

Cubes and Gammons Near the End of the Match

Reviewed by Neil Kazaross

Cubes and Gammons Near the End of the Match, © 1997 by Antonio Ortega and Danny Kleinman. Soft cover, spiral bound, 122 pages. \$30.

It is my pleasure to be able to review *Cubes and Gammons Near the End of the Match*, a very fine book by Antonio Ortega and Danny Kleinman. *Cubes and Gammons* expertly covers cube handling when one side is two points from match victory. Despite the fact that it should help anyone become a better match player, I want to *talk you out of buying this book!* Why? Because if you do read and understand it, and then employ the concepts against me, I am likely to lose 2–3% more matches next year. Yes, I feel that the concepts addressed in this extremely well organized book are that valuable to the tournament player.

Following a thorough introduction, Chapter 1 starts with a discussion of doubling windows (DW) and gives lengthy DW tables for scores of needs-3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 vs. needs-2. Fear not, those with mere human memories. There is an easier way . . . gammon cost analysis (the method I use) which is discussed in the next section.

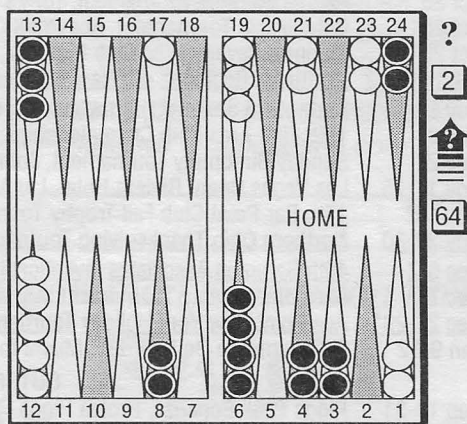
Next we are shown seven problems, mostly from early game situations, to illustrate cube handing at money play and needs-3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 vs. needs-2. As one might expect, many early game situations with reasonable gammon chances are passes for the leader in the match (depending on the score), while they'd be clear money takes due to recube power and a lower gammon cost. The reader will also benefit from seeing just how early it is beneficial to cube from an opening advantage.

Each position is rolled out 3888 times with JellyFish™ 2.0 (Level 5). In an at-

tempt to guarantee accuracy, the authors compared the rollout results for the first few positions to JF (Level 6) and interactive rollouts vs. JF. The results are close, so the remainder of the book uses the Level 5 rollouts for analysis purposes.

Next follow nine examples from actual expert play. I will discuss the first one from a Tournament of the Americas match I played vs. Mike Senkiewicz that first appeared in the book *Costa Rica 1993*.

(Page 44) Neil Kazaross (BLACK) needs 5, Mike Senkiewicz (WHITE) needs 2. **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?**



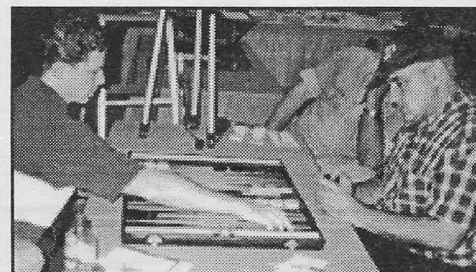
[Continued on page 7]

5th tournament of the américas

COSTA RICAN MATH: LOW ATTENDANCE = HIGH EQUITY

Antonio Ortega Wins Open Masters Title to Malcolm Davis

\$7,000 added money and only 38 total players. That's a problem entrants love to have. Such was the case at the 13–17 August Tournament of the Americas at the Meliá Cariari Hotel in San José, Costa Rica. Although attendance was low, quality and fun were at their usual high levels.



Stu Hosen (left) and Antonio Ortega battle it out in the Open finals.

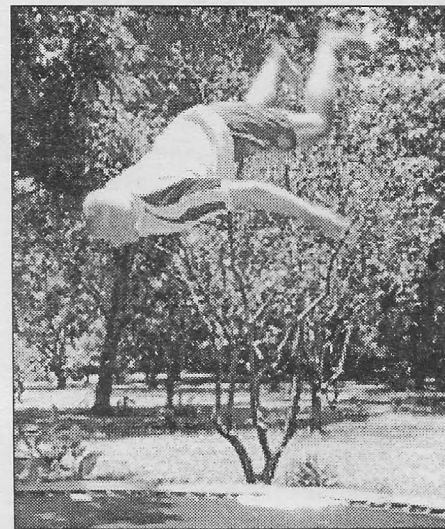
Costa Rican author Antonio Ortega and Stu Hosen (TX) successfully defeated the likes of Snellings, Davis, Heitmüller, and

[Continued on page 5]

MATTHIAS FLIPS FOR COSTA RICA

This year's Monte Carlo World Champion (Beginner division) Matthias Boekenkamp of Coesfeld, Germany enjoys a couple of back flips on the trampoline at Max and Ana Laura Esquivel's ranch party prior to the Tournament of the Americas.

Aside from the trampoline, tennis, racquetball, swimming, a delicious barbecue and backgammon were the events of the fun day. Δ



CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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MORE ON KOCA'S PARADOX

Regarding Bob Koca's letter to Danny Kleinman ["Ask Danny"] in last month's issue, here's another example of how a player with an extra checker can bear off ahead of his opponent by calling simultaneous dice.

Your position consists of 7 checkers on points 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4. My position consists of 8 checkers on points 1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4. I can call simultaneous dice and win as follows:

I call the roll 4-1 and play it by bearing off 2 checkers.

You must use the 4 to bear off a checker. If you play the ace by moving from 4 to 3, then I win by calling the roll 2-2 (bearing off 2 checkers), followed by 3-3.

If you play the ace by moving from 3 to 2 or from 2 to 1, then I win by calling the roll 3-3 (bearing off 4 checkers), followed by 4-2.

