

monte-carlo world championship

FRANKLY SPEAKING, FRIGO IS WORLD CHAMP U.S.A. Results Are Awesome

It still feels a little bit like the Twilight Zone. My wife Stephe kept joking that at the Awards Ceremony, Rod Serling was going to step out and hand me my trophy."

But it's not an illusion. It's reality. Frank Frigo, a 32-year-old Natural Gas trader from Louisville, Kentucky, is the new World Backgammon Champion. Frank claimed the prestigious title by winning eight matches in a row at Loews Hotel in Monte-Carlo 11-17 July. James Ballié directed the mega-event, chaired by Andre Rolfo-Fontana. Well over 300 worldwide players attended, including a star-studded Championship field of 200.



1994 World Champion Frank Frigo and wife Stephanie celebrate in Monte-Carlo.

His Backgammon Roots In Chicago

Frank began playing tournament backgammon in 1980 at the Chicagoland Pub Club. "Those were exciting times. I was 18 years old—a complete tournament rookie. I can remember beating Dean Morehouse, a good club player. It was so exciting that after the match, I had to run cold water over my wrists. But Chris Stanford was my big hero at the Pub Club. He was an excellent player."

Frank left Chicago for University of Houston grad school. "I moved to San Diego in 1985, playing at the San Diego Backgammon Club. When I left in 1988, only Neil Kazaross's win percentage was

higher than mine. Neil was instrumental in taking my game to another level."

After spending a couple of years in the L.A. area, Frank moved to Louisville. Since his 1990 marriage to Stephanie, Frank has reduced his backgammon play to about once a week. But he still manages to attend a few regional events each year enjoying decent results (Indiana Open finalist, Midwest Champs 1st Consolation, Jackpot victories in Reno and Indy). And he has maintained a 59% win record—good enough to earn him a KG ranking of 30th in the world.

The Trip To France

Frank and Stephanie looked at their trip to France as a vacation. "We started out in Paris. Then we rented a car and drove around the country. At the end of the trip, we were going to visit Monte-Carlo and I was going to play some backgammon. I never once thought about the game until I got to the tournament."

But Frank will never forget any of his matches. "I don't normally save my score sheets, but for some reason, at this tournament, I saved all of them. After each win, I would go to my room and put the sheet on my mirror. By Sunday, I ended up filling the entire mirror."

The Trip To The Finals

Frigo enjoyed good dice from the start. He beat David Hochron (USA) 17-13, John Broomfield (UK) 17-8, Dennis Carlston (USA) 17-13 and Dragan Mitrovic (Germany) 19-12 to reach the round-of-16. "Mitrovic was the first guy that tried to play 'headgames' with me. But my dice were so hot that I had a 13-0 lead after four games. The 'headgames' sort of wore out at that point."

Frank faced his first really big name player in the round-of-16: 1988 World Champ Phillip Marmorstein (Germany). "It was the first time I felt any tension. I won a close match 21-17. He's a heck of a nice guy."

Frigo's quarterfinal opponent was Germany's Jurek Sarzynski. "Jurek tried 'headgames' on a different level. He played very fast and loose. I'd be thinking about

[Continued on page 9]

THE O.J.—BACKGAMMON CONNECTION: PROSECUTOR MARCIA CLARK WAS MRS. GABY HOROWITZ IN THE '70s

In a story that stunned the U.S. backgammon community, the *National Enquirer's* 2 August 1994 issue (on the newsstands 25 July) reported that Marcia Clark, prosecuting attorney in the O.J. Simpson murder case, was married to controversial backgammon expert Gaby Horowitz in the 1970s.

In the 3-page *Enquirer* article (including a photo of Horowitz playing backgammon), former director Sidney Jackson, former *Las Vegas Backgammon* magazine editor Michael Maxakuli, and CHICAGO POINT contributing editor Danny Kleinman each validated Horowitz's reputation as the most notorious backgammon cheat and hustler ever to play the game.

Although Ms. Clark denied to the *Enquirer* that Gaby ever cheated in backgammon, the Worldwide Backgammon Federation feels differently. Horowitz is officially barred from WBF events for life.

The "American Journal" television show also picked up on the story, airing a 10-minute segment on 26 July. Former World Champion Lee Genuid and Maxakuli were both interviewed.

Backgammon Times newspaper (Vol. 2, No. 3) interviewed Horowitz in 1982. Page 23 referenced the surprising marriage:

"Despite all of his interests, Gaby still has time for an active social life. Divorced after a nine-year marriage to 'an attractive Jewish attorney,' he now plays the field. His requirements are simple: 'I will only date women who are beautiful, extremely intelligent, athletic and wealthy.'"

In 1989, Gaby was shot in the head by his writing partner Dr. Bruce Roman. The shooting was ruled accidental. Horowitz remains wheelchair-bound. The *Enquirer* reports that he currently lives with his mother in Israel, his birthplace.

The CHICAGO POINT has a limited number of 2 August *National Enquirers* available for \$10.00 including postage and handling (\$15 overseas). For your collector's copy, mail a check to CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039. Δ

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT
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Chicago, IL 60645-3039

APPROVAL FROM THE AUTHOR

I give Neil Kazaross's review of *A Backgammon Book For Gabriel* an "A" even though he gives only a "B" to the book itself. I'm taking note of his criticisms and making appropriate changes.

Incidentally, his review contains a serious error. In the Position 1 diagram, White's outpost should be on Black's 10-point, not the 9-point which blocks Black's playing 4s to the 5-point.—*Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, CA*

We take responsibility for the error you mention.—*Ed.*

STAMP COLLECTING IN AFRICA

Although we got #67 and #69 of the POINT, we didn't receive #68. Could you please send us another copy? I suggest that you don't use beautiful stamps on the envelope.—*Pierre & Patricia Zakia, Pointe-Noire, Congo*

[Continued on page 6]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

NATIONAL

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 21*	Central Illinois Summer Sizzler, Sly Fox Pub, Lacon, IL	309/673-7622
Aug 27-28	S. Florida Summer Tournament, Big Apple Sports Pub, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	305/785-1282
Aug 28	NY/NJ Co-op Regional Tournament, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Aug 28*	Atlanta Backgammon Association, Caffeinds, Atlanta, GA	404/682-1969
Sep 4*	World Cup Warm-up, Vickery Feed Store, Dallas, TX	214/827-8403
Sep 5-11	World Cup IV and U.S. Open, Harvey's Addison Hotel, Addison, TX	301/299-8264
Sep 15	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Sep 24*	Mayfair One Thousand Tournament, Mayfair Club, New York, NY	212/779-1750
Sep 25*	Atlanta Backgammon Association, Caffeinds, Atlanta, GA	404/682-1969
Sep 25*	Austin BG Assn. Sunday Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/280-5945
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 14-16*	<u>32nd Gammon Assoc. Invitational, Grand Slam Bridge Club, Woodland Hills, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Oct 19	RSCARDS Fall Computer Modern Tournament, GENie	810/348-0580
Oct 23*	Atlanta Backgammon Association, Caffeinds, Atlanta, GA	404/682-1969
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*	Atlanta Backgammon Association, Caffeinds, Atlanta, GA	404/682-1969
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>
Dec 4	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Dec 18*	Atlanta Backgammon Association, Caffeinds, Atlanta, GA	404/682-1969
Dec 18	NY/NJ Co-op Regional Tournament, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Jan 28*	Hawthorne Backgammon Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	312/338-6380

