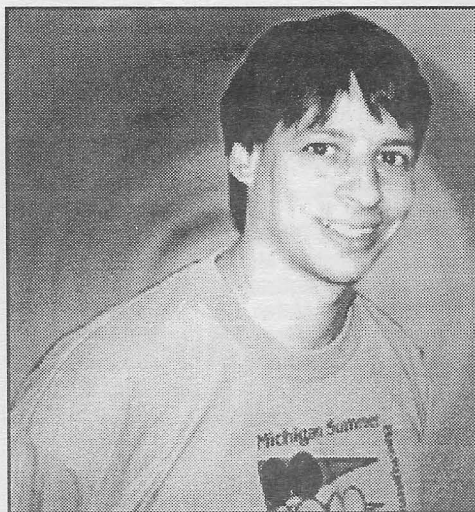


1997 american backgammon tour

ART BENJAMIN WINS ABT IN LAST MONTH

His December LA finish provides the margin of victory over Doug Mayfield

Through 1996, Art Benjamin had become the American Backgammon Tour's all-time leader by only playing (and consistently winning) in San Diego and Los Angeles. Last year, Benjamin ventured out of California to the Michigan Summer Championships to play in the biggest Open field tournament of the year. He won.



1997 ABT Champion Art Benjamin.

That wasn't enough to earn him the 1997 ABT title, however. the 36-year-old Benjamin, would need to cash again to overtake fellow Californian Doug Mayfield whose two ABT victories (Pittsburgh, Los Angeles) in the first three events of the year gave him an impressive 35.36 points.

In November, Art combined a visit to relatives with the Thanksgiving Tournament in Ohio and got caught holding the drumstick. But in Los Angeles last month, it was a different story. At the 40th Gammon Associates invitational, Benjamin and Mayfield were paired in an early round. Art won the showdown 11-10 and went on to capture second place. The finish gave him 6.98 points and a grand total of 37.98. Art was in the lead.

Doug was determined to take one last shot at regaining his lead at the Ace Point Holiday Tournament in New York (26-28 Dec.) but had to cancel his reservations at the last minute due to illness. It was official. Congratulations to Art Benjamin: 1997 American Backgammon Tour Player of the Year.

Art has played backgammon since he was 11. He is a professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College and co-author of the book *Mathemagics*. He is also referred to as a "lightning calculator" who has performed on television and at the famed Magic Castle in Hollywood. [Editor's

note: Art will perform this year at the Midwest Championships Calcutta Auction 20-22 March.] His ultra-strong mathematical background makes him perfectly suited for backgammon.

Benjamin becomes the first person to have won all three ABT trophies (2nd in 1993, 3rd in 1996, 1st in 1997). The official ABT Awards Ceremony will take place at the 20th Pittsburgh Championships 13-15 February where Benjamin, Mayfield and third place finisher John O'Hagan (indiana) will be honored. Final 1997 ABT results appear on page 3 and the ABT All-Time Top 50 is on page 4. Δ

MAKE IT 5 IN A ROW FOR THE 'AN-NEIL-ATOR'

Neil Kazaross has done it again. For an unprecedented fifth straight year, the 'An-Neil-lator' is Chicago Bar Point Club's Player of the Year. Neil captured the lead in February, lost it to Herb Roman in March, regained it in May and never looked back.

Neil's 25.32 point total was his lowest winning total in five years reflecting the parody that is rolling into the club. His toughest challenge came from Gary Kay who earned 22.04 points despite missing a good number of weeks. Kudos also to

Phyllis Smolinski whose 16.52 points earned her a 5th place finish—highest ever for a female player.

On this year's national scene, Neil captured the Chicago Open Memorial Day Masters tournament. We congratulate the K-Man on another fine backgammon year and will honor his incredible accomplishment at the BPC Awards Night, 13 January at the Golden Flame. Final BPC standings are on page 3. Δ



BarPoint Club 5-Time Player of the Year Neil Kazaross winning the '97 Memorial Day Masters.

HANDS OFF!



The Frederiksborg Castle in Hillerod, Denmark is a must-see excursion on your next trip to Copenhagen. Inside the castle (built in the early 1600s), you'll find the National History Museum which offers a grand collection of paintings, Danish furniture and art treasures including this ancient backgammon board.

Do not touch, however, or the security guard will slam the board on your fingers! Δ

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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ODE TO PETER

I have thoroughly enjoyed Laila Leonhardt's columns over the past months. She is a welcome addition to your newsletter. Her "Ode to Peter" really touched me and gave me many fond memories. Peter is truly a fine, fun-loving addition to any community—especially the backgammon crowd. Thanks again for the memories. A lot of us love Peter.—*Darcey Brady Wade, Mapleton, IL*

What a great article on Peter Kalba by the lovely Laila. Most interesting story, Peter!—*Martin Lee, West Yorkshire, England*

Give my regards to Peter Kalba. I loved Laila's article about him.—*Elayne Feinstein, director, South Florida Backgammon Club*

The December CHICAGO POINT issue

[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.

