

CHICAGO POINT

NUMBER 77

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

MARCH 1995

worldwide twin championships

WILCOX BREAKS THROUGH

International Cup To Jacobsen
Howard Ring Wins Masters

I don't equate myself with [San Francisco 49ers Superbowl quarterback] Steve Young, but I can identify with the feeling of finally winning a big one."

So said Wilcox Snellings after defeating Mike Senkiewicz 19-16 in the finals of the Nevada State Tournament. This year's event, part of the Worldwide Twin Championships, was held in Reno at the Eldorado Hotel 7-12 Feb. Howard Markowitz of the Nevada Backgammon Association directed.

Incredibly, the victory was Reno resident Snellings' first major singles triumph of his life. But that didn't stop his backgammon peers from voting him "1994 Giants of Backgammon" number one player in the world.

The 36-year-old Snellings, who had lost in big tourney finals six times prior, appeared headed for elimination in his quarterfinals match against Ray Foglerlund. Then with the cube on 8 in a double match-point bearoff, Wilcox rolled a needed set of doubles to advance to the final four.

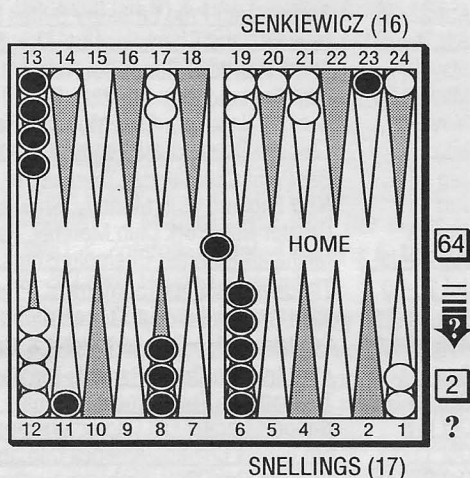
Although Jon Viator (CA) was the heavy betting underdog in the semifinals, he was no pushover for Snellings. An early Viator lead dissolved with Wilcox finally winning 17-16. Now only one man stood between Snellings and his first victory: New York's Michael Senkiewicz.

Wilcox quickly fell behind 6-2 in the

19-point finals. He regained an 11-8 edge only to watch it turn into a 13-11 deficit.

Tied at 13-all, Snellings reeled in a big doubled gammon to grab a 17-13 lead. But Senkiewicz would not die. He clawed back to 17-16 and flipped over the following 2-cube in what 35 spectators described as the most pressure-packed moment of the match:

19-point Nevada State finals. Wilcox Snellings (Black) leads Mike Senkiewicz (White) 17-16. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



[Continued on page 8]

TWIN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS

INTERNATIONAL CUP... *Championship (18 x 8)*: 1-Gustav Jacobsen, 2-Ed O'Laughlin, 3/4-Barry Miller / Phil Laak. *Intermediate (17 x 8)*: 1-Jonathan Schroer, 2-Samra Hadden, 3/4-Wally Wolf / Cyrus Yousafi. *Beginner (5 x 8)*: 1-Mac McCann, 2-Ed Johnson, 3/4-Rafi Salem / Juli Carter. NEVADA STATE TOURNAMENT... *Championship (70)*: 1-Wilcox Snellings, 2-Mike Senkiewicz, 3/4-Diane Haley / Jon Viator; 1C-Stu Hosen, 2C-Nack Ballard, 3C/4C-Robert Black / Ed O'Laughlin. *Intermediate (87)*: 1-Lee Hasson, 2-David Rubin, 3/4-Jona Alexander / Samra Hadden; 1C-Jonathan Schroer, 2C-Simon Woodhead, 3C/4C-Kevin Mansfield / Dennis Rutkowski. *Beginner (31)*: 1-Mac McCann, 2-Ed Johnson, 3/4-Jim Mason / Tom Casaletto; 1C-Frank Cusack, 2C-Julie Schorer. *Combined Last Chance (188)*: 1-Butch Meese, 2-Ray Foglerlund, 3/4-Kevin McDonough / Jonathan Bennetts. MASTERS (16): 1-Howard Ring, 2-Mike Senkiewicz, 3/4-Kazuhiro Shino / Nack Ballard. LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Gustav Jacobsen, 2-Steve Clark, 3/4-Wendy Kaplan / Jonathan Schroer. \$300 DOUBLES (8): 1-Kit Woolsey & Joe Ingargiola. \$100 DOUBLES (16): 1-Jonathan Bennetts & R. Solomon, 2-Mark Ferrin & Bill Piland. \$50 BLITZ (16): 1-Eliot Bean, 2-Mike Mooney. \$25 BLITZ (17): 1-Jonathan Bennetts, 2-Mary Ann Meese.

THEY DON'T MAKE THEM LIKE THIS ANYMORE



Swedish Backgammon Federation director Ulf Ring sends a photo of one of the oldest backgammon boards in existence, on display at the Wasa Museum in Sewden. The board was found on board the royal warship Wasa which sank with open gun-ports on her maiden voyage in 1628. The set looks nice, but the checker spacing leaves a little something to be desired. Δ



The finals: Leading 17-16 to 19, Snellings ponders Senkiewicz's offered 2-cube.

CHICAGO POINT

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

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

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LETTERS

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

REMEMBERING AMI

I was shocked and saddened to hear of Ami Tennenbaum's death. It is difficult to believe that a person who outwardly exuded such a joy and passion for backgammon and friends could be so troubled as to take his own life.

Given his background of self-made success, one would think that it would have taken a whole lot of misfortune to discourage him, let alone depress him to such an extent. But, I suppose you never really know what goes on in someone else's head.—*Woody Woodworth, Indianapolis, IN*

I didn't know Ami, but his biography in the *Point* (issue 76) made me feel like I did. My wife's grandparents are from Eastern Europe and some of her relatives were killed during the Holocaust. Experiences and losses run deep with many people and are expressed in ways unknown to most.