OUTSIDE USA

Aug 6*	BaWü-Cup, Motodrom Hotel, Hockenheim, Germany	49621-698539
Aug 6-7	Sjælland Open 1994, Skibsted, Bygaden, Veksø, Denmark	4539-400607
Aug 13*	Hessen-Cup, Gasthof zum Engel, Wiesbaden, Germany	49631-60106
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 3*	Hessen-Cup, Gasthof zum Engel, Wiesbaden, Germany	49631-60106
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 17-18	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 & 1994 Buenos Aires Open, Hotel Regente, Argentina	541-794 7000
Oct 28-30*	Malmö Open, Savoy Hotel, Malmö, Sweden	4640-981911
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*	CANCELLED—Second Israeli Open, 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 23-27*	NEW DATE—1st Kenyan Open, Malindi, Kenya, Africa	Eitan Fax: 972-3 5467087
Dec 5	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Dec 13-18*	3rd Turkish Open, Conrad Hotel Istanbul, Turkey	Eitan Fax: 972-3 5467087



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1994

Compiled through 31 July 1994 after 9 tournaments
(Featured in August: Green Mountain Festival of Backgammon)



Neil Kazaross	46.87	Richard Armbruster	7.25	Ed Pavilonis	3.60	Michelle Colpo	1.59
Dean Muench	28.75	Todd Doucet	7.21	Jerry Hays	3.59	Paul Farah	1.59
Arnold Zousmer	26.50	Ralph Schaffner	7.18	Mariano Rocca	3.59	Wally Wolf	1.59
Abbas Zaltash	26.48	Durb Oldham	7.11	Bruce King	3.58	Marilyn Faller	1.53
Kit Woolsey	20.16	Roy Springer	6.69	Bill Gheen	3.55	Mark Damish	1.38
Charlie Morrison	18.86	Odus Chenault	6.56	Kevin Muench	3.55	Taylor Sage	1.38
David Williams	17.31	Andy Palumbo	6.44	Paul Klein	3.36	Irving Achtenberg	1.18
Steve McCormick	16.82	Darl Brooks	6.44	Jim Muirhead	3.22	Lara Simsic	1.00
Lincoln Bedell	14.96	Kent Goulding	6.40	Nancy Takala	3.22	Nicole Masarani	0.90
Mike Darooge	14.35	John Rather	6.30	Frank Dickerson	3.20	Bob Neumann	0.89
Mike Friedman	14.35	J.A. Miller	6.29	Lou Florio	2.75	Casey Jones	0.83
Art Benjamin	13.25	Ray Bills	5.60	Joann Feinstein	2.40	Irv Taylor	0.83
Bill Szirtes	12.81	Kurt Schurecht	5.26	Carol Falk	2.09	Chris Larsen	0.83
John Stryker	11.56	Mary Franks	5.20	Ali Rebatchi	2.08	Bret Handson	0.81
Judy Brown	11.50	Nack Ballard	4.80	Marc Gray	2.08	Paul Mangone	0.81
Mary Ann Meese	11.44	John Brussel	4.78	Julie Crandall	2.05	Jerry Wlosinski	0.77
Ami Tennenbaum	10.35	Richie Adams	4.78	Lois Richards	1.91	Kelly Danton	0.77
Rick Bieniak	10.07	Howard Ring	4.33	Ken Truman	1.88	Brian Nelson	0.76
Judy Field	9.61	Jon Stephens	4.24	Walter Trice	1.88	Sean Garber	0.76
Paul DiBiase	9.61	Lefteris Moskos	4.19	Richard Heinz	1.79	Cecilia Pedroza	0.45
Tak Morioka	8.47	Bob Holyon	4.16	Tony Pow	1.67	Kristine Andrysiak	0.45
Marty Storer	7.83	Doug Mayfield	4.16	Greg Shoults	1.67	Sandra Konechy	0.45
Sig Skolnick	7.54	Carl Adamec	3.76	Tim Kirby	1.63	Jan Gurvitz	0.44
Peter Zacks	7.25	David Rubin	3.72	Bill Slater	1.59	Joe Farah	0.42

HOW ARE THE ABT MASTER POINTS CALCULATED?

Only tournament money-winners receive master points. For calculating master points, Divisional Factors are assigned thusly:

- Highest Division: Championship, Open, or A Division = 1
- Second Division: Advanced, Intermediate or B Division = 0.5
- Lowest Division: Intermediate, Limited, Beginner, Novice or C Division = 0.25

Master points are awarded to tournament winners using the following formula:

$$\text{Master Point Award} = (\text{Divisional Factor}) \times (\# \text{ of Players in Division}^*) \times (\text{Prize Money Won/Total Divisional Prize Money})$$

**In events where reentries are permitted, only the number of original entries are counted.*

	CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1994 PLAYER OF THE YEAR	COMPILED THRU 31 JULY
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Neil Kazaross	16.84	Bill Davis	4.84	Amy Trudeau	2.20	Glen Garber	0.80
Tak Morioka	16.20	Alice Kay	4.72	Jeff Kane	2.16	Peggy Fleming	0.72
Jake Jacobs	15.56	Phil Simborg	4.64	Marc Ingenoso	1.92	Igor Sheyn	0.64
Herb Roman	13.52	Ralph Levy	4.48	Dean Muench	1.92	Jill Ferdinand	0.64
Paul Franks	11.20	Georgina Flanagan	4.16	Ed Buerger	1.76	Mike Kaczmarek	0.64
David Rubin	9.84	Don Jayhan	3.68	Bill Keefe	1.76	Jerry Brooks	0.64
Allen Zimmerman	9.44	Jolie Rubin	3.68	Bobbie Shifrin	1.76	Mary Vitale	0.60
Tim Mabee	9.36	Marcy Sloan	3.44	Betsy Miller	1.76	Kevin Muench	0.56
Phyllis Smolinski	7.52	Rob Silvay	3.20	Barry Miller	1.60	Marty Tatosian	0.56
Sarg Serges	7.04	Richard Stawowy	3.16	Andy Krenitz	1.52	David Rockwell	0.48
Ken Bond	7.04	Dan Braden	2.96	John Meyers	1.40	Earl Risch	0.48
Leslie Lockett	6.80	Alex Itkin	2.96	Wilcox Snellings	1.28	V.W. Zimnicki	0.48
Stu Katz	6.64	John Brussel	2.88	Gregg Westrick	1.28	Tom Walthes	0.48
Paul Friedman	6.48	Gary Kay	2.88	Don Desmond	1.20	Brigid O'Meara	0.44
Norma Shyer	5.92	Paul Klein	2.84	Dave Cramer	1.12	Tom Shields	0.40
Mary Franks	5.64	Yamin Yamin	2.72	Roland Dieter	0.96	Tim Serges	0.32
Peter Kalba	5.36	John Stryker	2.56	Andy Bittman	0.88	Barbara Levinson	0.28
Bob Zavoral	5.12	Arline Levy	2.56	Frankie Farjood	0.88	Mike Siegel	0.24
Joann Feinstein	5.04	George Barr	2.56	Paul Weaver	0.88		

TAK MORIOKA captured his his first 1994 Player of the Month title in July by earning 2.80 master points. The exceptionally competitive month saw a three-way tie for second place between George Barr, Herb Roman and Rob Silvay, all with 2.56 points.