Jan 8	Backgammon On Board Warmup, Biscayne Bay Marriott, Miami, FL	773/583-6464
Jan 9-12	Backgammon On Board IV, Miami to Bahamas cruise tourney on NCL	773/583-6464
Jan 10-11	Nation's Capital Winter Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jan 11*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Belden Commons, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Jan 13	Chicago Bar Point Club 1997 Awards Night, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Jan 15	Third Thursday Bonus & 1997 Awards Party, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 15*	Connecticut Monthly, Stromberg Technologies, Southington, CT	203/592-9207
Jan 18	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Jan 18	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Jan 18	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Jan 18	Bimonthly Winter Tournament, Oakland Holiday Inn Select, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Jan 19*	Windy City Tournament & Awards Night, The Clique, Chicago, IL	773/471-5066
Jan 25*	Ace Point Super Bowl Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Jan 25*	Super Bowl Open House, The Coterie, New York, NY	212/371-5151
Jan 31*	18th Illinois State Challenge Cup, The Old Main Inn, Wheaton, IL	630/924-8632
Feb 1*	Lainer's FIBS Monthly Tournament, via computer modem	fibs@lainer.com
Feb 1*	Lainer's FIBS Money Tournament, via computer modem	tournaments@lainer.com
Feb 1*	GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer modem	tournaments@cyberarts.com
Feb 1*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Feb 7	Springfield Series #4, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, IL	217/483-4028
Feb 8	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Feb 11-15	Pro-Am Invitational, Turnberry Isle, Aventura, FL	301/299-8265
Feb 13-15	<u>20th Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Feb 15	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Feb 19*	Connecticut Monthly, Stromberg Technologies, Southington, CT	203/592-9207
Feb 19	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Feb 22*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Mar 1	Springfield Series #5, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Mar 15	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Mar 15*	15th Fleet Underwood Memorial & Benefit, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 15	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Mar 19	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 20-22	<u>1998 Midwest Championships, Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Apr 4	Springfield Series #6, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 5*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Apr 11	Nation's Capital Spring Day Tourney, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 18	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 19	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Apr 19	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Apr 26	28th Annual Willowbank Tournament, Soules' Home, Shelburne, VT	802/985-3932
May 8-10*	<u>41st Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
May 22-25*	<u>19th Chicago Open, Wyndham Hotel, Itasca, IL</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
Jun 12-14	<u>1998 Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Jul 2-5	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 31-Aug 2*	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Jul 31-Aug 9	<u>World Cup VI & U.S. Open, Harvey's Hotel Addison, Dallas TX</u>	<u>301/299-8265</u>
Sep 4-7	<u>46th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 18-20*	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Minneapolis Athletic Club, MN</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
Oct 1-4	<u>Illinois State Champs & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL</u>	<u>847/945-7801</u>
Nov 27-29*	<u>Northern Ohio Thanksgiving Tournament, Belden Holiday Inn, Canton, OH</u>	<u>330/966-2811</u>
Dec 26-27*	<u>Ace Point Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Jan 9-12	World's Giant Jackpot & Warm-up, Conrad International Istanbul, Turkey	972-36727063
Jan 12-18	World Cup Challenge IV, Conrad International Istanbul, Turkey	972-36727063
Jan 15-18	Thailand Open, 19th Hole Super Pub, South Pattaya, Thailand	6638-429152
Feb 1*	Toronto Club Monthly Tournament, Scallywags, Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9707
Feb 7-8*	1997-98 Dal Negro Italian Championship, Hotel Adige, Trento Italy	3941-52111029
Feb 7-8*	Jarvis Trophy, Stakis Birmingham Metropole, Birmingham, England	44152-2546993
Feb 21-22	Grand Torneo "Citta' di Bologna," Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy	39338-7187324
Feb 27-Mar 1	2nd Warsteiner Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Feb 28-Mar 1*	Scottish Open 1998, Stakis Dunblane Hotel, Dunblane, Scotland	44152-2546993
Mar 1*	Toronto Club Monthly Tournament, Scallywags, Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9707
Mar 4-8	Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotel Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Mar 6-8	Inner Table Tournament #1, Grand Hotel Leicester, England	44152-2721630
Mar 28-29*	Dal Negro Italian Championship, Hotel Splendide Venezia, Cortina, Italy	3941-52111029
Apr 4-5*	British Open, Stakis Birmingham Metropole, Birmingham, England	44152-2546993
Apr 11-12*	High Class Competition, Café Florianihof, Vienna, Austria	43664-2303940
Apr 18-19	Grand Torneo "Citta' di Bologna," Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy	39338-7187374
Apr 18-19*	Hong Kong Invitational, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-28461923
Apr 27-May 3	4th EBN Mayday Tournament, San Juan los Terreros, Almeria, Spain	3450-1330009
Jul 13-19*	Monte Carlo World Championship, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	954/527-4033

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

was a jewel. Laila's ode to Peter Kalba is wonderful. I too remember our first tournament in Costa Rica with great emotion.