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole

810/232-9731

E-mail: cjc@flint.org

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sep 18-21 | Vermont State Championships, Stratton Mountain Inn, Stratton Mtn., VT | 704/898-5871 |
| Sep 19-21 | <u>2nd Minnesota State Championships, Minneapolis Athletic Club, MN</u> | <u>612/378-1536</u> |
| Sep 20* | Greenies Tournament, Greenies Billiards, Pikesville, MD | 410/653-7999 |
| Sep 21 | Austin Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin TX | 512/261-8518 |
| Sep 21* | Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA | 408/688-9722 |
| Sep 26-28 | <u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u> | <u>716/442-8221</u> |
| Sep 27* | Clarine's Beverly Hills Club Monthly, A.R. Club, Los Angeles, CA | 213/822-9745 |
| Sep 28* | Autumn in New York Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY | 212/753-0842 |
| Sep 28 | Atlanta Fall Doubles Tournament, Tony's Grill & Tap, Roswell, GA | 770/333-1876 |
| Oct 1* | Lanier's FIBS Monthly Tournament, via computer modem | <i>lainer@cyberbeach.net</i> |
| Oct 1* | Lanier's GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer modem | <i>tournaments@lainer.com</i> |
| Oct 1* | Third bibi's Tournament on FIBS, via computer modem | <i>gobbo@alpha.science.unin.it</i> |
| Oct 1-Dec 31 | FIBS 1997 Fall Tournament, via computer modem <davide@sco.com> | 408/438-7947 |
| Oct 2-5 | <u>Illinois State Champs & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL</u> | <u>847/945-7801</u> |
| Oct 10-12 | <u>Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u> | <u>301/530-0604</u> |
| Oct 11* | Springfield Open, Brewhaus, Springfield, IL | 217/483-4028 |
| Oct 12 | New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA | 508/829-3283 |
| Oct 16* | Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI | 810/232-9731 |
| Oct 16* | Netgammon Fall-Winter League, via computer modem | <i>tptron@goldengate.net</i> |
| Oct 19* | Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL | 773/252-7755 |
| Oct 19* | Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA | 408/688-9722 |
| Oct 17-19 | <u>Florida State Championship, Ocean Manor Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u> | <u>954/785-1282</u> |
| Oct 25* | Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's Grill & Tap, Roswell, GA | 770/333-1876 |
| Oct 25* | Octoberfest Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY | 212/753-0842 |
| Oct 25* | Clarine's Beverly Hills Club Monthly, A.R. Club, Los Angeles, CA | 213/822-9745 |
| Oct 31-Nov 2 | <u>Northeast Regional: 4th New England Championships, South Lee, MA</u> | <u>603/863-4711</u> |
| Nov 1* | Springfield Series #1, Brewhaus, Springfield, IL | 217/483-4028 |
| Nov 2* | 19th Flint Area Club Championships, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI | 810/232-9731 |
| Nov 2* | Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI | 414/672-8359 |
| Nov 11-15 | Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV | 702/893-6025 |
| Nov 18* | 15th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL | 773/583-6464 |
| Nov 28-30 | <u>Northern Ohio Thanksgiving Tournament, Holiday Inn, Canton, OH</u> | <u>330/966-2811</u> |
| Dec 5-7 | <u>40th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u> | <u>818/901-0464</u> |
| Dec 7* | Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL | 773/252-7755 |
| Dec 26-28* | <u>Ace Point New York Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u> | <u>212/753-0842</u> |
| Jan 9-12 | Backgammon On Board IV, Miami to Bahamas cruise tourney on NCL | 773/583-6464 |

OUTSIDE USA

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sep 19-21 | Piggs Peak Bonanza, Protea Piggs Peak Hotel Casino, Swaziland | 2711-4860780 |
| Sep 20-21* | Midlands Classic, Jarvis International Hotel, Solihull, England | 4416-14380966 |
| Sep 25-28 | 9th Scandinavian New Hair Clinic Open, Interpool, Malmö, Sweden | 4640-962151 |
| Sep 27-28 | Grand Torneo "Citta' di Bologna," Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy | 3933-87187324 |
| Oct 1-5 | Asian Championships, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong | 852-28461923 |
| Oct 2-7 | 4th German Open, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany | 49521-64314 |
| Oct 4-5 | 5th Irish Open, Winns Hotel, Dublin, Ireland | 3531-6689332 |
| Oct 11-12 | Berlin Cup/Havel Cup '97, Medien-Café/Café Belmont, Berlin, Germany | 4930-4619624 |
| Oct 11-12 | De Åbne Fynsmesterskaber, Bridge Unionens Lokaler, Odense, Denmark | 4566-106008 |
| Oct 17-19 | Swiss Championships '97, Kursaal, Bern, Switzerland | 4179-3584825 |
| Oct 18-19 | Sandy Osborne Memorial Trophy, Hilton Nat'l, Milton Keynes, England | 441522-546993 |
| Oct 23-26 | South American Tournament & 6th World Cup, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | 5521-2478594 |
| Oct 29-Nov 2 | Grand Prix de Suisse, Hotel Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switzerland | 4179-3374425 |
| Oct 31-Nov 2 | Swedish Open, First Hotel Amaranten, Stockholm, Sweden | 468-6523033 |
| Nov 1-2 | BIBA Divisional Swiss/League, Hilton National, Bracknell, England | 441372-21000 |
| Nov 1-2* | United Kingdom Classic, Jarvis International Hotel, Solihull, England | 44161-4380966 |
| Nov 1-3 | 3rd Japan Open 1997, Tokyo, Japan | 813-33733814 |
| Nov 8-9 | Frederiksberg Open 1997, Copenhagen, Denmark | 4539-400607 |
| Nov 12-16 | 1st Moscow Open, World Trade Center Hotel, Moscow, Russia | 7095333-6355 |
| Nov 15-16 | Berlin Cup/Havel Cup '97, Medien-Café/Café Belmont, Berlin, Germany | 4930-4619624 |
| Nov 15-16 | Grand Torneo "Citta di Bologna," Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy | 393387-187324 |
| Nov 22-23 | Townharbour TT Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Milton Keynes, England | 441522-546993 |
| Nov 29-30* | DM 1997 & DM U/21, Copenhagen, Denmark | 4539-400607 |
| Dec 5-8* | Santa Claus Tournament, Spielcasino Aachen, Aachen, Germany | 4940-8306415 |
| Dec 6-7* | Åbne Bornholmske Mesterskaber, Hotel Griffen, Rønne, Denmark | 4556-951215 |
| Dec 13-14* | 11th National Championship, Jarvis International Hotel, Solihull, England | 44161-4380966 |
| Dec 18-22* | Neurenberger Castle Tournament, Neurenberg, Germany | 49911-737514 |
| Jan 9-18 | World Cup Challenge IV & SuperJackpot, Conrad Istanbul, Turkey | 972-36727063 |
| Jan 15-18* | Thailand Open, 19th Hole Super Pub, South Pattaya, Thailand | 6638-429152 |

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

Hence the 7 checker position (which is a better position than the 8 checker position in most scenarios) is not better in *all* scenarios, which as Danny Kleinman wrote, is somewhat counter-intuitive. If nothing

else, it could be the basis for a cute hustle.—*Art Benjamin, Pasadena, CA*

GOOD NEWS

I returned from Costa Rica last month to find a *most* bizarre package: the teal green ultrasuede set that was stolen from the 1995 Michigan Summer Championships boutique. It was virtually intact and clean,

mailed from one state with an incorrect return address from another.