METAXA PULLS OUT AS GREEK TOURNEY SPONSOR

Metaxa, sponsor of the recent Ouzo 12 Greek Backgammon Championship, has decided to discontinue sponsorship of future Greek tournaments. Metaxa representative Nikos Koidis, who had invested hundreds of hours of time and company money well in excess of \$50,000 (including \$15,000 in added prize money) to stage the May 1994 event, was shocked by the disruptive behavior of Mario Sequeira (Portugal) at the awards ceremony.

The incident occurred when directors Hercules and Bridget, Baron and Baroness of Culcreuch, made a personal decision not to present the 1st Consolation trophy to Sequeira. The public reason they gave was his "foul and abusive behavior" directed toward them during the tournament.

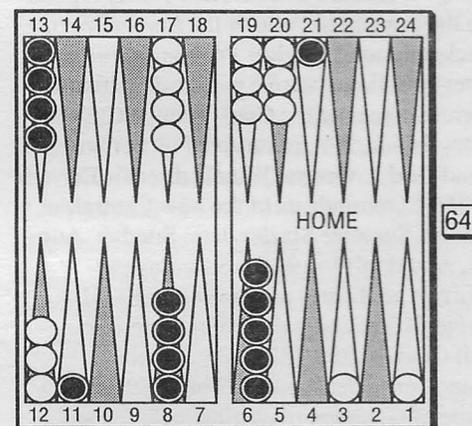
After receiving his trophy from Greek BG Players director Anthony Maltezopoulos, a provoked Sequeira loudly announced that he had been unfairly singled out. Mario continued, aggressively complaining that the tournament had not conducted a true public draw (Bridget and Hercules claim their draw—witnessed by another director—was 100% random). Sequeira then left the stage.

Minutes later, Mario rushed toward the front of the room and jumped back up on stage waving a vulgar letter that he claimed had been passed to him with his trophy. (The origin of the letter remains uncertain.) The ugly scene, witnessed by the Greek press and Metaxa picture-taking representatives, also soured the farewell cocktail party.

Maltezopoulos is attempting to find another sponsor for 1995.

your move
PROBLEM #206

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS



© 1994 by Danny Kleinman

BACKGASMS?

Dear Miss Lonelyblots: I'm a 30-something, attractive woman who's been playing backgammon for about two years now. I must admit that I started attending tournaments to meet men, although the game is growing on me.

I have noticed that as a group, backgammon players appear to have less-than-adequate mating practices. Most of them are either divorced or have experienced numerous failed relationships. Most men react to my advances as if they have been neutered. Is it possible that backgammon players get some sort of sexual satisfaction out of the game itself?—Dismissed in the Midwest

DEAR DISMISSED: My sister Emily passed your letter on to me because it is far beyond her competence to answer. Here is my opinion.

No, whatever satisfactions backgammon offers, they are not sexual. The "G" in "G-spot" stands not for *gammon*, but for *Grafenburg* (the name of the physician who discovered it). Many people, however, have a drive as fundamental as the sex drive. That is a craving for stimulation and excitement, which gambling provides. Like sex drives, the drive for excitement varies greatly from one person to another. I suspect that both are largely innate, or determined

by childhood influences so early as to be indistinguishable from genetic.

According to my sister's account, backgammon combines intellectual and gambling elements, attracting types of men corresponding to both. One likes analysis. If not engaged in backgammon, he might be doing mathematics or crossword puzzles, and playing games like chess, checkers and contract bridge. The other likes "action" and if not at the backgammon table might be found at the racetrack, poker parlor, or options trading floor. Of course, some play backgammon for more than one reason.

Expect to find very few stable marriages and long-term relationships among those seeking "action" (whether men or women). Just as the vicissitudes of the dice draw them to backgammon, the newness of sex partners pulls them into bed. It doesn't surprise me that most of the men who play backgammon for the "action" are divorced, or have never established stable relationships. It does surprise me, however, that none have sought you out for brief flings.

I would advise you to seek out the analytic types, such as those who write books and journal articles. For your benefit, I asked my sister which backgammon players fall into this category. She rattled off a few names: Kit Woolsey, Bill Robertie, Kent Goulding. Alas, she added, all are married. Isn't that what you'd expect of the more stable, analytic type?

As I see it, you have two problems.

First, may I ask, among what age groups are you looking? If you're looking among men your own age or older—the socially acceptable ages—you are bucking the odds. Most men who want lasting

relationships have stable marriages by their thirties. Moreover, the older men get, the more their sexual drives diminish. If you haven't done so already, you might give younger men—perhaps men just out of college—a whirl. They may not yet have found suitable mates. If it's sex you want, they're of an age most susceptible to your advances.

Second, any group of people with a consuming interest—be it backgammon or butterfly collecting—tend to be less interested in anything else. Any given man has only so much interest to go around, and limited time and energy to pursue his interests. Men who attend interest-oriented gatherings do so from devotion to those interests. If you go to backgammon tournaments to meet men, you're an exception. Where do you expect men who want to meet women to go? To backgammon tournaments or singles bars?

Why hang around backgammon players or other monomaniacs? If you attend activities which offer satisfactions competitive with sex, don't expect to find sex. But cheer up. You don't need men for sexual satisfaction. If you can't find your G-spot, surely you can find other pleasure zones. Remember what Gloria Steinem said many years ago: "A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle."—*Swimmingly yours, Antoinette G. Lonelyblots, Ph.D.*

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.

AMALGAMATION

Visiting the Bar Point Club in July: **Wilcox Snellings** (NV), **Gregg Westrick** (Hong Kong)... **Eddie Pavilonis** (NY) sadly reports on the passing of "one of the first ladies of backgammon," **Vivian Whalen** in July after suffering a stroke in Florida. **Vivian**, a former owner of the Card 'n Cube Club on Long Island, NY, is survived by her husband **Bud**... Central Illinois director **Ed Zell** (IL) reminds us of the new Central Illinois Summer Sizzler date: Sunday, Aug. 21. And don't forget the Saturday pre-tourney pool party at **Cinda King's** (IL) home. BG action galore. For more info, call Cinda at 309/382-2085... Quite a coincidence department: The 1979 preview issue of *Gammon* magazine included an

article on the Beverly Hills Pips backgammon club (no longer in operation). Many celebrities and sports figures were members including **O.J. Simpson** (pictured on page 49). **Marsha Clark** (then Mrs. **Gaby Horowitz**) was also known to attend... **Andreas "Bonzo" Born** warns First German Open participants to make their room reservations at the Sportpark Hotel right away. Only a few rooms remain. Call Bonzo at 49521-64314... BG player **Richard Munchkin** (**Jake Jacobs'** brother) was smart enough to sign **Tonya Harding** for "Breakaway," a new movie he is producing. An HBO deal may be in the works... The new *Yamin Point* suggests that you rent the old movie "Having a Wonderful Time." In the picture, a backgammon-playing **Ginger Rogers** explains her BG addiction to **Douglas Fairbanks**... Nevada director **Howard Markowitz's** game prowess is

not limited to backgammon. Howard took 1st Cons. at a recent gin rummy tournament in Las Vegas... Stop by and see BPC player and artist **Norma Shyer's** (IL) booth at the Gold Coast Art Fair 12-14 August. She'll be at LaSalle and Huron... A shocker at the Indy Open. **Stu Katz** (IL), **Carol Joy Cole** (MI) and **Gail Wolf** (MI) were waiting for an elevator late Saturday night when the doors opened and there stood a nude woman. What do you say to a naked lady? Stu denies that he asked her, "Going down?"... The *Atlanta Journal* reports that British Airways will spend up to \$120 million on an advanced in-flight interactive entertainment system that will allow passengers to play chess, bridge or backgammon with any other passengers seated on the plane. **Dave Cardwell** (GA) asks, "Is this the beginning of the Mile-High Beaver Club?" Δ