Peter deserves these words and more. Please give him my best.—*Mario Madrigal, San José, Costa Rica*

SWORN OFF

I was in Las Vegas last month and saw

Carol Starr at the weekly Tuesday night Jockey Club tournament. I told her about winning \$100 using Jeff Starr's incredible hard luck story (December POINT) and agreed to split the prize money with him. Carol confirmed that in fact Jeff has not played backgammon since losing that incredible game almost 12 years ago.—*Rhonda Monroe, Beverly Hills, MI*



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1997

Top 100—Final Standings after 19 tournaments
181 Players earned points



Art Benjamin	37.98	Nack Ballard	10.45	Phil Laak	6.00	John Jennings	4.16
Doug Mayfield	35.36	Steve Hast	10.12	Ray Bills	5.60	Jake Jacobs	4.10
John O'Hagan	27.75	Donald Sloan	9.90	Dan Shapiro	5.56	Ron Coffin	4.05
Fred Kalantari	27.63	Joann Feinstein	9.61	Michael Bureau	5.39	Jim Muirhead	4.00
Steve Sax	23.77	David Haddad	9.58	Allen Levien	5.28	Perry Gartner	3.97
Doug Roberts	23.43	Wally Kuester	9.54	Abbas Zaltash	5.28	Walt Swan	5.55
Alex Caraplis	22.98	Jim McGirr	9.53	Drew Giovanis	5.28	Bob Hill	3.88
Rob Maier	17.94	Bill Davis	9.50	Alice Kay	5.23	Andy Rubien	3.88
Stuart Hosen	17.09	Reza Nowbar	9.30	Hunter Jones	5.20	Rick Barabino	3.88
Mike Giordano	15.50	Sam Pottle	8.96	Lee Genud	5.08	Emil Mortuk	3.88
Ray Fogerlund	15.50	Ed King	8.84	Tim Mabee	5.06	Joe Freedman	3.78
Jon Stephens	15.31	Leslie Lockett	8.61	Frank Frigo	5.06	Sonja Peacock	3.77
John Brussel	13.49	Bill Counts	8.40	Milad Doueihy	4.95	Kurt Schurecht	3.69
John Mansey	13.11	Marty Storer	8.31	Malcolm Davis	4.93	Bill Phipps	3.59
Harry Tokatljan	12.75	Julian Schulman	8.00	Terry Kayser	4.90	Donna Fisher	3.50
Hal Heinrich	12.55	Eliot Bean	7.09	Jan Carlstrom	4.84	Bruce Hall	3.34
Steve Flam	12.50	Garo Tchalabian	7.09	Richard Heinz	4.75	John Bryant	3.30
Wendy Kaplan	12.30	Elliott Winslow	7.05	Chester Warzel	4.75	Rick Bieniak	3.29
Richard Del Furia	11.85	Alan Fenster	7.00	Tim Lawless	4.75	Bob Lumbr	3.29
Peter Kalba	11.79	Peter Zacks	6.98	Carlos Hamon	4.66	Bruce Russell	3.26
Steve Klesker	11.44	Phil Simborg	6.61	Ed Zell	4.38	Jim Pascoe	3.22
David Wells	11.33	Mike Senkiewicz	6.58	Michael Rayner	4.36	Jay Ward	3.20
Harvey Huie	11.20	Rich Munitz	6.58	Eden Windish	4.22	Ron Bruns	3.19
Rich Catalano	10.56	Jack Kissane	6.49	David Montgomery	4.20	Ron Genter	3.19
Mike Friedman	10.56	Andy Palumbo	6.40	Frank Talbot	4.16	Paul Gedigian	3.10



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1997 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FINAL STANDINGS
97 Players earned pts.

Neil Kazaross	25.32	John Demian	6.00	David Rubin	1.52	George Barr	0.68
Gary Kay	22.04	Mary Franks	5.82	John Stryker	1.44	John Brussel	0.68
Rick Bieniak	18.84	Stu Katz	5.52	Georgina Flanagan	1.44	V.W. Zimnicki	0.64
Herb Roman	18.24	Wendy Kaplan	5.24	Matt Jahangiri	1.28	Henry Gray	0.64
Phyllis Smolinski	16.52	Tak Morioka	4.76	Steve Klesker	1.28	Roz Ferris	0.64
Harry Cohn	16.32	Bobbie Shifrin	4.60	Femi Owiku	1.16	Richard Stawowy	0.64
Paul Franks	16.24	Arlene Levy	4.56	Mark Ryan	1.12	Dave Cramer	0.60
Bill Davis	13.92	Bob Koca	4.32	Yamin Yamin	1.04	Greg Tomlin	0.60
Ed Buerger	13.08	Roger Hickman	3.36	Mark Stone	0.96	Tom Meyer	0.56
Ken Bond	12.96	Amy Valerio	3.32	Jolie Rubin	0.96	Sam Pottle	0.52
Leslie Lockett	12.88	Fred Badagnani	2.80	Reggie Porter	0.96	Ken Tyszk	0.48
Bob Zavoral	11.60	Marty Tatosian	2.72	Roland Dieter	0.96	Todd Hengstler	0.48
Alice Kay	11.40	Dan Simborg	2.56	Jill Ferdinand	0.92	Jerry Smith	0.32
Joe Wollick	11.20	Dean Muench	2.56	Andy Krenitz	0.88	Jodie Kraft	0.32
Paul Friedman	10.68	David Wells	2.56	Chuck Bower	0.88	Don Marek	0.28
Phil Simborg	10.24	Richard Lloyd	2.56	Howard Ring	0.88	Jay Ward	0.28
Joann Feinstein	10.20	Jerry Brooks	2.16	Elliott Winslow	0.88	Nan Feiber	0.24
Steve Mellen	10.04	Bob Steen	2.16	Scott Richardson	0.84	Romeo Kap	0.24
Bill Keefe	9.68	Frankie Farjood	1.92	Mark Murray	0.84	Sarg Serges	0.24
Jake Jacobs	9.12	Joseph Esfahani	1.92	Larry Strommen	0.80	Todd Permut	0.24
Paul Klein	9.08	Michael Wilhoit	1.84	Phil Barrett	0.80	Sonja Peacock	0.20
Tim Mabee	7.96	Paul Baraz	1.72	Barbara Levinson	0.76	Diva Lauren	0.16
Norma Shyer	7.96	Tim Helms	1.60	Laila Leonhardt	0.72	Marv Arnol	0.16
Peter Kalba	7.76	John Jennings	1.60	Elaine Kehm	0.70	Karen Meyer	0.12
Don Jayhan	7.04						