The enclosed unsigned note read: "I did not know this was not rite [*sic*] when someone sold it to me in parking lot after L.V. tourn. I should have known better."

Looks like someone read your July 1997 editorial on thievery at backgammon tournaments ["The Stranger Among Us"] and decided to give it up.—*Carol Joy Cole, Flint Area BackgammonNews, Flint, MI*



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1997

Top 100 through 1 Sept. 1997 after 10 tournaments
(Coming: Minn. State, Towpath Inn, Illinois State, Nation's Capital, Fla. State)



| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------------------|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Doug Mayfield | 35.36 | Jim McGirr | 9.53 | David Haddad | 4.52 | Nayan Shah | 2.64 |
| Art Benjamin | 31.00 | Reza Nowbar | 9.30 | Ed Zell | 4.38 | Luisa Sequeira | 2.61 |
| John O'Hagan | 27.75 | Ed King | 8.84 | Michael Rayner | 4.36 | Gary Stern | 2.46 |
| Fred Kalantari | 22.88 | Marty Storer | 8.31 | Frank Talbot | 4.16 | Denny Leatherman | 2.45 |
| Doug Roberts | 20.59 | Sam Pottle | 7.31 | John Jennings | 4.16 | Paul Friedman | 2.40 |
| Rob Maier | 17.94 | Eliot Bean | 7.09 | Jim Muirhead | 4.00 | N. Laaly | 2.34 |
| Stuart Hosen | 17.09 | Garro Tchalabian | 7.09 | Elliott Winslow | 3.97 | Paul Stokes | 2.34 |
| Mike Giordano | 15.50 | Phil Simborg | 6.61 | Perry Gartner | 3.97 | Phyllis Smolinski | 2.26 |
| Ray Fogelund | 15.50 | Mike Senkiewicz | 6.58 | Bob Hill | 3.88 | Bobbie Shifrin | 2.19 |
| Alex Caraplis | 15.50 | Andy Palumbo | 6.40 | Andy Rubien | 3.88 | Curtis Lucas | 2.19 |
| Jon Stephens | 15.31 | Richard Del Furia | 5.70 | Rick Barabino | 3.88 | Janice Newman | 2.08 |
| John Brussel | 13.49 | Ray Bills | 5.60 | Emil Mortuk | 3.88 | Judy Field | 2.08 |
| Harry Tokatljan | 12.75 | Allen Levien | 5.28 | Joe Freedman | 3.78 | Gary Marchenia | 2.07 |
| Hal Heinrich | 12.55 | Abbas Zaltash | 5.28 | Fred Badagnani | 3.60 | Mike McGill | 2.02 |
| Steve Klesker | 11.44 | Drew Giovanis | 5.28 | Bill Phipps | 3.59 | Mel Handelsman | 1.96 |
| David Wells | 11.33 | Alice Kay | 5.23 | John Bryant | 3.30 | Jolie Rubin | 1.76 |
| Harvey Huie | 11.20 | Hunter Jones | 5.20 | Rick Bieniak | 3.29 | Wanda de la Barre | 1.75 |
| Rich Catalano | 10.56 | Lee Genud | 5.08 | Bruce Russell | 3.26 | Jason Mucklow | 1.62 |
| Mike Friedman | 10.56 | Tim Mabee | 5.06 | Jay Ward | 3.20 | Brian Menkes | 1.56 |
| Nack Ballard | 10.45 | Frank Frigo | 5.06 | Ron Bruns | 3.19 | Mike Rezai | 1.56 |
| Peter Kalba | 10.12 | Malcolm Davis | 4.93 | Ron Genter | 3.19 | Larry Yudin | 1.56 |
| Steve Hast | 10.12 | Terry Kayser | 4.90 | Sonja Peacock | 3.14 | Joe Davidson | 1.40 |
| Steve Sax | 9.82 | Richard Heinz | 4.75 | Neil Young | 2.83 | Janet Stam | 1.39 |
| Joann Feinstein | 9.61 | Chester Warzel | 4.75 | Reza Zaltash | 2.82 | Peaches Stewart | 1.34 |
| Wally Kuester | 9.54 | Carlos Hamon | 4.66 | David Levine | 2.64 | Kim Starbuck | 1.34 |

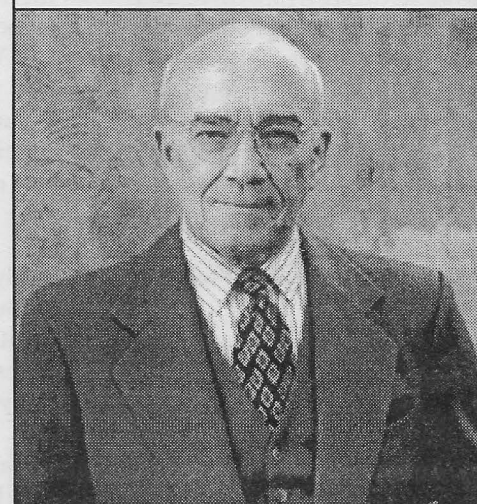
KIT'S ANALYSES

I would like to find out what it would cost to get reprints of all of Kit Woolsey's Chicago Point problem analyses. I have particularly enjoyed how he explains the solutions.—*Keith Jackson, Pomfret, MD*

[Continued from page 5]

WHO IS THIS OLD TIMER?