Hopefully, the article will help others recognize changes in friends—it may very

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

NATIONAL

Mar 10-12	33rd G/A Invitational, Grand Slam Bridge Club, Woodland Hills, CA	818/901-0464
Mar 12	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Mar 12	Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Mar 16*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 19	Greater New York Club Monthly, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Mar 19*	Austin Sunday Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Mar 21*	1995 FIBS Spring Tournament, via computer modem, Internet	E-mail: davide@sco.com
Mar 24-26	1995 Midwest Championships, Marriott Hotel, Oak Brook, IL	312/338-6380
Mar 29-Apr 2	Vermont State Backgammon & Ski Festival, Stratton Mt. Inn, VT	305/527-4033
Apr 1	Springfield Series #6, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 1-2	Nation's Capital Spring Open Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Apr 9	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Apr 16	Greater New York Club Monthly, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Apr 19	RSCARDS Spring 1995 Computer Modem Tournament, GENie	800/638-9636
Apr 20*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Apr 22	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 23*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Apr 28-30	Spring Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA	619/294-2007
Apr 28-30	New England Championship, Oak & Spruce Center, South Lee, MA	603/863-4711
May 18*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
May 21*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
May 21*	Greater New York Club Monthly, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
May 26-29	Chicago Open, Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, IL	708/674-0120
Jun 11*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Jun 11*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Jun 25*	Greater New York Club Monthly, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Jun 30-Jul 3	Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI	810/232-9731
Jul 28-30	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY	716/442-8221
Aug 11-13*	33rd G/A Invitational, Grand Slam Bridge Club, Woodland Hills, CA	818/901-0464
Aug 16-20	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Sep 1-4	43rd Indiana Open, Ramada Inn East, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Sep 29-Oct 1	Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY	716/442-8221
Oct 6-8	Nation's Capital Fall Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Oct 11-15	5th Illinois Champs/America Cup, Indian Lakes Resort, Bloomington, IL	708/945-7801
Oct 27-29	Autumn Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA	619/294-2007
Nov 3-5	35th G/A Invitational, Grand Slam Bridge Club, Woodland Hills, CA	818/901-0464
Nov 3-5	Backgammon In The Berkshires, Oak & Spruce Center, South Lee, MA	603/863-4711
Nov 10-12	NY/NJ BG CO-OP Big Apple Series, Oritani Hotel, Hackensack, NJ	201/833-2915

OUTSIDE USA

Mar 11*	Hamburg-Cup, Martins, Hamburg-Altona, Germany	4940-4390044
Mar 12*	10th Turnier der Bremer Master Serie, village, Bremen/Findorff, Ger	4942-216 4517
Mar 16-19	31st Ted Bassett & Gstaad Palace-Cup, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switzerland	061-3315816
Mar 18-19	2nd Hong Kong Invitational, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-846 1923
Mar 18-19	Jægers Prisen Cup, Kignæshallen, Jægerspris, Frederiksberg, Denmark	4547-532500
Mar 23-26	21st Winter Championships, Badrutt's Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	061-3315816
Mar 31-Apr 2*	British Open Championships, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands, England	4452-536836
Apr 1-2	British Open, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands, England	44522-536836
Apr 2*	11th Turnier der Bremer Master Serie, Delmenhorst, Germany	49422-164517
Apr 3*	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Apr 8*	Hamburg-Cup, Martins, Hamburg-Altona, Germany	4940-439 0044
Apr 14-17	Nordic "Wide" Open, SAS Scandinavia Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-400 607
Apr 19-23	4th Tournament of the Americas, Herradura Hotel, San José, Costa Rica	312/252-7755
Apr 28-May 1	European Backgammon News Labour Day Tournament, Spain	3468-438349
May 1*	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
May 6*	Hamburg-Cup, Martins, Hamburg-Altona, Germany	4940-439 0044
May 26-28*	County Cups Trophy Tournament #2, George Hotel, Solihull, England	4452-236 836
Jun 9-11*	1995 Swedish Open, Arvi Hote, Farsta Stockholm, Sweden	46040-74000
Jun 15-18*	7th International Tournament City of Venice, Casino Municipale, Italy	3941-521 1029
Jun 29-Jul 2*	Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Bielefeld, Germany	49521-643 14
Jul 7-9	Monte Carlo Warm-up, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	305/527-4033
Jul 10-16	World Backgammon Championship, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	3392-162133
Jul 20-23	Riviera's Cup Championship, Hotel Martinez, Cannes, France	33141-050259
Aug 25-27*	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy Tournament #3, George Hotel, Solihull, Eng.	44522-536836
Sep 1-3*	5th Mitteleuropa Tournament, Casino Park Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392-48019343

ENQUIRER PUBLISHES NEW PHOTOS OF HOROWITZ AND CLARK

The 14 February *National Enquirer* published new photographs of former backgammon pro Gaby Horowitz and his ex-wife Marcia Clark, including one semi-nude shot. The picture shows Gaby cuddling his topless wife on a St. Tropez beach in 1979. In the photo, Clark's breasts are discreetly covered with a small "censored" bar.

41-year-old Clark is the prosecuting attorney in the O.J. Simpson murder case. She divorced Horowitz in 1980.

Enquirer reporter David Wright tracked down Gaby to a small house in Tel Aviv, Israel where he lives with his mother Clara. Horowitz has been a wheelchair-bound invalid since he was accidentally shot in the head by his writing partner Bruce Roman in 1989.

One other photo of interest shows Marcia sitting next to Gaby as he played backgammon at L.A.'s Cavendish Club. *The Enquirer*

claims that a few months after the picture was taken, Clark had a nose job.

Gaby's mom Clara is quoted as saying, "When my son watches Marcia on TV these days, tears well up in his eyes and I know he is tortured inside. It breaks my heart."

A January *National Enquirer* article about the Horowitz/Clark relationship claims that Marcia was a battered woman and that Gaby used to beat her black and blue.

"[Gaby] was a domineering bully, and the two fought all the time," said former neighbor and close friend, Deborah Lettich.

Sidney Jackson, who ran the American Backgammon Players Association in the late 1970s, recalls Gaby's violence toward Marcia occurring at a backgammon event that he attended. "Marcia began whining that she wanted to go home, and Gaby picked up a chair and threw it at her with such force that it broke against a wall."

Clark denied the incident, but Jackson claims that "50 stunned eyewitnesses" were present.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

well save someone. After all, backgammon is (or can be) a very high-stress avocation.

—William Hutchison, Bloomington, IL

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

I have a 1" brown doubling cube engraved as shown. It was given to me many years ago by John Bougry. Some people have told me it could be a backgammon collector's item. Can you or any of your readers place a value on it?—Lee Hasson, Rancho Cordova, CA

**FIRST
BACKGAMMON
\$1,000,000
TOURNAMENT
LAS VEGAS 1978**

Brown 1" doubling cube shown actual size. What's it worth?

