jul 29-31	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Aug 7	BPC Summer Cool Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Aug 8-14	<u>16th Green Mountain Festival of Backgammon, Stratton Mountain Inn, VT</u>	<u>305/527-4033</u>
Aug 14-17	Las Vegas Open, Stardust Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Aug 18	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Aug 27-28*	S. Florida Summer Tournament, Big Apple Sports Pub, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	305/785-1282
Aug 28	Central Illinois Summer Sizzler, Sly Fox Pub, Lacon, IL	309/673-7622
Aug 28	NY/NJ Co-op Regional Tournament, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Sep 5-11	World Cup IV and U.S. Open, Harvey's Addison Hotel, Addison, TX	801/299-8264
Sep 15	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Sep 23-25*	<u>32nd Gammon Associates Invitational (Tentative), CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Sep 30-Oct 2	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Oct 2	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Oct 5-9	<u>4th Illinois Champs/America Cup, Indiana Lakes Resort, Bloomington, IL</u>	<u>708/945-7801</u>
Oct 7-9	<u>Nation's Capital Fall Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0603</u>
Oct 19	RSCARDS Fall Computer Modern Tournament, GEnie	810/348-0580
Oct 23	NY/NJ Co-op Regional Tournament, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Oct 28-30	<u>Backgammon in the Berkshires, Oak & Spruce Center, South Lee, MA</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Nov 11-13	<u>NY/NJ BG CO-OP Big Apple Series, Oritani Hotel, Hackensack, NJ</u>	<u>201/833-2915</u>
Nov 15	BPC 12th Annual Fall Trophy Tourney, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	312/338-6380
Nov 20	College Park Club Jackpot Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Nov 20	16th Annual Flint Area Club Championships, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Dec 3-4*	<u>Autumn Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA</u>	<u>619/294-2007</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Jul 11-17	World Backgammon Championship, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	3392-16 20 00
Jul 18-19	2nd Open Championship of Nice, Lido Plage, Nice, France	33-93 879436
Jul 22-24	Hanko Casino Open, Hanko Casino, Hanko, Finland	358-0 676258
Aug 1	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Aug 6-7*	Sjælland Open 1994, Skibsted, Bygaden, Veksø, Denmark	4539-400607
Aug 27-28	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy Cup, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522-53 68 36
Aug 27-28*	Frederiksberg Open 1994, Frederiksberg Gammon Klub, Denmark	4531-954601
Sep 1-4	4th Mitteleuropa Tournament, Casino Park Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392-48019343
Sep 5	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Sep 15-18	International Austrian Open, Hotel Schloß Seefeld, Pörtschach, Austria	08341-12825
Sep 27-18*	2nd Irish Open Championships, Sachs Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	3531-661 4771
Sep 29-Oct 3	First German Open, Sportpark Hotel, Halle, Germany	49521-64314
Oct 3	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Oct 13-16	Grand Prix du Casino de Biarritz, Biarritz Hotel du Palais, France	331-41 050259
Oct 15-16	Sandy Osborne Memorial Trophy, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522-53 68 36
Oct 20-23*	4th Rio de Janeiro Open Tournament, Hotel Rio Palace, Rio, Brazil	5521-2676033
Oct 24-28*	3rd SA World Cup & 15th SA Tournament, Hotel Regente, Buenos Aires	541-794 7000
Nov 3-6	1994 Swedish Open, Foresta Hotel, Lidingö Island, Stockholm, Sweden	468-765 2700
Nov 4-6	Hong Kong Backgammon Championships, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Nov 10-13*	NRW Championship 1994, Hotel Antana, Kaarst (Dusseldorf), Germany	2151-501359
Nov 17-20	Second Israeli Open, Moriah Plaza Hotel, Tel-Aviv, Israel	Eitan Fax: 972-3 546 7087
Nov 18-20	Swiss Open, Hotel Nova Park, Zürich, Switzerland	41-1381 3177
Nov 19-20	BIBA Ranking Tournament #4, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522-53 68 36
Nov 30-Dec 4	1st Kenyan Open, Malindi, Kenya, Africa	Eitan Fax: 972-3 5467087
Dec 5	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923

argue with the concept of public draws, however.—*Jerry Godsey, president, Hong Kong Backgammon Club*

The case of Mario Sequeira (WBF membership No. 45014) regarding the regrettable incident during the Greek tournament (May 1994) is submitted to the opinion of the

advisory Disciplinary Federal Committee of the Worldwide Backgammon Federation. After cross-examination of circumstances, evidence and testimonies, they will report to the President for a final decision.—*Alberto da Pra, President, Worldwide Backgammon Federation, Milan, Italy*

[Continued on page 3]

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

We received long letters from Hercules & Bridget of Culcreuch, Mario Sequeira and Ion Ressu on their viewpoints of the controversy in Athens, Greece. (The Sequeira and Ressu letters are printed in European Backgammon News—No. 10.) Director Abraham Eitan has officially barred Mr.

Sequeira from his tournaments for a period of three years.—Ed.

I'm astonished with the editorial about the lack of an announced public draw in Athens. In order to speed up our public draws, we have been using the sticker system for the past ten years.—Claudio Salamone, director, Argentina Backgammon Assoc.

The sticker system you cited for a public

draw just does not work. We should know as we tried it out—exactly as explained—at the 1989 Isle of Man tournament. It is all right in a small field, but using two 64 sheets, the timing would be much more than 10 minutes per sheet. And if a problem should arise, the complications are horrendous, especially in public.

Technically, our draws are always held in the public rooms at a quiet time. But it could reasonably be argued that we should announce the time and location so that if anyone wished to attend, he would be welcome. It might be the time for a worldwide discussion on the whole problem. However, last month was not the time for your editorial in support of public draws. It had the appearance that you were giving in to aggression from a bully.