Answer on page 5



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1997 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 AUG.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------|------|------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Neil Kazaross | 17.40 | Don Jayhan | 5.52 | Jolie Rubin | 0.96 | Greg Tomlin | 0.60 |
| Harry Cohn | 12.40 | Joe Wollick | 5.36 | Jill Ferdinand | 0.92 | Dave Cramer | 0.60 |
| Rick Bieniak | 12.28 | John Demian | 5.12 | Marty Tatosian | 0.88 | Tom Meyer | 0.56 |
| Paul Franks | 12.16 | Stu Katz | 4.88 | Elliott Winslow | 0.88 | Steve Klesker | 0.56 |
| Herb Roman | 11.84 | Ken Bond | 4.88 | Chuck Bower | 0.88 | Yamin Yamin | 0.56 |
| Gary Kay | 11.40 | Tak Morioka | 4.76 | John Stryker | 0.88 | Scott Richardson | 0.48 |
| Alice Kay | 10.24 | Bobbie Shifrin | 4.60 | Femi Owiku | 0.88 | Todd Hengsteler | 0.48 |
| Phil Simborg | 9.36 | Bob Koca | 4.32 | Larry Strommen | 0.80 | Ken Tyszko | 0.48 |
| Bill Keefe | 8.80 | Arlene Levy | 3.76 | Phil Barrett | 0.80 | Georgina Flanagan | 0.48 |
| Bob Zavoral | 8.56 | Fred Badagnani | 2.80 | Roland Dieter | 0.80 | Roz Ferris | 0.44 |
| Joann Feinstein | 8.44 | Amy Valerio | 2.60 | Barbara Levinson | 0.76 | Jodie Feinstein | 0.32 |
| Paul Friedman | 8.36 | Richard Lloyd | 2.56 | Tim Helms | 0.72 | Jay Ward | 0.28 |
| Bill Davis | 7.36 | Roger Hickman | 2.48 | Laila Leonhardt | 0.72 | Sam Pottle | 0.24 |
| Paul Klein | 7.32 | Wendy Kaplan | 2.44 | Reggie Porter | 0.72 | Sarg Serges | 0.24 |
| Jake Jacobs | 7.12 | Jerry Brooks | 2.16 | John Brussel | 0.68 | Nan Feiber | 0.24 |
| Peter Kalba | 7.12 | Mary Franks | 2.08 | V.W. Zimnicki | 0.64 | Todd Permut | 0.24 |
| Ed Buerger | 7.12 | Frankie Farjood | 1.92 | Mark Murray | 0.64 | Romeo Kap | 0.24 |
| Tim Mabee | 6.68 | Michael Wilhoyt | 1.84 | David Wells | 0.64 | Elaine Kehm | 0.20 |
| Leslie Lockett | 6.48 | John Jennings | 1.60 | Joe Esfahani | 0.64 | Diva Lauren | 0.16 |
| Norma Shyer | 6.04 | Dan Simborg | 1.28 | Bob Steen | 0.64 | Karen Meyer | 0.12 |
| Phyllis Smolinski | 5.80 | | | | | | |

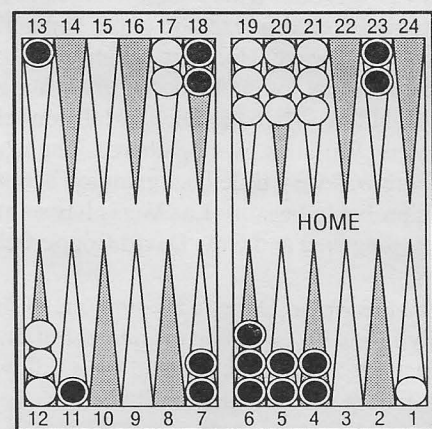
ED BUERGER split two tournaments in August to earn 3.84 points and become the Player of the Month. Runners-up were Neil Kazaross (3.20) and Paul Friedman (2.96).

your move

PROBLEM #237

to be analyzed by Harry Cohn

Match to 9 points. White leads Black, 4 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-5.**



I ♥ LAS VEGAS

by Laila Leonhardt

The night is pitch black outside. The humming of the engine slowly weakens as the plane starts its descent into Las Vegas. A playful wind rocks the huge jet. Gazing out the window, my eyes are met by millions of lights from the desert below. I breathe deep trying to hide my excitement. Las Vegas! City of gambling, decadence, hustlers, and organized crime. Even though I had never been to Vegas, the picture was already painted in my mind.

The dull bump of landing wheels touching the runway; the noise of the flaps struggling with the wind. My mind envisions glimpses and images of prior scenes of Vegas from the wide screen. An airport is an airport until you have been to Las Vegas. Stepping out of the plane, walking through the finger to the gate looks just like any other airport, but here all similarity stops. At the gate, there are hundreds of slot machines occupied with people hypnotically inserting bills and pushing buttons. Everywhere you look, slot machines and flashing lights. Their sounds announcing winners, coins rattling against the metal.

After 21 hours of travel, 15 of them in a plane, I feel as if I am only partly present. The confusion of the many impressions, the weird little slip you get when you pick up your luggage; the woman checking if the luggage is yours. I am feeling exhausted.

I walk outside to a line of cabs. An old knocked-about cab, with an old smiling, friendly cabdriver is dispatched to me. I get in. All the windows are open. The cool air blows furiously as we drive away from the airport, en route to the Riviera Hotel. The cabdriver is seemingly talkative, but I am too tired to talk much. He lets me smoke in the cab, while he starts telling me the stories of Vegas—its hotels, and how he has been coming back to live in Vegas for the past 35 years. I ask him to take me for a tour around all the Strip and downtown. I don't recall much of the things he told me, my mind was overloaded with travel and impression. I noticed one thing though. Not wearing a wristwatch myself, I always notice the time on the clocks I pass on my way. In Vegas, I saw no clocks.

After a short hour of touring in my windy taxi, I arrived at the Riviera Hotel. The distant sounds of slot machines was everywhere. People shouting from some table—people everywhere. Gazes like zombies, small plastic jars with coins, happy laughing couples, young people, old people.

Checked in and went to my room. A pleasant surprise. A huge spacious room with a large bed. A table and two chairs by the window, and a view down the strip, overlooking the Treasure Island and Mirage Hotels. Examining my room I found a safe in the closet, but no alarm clock, no watch.

In spite of the nine-hour time difference with Denmark, I never suffered from jet-lag in Vegas. Everything is open 24 hours. Las Vegas never sleeps, and unless you look out the window from your room, there are not many ways to tell if it is day or night. The casinos for sure don't let you know!

What surprised me the most was the weather. A blonde, all set to go to the desert doesn't expect cold windy weather. And cold it was. The first couple of days the cold desert wind would freeze you to the bone. Then a sudden change of weather, and a veritable heat wave. Hot, dry, beautiful.

The five-day tournament was great fun. All the heroes, Kit Woolsey, Bill Robertie, Kent Goulding, Malcolm Davis, Hal Henrich and of course the queen of backgammon, Antoinette Williams, were gathered. The whole atmosphere was relaxed, friendly and fun.

There was very little backgammon action at night after the tournament matches. That's probably because Las Vegas has so much to offer. Name talent, concerts, magic shows (Siegfried and Roy, David Copperfield), Cirque du Soleil. It's an overload on the senses.

The Las Vegas Open is for sure one of the best run tournaments I have ever attended. Totally fascinated with the excitement of the tournament, and the decadence and adrenaline that Vegas inspires, I stayed for a full two weeks.

You have seen nothing until you have been to Las Vegas. I ♥ Las Vegas.

Just a blonde gal from across the puddle.—Laila



lady@pip.
dknet.dk

Know The Code

by Phil Simborg & Stu Katz

If you're like most of us, you're sick of hearing your friends tell you about how they lost a game or a match that just "couldn't be lost." You're tired of hearing things like:

- "My opponent rolled 2-6 from the bar to win the match."
- "I danced twice in a row on a one-pt. board."
- "The idiot rolled double one's to backgammon me."