The event that your cube commemorates was the first World Amateur Backgammon Championship held 26–29 January 1978 by ABC, Inc. Paul Magriel and the late Oswald Jacoby were used to promote the Las Vegas extravaganza. Although it had been advertised as a \$1,000,000 event, the prize pool only reached \$360,000. The winner was Canadian Chico Felderbaum who defeated Ron Rubin to earn \$180,400.

Because it's the first one we've seen in the last 10 years, we'd guess the value to be around \$50.—Ed.

MADNESS FROM MARTIN

A lot of English players fell in love with the Midwest Championships "Roll 66"

[Continued on page 5]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1995

Compiled through 19 Feb. after Pittsburgh tournament
(Coming in March: G/A Invitational, Midwest Champs, Vermont State)



Abbas Zaltash	18.00	Judy Brown	5.58	Troy Longman	2.79	Jim Roston	1.54
Jim Muirhead	11.17	Bob Green	5.58	Pete Ryder	2.79	Jessica Brandlin	0.86
Dean Adamian	9.00	William Counts	4.50	Elijah Miller	1.77	Gayle Wolf	0.86
Blake Sorem	9.00	Bob Koca	4.50	Paul Paris	1.54		



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1995 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 28 FEB.

Neil Kazaross	9.28	Ralph Levy	1.92	Bobbie Shifrin	1.08	Ali Morovati	0.64
Harry Cohn	8.72	Reggie Porter	1.80	David Rubin	0.96	Leslie Lockett	0.48
Jake Jacobs	4.28	Jolie Rubin	1.68	Alan Zimmerman	0.88	Barbara Levinson	0.48
John Demian	4.20	Amy Trudeau	1.68	Mojie Shishineh	0.88	René Wojtysiak	0.44
Richard Lloyd	3.84	Elijah Miller	1.52	Roland Dieter	0.88	Andy Bittman	0.40
Herb Roman	3.64	Gary Kay	1.52	Jeff Kane	0.88	Monica Miller	0.40
Paul Klein	3.36	Paul Friedman	1.46	Nan Feiber	0.88	Elaine Kehm	0.36
Arlene Levy	3.20	Stu Katz	1.44	Don Jayhan	0.80	Mark Murray	0.34
Mary Franks	3.00	Phyllis Smolinski	1.28	Bill Davis	0.80	Peter Kalba	0.32
Alice Kay	2.92	Frankie Farjood	1.28	John Brussel	0.76	Willie Franklin	0.32
Bill Keefe	2.56	Jon Hartman	1.28	John Stryker	0.72	Patrick Desmond	0.32
Yamin Yamin	2.40	Paul Ruteran	1.20	John O'Hagan	0.72	Ken Bond	0.24
Paul Franks	2.16	Ed Buerger	1.12	Jill Ferdinand	0.72	Tom Fahland	0.24
Tim Mabee	2.08	Georgina Flanagan	1.12	Phil Simborg	0.64	Tim Carroll	0.16
Tak Morioka	1.96	Alex Itkin	1.12				

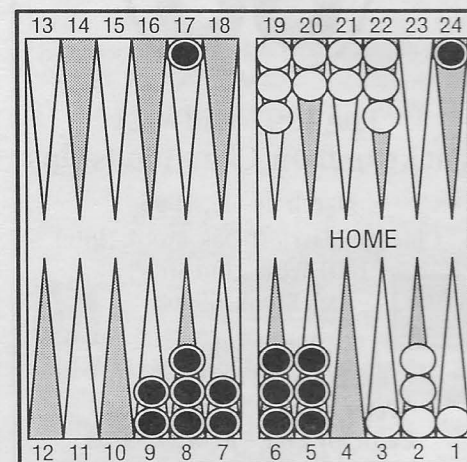
An outright victory on the last Tuesday of the Month gave **NEIL KAZAROSS** February Player of the Month honors. Neil's 4.48 points edged Harry Cohn (4.16) and Richard Lloyd (3.84).

The story was similar in January, with **NEIL KAZAROSS** (4.80) narrowly out-pointing Harry Cohn (4.56). John Demian (3.32) placed third.

If you finish in the Top 20 for 1995 (bold-faced names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st—Trophy+\$150, 2nd—\$100, 3rd—\$50. 1st through 20th—one ounce silver coin. 1st through 6th—Invitation to participate in the 1996 Illinois State Challenge Cup as a member of the Chicago Bar Point Club team.



Tournament double match-point.
BLACK TO PLAY 4-4.



SHADES OF GRAY

THE RULINGS CONTEST 2

ANSWERS

© 1995 by Danny Kleinman

Pacific Northwest Backgammon Association director Chuck Breckenridge (Edmonds, WA) matched Danny Kleinman on five out of six answers to win the \$50 first place prize in our 2nd Rulings Contest.

For the record, the Chicago Bar Point Club agrees with Danny on every answer except Number 2 where we slightly prefer (C).—Ed.

1. (C) The 2-in-8 chance at a bye the left-outs get is roughly equal to their 26-in-102 chance had the draw been complete initially. Similarly, reducing the byes initially given from 34 to 24 corresponds roughly to a decrease from 34/94 to 26/102 in the probability of drawing a bye. This restores equity approximately.

(D) unfairly penalizes the two in the final 17 who must play an extra match. (B) is unfair because it voids matches where players have already gained advantages through luck or skill. (A) restores money equity to the left-outs reasonably, but not other kinds of equity: the chance to play in, and perhaps win, a championship.

2. (B) There is only one cube in a tourna-

ment game, and here it's a 2-cube, so (A) must be excluded. Were Steve's pass of an extraneous cube inadvertent, it would be fair to let both players reconsider their cube decisions (C). But Steve's chortling makes it clear that he knew he'd doubled previously and was aware that Judy's only possible cube action was a redouble. Letting him reconsider his pass (D) would be giving him a free shot, for Judy might never have noticed the actual game cube on her side at 2.

3. (A) Mary should not be at risk. But anyone who shuffles checkers puts himself at risk, and should protect himself against challenge by drawing his opponent's attention to what he is doing. For example, while experimenting with his double-2s, Randy might remark, "Here's three 2s . . . I'm still thinking about the fourth," or "I'm going to look at a play, but I may want to take it back."

4. (C) To change the match length to 15 now (A or B) would render previous cube actions absurd and invalidate the match as a test of skill. To say nothing (D) might foster disputes should either player discover the posted match length later.