Dec. Player of the Month **PHYLLIS SMOLINSKI** (4.80) moved from 9th to 5th in the final standings by winning the last two tourneys of the year. Gary Kay (4.40) and Neil Kazaross (3.36) finished 2nd/3rd.

ON THE MOVE—AGAIN

Chicagoland's oldest backgammon club, The Pub Club is once again relocating. In order to put an end to rumors, we can say that we are not moving because:

1. the owners are going bankrupt (Fiddlers)
2. the owners got busted for selling drugs (Crickets)
3. the owners remodeled as to make backgammon unplayable (Harpos)

We are moving from Smithfields because they close too early and we often cannot even finish our tournament.

Effective immediately, we are playing Monday nights at The Old Main Inn in Wheaton, Illinois. We hope that some of the area players check us out some Monday night.—*Val Zimnicki, Roselle, IL*

For an updated listing of Backgammon Clubs in North America, see pages 5 and 6.—*Ed.*

WORTH CONSIDERING?

I have a question for Kit Woolsey regarding his analysis of problem #238. I wonder why 12/10, 8/5 wasn't considered. Four builders on the 3-point, some good 4s, only

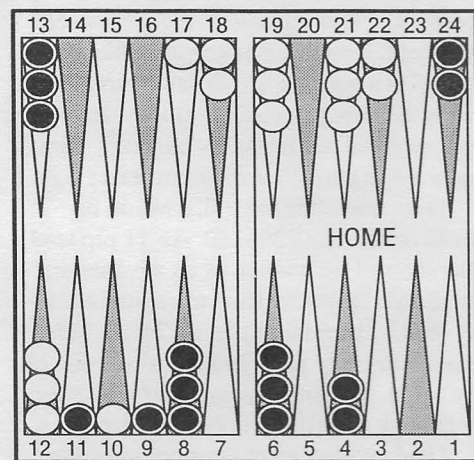
[Continued on page 7]

your move

PROBLEM #240

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Match to 7 pts. Black leads White, 6 to 5, Crawford game. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

I spotted her in the far corner of the playing room. Her eyes locked onto me as she glided smoothly around the long tables covered with backgammon boards. As she advanced toward me, she looped around a few clusters of chouette players, but she never removed her eyes from her objective. This was a very determined woman. What did she want with me? Was it my body?

Mmmm . . . probably not. More likely she was after an unpaid chouette debt. She quickly closed the distance, accelerating the last few strides. She stopped before me, pushed her rigid index finger into my chest, and pinned me to the wall.

"You're the guy who writes that 'Hasty Plays' nonsense. I've been playing more slowly to prevent hasty plays, but all I've accomplished is to irritate my opponents. Now they all demand a chess clock, claiming I'm a slow player! I still make the same poor plays; now it just takes me longer. If I continue to slow down my play, what am I supposed to be looking for?"

I sensed that she was not after my body. She wanted something far less attainable—meaningful backgammon tips. I shared with her the simple advice I've given to other frustrated players.

When thinking about a checker or cube decision, evaluate your strengths and weaknesses. What do you have going for you? Do you have:

1. a lead in the race?
2. a good inner board?
3. a developing prime?
4. blots you can attack?
5. good distribution of checkers?

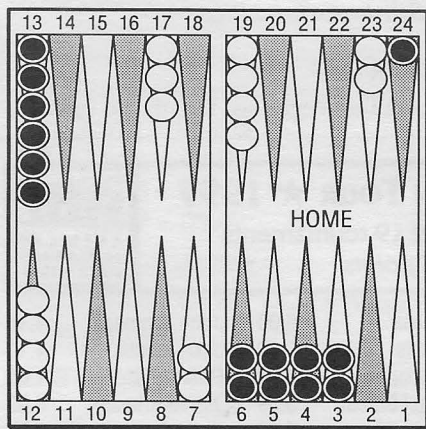
If you're aware of your assets, this knowledge alone can often aid your decision-making. As an example, look at one of my recent misplays against an inexperienced opponent. You often have more than one "asset" in a position which can be confusing.