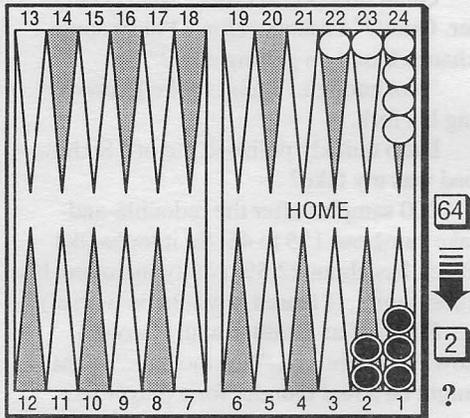
HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

GETTING A GRIP ON THE INTANGIBLES

5-point Kickoff match. White leads Black 3-2. White doubles. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**



Should I accept this 2-cube? If I take and recube White, I win the match about 22% of the time. If I drop the double, the score becomes 2-4, leaving my match-winning chances (MWC) at around 25%, all things being equal.

But "things" are rarely equal. I must get a grip on the intangible factors that may or may not influence my decision. I should consider that:

- My opponent is a much better player.
- It is 1:00 A.M. and I'm exhausted from by 500 mile drive to the tournament.
- I have a splitting headache which continues to jab at my concentration.

Taken together, these considerations make my MWC trailing 2-4, significantly less than the theoretical 25%. In this situation, I am better off with a take-and-re-double strategy, putting the match on the line in this game. Let the dice determine the winner, and don't allow my fuzzy brain to interfere.

Differences in players' abilities and impaired mental and/or physical fitness are just a few of the intangibles to be considered before making cube decisions. Δ

CHICAGO POINT

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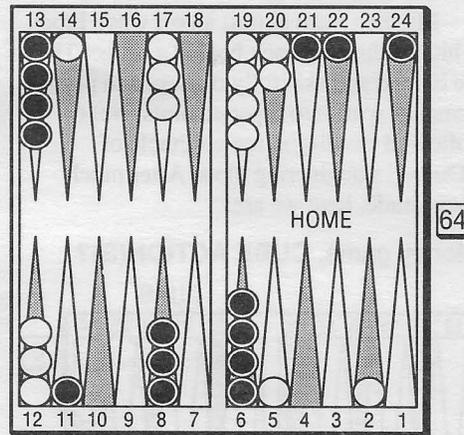
PROBLEM #203:

Another look

by Marty Storer

I have to disagree with Danny Kleinman's answer to Problem #203 from the June CHICAGO POINT:

Problem #203. Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



Danny endorses 11/5*, 6/2*, trying to make the 5-point, keep White from doing so, protect the back men, and generally stall White's threats. He gives high priority to the goals of getting an advanced anchor and keeping White from doing so, and the double-hit follows logically from this reasoning. Alas, Danny's analysis is attractive aesthetically, as usual, but flawed in this particular case.

The double-hit is just too risky. As Danny says, Black has a very good chance to anchor after getting hit back. But most often, Black will then be in a weak position, behind in the race with several men in danger of being primed, and not having much reasonable counterplay. If White comes back with a 5 immediately, for example, Black's position will be horrible, with little development and a very weak forward structure.

Tactically, it's very risky to dangle two blots and create nagging, persistent obligations to cover them. Black doesn't want to have to scramble to consolidate on two fronts simultaneously. Moreover, it's bad to put a checker on the 2-point. Its presence there will be an enduring thorn in Black's side positionally as well as tactically, particularly in holding-game variations.

I'd rather make any of the other plays Danny considers, except perhaps 13/7, 11/7. Second-best is probably 24/18, 22/18, the

bird-in-the-hand play. The move I like is 24/14*, rejected by Danny on the grounds that it makes it easy for White to make the golden point. Consider its good points:

- It removes White's valuable builder, with tempo;
- It starts to escape a back man;
- It sends a third checker back, muddying the long-term racing waters to Black's benefit;
- It gains ground in the race;
- It threatens to consolidate by making a point in Black's outfield; and
- It retains good chances to anchor after being hit back.

Fully 13 of White's replies neither hit in the outfield, make an inner point, nor double-hit. Black is very happy in this case, whether or not White anchors. If Black is hit back, two advanced points are slotted and the survivability index is high.

The bottom line: Black wants to catch up in the race, escape his back men, and avoid being on the wrong end of a priming/attacking game. Black will gladly concede White an advanced anchor in return for achieving these goals, and 24/14* is clearly the best try at doing so. It's not overwhelmingly powerful, but then neither is any alternative. Δ

Danny Kleinman comments: "Good analysis, Marty. I now think you're right. Thanks for the correction."



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
312/338-6380
Peter Kalba
312/631-8350

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

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:30 P.M. at Braxton Seafood Grill, 3 Oakbrook Center Mall, Oak Brook; 708/574-2155.

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Fiddler's, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. *Chouette* play most Sundays, 1:00 P.M. at Cricket's Pub & Grill, 602 W. North Ave., Glendale Hts. V. W. Zimnicki (708/924-8632.)

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).

CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Chi-Chi's, 4415 N. Rockwood, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/673-7622).

PRIME BG CLUB OF CHICAGO: Tourn. Friday, 7:00 P.M. at TJ'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).

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

REACTION TO GODSEY'S EXPERT BACKGAMMON™ OPENING ROLLOUTS

In order to validate the information contained in Jerry Godsey's Expert Backgammon™ rollout table, it is necessary to consider the quality of play that has been used in its derivation. Theoretical good (or mathematically best) play in fact will not produce the keenest results against questionable or clearly inferior play.

One thing that could improve the statistical results of the rollout analysis would be to add in the doubling feature. Unfortunately, this core competence is so profoundly lacking in all programs including EXBG, that the programmers rightfully have excluded it as an option. Still, if you watch a few rollouts, you will inevitably see a dead horse being carried across the finish line on boxcars. At the very least, all the solved end game situations should be arbitrated in any good rollout analysis.—*Lee E. Harvey, Excelsior, MN*

We were surprised to see 24/20, 24/21 as the best opening play for a roll of 4-3 in the Godsey report. This prompted us to look deeper by running EXBG's built-in feature to display the replies used by the program in the rollout. If we bought the replies, we would trust the rollout. Next, we asked one of the top ten players on KG's list to give his opinion, and then cross-checked our neural network at a 1-ply look-ahead. Here are the observations:

- (1) Our human expert agreed with EXBG in 7 cases, for 10 replies in 36.
- (2) The Magnum Network agreed with EXBG in 9 cases, for 14 replies in 36.
- (3) Only the human was "honest" in admitting uncertainty.
- (4) Our human expert hit two men in six cases, the network in four, and EXBG only hit two men with 1-1 and 4-4.