5. (C) Black may not roll (A or B), because the position as shown is not a backgammon position at all: checkers of opposite colors may not occupy the same point. White has made an incomplete, not an illegal, move. White clearly played a 5 and

a 6 and lifted her dice, so she does not have the option of choosing other moves (D). (D) would apply only if White's play were unclear. If she had moved Bar/5 (not putting Black's blot on the bar), 8/13, for example, illegally playing two 5s, then she would have to clarify: Bar/6, 8/13 (by sliding her own checker to the 6-point) or Bar/5*, 8/14 (by placing Black's checker on the bar).

6. (B) Frank has made an error not only of fact, but of procedure: it is not for him to determine or announce other players' byes. No doubt it is an innocent error. Perhaps he thought Jane had a bye simply because he saw a blank space on the draw sheet, to be filled with the name of Jane's opponent depending on the outcome of a match still in progress.

It would not be unfair to put Frank at some risk for his error, but it is too harsh to knock Frank out of the tournament (C). Jane should not have the burden of having to beat Tom once and Frank twice (A). Fatigue can be a factor in a backgammon tournament. (A) would be appropriate had Frank beaten Jane: the burden of possibly having to beat her twice would stem from his own error. Δ

Have you ever been involved in a questionable ruling? Get Danny Kleinman's opinion. Write to: Shades of Gray; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Avenue; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.

Sign of the times.



The 1995 Midwest Backgammon Championships

March 24-26, 1995

Chicago Marriott Oak Brook Hotel
1401 West 22nd Street
Oak Brook, Illinois



Information:

Bill Davis - 312/338-6380
Peter Kalba - 312/631-8350
Carol Joy Cole - 810/232-9731

U.S./Canada Open Backgammon Tournament & 17th Annual Vermont State Championship

March 29-April 2, 1995

Stratton Mountain Inn & Village Lodge, Vermont

\$70/night includes continental breakfast • (802) 297-2500 • Fax (802) 297-1778

U.S./Canada Open Wed.-Fri. Mar. 29-31

REGISTRATION: Wed. 4-10 pm, Thur. 4-10 pm, Fri. Noon-6 pm
Players may enter anytime during registration hours.

Winners of three (3) consecutive matches qualify for playoffs.
Fri. 9 pm: PLAYOFFS-Auction; Redraw. Play to conclusion.

Preliminary qualifying sessions. Staggered starting times.
Contestants may start in the tournament Wed., Thurs., or Friday, whichever day or time is convenient. Early starters have more opportunities to reenter. Reentry format enables participants freedom to enjoy resort activities, spring skiing, snow boarding, and outlet shopping in nearby Manchester.

	Open	Inter.	Begin.	
Entry Fees	\$300	\$150	\$40	All checks may be made payable to: The Farm School.
Reentry	\$100	\$30	\$10	

100% of Entry Fees returned. 50% of Reentries returned.

DOUBLES: Concurrent with other events. \$100. 100% return.

Vermont State Champs Sat.-Sun. Apr. 1-2

PLAY STARTS-Sat. 4:00 pm • PLAY CONTINUES-Sun. 11am
Conventional format, random draw. Players who lose their Main Event match will be immediately entered in Consolation.

ENTRY FEE: Open - \$250, Intermediate - \$120
80% return. Prize distribution: 80% Main Event, 20 % Cons.

DIRECTIONS: From Boston, New York City and points South, take I-91 north to exit 2 at Brattleboro, VT. Follow signs to Rt. 30, then drive 38 miles north to Bondville. From Albany, NY and points West, take NYU Rt. 7 east (becomes VT Rt. 9) to Bennington, then head north on VT Rt. 7 to Manchester. Turn right onto Rt. 11 east. Then take Rt. 30 south to Bondville. The entrance to Stratton is located in the center of Bondville. Follow the Stratton Mt. Road (4 miles) to signs for Stratton Mt. Inn.



IBA • Les & Sue Boyd • 305/527-4033

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

programme, but I am the only one thus far to have booked a flight. Wow! Am I gonna have a ball!

My doubles partner is Bill Robertie. The strange thing is that he seems to have gone ex-directory and rumours abound that he had moved to Patagonia, dyed his hair blonde and now goes by the name of Tracey. Odd thing, really.

See you March 24th. By the way, I really haven't got Bill as a doubles partner. Sign me up with Nora Luna.—*Martin Lee, West Yorkshire, England*

"FORE" CUBE

I notice the 1995 Midwest Championships invitation has an event called "Cube Golf." Could you please send us the rules?—*Ulf Ring, Swedish Backgammon Federation*

There is one very good way to play golf

with the doubling cube. Let's say you are playing for \$1 a hole. Any time when you are away, and prior to your shot, you can offer to double the stakes. Your opponent can then either drop and lose \$1, or "take the cube" and play for \$2. A gammon victory is when you win the hole by three strokes or more.

In our "Cube Golf," each MBC participant will be putting a rounded-corner die about the size of a golf ball into a "hole." Scores will be dependant on accurate putting as well as the number appearing on the die after it is putted.

We are sending you a different dice golf game: "The 19th Hole." Hope you can make a few bucks with it in the bar after a round of real golf.—*Ed.*

A CALL TO STANDARDIZE RESULTS

I'm very interested in the statistical side of backgammon. For this reason, I do a monthly update of all information about worldwide events with particular attention

Half of the beautiful bikini-clad women were photographed on location in Costa Rica. There is also an article on Costa Rican sport fishing... Congratulations to **Quint & Tippi McTyeire** on the birth of their new baby girl **Madison Gray McTyeire** born 3 February... During the Nevada State Backgammon Championships at the Eldorado Hotel, **Bob Glass** (CA) was accused of counting cards at the blackjack tables and asked to leave. He did, but returned the next day (11 February). This time, Eldorado security officers physically escorted him away from the table and into a holding room. Over one hour later, Glass was arrested by Reno police for "trespassing." He was reportedly yelling, "Is this America?" as police slapped the cuffs on him. The next day, Glass posted \$280 bail money and snuck back into the hotel to play in the Nevada State Backgammon Last Chance event. The handcuff burns on this wrists were very visible... More 1994 club Players of the Year: Double Five Backgammon Club (London, England)—**Richard Whitehouse**; Swedish Backgammon Federation—**Jorgen "Jokern" Granstedt**... We received greetings from **Hercules & Bridget Robinson** (Isle of Man) who are taking a winter cruise around St. John and Barbados... The 21 Feb. *Pittsburgh City Paper* gave four pages of coverage (including the front cover) to "Roll Players," an article about Pittsburgh backgammon featuring director **Steve Hast** and **Abbas Zaltash**... Ho-Hum Department: **Bobbie Shifrin** (IL) hit another Royal Flush jackpot while attending the Nevada State Championships. It's a wonder that all of Nevada hasn't banned her from poker machines! *Δ*

to the Championship/Open division winners, finalists and semifinalists. Unfortunately, sometimes I am unable to find these four results in any newsletter. How about standardizing published tournament results?—*Alberto Diomede, Milano, Italy*

The most difficult thing about publishing complete results is gathering them. Directors can help by sending us (and other newsletters) a complete list of their winners including both names properly spelled and the country or state where they reside.—*Ed. Δ*

PRIME BACKGAMMON CLUB SEARCHES FOR NEW LOCATION

Friday night Prime Backgammon Club tournaments remain suspended while director Joann Feinstein attempts to secure a new playing facility. The Prime Club's last play date at the Radisson Hotel in Lincolnwood, IL was 17 February. Roz Ferris, filling in for the vacationing Feinstein, received the official word that same evening. The club had been at the same location since its inception in August 1991.