Finally, the last paragraph of your Greek article suggests that I am retiring because of the events in Athens. That is not so. I retired in 1992 and only accepted the Athens tournament when a letter was produced by the Greek director that I had promised in 1991 to organize and run it, so I had to keep my word. I'd be grateful if you'd clarify that point.—Hercules Robinson, Baron of Culcreuch, Isle of Man

The recent Michigan Summer Championships conducted public draws for the first time. I assisted Woody Woodworth with the 79 player Open draw while Carol Joy Cole and Mary Ann Meese prepared the 77 player Intermediate sheet. Entrant's names were previously written on stickers, cut up into individual tags, and mixed in a paper cup. One player did the drawing while the

[Continued on page 4]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1994

Compiled through 4 July after 7 tournaments
(Coming in July: Indiana Open, Thousand Islands)



Neil Kazaross	46.87	Roy Springer	6.69	Jerry Hays	3.59	Paul Farah	1.59
Dean Muench	28.75	Odis Chenault	6.56	Mariano Rocca	3.59	Bill Slater	1.59
Arnold Zousmer	26.50	Darl Brooks	6.44	Bruce King	3.58	Michelle Colpo	1.59
Abbas Zaltash	26.48	Andy Palumbo	6.44	Paul Klein	3.36	Wally Wolf	1.59
Kit Woolsey	20.16	Kent Goulding	6.40	Jim Muirhead	3.22	Mark Damish	1.38
David Williams	17.31	John Rather	6.30	Nancy Takala	3.22	Taylor Sage	1.38
Lincoln Bedell	14.96	J.A. Miller	6.29	Frank Dickerson	3.20	Irving Achtenberg	1.18
Mike Darooge	14.35	Ray Bills	5.60	Lou Florio	2.75	Nicole Masarani	0.90
Mike Friedman	14.35	Kurt Schurecht	5.26	Joann Feinstein	2.40	Bob Neumann	0.89
Art Benjamin	13.25	Mary Franks	5.20	Carol Falk	2.09	Irv Taylor	0.83
Bill Szirtes	12.81	Nack Ballard	4.80	Ali Rebatchi	2.08	Casey Jones	0.83
John Stryker	11.56	John Brussel	4.78	Marc Gray	2.08	Chris Larsen	0.83
Mary Ann Meese	11.44	Richie Adams	4.78	Julie Crandall	2.05	Bret Handson	0.81
Rick Bieniak	10.07	Howard Ring	4.33	Lois Richards	1.91	Paul Mangone	0.81
Judy Field	9.61	Lefteris Moskos	4.19	Walter Trice	1.88	Jerry Wlosinski	0.77
Paul DiBiase	9.61	Bob Holyon	4.16	Ami Tennenbaum	1.88	Kelly Danton	0.77
Marty Storer	7.83	Doug Mayfield	4.16	Ken Truman	1.88	Kristine Andrysiak	0.45
Peter Zacks	7.25	Carl Adamec	3.76	Tony Pow	1.67	Sandra Konechy	0.45
Richard Armbruster	7.25	David Rubin	3.72	Gregt Shoults	1.67	Cecilia Pedroza	0.45
Todd Doucet	7.21	Ed Pavilonis	3.60	Tim Kirby	1.63	Joe Farah	0.42
Ralph Schaffner	7.18						

Marty Storer won the 1993 American Backgammon Tour with a year-end total of 31.81 points. Despite Neil Kazaross's sensational total of 46.87 through six months, the tour remains up for grabs.



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1994 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 JUNE

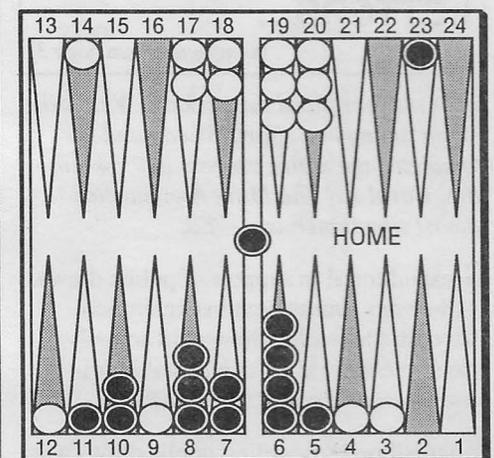
Jake Jacobs	15.56	Phil Simborg	4.64	Jeff Kane	2.16	Igor Sheyn	0.64
Neil Kazaross	15.08	Paul Friedman	4.56	Marc Ingenoso	1.92	Jill Ferdinand	0.64
Tak Morioka	13.40	Ralph Levy	4.48	Gary Kay	1.92	Mike Kaczmarek	0.64
Herb Roman	10.96	Joann Feinstein	4.16	Ed Buerger	1.76	Rob Silway	0.64
Paul Franks	10.24	Georgina Flanagan	4.16	Bill Keefe	1.76	Mary Vitale	0.60
David Rubin	9.52	Don Jayhan	3.68	Betsy Miller	1.76	Kevin Muench	0.56
Allen Zimmerman	9.44	Jolie Rubin	3.68	Andy Krenitz	1.52	Marty Tatosian	0.56
Tim Mabee	9.36	Marcy Sloan	3.44	John Meyers	1.40	David Rockwell	0.48
Ken Bond	7.04	Dan Braden	2.96	Don Desmond	1.20	Earl Risch	0.48
Leslie Lockett	6.80	Alex Itkin	2.96	Dave Cramer	1.12	V.W. Zimnicki	0.48
Stu Katz	6.64	John Brussel	2.88	Roland Dieter	0.96	Tom Walthes	0.48
Sarg Serges	6.16	Paul Klein	2.84	Andy Bittman	0.88	Brigid O'Meara	0.44
Norma Shyer	5.76	Alice Kay	2.80	Frankie Farjood	0.88	Tom Shields	0.40
Mary Franks	5.64	Yamin Yamin	2.72	Paul Weaver	0.88	Barry Miller	0.32
Phyllis Smolinski	5.36	John Stryker	2.56	Bobbie Shifrin	0.88	Tim Serges	0.32
Peter Kalba	5.36	Arline Levy	2.56	Glen Garber	0.80	Barbara Levinson	0.28
Bob Zavoral	5.12	Richard Stawowy	2.28	Peggy Fleming	0.72	Mike Siegel	0.24
Bill Davis	4.84	Amy Trudeau	2.20				