The inverse square root of 27,216 is 0.006. This is a fair estimate of statistical error in Mr. Godsey's work. Aren't some of the results in the table still too close to call?

If a magician gave you a biased coin that came up heads two out of three times, would you expect it to average 0.5 after 27,216 flips?

Despite the above, I compliment Mr. Godsey on his persistence and for providing us with useful data. For example, we now have a better idea of the gammon ratio in backgammon.—*M.K. Magnum, No address given*

Jerry Godsey offers three interesting observations based on his EXBG cubeless

personal account

HAROLD'S VIEW



by Harold Branch

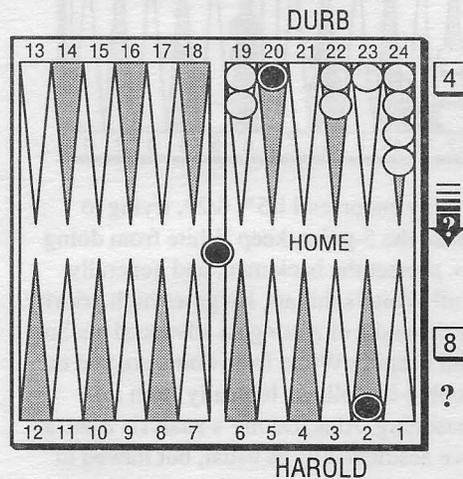
THE "IN BETWEEN" GAME

I was Black in a light-hearted money game played in between matches down here in the Louisville Backgammon Club. I was beating up on my opponent, Durb, and it was looking like "gammon time."

But times change!

My men were almost all off when I took a hit, sending me back behind a prime. Then he blotted and skillfully managed to pry my remnant apart into separate blots. Next followed the disgusting spectacle of "Durbo" slaughtering blots. After much vicissitude, here we are:

Money game. CUBE ACTION(S)?



rollouts of opening roll moves. For what it's worth, here are a few of mine:

- (1) Using only the rollout results for those moves with the highest points/game for each of the 15 possible opening rolls, I calculated that the player who wins the opening roll wins 51.53% of the games, comprising 38.43% plain games, 12.45% gammons and 0.65% backgammons. The average points/game is 0.045. The breakdown for the second roller's 48.47% wins is 36.70%, 11.21% and 0.56% for -0.045 points/game.
- (2) Of the first roller's wins, 24.16% are gammons, 1.26% BGs, and therefore 25.42% gammons or BGs. The corresponding results for the second roller are 23.13%, 1.15%, and 24.28%. The expected percent gammons/win number is important for constructing match equity tables.
- (3) For all the games rolled out in my sample of 408,240 or 15x21x36x36, 23.66% of

Durb reached for the cube and announced, "Number 8."

Quint, finishing his supper, was looking on from the next table. After some mental turmoil that passed for thinking, I noticed:

- (1) I shouldn't lose more than 8 points;
- (2) I had a chance for a hit causing a recycle race victory; and
- (3) If I passed, I'd never know!

Drained by this profound exertion, I said, "Take."

Quint dropped his fork. "Whatsa matter, Quint?" I asked. "Don't I have some chance based on getting a hit?"

"Not enough," Quint replied, recovering his fork.

Durb quickly polished me off. So how bad was my take?

200 samples after the redouble-and-take came out 155 to 45. So it looks like Black has about 22.5% equity including his cube equity. (I feared it would be worse!)

Some of us familiar with Harold's howlers might say, "Not too bad." What might be a real blunder for a player like you or Quint is just a summertime indiscretion for me.

Durb timed his redouble perfectly—right at his present opponent's *point of last take*. (Thank you, Danny Kleinman.) Quint was right when he said, "Not enough."

However, we could say that even I was right in a sense:

- (1) I didn't lose more than 8 points;
- (2) I did indeed have a chance for a hit; and
- (3) I took and found out! Δ

the games ended in a gammon won or lost for either side, 1.21% ended in a BG, and therefore 24.87% ended with a player winning a gammon or better.

An Opening Roll Survey by Hal Heinrich appeared in the December 1990 POINT based on actual recorded moves from 11,017 tournament games. The most commonly played moves for each roll in Hal's survey differed from Jerry's best for seven out of 15 rolls, with only one trial in Hal's entire sample from among Jerry's top-rated plays for 4-1, 4-3 and 5-2.

Using Jerry's rollout results for Hal's most common plays changes the corresponding percentages in (1) to 51.19, 38.02, 12.52, 0.65 and 0.033 points/game for the first roller. For the second roller, substitute the numbers: 48.81, 36.60, 11.52, 0.68 and -0.033 points/game.

(2) becomes 24.46, 1.28, 35.73, 23.61, 1.39 and 25.00. Finally, (3) becomes 24.04, 1.33 and 25.38.—*Mel Leifer, Germantown, MD Δ*

**WINNER'S
CORNER**

May-July 1994

Annual Copenhagen Championships (Charlottenlund, Denmark; 7-8 May)... CHAMPIONSHIP (43): 1-Flemming Andersen, 2-Peter Jes Thomsen, 3/4-Navidi Afshar Kh / Christian Schou; 1C-Morten Holm, 2C-Bjarne Tolstrup. INTERMEDIATE (40): 1-Per Fledelius, 2-Reza Valikjani; 1C-Dean Larsen. BEGINNER (30): 1-René Christensen, 2-Renée Paaschburg; 1C-Jesper Voss Balslev.

Golf & BG Torneo de Hotel Tango Mar (Puntarenas, Costa Rica; 20-22 May)... Open (32): 1-Antonio Ortega, 2-Mario Lizano, 3-Mario Madrigal. DOUBLES (16): 1-William Charpentier & Jorge Tsao, 2-Mario del Mar & Mario Madrigal.

Country Cups Trophy (Solihull, England (21-22 May)... OPEN (97): 1-Jim Johnson, 2-Simon Osborne, 3-Brian Lever, 4-Donald Hatt, 5-Roger Porter.

18th Byblos Challenge Cup (St. Tropez, France; 26-29 May)... OPEN: 1-Mario Sequeira (POR), 2-Gerhard Schiesser (GER); 1C-Fabrice de Carbon (FRA), 2C-Carlo Trilisi (ITA); 1LC-Korber (AUS).

Spring Gran Prix—ABT (LaJolla, CA; 28-30 May)... OPEN (53): 1-Arnold Zousmer, 2-Art Benjamin, 3-Roy Springer, 4-Odis Chenault. BEGINNER (9): 1-Micole Masarani, 2/4-Kristine Andrysiak / Sandra Konechy / Cecilia Pedroza. DOUBLES #1 (8): 1-Mike Fujita & Karl ZoBell. DOUBLES #2 (8): 1/2-George Alessi & Trenea Bouque / Paul Gedigian & Sam Mardian. MEGABLITZ (32): 1-Mark Arnold, 2-Larry Deckel.