In the first game of a 7 point match, my opponent had just made my bar point. Now I had a 5-4 to play. [See diagram above right.]

I saw that after the roll, I would be ahead in the race 129-140. An 11 pip lead after the roll isn't much of an advantage, but it is an "asset." I tried to capitalize on my lead by running; I played 24/15. This was not my best play. In fact, it was one of my worst. My small racing lead was offset by the risk of getting hit on the 15-point.

I had another asset far more valuable

Match to 7 points. No score. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



64

than a lead in the race. I had a four point board, a threat to every blot left by my opponent. I should have stayed back on the ace point waiting for a target to appear.

Playing 13/4 would have been a better play because I might exploit my four point board.

A final asset still had not been tapped. My opponent's inexperience should have led me to an even better play: 13/8, 13/9, exposing two blots. Although you should always first *play the position*, then *play the opponent*, this position was an opportunity to put out some cheese. He might have hit with 3-1, 6-1 or 4-2, rolls he should use as point-builders. If he didn't hit, I would have a chance to make an outfield point.

As a player, you must choose some middle ground between "slow play" and "thoughtful deliberation." The time you spend on a checker play should correspond to the importance of the play. Looking at one's "assets," as I suggested, shouldn't take long, but it may help to guide you to the correct play. When you find your strongest asset, make the play which will intensify the power of that asset. Δ

96/97 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL (Alphabetized by State)

1997 American Backgammon Tour: *Art Benjamin*
 Tuscon Backgammon Club (AZ): *Terry Valentine*
 Gammon Associates (CA): *Patrick Gibson*
 Atlanta Backgammon Assn. (GA): *Dave Cardwell*
 Chicago Bar Point Club (IL): *Neil Kazaross*
 Pub Club (IL): *Joe Wollick*
 Games People Play (IL): *Femi Owiku*
 Central Illinois BG Club (IL): *Dick Nelson*
 Winnetka Backgammon Club (IL): *Paul Friedman*
 Sangamon Valley BG Assn. (IL): *Mark Kaye*
 Bloomington-Normal BG Club (IL): *Jim Zimmerman*
 Hoosier Backgammon Club (IN): *Don Woods*
 Beltway Backgammon Club (MD): *Mel Leifer*
 New England BG Club (MA): Points Race: *Herb Gurland*. Monarch of Monday Night: *Herb Gurland*
 Flint Area Backgammon Club (MI): *Paul Berg*
 Plymouth Backgammon Club (MI): *Dean Adamian*
 Twin Cities BG Club (MN): *Richard DeFuria*
 New York Chess & BG (NY): Club Champion: *Andy Rubien*, Points Race Winner: *Louis Spore*.
 Northern Ohio BG Club (OH): *Mary Hickey*
 Pittsburgh Backgammon Club (PA): *Steve Hast*.
 League Play Champ: *Abbas Zaltash*.
 Dallas Backgammon League (TX): *Malcolm Davis*
 Austin Backgammon Assn. (TX): *Sam Karimi*
 Tyson's Corner BG Club (VA): *Bob Hathaway*
 Pacific NW Backgammon Assn. (WA): *Chuck Jones*
 Puget Sound Backgammon Club (WA): *Cam Trenor*
 Madison Backgammon Club (WI): *Gary Hines*

INTERNATIONAL (Alphabetized by Country)

Nat'l Capital BG Club (Ont., Canada): *Eden Windish*
 British Isles BG Champion: *Thomas Connor*.
 BIBA Ranking Winner: *Dave McNair*.
 Double Doors BG Club (Holland): *John VanderGeesk*
 Hong Kong Backgammon Club: *Steve Nelson*
 Italiano Studiogiocchi 96/97: *Nino Di Bella*



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR: ALL-TIME TOP 50 (1993-1997)



1. Art Benjamin	141.76	18. Dennis Culpepper	42.31	35. Alex Caraplis	26.02
2. Doug Roberts	103.86	19. Paul Stebbing	40.34	36. Ben Lang	26.00
3. Neil Kazaross	81.29	20. Doug Mayfield	39.52	37. Maurice Barie	25.82
4. Abbas Zaltash	74.28	21. Joe Russell	37.81	38. Peter Kalba	25.65
5. Dean Muench	65.60	22. Patrick Gibson	36.94	39. David Rubin	25.28
6. Jake Jacobs	62.90	23. David Wells	36.89	40. Paul Magriel	24.50
7. Marty Storer	62.09	24. Fred Kalantari	36.03	41. Steve Sax	23.77
8. John O'Hagan	56.96	25. Harry Brown	33.82	42. Judy Brown	23.68
9. Dave Williams	56.21	26. Dave Cardwell	31.30	43. Bob Holyon	23.68
10. Mike Friedman	53.25	27. Malcolm Davis	30.13	44. Ed Johnson	23.28
11. Harry Cohn	53.22	28. Frank Talbot	29.94	45. Mike Colgan	22.88
12. Walter Trice	48.20	29. Rob Maier	29.38	46. Matt Reklaitis	22.79
13. Arnold Zousmer	47.75	30. Steve Hast	28.39	47. David Jaffe	22.68
14. Ray Foglerlund	47.51	31. Andy Palumbo	27.30	48. Bill Davis	22.12
15. Tak Morioka	45.01	32. David Haddad	26.89	49. Jon Stephens	22.02
16. Odis Chenault	44.51	33. Howard Markowitz	26.66	50. Hal Heinrich	22.00
17. Kit Woolsey	42.71	34. John Mansey	26.11		