Credit Ken Bond with June BPC Player of the Month honors. Ken's 3.52 total edged out runners-up Herb Roman (3.20) and Jake Jacobs (3.12) who moved into first place.

your move

PROBLEM #205

Tournament double match point.
BLACK (on the bar) **TO PLAY 2-2.**



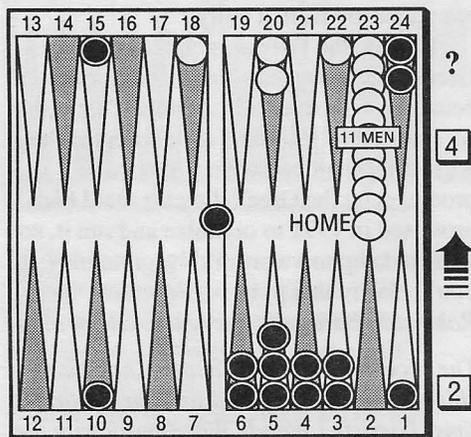
ASK
DANNY

© 1994 by Danny Kleinman

A REDOUBLING CRITERION

Dear Danny: In reviewing my videotaped match at the Midwest Backgammon Championships, I came across this position:

11-point match. Black and White are tied at 1–1. Black redoubles. **SHOULD WHITE TAKE?**



I am aware that if I miss, I could be gammoned on my own cube. I would like to know how many hitting numbers I need in order to justify a recube. I counted 23 numbers, and the number of times I miss, he leaves a subsequent shot.

I didn't double this position for fear of being gammoned. I felt I should hit first. After bouncing with double 2s (that's right), I hit a shot on the 5-point and redoubled several rolls later. Was I wrong to hesitate?—Jon Vietor, San Francisco, CA

DEAR JON: You ask for a general criterion: how many hits justify a redouble in this and (presumably) similar positions in matches? The bad news is: no such criterion can be formulated. Too many other questions bear on your cube decision:

- How often will you win after hitting?
- What are your chances if you miss?
- How many of your losses will be gammons?
- Will you face a redouble if you miss?
- Can you take that redouble?
- How, exactly, does the match score affect the value of points won or lost?

You also ask whether you should have redoubled *this* position. I suspect you kept the cube because of an instinctual awareness (which I share) that this position isn't good enough to redouble in a *money* game.

I counted only 22 hits for you, not 23: you would have 23 hits if you weren't on the bar. Nonetheless, I believe these 22 hits justify redoubling.

- White usually remains with a second vulnerable blot if you hit a shot immediately. This compensates for the insufficiency of your own board and blockade to produce a big redouble-out after most of your immediate hits.
- You remain with excellent residual chances if you miss. Most of the time, White won't be able to clean up her blots. Most of the time that she does clean up her blots, she leaves a gap, usually a double-gap, incurring great future shot jeopardy.
- These residual chances, coupled with White's strong gammon threat, effectively freeze the cube at 4 if you miss. White cannot afford to have you take an 8-cube and redouble for the match, negating her gammon threat entirely.

- The value of gammons to White, relative to the value of game swings, is *less* with the cube at 4 than at 2. This is a subtle and difficult point, and it applies to all close matches (less than a 2-point lead, and in most cases, even a 2-point lead) prior to match-point.

To illustrate, let's suppose, following Bill Robertie's chart in *Genud vs. Dwek*, that a 9–1 lead yields 94% match-winning chances; a 5–1 lead, 75%; and a 3–1 lead, 63%. Let's make the oversimple assumption that White wins gammons one time in three while losing plain games two times in three. In terms of pure "point equity," it's an even game. With the cube at 2, her match-winning chances are $(0.75 + 0.37 + 0.37) / 3 = 0.50$. The match, like the point-equity, is even. but with the cube at 4, her match chances are $(0.94 + 0.25 + 0.25) / 3 = 0.48$.

The good news is that a (relatively) simple criterion can be formulated for *money* games when a miss brings an immediate redouble-out. In 36 games, let **H** be the number of HITS, of which **L** represents the number of games LOST (presumably via an opposing redouble-out) after hitting. Of the 36 – H misses, let **R** be the number of RESIDUAL wins from later hits, **B** the number of BACKGAMMONS lost, **G** the number of GAMMONS lost, and **P** the number of PLAIN losses. You can count H, of course, but you can only estimate L, R, P and B. You needn't estimate G because (curiously) G drops out of the equation (and = 36 – H – R – P – B anyway).

Then you should redouble whenever H exceeds $4L + 3R + P - B$. Got it?—Yours, Danny Δ

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 2726 W. Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645-3039.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

other player affixed the stickers. With Mike Fujita timing our effort, Woody and I completed the entire process in 9:34 minutes. Carol Joy and Mary Ann finished almost simultaneously.—Ed.

Great editorial in support of public draws. Is there any tournament backgammon player in the world who would actually prefer the draw to be conducted in private?—John Stryker, Northbrook, IL

Your editorial regarding public draws was

very good. The entire affair was very disgusting for sure. There is a saying here which you probably know in English: "Caesar's wife not only has to be honorable, she also has to look honorable."

Draws at the Tournament of the Americas haven't been public, and last year, we did some joking when Alberto da Pra and I both received byes. Just to put everyone's mind at ease, we'll hold public draws at all our future international events.

By the way, I had to laugh at the way you felt you needed to inform your readers who was Billy and who was the girl in the Greek champion's photo on page one.