A Radisson Hotel manager who did not wish to be identified said the decision was made purely for business reasons. He claimed that there was a group willing to rent the space on an occasional basis for \$150/night. The Prime Club was offered the same rental rate but rejected the proposal.

AMALGAMATION

Former Chicago backgammon player **Bernie Pygon** and wife **Dorothy** are praising the bravery of a state trooper who pulled them from their overturned van moments before the vehicle exploded in flames on 21 January. The trooper, **Roger Drew**, cut off his pursuit of a speeder to make a U-turn through a snow-covered median when he saw the Pygon's 22-foot Dodge van gliding atop an I-65 guardrail, emitting flames from the ruptured gas tank. Only seconds after he pulled the Pygons to safety, the van exploded in a ball of fire. Bernie said the only way out was a window on the passenger side. Frantically, he and Dorothy tried to kick out the glass as they saw flames licking inside the van. "I couldn't break the window," said Pygon who suffered only minor injuries. Thanks to **Al Imm** (IN) who supplied us with the information from an Associated Press story... Former Northern Nevada BG director **Mark Richardson** is excited about his new show at the Richardson Gallery of Fine Art (702/828-0888) in Reno, NV. On display through 19 March is the work of European neo-classic artist **Walter Girotto**... Remember the 1960s group "Cyrrkle?" (Their big hit was "Turn Down Day.") **Jona Alexander** (CA) who cashed in the Nevada State Championships, used to play keyboard for them. Recently, he directed the music video for "The Lion Sleeps Tonight."... If you're on the fence about attending the Tournament of the Americas this year (19–23 April), feast your eyes on the 20 February *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue.



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:15 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 Cricket's Pub & Grill, 602 W. North Ave., Glendale Hts. V. W. Zimmnicki (708/924-8632).

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Alexander's, 3101 E. 79th St., Chicago. J.A. Miller (312/768-5523).

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tourn. 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Parker's Sports Bar, 2801 Peoria Road, Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

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

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

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: New location to be announced. Joann Feinstein (708/674-0120).

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

Our Cup Runneth Over

by Jake Jacobs



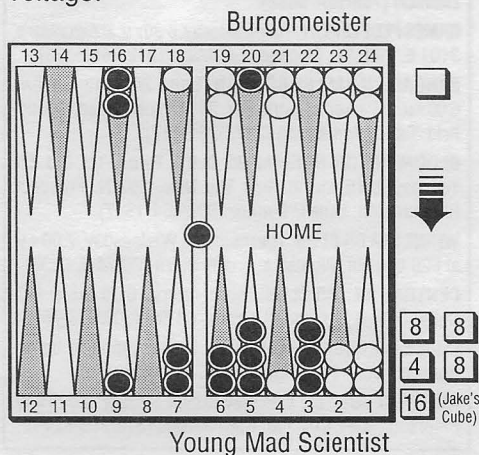
The 15th annual Illinois State Challenge Cup drew seven Illinois Clubs to "Ride The Nine" in Bloomington on 5 February. For the third time in the past four years, the Pub Club (meeting Monday nights at Cricket's in Glendale Hts.) grabbed top honors. This year, Pub Club director V.W. Zimmnicki's team was captained by Jake Jacobs. Here's Jake's account of some of the more interesting events of the day.—Ed.

We were all sitting around a pool hall in Bloomington early one Sunday morning. Not the sort of thing that sensible people do, but we were backgammon players.

Every year, the seven (next year eight) backgammon clubs of Illinois field teams comprised of their six highest-ranked master point winners willing to do something silly like drive to Bloomington, and have at each other. The winning team gets possession of "The Illinois State Challenge Cup," an heirloom neither as old as the "Little Brown Jug" nor as pretty. Still, there are bragging rights attached, and Bloomington does have a Steak-And-Shake restaurant, so there we were.

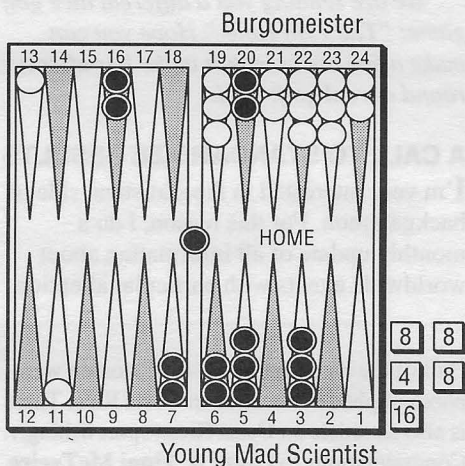
We were choutetteing. Remember that strange and menacing burgomeister played by Kenneth Mars in *Young Frankenstein*? This morning, Chicago's own Burgomeister was in the box. Opposing him was Fermilab's noted young scientist, Kurt S. When a Burgomeister faces a mad scientist, you know something monstrous is afoot.

The Burgomeister increases the cube voltage.