Stu Katz and I both got sick of hearing it from each other, so we developed a system. This system has saved us hours of valuable time and greatly enhanced the quality of our lives. We now want to share it with all of you so that, in the future, when you're telling us about "the disgusting, almost impossible way" you lost the match, you can spare us the gory details.

It's easy. We've simply numbered all the typical horror situations, and when one of them arises, we only have to say to each other, "He rolled a No. 4." Or whatever. Here's the code:

No. 1 You danced once or more on a one or two point board.

No. 2 He rolled the only number to hit you and win the game.

No. 3 He rolled many doubles in the bear off and beat you.

No. 4 You were down to 2 or 3 checkers on your 2-point, rolled a one, got hit and lost.

No. 5 You couldn't roll a number higher than a 3 for four or more turns and had to break your prime; but you should still have won until he rolled a perfecta.

No. 6 He made horrible plays, while you played like a master; but he rolled out of his kazoo and beat you anyway.

No. 7 He took the worst double you've ever seen and was sure to get gammoned, but he rolled a joker and won.

No. 8 You rolled the perfect number to win the game, but the dice were cocked.

No. 9 You know he rolled a 2-1, but he swore it was a 1-1, and the tournament director made you flip a coin and you lost. And you lost.

No. 10 He went to the bathroom and you're certain he either ran to his car and used JellyFish or he talked to Jake Jacobs and found out what to do.

So in the future, please don't bother us with long, sad stories . . . just *know the code!* And by the way, if we reply, "No. 1 Response," that means: "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn!" Δ



LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

Kit has been analyzing the even-numbered problems since Problem #144. That's a total of 47 problems thus far. The price of back issues is \$3 per issue, or \$2.50 on orders of 10 or more. Perhaps one day, we will make an anthology of Kit's problems in book form, but that is a number of years off.—Ed.

VANITY PLATE IDEAS

May I suggest, that you re-christen your car's vanity plates, not with "BLOT," lest you encourage another hit, but with "CHECKER." Fortunately for all of us, you've twice escaped serious injury—we'd be at loose ends without you! Here's hoping for your continued safety.—*Beth Skillman, director, Backgammon By The Bay, Aptos, CA*

Sorry to hear about your second unfortunate accident. I agree that with the way you are getting hit, you *should* change your vanity plate, but I was thinking along the lines of: "HIT ME 2."—*Ed Zell, Peoria, IL*

WARNING NOTICE

I, Maurice Barie, do not have any business affiliation with Mark Domanski. He is not authorized to buy or sell backgammon or chess books on my behalf. Procurement of money by Mr. Domanski, with promises of future delivery of backgammon books from me, will not be honored. You must transact business directly with me.—*Maurice Barie, Ferndale, MI*

CLOCK PROBLEMS IN BACKGAMMON

I have a question regarding the use of chess clocks to speed up elimination tournament play. In a recent match, I successfully enacted a trap play which eventually led to my building a 5-point board and then hitting loose in an effort to close out my opponent. But every time I hit loose and slotted, he entered rehit. That scenario repeated itself for nearly one hour!

Well, I eventually closed out three checkers and won, but what if a chess clock had been on the match? Certainly my moves were far more difficult than those of my opponent. If a device could be made that factors in the number of moves (as with chess), that would solve the problem. What do you think?

With that in mind, I think directors who employ a chess clock should be liberal about the time allotted. For example, is 25 minutes for each player really enough for a 7-point match—especially for players who

have never used a chess clock? Would giving an extra 5 minutes per player really be so bad? What do you think is a fair time allotment?

Also, how do you deal with slow play and players who slow the entire tournament down for everyone?—*Name withheld upon request*

We only use clocks at the Bar Point Club as a deterrent against slow play. And it has worked. There has been no need to use a clock during weekly play in over a year. It seems just the threat of playing with a clock speeds up the slower players.

We lean against making clocks the regular tournament standard for one simple reason: the more skill we add to the game, the less chance average players will have of cashing; hence, the less likely they'll be to pay entry fees of \$100, \$200, \$300 or more. Of course clock play is a different story for master level tournaments. The more skill the better.

We use the CBPC Backgammon Clock Rules (1995) which gives 35 minutes for a 7-point match. For a copy of these rules, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155.—Ed. Δ

WHO IS THIS OLD TIMER? . . .

[From page 3]

It's Richard Armbruster of Los Angeles, California! Richard just completed touring Canada playing the venerable Cecil B DeMille in "Sunset Boulevard."



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
773/583-6464
Peter Kalba
773/252-7755

Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago; 773/792-0424.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar, 5 E. Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/932-9323.

PUB CLUB: Tourn. Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Harpo's, 290 S. Schmale, Carol Stream. V. W. Zimnicki (630/924-8632).

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at The Clique, 2347 S. Michigan, Chicago. Reggie Porter (773/471-5066).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Gary Daniels (309/452-3034)

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Brewhaus, 617 E. Washington, Springfield. Ben Zemaitis (217/483-4028).

WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537).

CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB: Tournaments 1st Thursday monthly, 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect., Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

COSTA RICA...

[Continued from page 1]

Levermann to reach the 21-point finals. It looked like a walkover as Hosen jumped into a 10-0 lead after three games. But by game 7, it was Ortega with a 16-12 lead!

Although Hosen brought the score back to 19-17 down, he eventually lost 21-17.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Gayle & Wally Wolf who battled in the Intermediate division finals like "husband and wife." Gayle coked out a close one for her first major title. Congratulations also, to Texans Malcolm Davis and Diane Haley, Cariari winners in the Master and Limited divisions respectively.

And Congratulations to the Costa Rican Backgammon Association who despite the small numbers, managed to once again throw a memorable tournament party. Δ



Intermediate victor Gayle Wolf (right) shares her moment with husband (and runner-up) Wally at the awards presentation.



More Costa Rican winners. Cariari Masters champion Malcolm Davis and Novice victor Danielle Bastarache.

5TH TOURNAMENT OF THE AMÉRICAS

OPEN (18): 1-Antonio Ortega (CR), 2-Stu Hosen (TX); 1C-Peter Heitmüller (GER); 1LC-Wilcox Snellings (NV). **INTERMEDIATE (14):** 1-Gayle Wolf (MI), 2-Wally Wolf (MI); 1C-Jorge Tsao (CR); 1LC-Mario Lizano (CR). **NOVICE (6):** 1-Danielle Bastarache (FL), 2-Dianne Lehrer (FL); 1C-Adriana Chavarria (CR); 1LC-Matt Armbruster (CA). **CARIARI MASTERS (4):** 1-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2-Stu Hosen (TX). **CARIARI LIMITED (10):** 1-Diane Haley (TX), 2-Mike Fujita (HI). **DOUBLES (8):** 1-Antonio Ortega & Jorge Tsao (CR), 2-Peter Kalba (IL) & Ray Fogerlund (CA). **BLITZ (64):** 1-Lee Genud (FL), 2-Jorge Tsao (CR). **PIG-ROLLING:** 1-Milton Gonzalez (CR).