["Billy Horan (right) shares a happy

moment with Heidi Poole..."] Is it just envy, or do you have something against guys with long hair?—Mario Madrigal, president, Costa Rican Backgammon Association

THANKS FROM A HAPPY WINNER

What a sweetheart you are to print my "all smiles" pix in CHICAGO POINT. It was wonderful winning in Costa Rica, but it should be pointed out that I was very, very lucky against the beautiful and talented Cordula Thiess (Germany). She's not a bad dancer, either!—Richard Armbruster, Los Angeles, CA Δ

A BACKGAMMON BOOK FOR GABRIEL *Reviewed*

by Neil Kazaross

A Backgammon Book For Gabriel, ©1994 by Danny Kleinman, 5312 1/2 Village Green; Los Angeles, CA 90016. Soft cover rib binding, 144 pages. Available from the author for \$24 + \$3 p&h (foreign add \$5 surface, \$15 airmail)

A Backgammon Book For Gabriel is Danny Kleinman's 11th book (not including his co-authorship with Antonio Ortega on *Fascinating Backgammon*). Although another backgammon "Gabriel" may come to mind, the book is actually dedicated to Danny's father.

The first 93 pages of the book consist of a detailed analysis of an interesting 21-point match between two top expert players Danny calls "Paul" and "Mike." Although Danny does not confirm the actual identities of these players, I know who they are, as well as when and where the match was played. All I will tell you is that the two players were in the top ten of Yamin Yamin's Giant-32 voting. Since many experts (myself included) upgrade their playing styles from year to year, it would have been helpful to know when the match was actually played.

The next 33 pages of the book contain a potpourri of new and previously-published writings concerning various aspects of backgammon. Some material is generated by Danny's own ideas; other times, Danny comments on material written by other contemporary backgammon authors.

The book concludes with 14 of Danny's always entertaining and instructive "Letters To Miss Lonelyblots." These are quite good. I feel that all the suggested plays and/or cube actions are correct with only one possible exception. Unfortunately, many of these problems have also previously appeared in print. It was quite disappointing not to see more new material in the last two sections.

Nearly all of Danny's latter books have included an in-depth analysis of at least one match. In some books, Danny has presented input from a guest annotator as well as his own. In others, he has used input from the participants. Others like this one have been analyzed solely by Danny.

The book presents some calculations, but very few rollouts. Danny realizes that a great number of rollouts must be done to get statistically accurate data to "prove" the correct cube action or checker play. Instead of rollout data, Danny gives the reader his

own considerable insight into the positions in question. Unfortunately, in my opinion, there are several inconsistencies in his analyses of similar positions and some serious omissions. As a result, although quite good, this isn't his best match analysis.

In Danny's defense, it is exceedingly difficult to give an accurate, detailed analysis of even one game, let alone a 21-game match. Here's an overview. By the way, the match is very easy to follow without a board due to a very liberal use of diagrams.

I believe Danny's comments on how to respond to the opening major split of 6-3 (24/18, 13/10) with 5-1 in Game #2 and 6-5 in Game #13 are quite inconsistent. In Game #2, after White's 5-1 response (8/7*, 6/1*), Danny's comments are strongly in favor of the double hit to minimize return shots and protect the bar slot. Yet in Game #13, he calls Black's response of hitting once with (13/7*, 13/8) "The sound middle course" and refers to the double hit as "hyperactive."

I'm quite confused. How can it be so clearly correct to hit two men with 5-1 and hyperactively wrong to double-hit with 6-5? My strong opinion (previously discussed during my 1991 lecture in Málaga, Spain) is that the double hit with 6-5 is much clearer than the double hit with 5-1

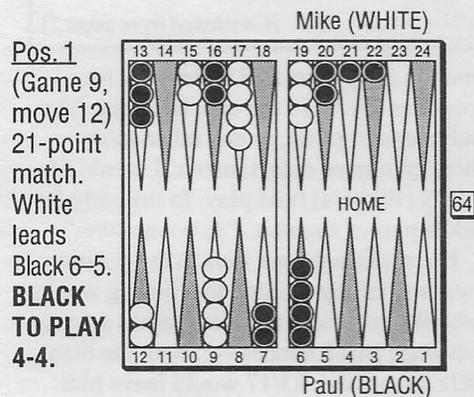
In Game #5, after a comment about making the 3-point with an opening 5-3 vs. the inferior alternative of building (13/8, 13/10), Danny presents some superb advice:

"During the 1970s, some backgammon experts taught that you should embrace a style and try to steer each game in a particular direction. Now the best backgammon players are eclectic. Rather than forcing early plays into pre-established game plans, they use each roll for whatever game plan it serves best."

Bravo, Danny! Marvelous advice for all levels of play.

The end of Game #7 is marred by a likely transcription error at Move 24 which had one player making a virtually unthinkable play with 2-2. The remaining few moves make no sense, yet Danny comments on how bad these plays are. Finally at the end of the game, Danny guesses that the transcriber probably "misrecorded Paul's play of double-2s." Why waste two pages of analysis? If this were my book, I would

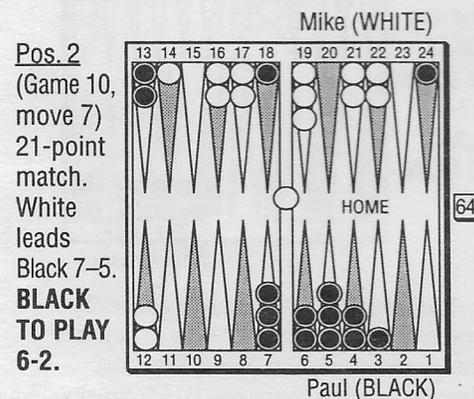
have contacted the transcriber or the players to see what had actually been played.