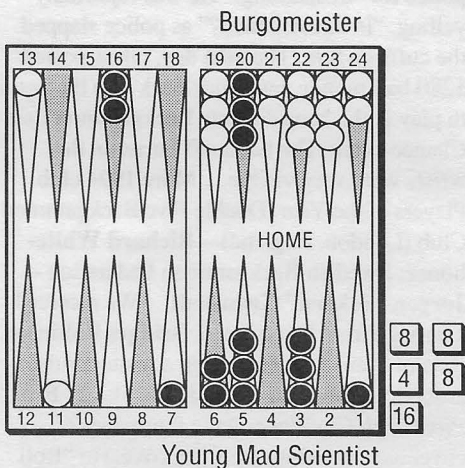


I only took the cube at 16 because I felt that two beavers in the same game might upset the ecological balance. Still, I expressed loud and public doubt about the soundness of the Burgomeister's redouble. Foolish me! Our captain showed us some of the latest developments in bioengineering: he produced a strange and deadly strain of mutant rolls, and a while later, we were just starting to grow a trifle worried about our game:

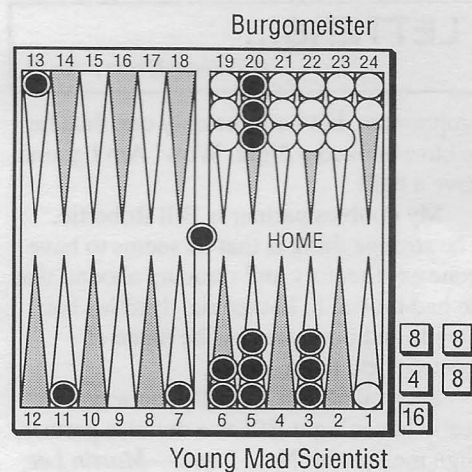
Young Mad Scientist (on shake) discovers what mutant rolling can do to a position.



"If we come in, I'm not going to pay 2 points anymore," one of our 8-cubes offered for the sixth consecutive roll. Yet even this fearsome threat failed to intimidate the Burgomeister. At this point, Kurt S. finally entered with a 5-6. Not my first choice, but who am I to quibble? We slotted our ace, and were met with the Burgomeister's 4-1:

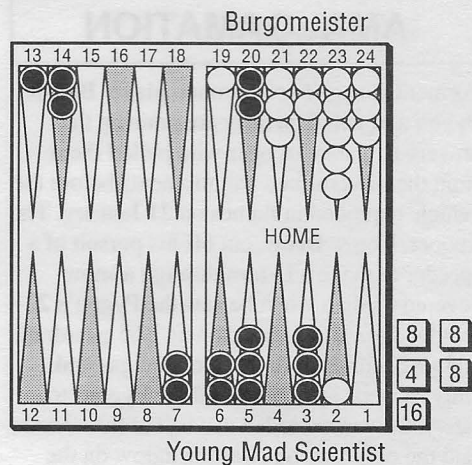


This number fails to dupe or safety anything. We know this because the Burgomeister spent the next six minutes inspecting it very carefully. Finally, he played 13/18. We responded 5-3: 16/11*, 16/13. He struck back with 1-3: Bar/24*, 18/21 (sic).



"You guys sure have a lot of builders for your bar!" Peter Kalba helpfully pointed out.

We did. We came in with 5-4 (Bar/20, 11/7). Our opponent rolled 4-2 (maybe that last 3 was wrong) 19/23, 22/24. We made our 14-point with double 3s; then he cracked with 4-1: 19/23, 1/2. After pausing the obligatory minute to snicker and smirk, we rolled 6-3:



Opinion was divergent on this one. "I want to play it big for the gammon. Hit him 5 to 2, and bring down a builder 14 to 8!" one of our team members cried.

Wonderful! And I'd like to win the lottery, but 4 (Black blots) x 4 (White inner board points) = a world of hurt. Besides, the nine times he fans, are we 100% certain this is a pass?

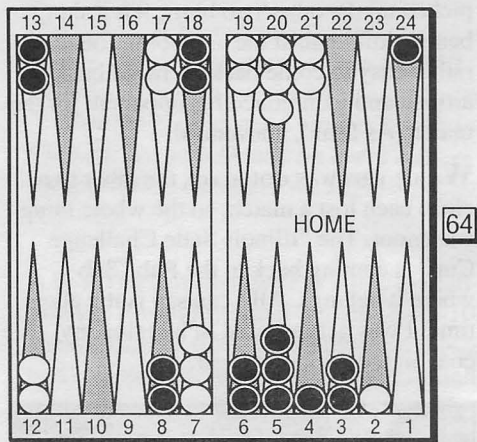
The optimists believed that there would be a gentlemanly trade-off: you pass this cube, and we won't gammon you. We pessimists suspected that redoubling would only put an even bigger bomb in the hands of the dangerously deranged. I convinced my teammates to play 20/14, 20/17. Given the results of the game, I can still hear the "thank you's." (Well, at least, the second word was "you.")

He rolled 5-3. We responded with 5-5.

PROBLEM #211 SOLVED

by Walter Trice

3rd Turkish Open 21-point finals. Bill Robertie (White) and Stu Hosen (Black) are tied at 18-all. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



In this position, Black faces a typical holding-game dilemma. His race lead (15 pips before the roll) has brought about a timing deficit. Now, 5-2 forces him to give up a key point. Candidate plays are:

- (a) 6/4, 6/1 (safe)
- (b) 13/8, 4/2* (attacking)
- (c) 8/6, 8/3 (positional)

Other plays can be discarded. For instance, 13/8, 13/11 is virtually dominated both by plays (b) and (c). Why should Black create another blot if he is not going to hit?

8/3, 4/2* is inferior to play (b), which brings another checker into the attack zone instead of creating a dilly builder.

Of the three thematically distinct plays, (a) is the worst. Although it leaves White shooting at nothing for the moment, Black's safety is an illusion. He has isolated his stripped outfield points and left himself without a good 5 to play. Also, surrendering the 6-point is a huge concession. Attacking is the only way Black can win other than by disengaging and winning the race. And attacking without a 6-point is like boxing with a broken arm.

So Black must consider whether play (b) when compared with (c), generates enough additional attacking chances to compensate for the extra risk. Disregarding Black's back man, (b) leaves 18 shots and two blots (six numbers hit both blots!) versus 11 shots and one blot for play (c). This is a substantial difference. Of course, White fans with nine numbers after (b) and

with zero numbers after (c).

In my judgement, the decisive factor is the value of Black's 4-point. Play (b) "de-slots" the 4-point to hit. If you visualize how the attack will proceed after 13/8, 4*2, you will see what the problem is. Black has so much freight to haul around the board (42 pips, or 5+ rolls, to get the men on the 18- and 24-points home), that if he fails to make his 4-point, the attack is unlikely to do him much good anyway. White will probably not be so cooperative as to dance five times in a row, and as soon as he comes in, the timing will be totally against Black.