1994 Argentine Championship (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in June)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Jorge Stolkiner, Hugo Ergueta, Rafael Dana, Leo Cappella. JUNIOR WINNERS: Mario Goluboff, Pablo Ferrandini, Oscar Portolán, Osvaldo Vazquez. BEGINNER WINNERS: Brenda Daich, Ricardo Ianani, Damian Miniam, Eli Aguero.

6th City Of Venice International Tournament (Venice, Italy; 2-5 June)... OPEN (49): 1-Michael Grabarczyk (GER), 2-Mario Sequeira (POR), 3/4-Matthias Körner (GER) / Rolf Schreuder (NL); 1C-Simon Naim (FRA), 2C-Micola Pagano (ITA); 1LC-Michel Cordier (BEL). INTERMEDIATE (47): 1-Wlater Jarc (CAN), 2-Fulvio Garozzo; 1C-Luisa Sequeira (POR), 2C-Günther Holzinger (GER). BEGINNER (32): 1-Gianmarco Maggolini, 2-Roberto Gottipavero; 1C-Paolo Martin; 1LC-Patricia Della Noce. SCHOOL (6): 1-Cinzia Righetti. LADIES PRIZES: Luisa Sequeira (POR),

Annalisa Porcu (ITA). WARM-UP (73): 1-Giuseppe Baù. JACKPOT CHAMPIONSHIP (64): 1-Hans Jorge Karius (GER). MINI-JACKPOT (128): 1-Wolfgang Seitz (AUS)... In a press release, Dario de Toffoli put the total entries at 150 representing 17 countries. This is Italy's biggest event of 1994.

Double Five Club Summer Tournament (London, England; 4 June)... OPEN: 1-Mark Adkins... Diana Sulimirska reports that the winner of the 1994 Double Five Club (I) League was Ray Tannen.

Austin Sunday Tournament (Austin, TX; 5 June)... OPEN: 1-Dave Kettler, 2-Bob Toellner, 3-Ira Hessel.

Hong Kong Monthly (6 June)... OPEN: 1-Jerry Godsey, 2-Patrice Hattu; 1C-John Simon, 2C-Johathan Barnes. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Chris Gawan-Taylor, 2-Sunil Balani; 1C-Bodo Spungk. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Lesley Macfarlane, 2-Henry Donne; 1C-David Mendes.

Eddy Blanco's Special 16 (San José, Costa Rica; 9 June)... OPEN (16): 1/2-Mario Madrigal / Antonio Ortega.

7th Argentina Open (Buenos Aires, Argentina; 10-13 June)... CHAMPIONSHIP (76 + 192 reentries): 1-Leo Cappella, 2-Paul Weaver (USA), 3-Santiago Hynes, 4-Rafael Silva y Cobo. JUNIOR (88 + 160 reentries): 1-Daniel Yorno, 2-Darío Fuks, 3-Carlos Rawson, 4-Myriam Poveda. BEGINNER (80 + 112 reentries): 1-Gustavo Garcia, 2-Ricardo Talabera, 3-Eduardo Mufarrangue, 4-Diego Donaire. DESPERATION (All): 1-Myrna Rigesti. LADIES PRIZE: 1-Paula Estacolchic, Myriam Poveda, Mirta Carracedo. KICKOFF: 1-José Saphir. LADIES INVITATIONAL: 1-Julia Estacolchic. CHILDREN'S INVITATIONAL: 1-Osvaldo Tundis... Results supplied by director Claudio Salamone. 300+ players competed.

Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament (Oak Brook, IL; 12 June)... OPEN (27): 1-Jake Jacobs, 2-John Meyers (WI), 3/4-Tim Mabee / Stu Katz; 1C-Ken Bond, 2-Jeff Kane (WI).

1st Hong Kong Invitational (17-18 June): OPEN (12): 1-John Simon, 2-Gregg Westrick ... \$7500 in prize money was at stake.

GNYBC Monthly Tournament (Woodbury, NY; 26 June)... CHAMPIONSHIP (11): 1-David Schatz, 2-Greg Shore; 1C-Igor Sheyn, 2C-Karen Davis. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Joan Silverman, 2-Marc Simon.

Cleveland Area Club Monthly (Cuyahoga Falls, OH; 26 June)... OPEN (12): 1-Steve Hast (PA), 2-Howard Shirey.

Atlanta Backgammon Monthly (Atlanta, GA; 26 June)... MASTERS: 1-Larry Taylor, 2-Larry Strommen. OPEN: 1-Ray Gronck, 2-Roy Dixon. NOVICE: 1-Kenny Hirsch, 2-Mariana Hirsch.

NY/NJ Co-op Regional (Woodbury, NY; 26 June)... CHAMPIONSHIP (11): 1-David Schatz, 2-Greg Shore; 1C-Igor Sheyn (MA), 2C-Karen Davis. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Joan Silverman, 2-Marc Simon.

European Championship (Beaulieu-sur-Mer, France; 30 June-3 July)... CHAMPIONSHIP (27): 1-Ion Ressu (SWZ), 2-Eric Guedj (FRA), 3/4-Garrett Bell (UK) / Ann Leib (USA); 1C-Lothar Wolf (GER), 2C-Carlo Facchetti (ITA); 1LC-David Hochron (USA), 2LC-Thomas Lumper (GER). INTERMEDIATE (24): 1-Nico Kitt (ROM), 2-Morten Holm (DEN); 1C-Sture Lih (SWE); 1LC-Gian Michele d'Onofrio (ITA). LADIES PRIZES: Ann Leib (USA), Luisa Sequeira (POR)... 15 countries were represented in the Backgammon European Association's Golden Circuit event according to director Marco Fornasir.

1994 Argentine Championship (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in July)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Fernando Rocha, Rafael Dana, Alajandra Bendaham, Juan Rosa. JUNIOR WINNERS: Carlos González, Luis Mur, Verónica Dabul, Juan Carlos Kuperman. BEGINNER WINNERS: Liliana Jadech, Marcos Dircie, Raúl Barcesat, Gustavo Fernández.

Hong Kong Monthly (4 July)... OPEN: 1-Steve Nelson, 2-Avry Ben-Zeev; 1C-Ernest Ho, 2C-Jerry Godsey. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Nancy Wong, 2-Taha Ebrahim; 1C-Chris Gawan-Taylor. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Barry Clark, 2-David Mendes; 1C-Olivia Lee.

Nation's Capital Summer Open (Bethesda, MD; 17-18 July)... OPEN (26): 1-Boris Parkhomousky, 2-Herb Avram; 1C-Bruce Hall (NC), 2C-Harry Zili (VA); 1LC-William Counts, 2LC-Ali Regatchi (DC). BLITZ: 1-James Pascoe (CT), 2-Barry Steinberg. DOUBLES: 1-Jim Baroff & Ed Maslansky, 2-Dave & Sam Orandle.

Mayfair One Thousand (New York, NY; 23 July)... OPEN (12): 1-Dr. Bob Hill, 2-Alex Caraplis (NJ); 1C/2C-Doug Huch / Charles Frankel.