In Position 1, Danny makes the following insightful comment:

"Paul [Black] is far enough behind in the race to want to maintain contact, but double-4s forces him to abandon something. No alternative is attractive. 7/3, 7/3, 6/2, 6/2 builds an 'instant' three point board, but that board is still weak with its empty 4- and 5-points and no builders to fill the gap. To slot the 5-point while making either the 2- or 3-point leaves Paul stripped on the midpoint, which he'll have to break soon. The real alternative is 13/5, 13/5, making the good 5-point and leaving a blot where Mike [White] will seldom want to hit it anyway. In any case, Paul does well to relinquish his midpoint. By keeping only the 9-outpost, Paul 'pins' three of Mike's outfield points with only one."

Either Black's actual play of 13/5, 13/9, 13/9 or making the 5-point looks best to me.



In Position 2, however, Danny is way off the mark. He calls White's seemingly (to me) automatic play of Bar/23, 13/7* "...most dangerous" and mentions the alternative of playing the 6 out to the 17-point which leaves 24 shots. His comments indicate that he's afraid of the extra

[Continued on page 6]

BOOK FOR GABRIEL REVIEWED...

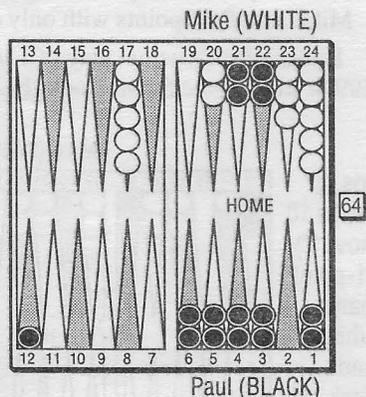
[Continued from page 5]

gammon danger created by leaving four blots after 13/7*. In the end, he states, "At double match-point, or any other score where gammons didn't matter, I would like Mike's [White's] bold play. In the early or middle part of a match, I'm not so sure."

Let's take a deeper look at the position. It was my strong opinion that hitting would make White a clear favorite (he has an easy cash when Black dances—25% of the time), while the passive 23/17 would leave him somewhat of an underdog. I felt that the equity difference with a 1-cube would be at least 0.20 between the two plays. I tried some *Expert Backgammon v2.1 Pro* rollouts (No, *EB* is not the answer to every play problem, but it handles this "slam-bam" stuff pretty well) and they show White must hit to be a favorite. Not hitting was wrong by a big 0.253.

In the game, White was return hit with 5-1 and danced. Now Black, somewhat too good to double, played on, closing out all four of White's blots. Despite the play's failure to work, this problem remains a "hit or be hit" situation where hitting gives Black a 25% chance to dance. White's chance to be return hit and then dance is only about 16% (Black must use his entering 3s to hit loose inside, leaving two blots).

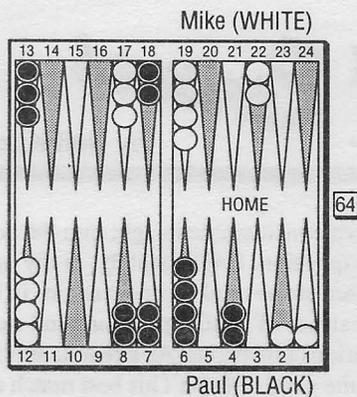
Pos. 3
(Game 10,
move 7)
21-point
match.
Tie score
at 7-7.
**BLACK
TO PLAY
6-5.**



Position 3 shows Danny's generally superb technical insight. He says that it's almost always right to break the most advanced anchor, but here, Black breaks the 3-anchor to constrain White's 4s. He lists how all of White's 4s play after both alternatives in a nice analysis (Black doesn't want to kill a man with 12/1).

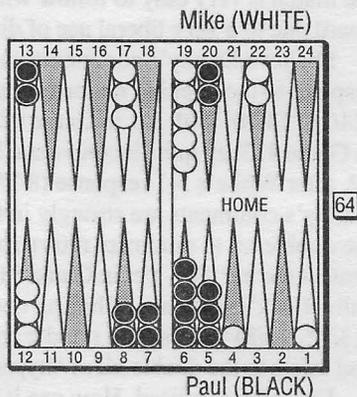
In Positions 4 and 5, I feel that Danny's cube assessment is inconsistent. In Position 4, he says that Black should double, citing his advanced anchor, better blocking structure, and some attacking chances combined

Pos. 4
(Game 12,
move 3)
21-point
match.
White
leads
Black 9-
7. **CUBE
ACTIONS?**



with 16 pip race lead. I have seen enough rollouts of the type of position to firmly believe that this is a double and a take.

Pos. 5
(Game 14,
move 7)
21-point
match.
White
leads
Black
11-8.
**CUBE
ACTIONS?**



Compare Position 4 to Position 5. Here Black has an advanced anchor, a solid 4-prime, only a nine pip lead, but a very strong threat to point on the 4-point and some other attacking possibilities. I think Black is stronger in Position 5 than in Position 4 and he should not let the possibilities of some awkward 6s or 5s deter him from doubling here. The only world class player I showed this to said he'd probably pass. Black didn't double, and surprisingly, Danny made no mention of the cube.

At the end of Game #17, Danny makes an uncharacteristic error in match cube strategy. Referring to Paul's [Black's] pass of an initial double, he says:

"Trailing 14-17 (to 21), Paul [Black] would have to be very wary of redoubling, for the 21st point that a redouble to 4 puts at stake gives Mike [White] the match and is therefore exceedingly valuable."

Yes, points which win the match exactly are very valuable from a match-equity standpoint. However, the trailer does not have to back off from this type of "catch-up" recube. According to cube tables in Danny's *Vision Laughs At Counting* (assuming no gammons and no further cube value), the trailer can redouble with only 48% CPW and the leader's take-point is 29%. Thus, the trailer can recube here

Expert Backgammon™ Opening Move Rollouts

compiled by Jerry Godsey

During the first part of 1994, I (with assistance from Robin Swaffield) used *Expert Backgammon* (v. 2.0 and 2.1) to roll out each possible move for the 15 opening rolls a total of 27,216 games. For each possible move, I initially rolled out 9,072 games (36x36x7) because it was the number of games I could conveniently roll out overnight. To increase accuracy, I later decided to run each play a total of three nights (9,072x3).