After play (c) (8/6, 8/3), Black has a decent chance to make the slotted 4-point. His next attacking opportunity will then be more likely to succeed. The spare on the 6-point will give him a playable 5 so he can hold the outfield and run with his back man while waiting for a good shot or large doubles. If he is hit, his position will remain flexible. These positional factors, combined with lower shot risk, give play (c) a small but clear edge over play (b), with (a) a distant third. Δ

Walter Trice of Holden, MA is a world-class player and theoretician ranking 82nd in the world on the current KG Rating List.

WILCOX...

[Continued from page 1]

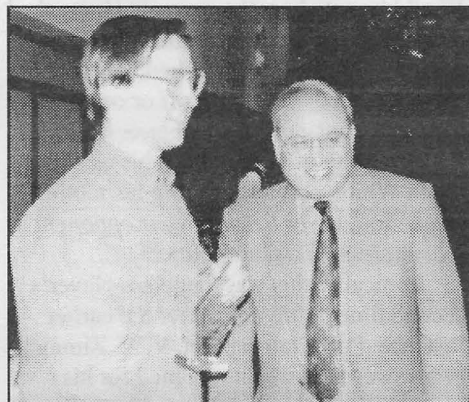
An outstanding awards cocktail party, scheduled to start at 6:00 P.M., had just begun. With the sound of food and drink preparation in the background, Wilcox pondered whether to take or drop. Six minutes into his deep thought, a cocktail waitress broke through the throng of spectators and loudly asked, "Anyone for a drink?"

Laughter broke the tension-filled silence with many acknowledging that they could use one. Wilcox took the cube and eventually was forced to leave a potential game-losing shot. But this time, Senk's aim was bad. Wilcox Snellings claimed a first place prize of over \$10,000 and got mon-key off his back in the process.

IN OTHER RESULTS, Gustav Jacobsen (DEN) showed European strength winning both the International Cup and Limited Jackpot.

Chicago's Howard Ring gave Mike Senkiewicz his first finals loss of the weekend 23-17 in the Masters Invitational. The big win netted Ring \$24,000.

Lee Hasson (CA) defeated Chicagoan David Rubin 15-10 in the Nevada State



Howard Ring (left) accepts his Masters Invitational trophy from NBA director Howard Markowitz. [Photo by Nora Luna.]

Intermediate division. Also among Intermediates, 2500-rated chess master Jonathan Schroer (NC) broke into the backgammon world in a big way winning the Intermediate International Cup and cashing in two other events.

Mac McCann won both Beginner events. And finally, Butch Meese (IN) won the combined 188 entrant Last Chance tourney.

THE LAS VEGAS OPEN will be the next Nevada Backgammon Association tournament. Mark your calendar for 16-20 August at the Riviera Hotel. Δ

KAZAROSS AND OTHERS HONORED AT CBPC AWARDS NIGHT

Chicago Bar Point Club honored its Top 20 players of 1994 at the Golden Flame 17 January. Thanks to the Leberis family (Golden Flame proprietors) and our hostess Rose Gecht for another great year.



1994 Chicago Bar Point Club Top 3: Tak Morioka (3rd), Neil Kazaross (1st), Herb Roman (3rd).



Top 20: (Front) A. Kay, P. Smolinski, L. Lockett, N. Shyer. (In back) G. Kay, P. Friedman, J. Feinstein, D. Rubin, P. Franks, A. Zimmerman, J. Jacobs, S. Serges, T. Mabee, S. Katz, P. Kalba, D. Jayhan.

WINNER'S CORNER



Jan.-Feb 1995

Hong Kong Monthly (Hong Kong; 2 Jan.)... OPEN: 1-Thomas Kong, 2-Andre Hoffman; 1C-Marc Mostacci, 2C-John Simon. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Richard Goss, 2-Sunil Balani; 1C-Lorenzo Andriolo, 2C-John Schneeberger.

Danish Mixed Doubles (Copenhagen, Denmark; 7-8 Jan.)... OPEN (26 teams): 1-Gitte Dalgaard & John Sjølin, 2-Annelise Wagner & Håkon Nilsson, 3-Malene Aktor & Lars Hansen, 4-Yvonne Hjorttind & Rene Rasmussen.

Nation's Capital Winter Open (Bethesda, MD; 14-15 Jan.)... OPEN (30): 1-Stephen Lentz (VA), 2-Roger Williamson, 1C-Dennis Culpepper (VA), 4-Mark Davis; 1LC-Andy Palumbo (NY)... *Results supplied by Beltway Backgammon Club director Barry Steinberg.*

Pittsburgh University Tournament (Pittsburgh, PA; 22 Jan.)... OPEN (16): 1-Joe Miller (OH), 2-Todd Doucet, 3-Jeff Boats. NOVICE (94): 1-Fran Miller (OH)

NEBC Monthly (Cambridge, MA; 22 Jan.)... EXPERT (30): 1-Evan Diamond, 2-Mike Nelson, 3/4-Dan Judd / Garbis Zerdelian; 1C-Rich Sweetman, 2C-Albert Steg. A DIV. (18): 1-Ming Lee, 2-Mark Damish, 3/4-Ernesto Adrienzen / Janet Reddock; 1C-Jim Sullivan, 2C-Dennis Malkowski.

Hawthorne Backgammon Classic (Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL; 28 Jan.)... OPEN (25): 1-Harry Cohn, 2-Neil Kazaross, 3/4-John O'Hagan (IN) / John Stryker; 1C/2C-John Brussel / John Demian. INTERMEDIATE (22):

1-Amy Trudeau, 2-René Wojtysiak, 3/4-Patrick Desmond / Willie Franklin; 1C/2C-Paul Friedman / Mark Murray... *In the Open, Cohn came from behind to defeat Kazaross 5-4. In the Intermediate, Trudeau needed a doubles to stay alive in the semifinals, but whipped Wojtysiak 5-0 in the finals. Thanks to Hawthorne's Paula Domingue and Caryl Meadows for their help in staging this event.*

Super Bowl Party Tournament (Northville, MI; 29 Jan.)... OPEN (32): 1-Ralph Dietz, 2-Jack Takala, 3/4-Mick Nowak / Harry Tokatlian. OVERFLOW (8): 1-Gail Latter, 2-Ron Wolton... *Cavendish Club's Joe Sylvester and Troy Longman organized the event, hosted by Than & Judy Field.*