WINNER'S CIRCLE



Jun.—Sep. 1997

•**NEBC 96/97 Club Championships** (1-2 Jun.)... EXPERT DIVISION (7): 1-Herb Gurland. A DIVISION (7): 1-Jim Williams.

•**3rd Kaiserbrunnen Cup** (Brakel, Germany; 26-29 Jun.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Dirk Schieman (GER), 2-Peter Heitmüller (GER); 1C-Ekrem Basdas; 1LC-Peter Naguib. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Roland Sauter (GER), 2-Willi Preskar (NETH); 1C-Soren Betak (DEN); 1LC-Hans Peter Janzen (GER). BEGINNER: 1-Ingrid Weiss (GER), 2-Dieter Münster (GER). BLITZ: 1-Peter Naguib (GER). SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Thomas Braemer (DEN), 2-Dag Kemark (NOR). LADIES CUP: 1-Mariana Wickel, 2-Birgitt Scheuerling. TENNIS: Harald Johanni, MINI-GOLF: Helmut Klug, ARCHERY: Gordon Cross.

•**Summer Open** (Bethesda, MD; 12 Jul.)... OPEN (18): 1/2-Elayne Feinstein (FL) / Robert Faucon; 1C-Joseph Freedman; 4-Chen Fu-Yu, 5/6-Herbert Avram / Don Heinsler (FL); 1LC-Don Heinsler (FL)

•**25th Hawaii Championships** (Honolulu, HI; 17-18 Jul.)... OPEN (19): 1-Fred Collins, 2-Harry Tanouye; 1C-Mike Fujita (CA).

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 20 Jul.)... OPEN (30): 1-Ron Karr, 2-Daniel Murphy, 3/4-Richard McIntosh / John Graas; 1C-Kit Woolsey, 2C-Roger Gabrielson. INTERMEDIATE (19): 1-Marc Lowe, 2-Ron Dumont; 1C/2C-Dan Doherty / Michael Hirohama. BEGINNER (11): 1-Richard Gibson, 2-Mark Hein; 1C/2C-Bill Caplan / Tom Langland.

•**Thousand Islands Tournament—ABT** (Alexandria, NY; 1-3 Aug.)... OPEN (31): 1-Alex Caraplis (NJ), 2-Reza Nowbar (NY), 3-Marty Storer (NH). NOVICE (4): 1-Rick Leger (CAN). DOUBLES (6): 1-Anne Dickson (NY) & Eden Windish (CAN), 2-Dawn McDermott & Walter Trice (MA).

•**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 4 Aug.)... OPEN: 1-Steve Nelson, 2-Jonas Sjolander; 1C-Bai Ling Nelson, 2C-Avry Ben-Zeev. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-P. Jean-Richard, 2-Max Modesti; 1C-Anne Liu, 2C-Charles Barguirdjian.

•**33rd Gstaad Championship** (Gstaad, Switzerland; 14-17 Aug.)... PRO-AM: 1-Mike Svobodny & Kimon (USA), 2-Ron Rubin & Dennis Carlston (USA), 3-Hendrik Bodholdt & Gustav Jacobsen (DEN). WARM UP: 1-Ralf Vetsch (SWITZ), 2-Mario Sequeira (POR), CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Ron Rubin (USA), 2-Peter Jes Thomsen (DEN); 1C-Mike Svobodny (USA), 2C-Gustav Jacobsen (DEN); 1LC-Mario Sequeira (POR), 2LC- Fred

Chamanara (USA). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Volejnik, 2-Torrione. LADIES PRIZE: Nicole Taboury (FRA).

•**23rd St. Moritz Winter Championship** (St. Moritz, Switzerland; 14-17 Aug.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (43): 1-Paul Magriel (USA), 2-Thomas Lumper (GER), 3/4-Harald Johanni (GER) / Abraham Rosenthal (GER); 1C-Andreas Grötsch (GER), 2C-Oswald Odermatt (SWITZ); 1LC-Mike Svobodny (USA), 2LC-Ronald Ekstrom (SWITZ). LADIES PRIZE: Vera de Rashevsky (MON). INTERMEDIATE (30): 1-Carol Wright (USA), 2-Vital Studer (SWITZ); 1C-Stanley Hirsch (USA), 2C-Richard Menger (GER); 1LC-Nick Ulmer (GER). WARM UP: 1-Dennis Carlston (USA), 2-Paul Magriel (USA)... Results from Brackel, Gstaad and St. Moritz courtesy of *European Backgammon News*.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 17 Aug.)... OPEN (20): 1-Emil Malek, 2-Nick Ballard, 3/4-Richard McIntosh / Rawlin Pullen; 1C-Roger Gabrielson, 2C-Curtis Melville. INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Vesko Marinov, 2-Jim Mason; 1C/2C-Bill Marsh / Tom Wehrer. BEGINNER (5): 1-Windy, 2-Cheryl Mandala; 1C-Bill Gazes.

•**BIBA Studio Anne Carlton Trophy** (East Midlands, England; 23-24 Aug.)... OPEN (76): 1-David Gallagher, 2-Simon K. Jones, 3-Marc Steyvers. TOP LADY: Angela Dell. FRIDAY NIGHT KO (17): 1-Dan O'Farrell, 2-Nick Check. DOUBLES KO (13): 1/2-Taylor Maid / Nine Millimetres. BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME: Bob Atkins.