CHICAGO POINT's 1998 Listing of...

Backgammon Clubs in North America

<http://www.gamesdomain.com/backgammon/clubs/northam.html>

Information for this listing has been obtained directly from the featured backgammon clubs. Changes are inevitable and we suggest that you always call before attending. As a service to our readers, CHICAGO POINT would like to maintain an accurate listing of Backgammon Clubs in North America. Please send information including updates, club closings and new clubs to: **CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659. 773/583-6464. Fax: 773/583-3264. E-mail: chipoint@interaccess.com**

WEST

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Tucson Backgammon Club	Kappy's Bar	Tucson, AZ	Sunday-4:00 PM	Terry Valentine (backgammon@webtv.net)	888/490-7600	7014 E. Golf Links Road 350; Tucson, AZ 85730
Beverly Hills Backgammon	A.R. Private Club	Los Angeles, CA	Last Sat. monthly-7:00 PM	Clarine (clarine@concentric.net)	213/822-9745	8300 DeLongpre Ave. 308; W. Hollywood, CA 90069
Gammon Associates	A.R. Private Club	Los Angeles, CA	Sunday-2:00 PM	Patrick Gibson (pgibson@concentric.net)	818/901-0464	7641 Orion Avenue; Van Nuys, CA 91406
"	Acapulco Cantina	Burbank, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	"	818/901-0464	"
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Acme Bar & Grill	La Jolla, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Ed Baize (ebaize@pharming.com)	619/457-2273	2485 Elm Avenue; San Diego, CA 92154
Modern Round Robin Backgammon	Muddy Waters Coffee House	San Francisco, CA	Wednesday-6:00 PM	Mark Emershaw (tourneys@coffeenet.net)	415/584-3329	515 Crocker Ave.; Daly City, CA 94014
"	Berkeley Espresso	Berkeley, CA	Saturday-3:30 PM	"	415/584-3329	"
Backgammon By The Bay	Clubroom	San Mateo, CA	3rd Sunday monthly-12:00 Noon	Beth Skillman (beth@backgammon.org)	408/688-9722	308 Arthur Avenue; Aptos, CA 95003
Aloha State Backgammon Club	Elk's Club	Honolulu, HI	Friday-6:00 PM	George Quillin (fujita@lava.net)	808/922-2674	2999 Kalakaua; Honolulu, HI 96815
Nevada Backgammon Assoc.	Las Vegas Hotels	Las Vegas, NV	April & Nov. / 6-day events	Howard Markowitz (howard7@mindspring.com)	702/893-6025	2620 S. Maryland Pkwy, Box 230; Las Vegas, NV 89109
Las Vegas Backgammon	Jockey Club	Las Vegas, NV	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Michael Maxakuli	702/458-9359	311 Pecos Way; Las Vegas, NV 89121
Pacific NW Backgammon Assoc.	8th Avenue Sports Bar	Bellevue, WA	Monday-7:00 PM	Chuck Breckenridge	425/778-8181	7015 Olympic View Dr.; Edmonds, WA 98026
Puget Sound Backgammon Club	European Connection	Burien, WA	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Ruth Robbins (LTruth@prodigy.net)	425/226-3120	12611 155th Ave. SE; Renton, WA 98059
Bloomington-Normal BG Club	Ride The Nine	Bloomington, IL	Monday-6:30 PM	Gary Daniels	309/452-3034	1708 Johnson Drive; Normal, IL 61761