7th Pro-Am Invitational (Paradise Island, Bahamas; 2-5 Feb.)... PRO-AM DOUBLES (18): 1-Paul Magriel & Steve Zolotow (NY), 2-Nack Ballard (CA) & Emil Mortuk (MI), 3/4-Malcolm Davis & Tallmadge Tinsley (TX) / Gustav Jacobsen (DEN) & Tino Lechich (AUSL). SAT-ELLITE DOUBLES (12): 1-Jason Lester & Harry Madoff (NY). \$2000 JACKPOT #1 (11): 1-Kazuhiro Shino (UK), 2-Huck Seed (CA). \$2000 JACKPOT #2 (8): 1-Maurice Elganyan (UK), 2-Mike Senkiewicz (NY). TENNIS: 1-Mike Madoff & Mike Senkiewicz, 2-Drew Giovanis & Wilcox Snellings... *Magriel (who won the event in 1994) & Zolotow defeated Ballard & Mortuk 25-8. Lewis Deyong directed.*

New York Chess & Games Sunday (New York, NY; 5 Feb.)... OPEN: 1-Bernhard Vennekohl, 2-Wayne King... *Steve Manning reports that two of the entrants participated via the FIBS internet: 2nd place finisher King (New Jersey) and Peter Schneider (Germany). An international first!*

25th Willowbank Invitational (Shelburne, VT;

5 Feb.)... OPEN (25): 1-Lincoln Bedell, 2-Bob Lumbra; 1C-Jim Kilday, 2C-Sarah Soule; 1LC-Gardner Soule... *Bedell defended his title by beating Lumbra 15-14. Despite 20 inches of show and wind chills of 40° below zero, tourney host Gardner Soule reports a memorable 25th anniversary event. Third generation players participated. The 1996 tourney is being scheduled for a warmer month.*

17th Pittsburgh Championships—ABT (Pittsburgh, PA; 17-19 Feb.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (45): 1-Abbas Zaltash (PA), 2-Blake Sorem (MD), 3-William Counts (MD); 1C-Dan Adamian (MI), 2C-Bob Koca (PA). ADVANCED (62): 1-Jim Muirhead, 2-Judy Brown (NY), 3-Troy Longman (MI); 1C-Bob Green (OH), 2C-Pete Ryder (OH), 3C/4C-Paul Paris, Jim Roston (NY). LTD (14): 1-Elijah Miller (IL), 2-Gail Wolf (MI); 1C-Jessica Brandlin (NY). MASTERS JACKPOT (12): 1-Rainer Birkle (GER), 2-Joe Sylvester (MI). AMATEUR JACKPOT (16): 1-Pete Ryder, 2-Sakura Sugawara (MA). DOUBLES (16): 1-Bill Davis (IL) & Bob Green (OH), 2-John Carrico (MI) & Antoinette Williams (NY). LTD DOUBLES (8): 1-Greg Shoults & Bret Marzalf. MICRO-BLITZ (64): 1-Howard Shirey, 2-Renée Rosenbloom (NY)... *Zaltash defeated FIBS player Sorem 11-6. Other FIBS players including Birkle and Koca made a strong showing. Director Steve Hast was elated with the record turnout. The secret? Backgammon, food & fun!*

Bar Point Club Doubles (Oak Brook, IL; 26 Feb.)... OPEN (18 teams): 1/2-Harry Cohn & Bobbie Shifrin / Mary Franks & Jake Jacobs, 3/4-Leslie Lockett & Tak Morioka / Barbara Levinson & Yamin Yamin; 1C-Jill Ferdinand & Neil Kazaross, 2C-Elijah Miller & Monica Miller. Δ

ACE POINT BACKGAMMON CLUB

Michael Valentine, Director

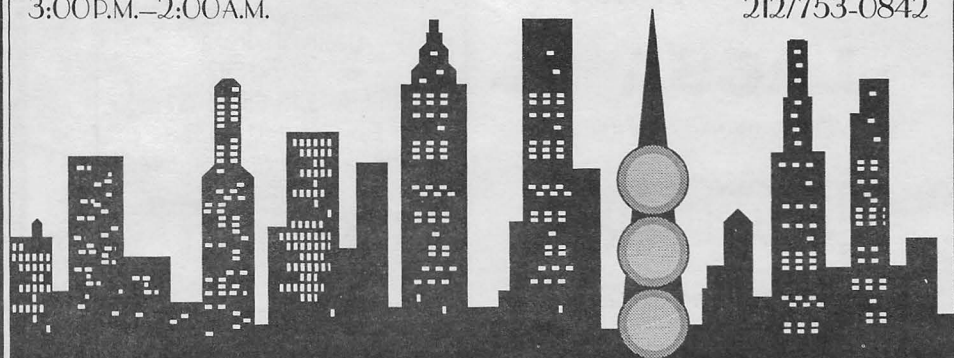
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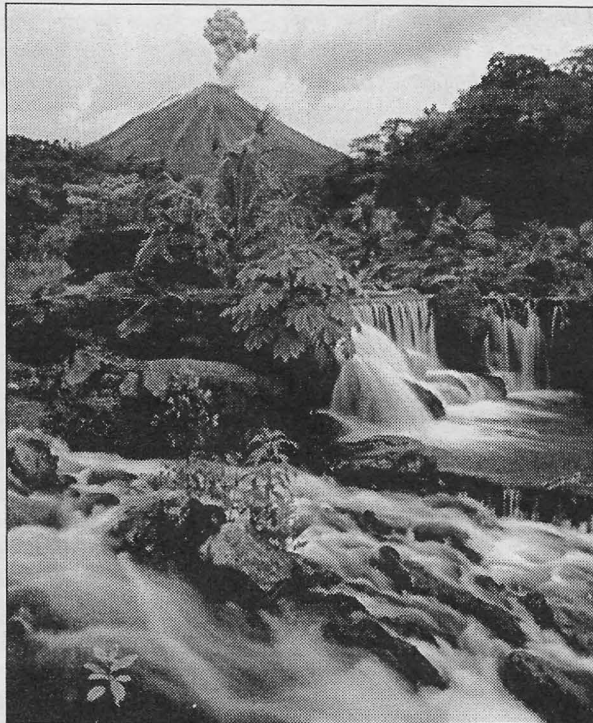


1994 ABT CHAMPS CROWNED

Over 100 players were on hand as Neil Kazaross received the American Backgammon Tour Champion's trophy for 1994. The award was presented at the Pittsburgh Championships charity auction 18 February. Pittsburgh was the kickoff event of the 1995 ABT season.



1994 ABT Champions gather in Pittsburgh. (From left) Patrick Gibson (2nd), Neil Kazaross (1st) and Abbas Zaltash (3rd).



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