•**7th Mitteleuropa Tournament** (Nova Gorica; 5-7 Sep.)... MASTER (51): 1-Michael Löfblad (SWE), 2-Matthias Körner (GER), 3/4-Christian Liebe-Harkort (GER) / Jochen Lücke (GER); 1C-Wlaler Jarc (CAN), 2C-Mario Sequeira (POR); 1LC-Thomas Lumper (GER), 2LC-Andrea Sirch (ITA); Ladies: Cathrin Bladh-Riesselin (SWE). CHAMPION (41): 1-Beatrice Zondler (GER), 2-Luisa Sequeira (POR), 3/4-Beppe Coli (ITA) / Piero Gallo (ITA); 1C-Gerhard Hofer (AUS), 2C-Andrea Simonetta (ITA); 1LC-Stefan Parlow (AUS), 2LC-Ewald Etmayer (AUS); Ladies: Beatrice Zondler (GER). INTERMEDIATE (37): 1-Mihai Raducanu (ROM), 2-Fabio Cultrera (ITA), 3/4-Raviv Shevach (ISR) / Andreea Sgardi (ITA); 1C-Luis Andrada (ARG), 2C-Amina Domeniconi (SWZ); 1LC-Alberto Bertot (ARG), 2LC-John Slattery (SCO); Ladies: Amina Domeniconi (SWZ). WARM-UP (69): 1-Giuseppe Ricciardi (ITA), 2-Svilen Todorov (BUL). ONE POINT TOURNEY WINNERS: Helmut Zelenka (AUS), Giuseppe Rigon (ITA), Wolfgang Kargl (AUS). SPERTI TROPHY: 1-Maria Grigis (ITA), 2-Giuseppe Rigon (AUS)... *This event, directed by Marco Fornasir, continues to grow in attendance.*

•**Northern Ohio Monthly** (Akron, OH; 7 Sep.)... OPEN (14): 1-Mary Hickey, 2-Marty Kohler. Δ

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45th indiana open

DOUG ROBERTS WINS IN INDIANA

The 45th Indiana Open, the Hoosier Backgammon Club's Labor Day tradition, proved to be a profitable labor for Doug Roberts of Amherst, MA. Roberts, who lost to Peter Kalba (IL) in the Round Robin qualifying rounds, defeated Kalba in the finals for the title. Congrats to Butch and Mary Ann Meese for another quality event. Δ



Mary Ann Meese awards Open 1st and 2nd place plaques to Doug Roberts (right) and Peter Kalba respectively. [Photo by Butch Meese]

45TH INDIANA OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (56): 1-Doug Roberts (MA), 2-Peter Kalba (IL), 3/4-Tim Mabee (IL) / John O'Hagan (IN); 1C-Steve Hast (PA), 2C-Frank Frigo (KY). ADVANCED (43): 1-Wally Kuester (IL), 2-Richard Heinz (IN); 1C-Chester Warzel (IN), 2C-Denny Leatherman (PA). INTERMEDIATE (14): 1-Wanda de la Barre (MA), 2-Mark Larios (IN); 1C-Bob Hubby (IN). NOVICE (6): 1-Rudy Langenbach (WI), 2-Sonja Peacock (WI). MASTERS JACKPOT #1 (16): 1-Frank Frigo (KY), 2-Jon Stephens (OH). #2 (10): 1-Dave Williams (CA). AMATEUR JACKPOT #1 (16): 1-Peter Kalba (IL), 2-Randall Witt (TN). #2 (8): 1-John Ritchie (KS). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Hersel Namdar & Dr. Bob Hill (NY), 2-Steve Hast & Abbas Zaltash (PA). EARLY START THURSDAY (21): 1-Mary Ann Meese (IN), 2-Luke Clippinger (IN). \$80 KICK-OFF (8): 1-Bob Glass (CA). \$40 KICK-OFF (8): 1-Larry Liebster (NJ). \$10 KICK-OFF (8): 1-Wanda de la Barre (MA). MICROBLITZ EVENT (64): 1-Mike Rezai (OH). QUICKIE EVENT #1 (64): 1-Denny Leatherman (PA). #2 (32): 1-Mark Murray (IL).

CUBES AND GAMMONS...

[Continued from page 1]

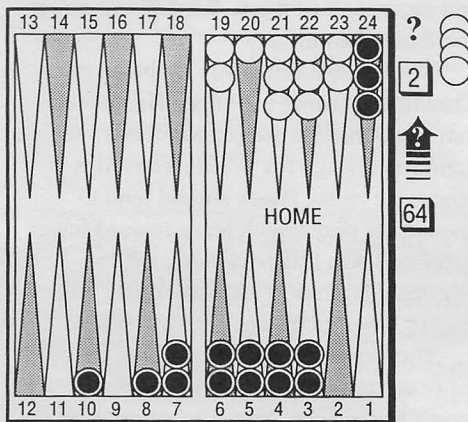
As Black here, I felt that at this score, it was close to a cube. However, at that time, I was using a match equity table based upon a considerably higher gammon percentage for the trailer than the 20% used in this book. Thus, my opponent's take point from this score was lower than the book would indicate and I felt I was not quite good enough to cube.

The authors provide JF Level 5 rollouts which show I slightly underestimated my chances in this game (60.9% wins, 21.6% Gs) and although close, I should have doubled even with my equity chart. If I had a better feel for how to adjust for the effects of killing the leaders gammons (which this book has given me), I might have cubed.

I must wonder why the authors continue to cling to match equity tables using 20% gammons when most neural networks win about 26% gammons? I just received e-mail from JellyFish™ creator Fredrik Dahl who has run 100,000+ rollouts at (needs-2, needs-1) with a match equity of 31.6% for the trailer. Personally, I will never use a table based upon gammon chances estimated as low as 20%. However, that this low estimate does not detract from the many fine conclusions reached in this book.

Let's now look at a problem where I believe the authors may have made their only mistake: a difficult "desperation double" decision.

(Page 54) Kazuhiro Shino (BLACK) needs 3, Kit Woolsey (WHITE) needs 2. **2. SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?**



As the book states, Black's wins (33.9%) place him inside his doubling window of 31-71% and his ratio of wins to plain game losses is greater than 5-to-4. However, there are decent chances for a later shot and Black may then wish he hadn't cubed. And more importantly, while hitting does lose the market, White still retains substantial winning chances after a hit. Hence, Black may do better to reserve the cube until he hits this shot.

Improvise JF 3.0 rollout results from this position show Black winning slightly more matches by not doubling. With JF 3.0, Black wins 37.7% after cubing. This gives him 26.4% MWC using the authors' table. However, by waiting to cube, Black will win 42.3%, lose a gammon 35.5%, and a plain game 22.2%. This results in a

MWC of 26.7% if Black withholds the cube—a marginal improvement.

Chapter 2 discusses doubling by the leader and again has many tables and charts to analyze doubling strategy for the leader in the match when he needs two points. Several fine examples are provided giving the correct cube action at various needs-2 scores for the same position. These are followed again by many instructive examples from expert play which often highlight errors, some quite severe. I could not find any clear analytical mistakes in Chapter 2.

Chapter 3 discusses cube strategy when both sides need-2 and shows some clear mistakes made by strong players at that score. I found Chapter 3 to be both interesting and entertaining.

CUBES AND GAMMONS, while only discussing a small part of cube handling in a match, is undoubtedly the finest collection of match cube analyses yet published in book form. All players can learn from it and expand their knowledge of tournament play.