Long Grove Invitational (Long Grove, IL; 24 July)... OPEN (23): 1-Yamin Yamin, 2-Ron Stur; 1C/2C-David Rubin / Jolie Rubin... A feast of food at Marcy and Mike Sloan's tournament/party held at their beautiful home in the Chicagoland suburbs.

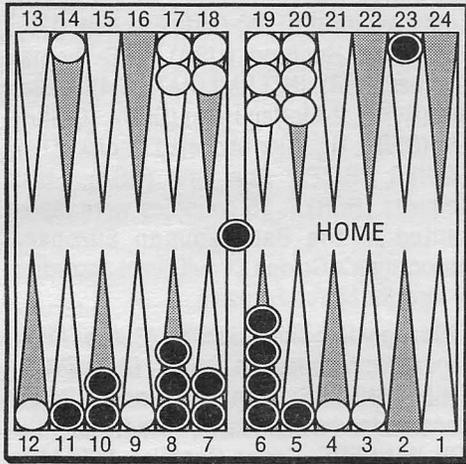
Atlanta Backgammon Monthly (Atlanta, GA; 24 July)... OPEN: 1-Dave Cardwell, 2-Roy Dixon. NOVICE: 1-David Frohman, 2-Bernard Mlaver... Director Dave Cardwell was red hot in July winning 13 straight matches July 13-27.

BPC Summer Cool Tourney (Oak Brook, IL; 7 Aug)... OPEN (28): 1-Ed Bauder, 2-V.W. Zimnicki, 3/4-Don Desmond / Peter Kalba; 1C-Neil Kazaross, 2-Tak Morioka. INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Jolie Rubin, 2-Phyllis Smolinski, 3/4-Bobbie Shifrin / Kevin Muench; 1C-Tom Fahland, 2-Mike Budz. Δ

**PROBLEM #205
SOLVED**

by Walter Trice

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



What is the most difficult roll in backgammon? Some say double ones because in most positions, it gives the player more alternatives than any other. But I think it's double twos. Deuces give you slightly fewer legally distinct plays, but often more strategically diverse options. This problem is typical. I see six reasonable plays and eight strategic factors.

Let's look at the strategic motifs first:

- (1) **Initiative.** Black needs time to organize his forward position, and he can get some by hitting or creating threats.
- (2) **Purity.** Purity means keeping checkers in play and using them efficiently. It emphasizes priming, space-control, and connectedness, while deemphasizing safety and race. Purity is more important in priming games and fluid positions, less important in attacking games and gelled positions.
- (3) **Escape.** Black must get his two back men out somehow.
- (4) **Attack.** Perhaps Black can close out White and escape while White can't move.
- (5) **Safety.** Black's position could be wrecked by getting hit too often. Having more men sent back would be bad because of White's prime and her outfield control.
- (6) **Priming.** This is an alternative game plan to attacking. Ideally, Black would like to build a 6-prime, trap several White checkers (the more the merrier) and let the White forward position

collapse.

- (7) **Timing.** A prime won't do Black any good if his collapses first!
- (8) **Flexibility.** Black should try to keep all his game plans (attack, prime, race) alive as long as they remain viable, or until one of them gives him a decisive edge.

Rather than discuss each candidate in terms of these factors (the editor says I can't have the 117 pages necessary to do this properly), I'll just give each play a subjective grade in each category:

- (A) B/23, 6/4(2)*, 7/5
- (B) B/23, 6/4(2)*, 11/9*
- (C) B/21, 11/9*, 7/5
- (D) B/23, 11/9*, 9/5
- (E) B/23, 11/9*, 6/4*, 7/5
- (F) B/23, 6/4(2)*, 5/3*

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
Initiative	3	5	1	2	4	5
Purity	5	4	2	2	4	3
Escape	3	3	4	2	3	3
Attack	3	4	1	2	4	5
Safety	2	3	1	5	3	3
Priming	5	4	2	3	4	3
Timing	3	5	1	2	4	2
Flexibility	4	5	3	3	4	3
TOTALS	28	33	15	21	30	27

Most of these factors are composite, and sometimes they overlap. For instance,

initiative is enhanced by hitting, home board strength, and safety. Safety, a small component of initiative with additional independent value, could be broken down into return shots, number of blots, opponent mobility, and other factors. And so on. At some point, one must simply stop analysing and rest on intuition.

Plays that unstack the 6-point get more credit for purity and timing, especially in contrast to play (D), where the chief defect is that if White anchors on the 21-point, Black has nowhere to go. The ideal priming play would hit the blot on the 9-point (the third man back is *big!*) while aiming for a gapless prime.

Even play (E) isn't perfect for priming because it gives up the 7-point and fails to activate one of the 6-point spares. (F) is the best attacking play: it tries to prevent White from anchoring. But it is rather committing (inflexible), and like all blitzing plans it has a substantial timing downside.

A simple summation recommends play (B), and so do I. One could vary the weights given to the different factors, but I don't believe that the rankings would change much, if at all. Other players would undoubtedly break down the problem differently or disagree with some of my point values, but as I said, this is subjective.

IN ANY CASE, much can be learned by constructing and studying evaluation tables of this type. Δ

42nd indiana open

MCCORMICK WINS INDY

Steve McCormick of Kansas City, MO defeated Chicago expert Tak Morioka to win the Indiana Open (29-31 July in Indianapolis). Not bad for a player with only four month's tournament experience.



Steve McCormick rolling to victory.

The 39-year-old pharmacist cited former 1979 Chicago Black & White champ Barbara Glazier as inspirational in his victory. "I learned a lot from Barbara playing in her chouette in the early '80s."

In the Advanced, it was Durb Oldham over Chicago's Kevin Muench. And Harry Cohn won another Master's title. Results: Δ

42ND INDIANA OPEN—ABT

CHAMPIONSHIP (32): 1-Steve McCormick (MO), 2-Tak Morioka (IL), 3-Jon Stephens (OH); 1C-Ami Tennenbaum (NJ). ADVANCED (32): 1-Durb Oldham (KY), 2-Kevin Muench (IL); 1C-Bill Gheen (IN), 2C-Richard Heinz (IN). INTERMEDIATE (14): 1-Marilyn Faller (PA), 2-Sean Garber (IN); 1C-Brian Nelson (IN), 2C-Jan Gurvitz (IN). NOVICE (4): 1-Lara Simsic (IN). MASTERS JACKPOT (15): 1-Harry Cohn (IL), 2-Abbas Zaltash (PA). AMATEUR JACKPOT #1 (16): 1-Chuck Stimming (IN). AMATEUR JACKPOT #2 (8): 1-Randall Witt (TN). DOUBLES (8): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL) & Larry Strommen (IN). OPEN MICROBLITZ (32): 1-Mike Darooge (MI). LIMITED MICROBLITZ (16): 1-Brian Nelson (IN).

MONTE-CARLO...

[Continued from page 1]

doubling and he would pick up his pencil. And he talked throughout the match. He seemed like a nice guy, but he was just looking for an edge." Frank prevailed 21-16.

The Saturday semifinals was when Frank realized the magnitude of what he could accomplish. "As early as the round-of-64, Neil Kazaross would come up to me and say 'Frank, this is your year. You're going to win this thing.' He kept telling me this every day. It was kinda nice.