Some interesting observations:

- The only opening roll with negative equity for all possible plays is 2-1.
- On two rolls (4-1 and 4-3), the plays yielding the best equity (moving both back men forward) were not even included in the original rollout.
- The slotting play for 2-1, 4-1 and 5-1 worked out as the worst choice in all cases. However, they do yield more gammons than the splitting play.

I believe the *Expert Backgammon Opening Rollout Result Sheet* includes a lot of valuable information. After careful study, you'll have to make your own decision as to whether you want to revise your standard opening play and/or adjust your openings based on the match score. Δ

earlier than he can for money. In this case, "analysis laughs at vision."

UNFORTUNATELY, *A Backgammon Book For Gabriel* has more typos and errors in the heading of diagrams (several have the wrong dice roll to play) than Danny's earlier works. The book would have benefited from a good proof-reading by a top player.

In spite of these shortcomings, Danny's new book is interesting and fun to read. Danny achieves his goal which is to both entertain the reader and stimulate his thought processes about backgammon positions. I've learned several concepts from Danny's book that continue to contribute to my success as a tournament player today. I give *A Backgammon Book For Gabriel* a grade of B and must say that at a price of only \$24, it is a worthwhile addition to any backgammon player's library. Δ

Neil Kazaross is current leading the 1994 American Backgammon Tour and ranks #1 in Kent Goulding's International Rating List.

Expert Backgammon™ Opening Rollout Results Sheet

©1994 by Jerry Godsey

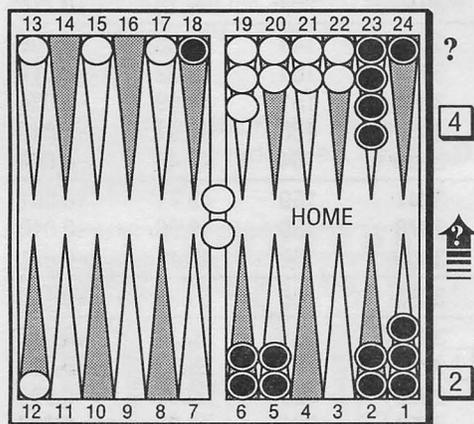
27,216 Rollouts Per Move With Black On Opening Roll

Roll	Play	WHITE WON					BLACK WON				
		Plain Games	Gammons	BGs	Win %	Pts/Game	Plain Games	Gammons	BGs	Win %	Pts/Game
2-1	13/11, 24/23	10205	3225	201	50.08	+0.005	10217	3219	149	49.92	-0.005
	24/21	10392	3176	153	50.41	+0.008	10166	3174	155	49.59	-0.008
	13/10	10591	3184	211	51.39	+0.029	9859	3158	213	48.61	-0.029
	24/22, 24/23	10739	3143	142	51.53	+0.038	10113	2947	132	48.47	-0.038
	13/11, 6/5	9992	3551	341	51.01	+0.045	9941	3232	159	48.99	-0.045
3-1	8/5, 6/5	9211	2610	126	43.90	-0.176	11150	3915	204	56.10	+0.176
4-1	24/20, 24/23	10133	3231	141	49.62	-0.006	10379	3189	143	50.38	+0.006
	13/9, 24/23	10448	3246	208	51.08	+0.017	9699	3431	184	48.92	-0.017
	13/8	10507	3315	143	51.31	+0.034	10016	3084	151	48.69	-0.034
	24/20, 6/5	10109	3557	240	51.09	+0.043	9994	3156	160	48.91	-0.043
	13/9, 6/5	9980	3715	342	51.57	+0.064	9819	3196	164	48.43	-0.064
5-1	13/8, 24/23	10471	3072	144	50.29	-0.001	10129	3241	159	49.71	+0.001
	24/18	10123	3355	140	50.04	+0.016	10552	2878	168	49.96	-0.016
	13/8, 6/5	10144	3376	246	50.58	+0.021	9998	3300	152	49.42	-0.021
6-1	13/7, 8/7	9497	2762	115	45.47	-0.116	11324	3352	166	54.53	+0.116
3-2	24/21, 13/11	10198	3138	166	49.61	-0.017	10159	3332	198	50.39	+0.017
	13/10, 24/22	10099	3207	158	49.47	-0.011	10363	3230	159	50.53	+0.011
	24/21, 24/22	10181	3186	154	49.68	+0.001	10546	2999	150	50.32	-0.001
	13/10, 13/11	10384	3203	207	50.68	+0.009	9867	3354	201	49.32	-0.009
	13/8	10507	3315	143	51.31	+0.034	10016	3084	151	48.69	-0.034
	8/5, 13/11	10250	3648	284	52.11	+0.062	9516	3377	141	47.89	-0.062
	13/10, 6/4	10301	3514	299	52.51	+0.082	9642	3117	165	47.49	-0.082
4-2	8/4, 6/4	9976	2695	111	46.97	-0.111	10350	3891	193	53.03	+0.111
5-2	13/8, 24/22	10434	3070	156	50.19	-0.004	10113	3283	160	49.81	+0.004
	13/8, 13/11	10411	3118	157	50.29	-0.004	9971	3410	149	49.71	+0.004
	13/8, 6/4	10469	3362	173	51.46	+0.036	9853	3213	146	48.54	-0.036
6-2	24/18, 13/11	9823	3414	167	49.25	-0.012	10341	3265	206	50.75	+0.012
	24/16	9968	3260	150	49.15	-0.002	10825	2863	150	50.85	+0.002
	24/18, 24/22	9729	3538	131	49.23	+0.009	10848	2817	153	50.77	-0.009
	13/5	10354	3484	235	51.26	+0.044	9607	3362	174	48.74	-0.044
	13/7, 13/11	10893	3505	242	53.79	+0.098	9334	3092	150	46.21	-0.098
4-3	24/20, 24/21	10053	3120	147	48.94	-0.028	10494	3219	183	51.06	+0.028
	24/20, 13/10	10185	3160	164	49.64	-0.014	10225	3293	189	50.36	+0.014
	13/9, 24/21	10157	3260	186	49.98	-0.008	9964	3449	200	50.02	+0.008
	13/9, 13/10	10526	3185	215	51.17	+0.013	9560	3558	172	48.83	-0.013
5-3	8/3, 6/3	10210	3007	172	48.87	-0.057	9928	3788	199	51.13	+0.057
	13/8, 24/21	10102	2987	136	48.59	-0.048	10397	3405	189	51.41	+0.048
	13/8, 13/10	10488	3103	169	50.65	-0.003	9783	3503	170	49.35	+0.003
	13/5	10354	3484	235	51.26	+0.044	9607	3362	174	48.74	-0.044
6-3	24/18, 13/10	9919	3323	185	49.34	-0.016	10250	3333	206	50.64	+0.016
	24/15	10036	3124	131	48.84	-0.014	10904	2906	115	51.16	+0.014
	24/18, 24/21	9949	3490	176	50.15	+0.026	10529	2890	167	49.85	-0.026
	13/4	10702	3228	146	51.72	+0.033	9747	3235	158	48.28	-0.033
	13/7, 13/10	10789	3553	254	53.63	+0.094	9291	3172	157	46.37	-0.094
5-4	13/8, 24/20	10256	2918	135	48.90	-0.041	10374	3372	161	51.10	+0.041
	24/15	10036	3124	131	48.84	-0.014	10904	2906	115	51.16	+0.014
	13/8, 13/9	10440	3117	155	50.38	-0.009	9692	3608	204	49.62	+0.009
	13/4	10702	3228	146	51.72	+0.033	9747	3235	158	48.28	-0.033
6-4	24/18, 13/9	9752	3413	194	49.09	-0.019	10228	3431	202	50.91	+0.019
	8/2, 6/2	10791	3003	144	51.21	-0.002	9436	3664	178	48.79	+0.002
	24/14	10204	3152	130	49.55	+0.002	10741	2867	122	50.45	-0.002
	24/18, 24/20	9698	3666	147	49.64	+0.020	10608	2917	190	50.36	-0.020
	13/7, 13/9	10771	3419	253	53.07	+0.069	9217	3388	168	46.93	-0.069
6-5	24/13	9727	2786	115	46.40	-0.080	11476	2990	121	53.60	+0.080
	24/18, 13/5	9938	3026	143	47.91	-0.039	10836	3096	161	52.09	+0.039