CENTRAL

Pub Club	The Old Main Inn	Wheaton, IL	Monday-7:30 PM	Val Zimnicki (zimtoons@aol.com)	630/924-8632	P.O. Box 72216; Roselle, IL 60172
Games People Play	The Clique	Chicago, IL	Monday-6:30 PM	Reggie Porter (hbg@hbgconsulting.com)	773/471-5066	7338 S. Claremont; Chicago, IL 60636
Chicago Bar Point Club	Golden Flame	Chicago, IL	Tuesday-6:15 PM	Bill Davis (chipoint@interaccess.com)	773/583-6464	3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659
"	Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar	Oakbrook Terrace, IL	Sunday bimonthly-11:45 AM	Peter Kalba (chipoint@interaccess.com)	773/252-7755	2510 W. Iowa Street; Chicago, IL 60622
Central Ill. Backgammon Club	Peoria Pizza Works	Peoria, IL	1st Thurs. monthly - 6:30 PM	Ed Zell (edzell@worldnet.att.net)	309/673-7622	1920 W. Sherman Avenue, Peoria, IL 60624
Sangamon Valley BG Assoc.	Brewhaus	Springfield, IL	Wednesday-6:00 PM	Ben Zemaitis (bzemaiti@fgi.net)	217/483-4028	301 Estes Park Drive; Chatham, IL 62629
"	Parker's Sports Bar	Springfield, IL	1st Sat/Nov to Apr-11:30 AM	"	217/483-4028	"
Winnetka Backgammon Club	Winnetka Community House	Winnetka, IL	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Trudie Chibnik	847/446-0537	740 Ballantrae Drive B; Northbrook, IL 60062
Summit City Backgam'n League	Alumni Club	Ft. Wayne, IN	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Ken Bruck (bruckshire@aol.com)	219/639-6898	P.O. Box 6546; Fort Wayne, IN 46896
Hoosier Backgammon Club	Wildcat Brewing Company	Indianapolis, IN	Thursday-7:00 PM	Butch Meese (meese@worldnet.att.net)	317/255-8902	1008 Tuckahoe Street; Indianapolis, IN 46260
Flint Area Backgammon Club	Ramada Inn	Flint, MI	Thursday-7:00 PM	Carol Joy Cole (cjc@flint.org)	810/232-9731	3719 Greenbrook Lane; Flint, MI 48507
Plymouth Backgammon Club	Box Bar & Grill	Plymouth, MI	Wednesday-7:30 PM	Dean Adamian (adamiancan@aol.com)	313/981-5706	42954 Barchester; Canton, MI 48187
Cavendish North BG Club	Clubroom	Southfield, MI	Daily except Sunday-1:00 PM	Bud Olejniczak	248/540-0197	30065 Greenfield Road; Southfield, MI 48076
Twin Cities Backgammon Club	Pracna on Main	Minneapolis, MN	Thursdays-7:00 PM	Steve Maas	612/378-1536	841 20th Ave. SE; Minneapolis, MN 55414
Northern Ohio Backgammon Club	Aroma Coffee & Tea	Akron, OH	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Joe Miller (jm@neo.Lrun.com)	330/966-2811	6633 Lake-O-Springs; Canton, OH 44718
Dallas Backgammon League	Jo Jo's Restaurant	Addison, TX	Wednesday-7:45 PM	Tom Wheeler	214/361-9836	6402 Melody Lane 1117; Dallas, TX 75231

(Continued on opposite side)

CENTRAL (continued)

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Austin Backgammon Assoc.	Bombay Bicycle Club	Austin, TX	Monday-7:30 PM	Jackie Seiders-Smart (jseiders@mail.utexas.edu)	512/261-8518	30 Hightrail Way, Austin, TX 78738
San Antonio Backgammon	I Don't Know Yet Lounge	San Antonio, TX	Friday-9:00 PM	Ira Hessel (ihessel@lonestar.utsa.edu)	210/493-2249	2826 Barrel Oak; San Antonio, TX 78231
Madison Backgammon Club	J.T. Whitney's	Madison, WI	Tuesday-6:30 PM	Bruce Russell (brussell@mail.state.wi.us)	608/233-2046	5105 Tocora Lane; Madison, WI 53711
Milwaukee Backgammon Club	Gas Lite North	Milwaukee, WI	2nd & 4th Wed.-7:00 PM	Marv Arnol	414/355-5562	9031 N. 70th Street; Milwaukee, WI 53223
Milwaukee Sunday Gammon	John Hawks Pub	Milwaukee, WI	Sunday bimonthly-11:30 AM	Merrill Schrager	414/463-2498	9043 W. Grantosa Drive; Milwaukee, WI 53225