"I was very unnerved early in this match. I held even with him at 7-7 and took my second break. When I returned, some spectators started to watch my match [*Most had been watching the Robertie/Thomsen semifinal on television.—Ed*] and this made me more comfortable. I jumped out to a 20-10 lead and ended up beating him 23-14."

The Big One

Proving that 1993 was no fluke, defending World Champion Peter Jes Thomsen made it through to the finals. His thrilling 23-19 double match-point semifinal victory over Bill Robertie was recorded by German editor Harald Johanni and will appear in the next issue of *Backgammon Magazin*.



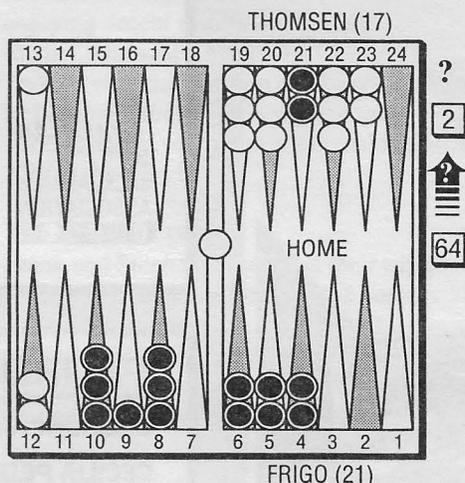
A pensive Frank sits on his hotel bed, contemplating the biggest match of his life, just an hour away. [Photo by Stephanie Frigo.]

The 25-point finals began at 3:30 P.M. in a closed room with Luigi Villa acting as referee. Under two closed circuit cameras, Frank jumped off to an early 5-1 lead.

With the score 9-6, Frigo redoubled a race where he trailed by 11 pips but had a shot to lock up the win. He missed, Thomsen rolled 4-4 and Frigo was recubed out of 4 points one roll later.

Frank continued to fight, regaining the lead and holding on until the score reached 21-17. In the next game, Frigo gave Thomsen what would turn out to be the last cube decision of the match:

25-point World Championship finals. Frigo (Black) leads Thomsen (White) 21-17. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Frank remembers being a bit surprised that Peter took the cube. He ended up closing out four checkers and winning the game and match 25-17. A great victory for a great gentleman. If you see him at a tournament this year, go up and shake his hand.

More American Winners

In other results, Nevada Backgammon Association director Howard Markowitz won the 2nd Consolation and teamed with

Antoinette Williams and Alan Steffen to win another World Team title. As previously stated, Bill Robertie was a semifinalist in the Main Flight and Kent Goulding won the Last Chance. Complete results: Δ

MONTE-CARLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP (200): 1-Frank Frigo (USA), 2-Peter Jes Thomsen (DEN), 3/4- David Eshed (ISR) / Bill Robertie (USA); 1C-Gordon Cross (GER), 2C-Mario Sequeira (POR), 3C/4C-Xiao Ping (CHN) / Andreas Pournaras (GRE); 1CC-Howard Markowitz (USA), 2CC-Richard Cieciorco (FRA), 3CC/4CC-M. Holm (DEN) / Emza Laitadze (GEORGIA); 1LC-Kent Goulding (USA), 2LC-Stephan Törnros (SPAIN); Ladies Prize-Lila Swan (USA).

INTERMEDIATE: 1-Nicole Taboury (FRA), 2-Misja Alma (NL), 3/4-Teun Ruardy (NL) / Mirko Podchul (GER); 1C-Christian Liebe (GER), 2C-Sture Liff (SWE), 3C/4C-Ernand Chetrit (FRA) / Wolfgang Griese (GER); 1CC-John Jacobs (NL), 2CC-Carlo Facchetti (ITA), 3CC/4CC-Emily Fisher (USA) / Anders Christiansen (DEN); 1LC-Andreas Born (GER), 2LC-Gilbert Grimberg (FRA); Ladies Prize: Nicole Taboury (FRA).

BEGINNER: 1-Walerie Torelli (GEORGIA), 2-Marc Werner (GER), 3/4-Makoto Nonomura (JPN) / Annette Wenkens (DEN); 1C-Peter Schneider (GER), 2C-Claudia Behrendt (GER), 3C/4C-Saban Kilisen (TUR) / Marco Doetlaff (GER); 1CC-Shunsuke Hasegawa (JPN), 2CC-Henning Roschberg (NOR), 3CC/4CC-Narissa Ferrer (USA/SPAIN) / Hendrik Muysers (GER); 1LC-Steen Mikkeisen (DEN), 2LC-Thomas Ronn (SWE); Ladies Prize: Annette Wenkens (DEN).

SUPER JACKPOT (64): 37.5%-Gerard Duguet-Grasser (FRA), 25%-Billy Horan (USA), 25%- Frank Frigo (USA), 12.5%-James Colen (USA).

WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-"Let's Do It Again" (USA)-Howard Markowitz, Antoinette Williams, Alan Steffen, 2-(FRANCE) Hervé Pietraru, Bruno Le Milinaire, Michel Cordier.

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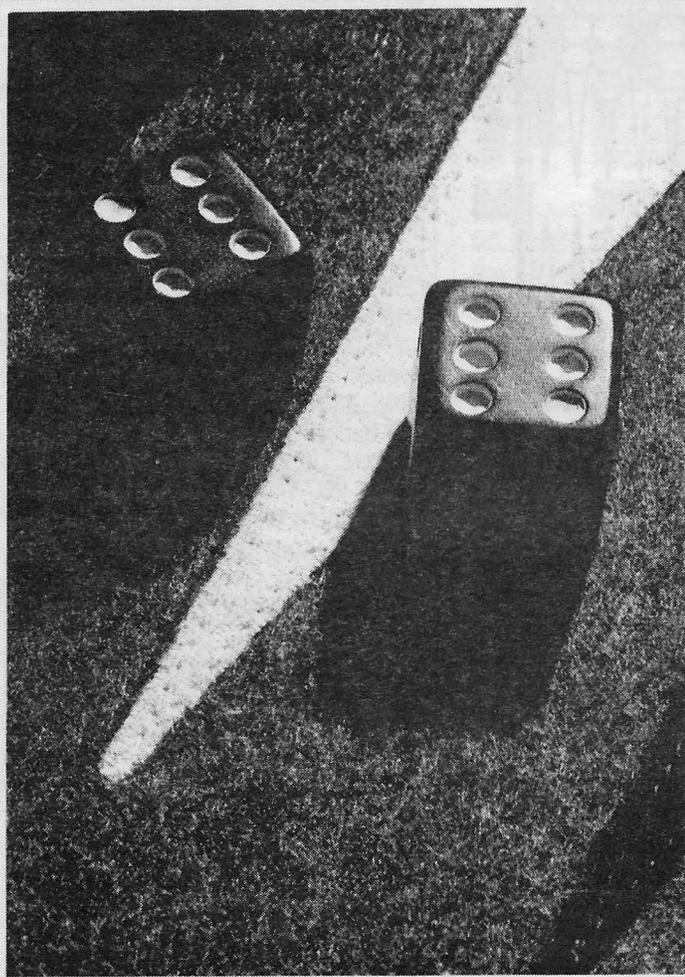
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