**PROBLEM #204
SOLVED**

by Kit Woolsey

1994 Tournament of the Americas. 13-point Championship match. Mike Senkiewicz (Black) leads Stu Hosen (White) 3 to 1. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



This is a tough position to evaluate. It is not your normal run-of-the-mill holding game, blitz, or race. Black has the initiative and several blots to shoot at. White has a much better structure. It is a difficult mix of apples and oranges, and there is likely to be a wide variety of opinions on this position.

First, let's look at the rosy picture from Black's point of view. Black has a four point board, and White already has two men on the bar. In addition, White has four blots strewn about, and Black will have

good chances to scoop them all up. White has only a 4-prime, and Black figures to have plenty of time to get his back men up and over the blockade. With any reasonable luck, Black should just cruise on home for the gammon.

Second, let's look at the rosy picture from White's point of view. White has a powerful 4-prime, with five of Black's men stuck behind it. It may seem as though Black will have no trouble jumping this hurdle, but as Kent Goulding often says, four in a row is more than you think.

It is true that Black has a four point board, but he has a dead checker on the ace point and little hope of bringing ammunition around quickly. White will be a definite favorite to enter and make one or even two defensive anchors, since Black will not be able to afford to hit loose in the inner board. These anchors will keep White alive in all variations. And if Black is unable to escape his back men and is forced to crunch his board, or if White is able to get her men in from the bar before Black gets everybody out, the game will turn around quickly.

So, which view is correct? This is not immediately obvious which should make one thing very clear—it is definitely correct for Black to double. Even if you think that theoretically, Black should not double (either because he is too good or not good enough), as a practical matter, Black must turn the cube.

This position is very difficult to evaluate. White may make a serious cube error if given the chance. If you think Black is too good to double, there will be those who

view White's position more optimistically and will take the double. If you think Black is not good enough to double, there will be those who view White's position more pessimistically and pass the double. Even if doubling happens to be theoretically wrong (whether because Black is too good or not good enough), there is a great chance that White will make a bigger error and pass a monster take or take a monster pass.

In addition, the position is obviously very volatile. A lot rides on whether or not Black springs a back checker next roll, so it is likely that turning the cube is theoretically correct anyway. The match score shouldn't make much difference, since both players still need many points to go and we are only talking about a 4-cube.

Now, what is the real truth about this position? Ugly positions are often much worse than they look, and this is no exception. Black will have a lot of difficulty getting everybody over the blockade in time, and if he stumbles along the way, White will grab the advantage fast. Sure, Black will win a lot of gammons (in fact, most of Black's wins will be gammons), but White's winning chances are simply too great to give this up. In fact, White is probably the favorite to win the game, and White will win some gammons along the way, too.