I give this masterpiece a grade of A-. Why not an A? I am a very tough grader and feel that slight improvements could be made with (a) longer JellyFish™ rollouts or more and/or more use of Level 6, (b) a somewhat longer book, (c) the reevaluation of one problem, and (d) basing the match equity table on a gammon chance higher than 20%.

Bottom Line: This is a great book. By all means, as we scream on the trading floor, **BUY IT!**—Neil Kazaross

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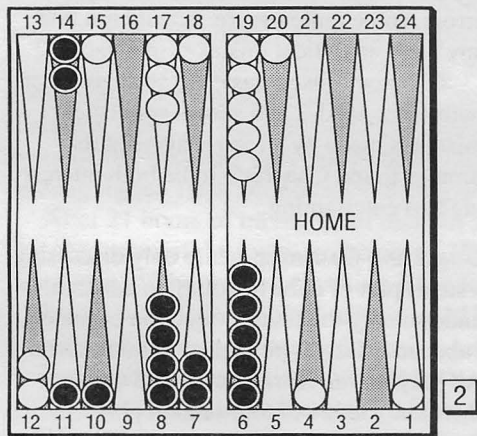


111 N. Church Street
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PROBLEM #236 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

Monte Carlo 23-point Championship semifinals. Black (Jerry Grandell) leads White (Philip Marmorstein), 22 to 20. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



Black has rolled an awkward number, and has several possible plays. One is the safe but very ugly 11/6, 10/6. Going the other way, Black might choose to swing away with 8/4*, 6/1*. Purer plays involve making the 10-point with 14/10, 14/9 or 14/10, 11/6.

Black has a big lead in the race. This is always an argument for playing safe. Black's main game plan is to bring them home and win without getting hit. Safety first is consistent with that theme. The resulting position is ugly, but Black may still bring it in without leaving a shot, and if he does leave a later shot, White still has to hit it.

White's board is currently in disarray. This is an argument for leaving a shot now, as is often the case in "pay me now or pay me later" situations. If White hits now, it is no disaster; but if White is left free to build up his board, it will be much more dangerous for Black to leave a shot later. Thus, the pure plays come into consideration. 14/10, 11/6 is uglier than 14/10, 14/9, but it has the advantage of leaving fewer blots and fewer shot numbers. If Black clears the 14-point safely this turn he figures to be in good shape regardless, so 14/10, 11/6 is probably the superior of the two plays.

Black does not want White to make the 5-point, so there is a case for 8/4*, 6/1*. This play unstacks Black's heaviest points, and is likely to lead to a blot-hitting contest where Black is in good shape since he has thrown the first punch. The problem is that the play is pretty loose, and could blow up

in Black's face if White rolls well.

All these plays look close. There are features about the position which argue for and against all of them. What about match score considerations?

Black is ahead 1-away, 3-away, post-Crawford, owning a 2-cube. This means that Black has no use for gammons, while a gammon is huge for White. Thus, if it is otherwise close, Black should tend to choose the play which leads toward fewer gammons. On this reasoning, we can eliminate 8/4*, 6/1*, which clearly will lead to more gammons for both sides.

The super-safe play is starting to look more attractive. If Black makes this play he won't leave a shot now, and might not leave a shot for quite a while. If he later leaves a shot and gets hit, he will probably have brought enough men in so the gammon danger will go way down. Black won't win nearly as many gammons as he will making one of the other plays, but since winning a gammon doesn't matter to Black, this only argues more in favor of safety. Putting it all together, the ugly but safe 11/6, 10/6 must be correct at the match score.

Gammon considerations and the match score are much more important than most players realize. If the score were reversed it would be clear for Black to make the swashbuckling double-hit, shooting up the gammon possibilities for both sides. At the actual match score that is by far the worst play, and the safe play is best. Δ

AMALGAMATION

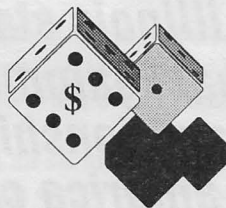
Visiting the Bar Point Club in August & September: **Chris Stanford** (TX), **Larry Strommen** (IN) and **Jeff Kane** (WI)... The Costa Rican BG Assoc. is proud to have registered Backgammon in Costa Rica as an "Official Sport." This is the first country in the world to make the official recognition as such... A tip of the hat to **Peter Kalba** who bought \$100 worth of drinks for Bar Point Club attendees 2 Sept. in honor of his fine results at the Indiana Open... **Dru Heggen** was more than just the "Pig Mistress" in Costa Rica last month. Dru also entered a local 5k race and won her division... Backgammon By The Bay's **Joan Clark** will change from director to player this year, so **Beth Skillman** (408/688-9722) and **Richard McIntosh** will share director tasks... Flash! It's a boy for **Jolie & David Rubin** (IL). **Lyle Dean Rubin** was born 12 September weighing in at a hefty 9 lbs., 14 oz... Congratulations to **Odin Chenault & Yolanda Bradshaw** (CA) on the recent birth of their son... Passing in Boston: **Bea Pearlmutter**. Bea had assisted her husband **Billy** in directing NEBC tournaments for many years... **Oliver Benjamin Hemmerle** is publishing a *Backgammon Bibliography* which lists over 200 entries in English, French and German. The cost for one copy is \$12 cash postage paid. Write Oliver at Postfach 120840, D-68059 Mannheim, Germany... **Princess Diana** died on the Saturday night of the Indiana Open. In past years, the invitation has shown a picture of a royal couple playing backgammon. In an unfortunate coincidence, this was the first year the female on the invite



Sir Dance-A-Lot Lady Die

was given a name: "Lady Die." We're certain that the name will be removed from next year's invitation... A January 9-12 cruise: Miami to Nassau. Sounding better every day, isn't it? There's still time to sign up. Join **Bill Davis, Peter Kalba & Amy Valerio** for the fun. Sign up now at 800/478-0433... Finally, a quote by **Bill Walton**: "You celebrate the victory, but you analyze the defeat." Δ

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Bambi & Martin de Bruin, European BG News
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Tournament Particulars

World Cup IV Entry fees:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Championship | \$800 |
| Intermediate | \$400 |
| Beginner | \$200 |

Discount Travel Rates

PEDROZA TRAVEL CENTER

Cecilia Pedroza, President

369 Fairfax Avenue, Suite 7

Los Angeles, CA 90036

800/237-1597 • 213/651-1931

Fax: 213/651-1982



Tournament Director

Abraham Eitan

Tel.: 972-3-672 7063

Fax: 972-3-672 8918

Mobil: 972-52-581329

To receive an invitation, telephone
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