The real truth is that White actually has a very easy take, and Black's double is questionable in theory. In practice, of course, Black's double is 100% correct since there is a very good chance that White will improperly assess the position and pass. Δ

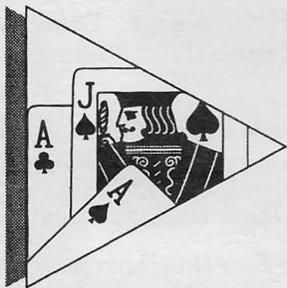
AMALGAMATION

Former Milwaukee tournament director **Lenore Holyon** is dead of a heart attack. Lenore, who wore a pacemaker, suffered the attack at a party on 25 June and slipped into a coma. She died 2 July after being taken off the ventilator one day prior. Friends of Lenore are holding a memorial gathering for her on 19 July in Milwaukee. For more info, contact **Bob Holyon** at 414/672-8359... **Barry Steinberg** informs us that the College Park Club (Maryland) will henceforth be known as the Beltway Backgammon Club... Congratulations to **Jeff & Renée Kane** on the 11 June birth of their new baby boy **Dakota**... Correction: the letter defending *Expert Backgammon* in last month's POINT was written by author **Tom Weaver** (not **Tom Wheeler**)... Good luck to **G. Fitt** who replaces **Peter Susman**

as new leader of the Backgammon Association of Victoria in Australia... "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." That must have been former Central Illinois Club director **Sue Will's** thinking when she started working as a blackjack dealer on the new Peoria riverboat... Visiting the Chicago Bar Point Club in June: **Karen Davis** (NY)... **Michael Crane's** *BibaFax* newsletter reports that "**Big Jim**" **Moore** has returned as BIBA co-director... Here's your reason to visit Costa Rica next year. The 4th Tournament of the Americas has been planned for late April. New in 1995: a pre-tournament "Backgammon Beach Bash"... New York Chess & Backgammon has entered a long term agreement with Bryant Park in New York City to operate a chess & backgammon concession in the park from 11:30 A.M. to sundown. For more info, contact **Steve Manning** at 212/302-5874... Through the Paris tournament, the WBF Golden Circuit top five for

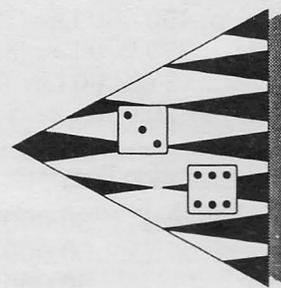
1994 are: 1-**Ricardo Spinola** (Brazil), 2-**Frank Kirschner** (Germany), 3-**Alvaro Savio** (Brazil), 4-**Mario Sequeira** (Portugal) and 5-**Robert Zurel** (Holland)... **Jake Jacobs'** annual road rally ("Lorena and/or Tonya Do Rallies") is set for 23 July in Schaumburg. Call Jake at 708/824-2466 for more details... Bad news for winners at the Tournament of the Americas. **Kent Goulding** says he never received the draw-sheets from the Costa Rican Backgammon Association and President **Mario Madrigal** can't find them. **Joe Sylvester** (who finished second in the Open) is trying to reconstruct the pairings from the auction sheet. By the way, Kent Goulding's June 1994 International Rating List is available for \$7 in North America and \$10 elsewhere, airmail postage paid. Mail to: **Carol Joy Cole**; 3003 Ridgecliffe Drive; Flint, MI 48532. The new Top-5 are: 1-**Neil Kazaross** (1786), 2-**Harry Zilli** (1780), 3-**Kit Woolsey** (1778), 4-**Sigurd Karwen** (1772), 5-**Abbas Zaltash** (1772). Δ

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Marco Fornasir

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PROGRAM

Monday, August 29th

7:30-8:00 P.M. Registration (Blackjack and
BG) at Park Hotel
10:30 P.M. Slovenian Blitz; Jackpots and
Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Tuesday, August 30th

10:30 A.M. Excursion
7:30-8:00 P.M. Registration at Park Hotel
10:30 P.M. Blitz continues; Jackpots and
Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Wednesday, August 31st

10:30 A.M. Excursion
5:30-6:00 P.M. Final registration: Blackjack
tournament
6:00-9:00 P.M. Blackjack tournament at Casino
10:30 P.M. Blitz continues; Jackpots and
Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Thursday, September 1st

10:30 A.M. Casino Nova Gorica Tennis
Cup (players and friends)
5:00 P.M. Blitz continues

7:00-8:00 P.M. Registration at Park Hotel
10:00 P.M. Public draw for Backgammon
Warm-up tournament (Free
event)
10:30 P.M. Warm-up tournament com-
mences. Super-Jackpot (5%
deduction). Jackpots and
Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Friday, September 2nd

10:30 A.M. Casino Nova Gorica Tennis
Cup continues
5:00 P.M. Jackpots and Speedy Mini-
Jackpots
7:00-8:00 P.M. Backgammon registration at
the Park Hotel
8:00 P.M. Welcoming cocktail in Park
Hotel lounge
10:00 P.M. Final registration: Main Back-
gammon tournament
10:30 P.M. Public draw and start of play.
Jackpots and Speedy Mini-
Jackpots

Saturday, September 3rd

10:30 A.M. Casino Nova Gorica Tennis
Cup continues
4:00 P.M. Main tournament continues.
Start of Progressive Consola-
tion tournament
5:00 P.M. Jackpots and Speedy Mini-
Jackpots
8:00-10:30 P.M. Scheduled dinner break
10:30 P.M. Franz Josef Super Jackpot.
Main tournament continues

Sunday, September 4th

3:00 P.M. Last Chance tournament. Fi-
nals: all divisions. Jackpots and
Speedy Mini-Jackpots
8:30 P.M. Schönbrunn Dinner Party and
Awards Ceremony at Park
Hotel

The organization reserves the right to change the
program in any of its parts. Changes will be an-
nounced in advance and posted on the Notice Board.

The Park Hotel has agreed to offer two nights free of charge in the Hotel for players who stay one full week (arrival date August 29, departure date Sept. 5, 1994) . . . 100% return of the entry fees . . . Trophies to be awarded in all three divisions and the Blackjack tournament . . . Nova Gorica is in the country renowned for good food and wine. Air temperature in August is 25° C.