NORTHEAST

Connecticut Backgammon Society	Stromberg Technologies	Southington, CT	3rd Thursday monthly	Rob Roy (robroy8@juno.com)	203/592-9207	54 Calumet Street; Waterbury, CT 06710
Beltway Backgammon Club	Promenade Cardroom	Bethesda, MD	2nd & 4th Sunday-12:00 N	Barry Steinberg (bkgm@aol.com)	301/530-0604	5712 Quebec Street; Berwyn Hts., MD 20740
Cavendish Club of Boston	Clubroom	Brookline, MA	Thur.-6:00 PM, Sat.-1:00 PM	Carl Saldinger	617/734-2230	111 Cypress Street; Brookline, MA 02146
New England Backgammon Club	Sheraton Commander Hotel	Cambridge, MA	Mon-7 PM, Sun mthly-12:30 PM	Walter Trice (wgt@world.std.com)	508/829-3283	549 Wachusett Street; Holden, MA 01520
Mid Jersey Backgammon Club	Court Jester Restaurant	Aberdeen, NJ	Thursday-7:30 PM	Linda Resnicoff (lindares@worldnet.att.net)	732/332-0843	18 Beth Lane; Morganville, NJ 07751
New Jersey Backgammon Assoc.	Best Western Oritani Hotel	Hackensack, NJ	Friday-7:45 PM	Ron Whitney	201/833-2915	279 Glen Court; Teaneck, NJ 07666
Ace Point Backgammon Club	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-12:00 Noon, Tour. Sun. mthly	Alan & Lourdes Steffen (adslmt@prodigy.net)	212/753-0842	41 E. 60th Street; New York, NY 10022
Coterie	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-1:00 PM	Louise Goldsmith (Lou7162@aol.com)	212/371-5151	680 Madison Avenue 311; New York, NY 10021
New York Chess & Backgammon	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily, Tour. Sun.-2:00 PM	Steve Manning (nycb@interport.net)	212/302-5874	120 W. 41st Street 3; New York, NY 10036
Backgammon Board of Rochester	The Hub	Rochester, NY	Saturday or Sunday monthly	Bob Hoey (bob_hoey@mlsonline.com)	716/461-2619	226 Ashbourne Road; Rochester, NY 14618
Cavendish Club of Philadelphia	Clubroom	Philadelphia, PA	Mon, Wed, Thu-7PM; Sat-1PM	Ken Reiver	215/878-5777	3801 Conshohocken; Philadelphia, PA 19131
Pittsburgh Backgammon Club	White Hawk Cafe	Pittsburgh, PA	Tuesday-8:00 PM	Steve Hast (pghsteve@telerama.lm.com)	412/823-7500	3560 Ridgewood Drive; Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Tyson's Corner Backgammon Club	Mr. Smith's Restaurant	Tyson's Corner, VA	Monday-7:00 PM	Bill Pow (pow@dtvms3.dt.navy.mil)	703/549-1808	8906 Hooes Road; Lorton, VA 22079

SOUTH

Suncoast Backgammon Assoc.	New York, New York Lounge	Clearwater, FL	Monday-7:00 PM	Drew Giovanis	813/726-1398	25350 US Hwy 19 N 67; Clearwater, FL 33763
Miami Backgammon Club	Starbucks Coffee	Coral Gables, FL	Thursday-8:00 PM	Leo Bueno (leobueno@usa.net)	305/818-9129	P.O. Box 440545; Miami, FL 33144
South Florida Backgammon Club	Big Apple Sports Pub	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Sunday-1:00 PM	Elayne Feinstein (elaynegammon@webtv.net)	954/938-4304	2020 NE 56th Street 206; Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308
Orlando Backgammon	Mulligan's	Orlando, FL	Tuesday-7:30 PM	David Thomas	904/736-2844	P.O. Box 803; Deland, FL 32721
Backgam'n Society of Sarasota	Sarasota Bath & Racquet Club	Sarasota, FL	Tuesday-6:45 PM	Harriet Durham	941/924-9765	2667 River Buff Pkwy 119; Sarasota, FL 34231
Atlanta Backgammon Assoc.	Tony's American Grille	Roswell, GA	Thur-7 PM, Sat or Sun mthly-1 PM	Dave Cardwell (BGinGA@aol.com)	770/333-1876	111 Radford Circle SW; Marietta, GA 30060
Louisville Backgammon Club	Delta Lounge	Louisville, KY	2nd & 4th Tuesday-6:30 PM	Quint McTyeire (hnm@gdm.com)	502/896-9783	4906 Crofton Road; Louisville, KY 40207

CANADA

Vancouver Backgammon Group	Vancouver Bridge Centre	Vancouver, BC	2nd or 3rd Sun. mnthly	Eugene Chan (eugenec@pro.net)	604/255-2564	2776 E. Broadway; Vancouver BC, V5M 1Y8; Canada
Beckwith Backgammon Club	Private Residence	Victoria, BC	Thursday-7:00 PM	Dan Scoones (rook@islandnet.com)	250/478-0532	606 Hallor Drive; Victoria BC, V9C 1L4; Canada
Nat'l Capital Backgammon Club	Lunergan's Pub	Gloucester, ON	1st Sun/Sep to Jun-12:30 PM	Eden Windish	613/741-2530	396 Talbot St.; Ottawa ON, K1K 2N6; Canada
Toronto Backgammon Club	Scallywags	Toronto, ON	Daily-6PM, Tour 1st Sun. mthly-2PM	M. Ginsberg/V. Dobrich (merv@canadacolors.com)	416/722-9709	27 Fraserwood 4; Toronto ON, M6B 2N6; Canada
Le Gammon	Clubroom	Montreal, QB	Daily-3:30 PM	Hicham Yamani (le_gammon@hotmail.com)	514/845-8370	552 St. Catherine E; Montreal QB, H2L 2E1; Canada

WINNER'S CIRCLE

Oct.-Dec. 1997



•**Asian Championships** (Hong Kong; 1-5 Oct.)... OPEN (32): 1-Save Nelson, 2-Andre Hoffman, 3/4-Jonas Sholander / Gerhard Schulze (GER); 1C-Mike Svobodny (US), 2C-John Simon; 1LC-Patrice Hattu, 2LC-Eduardo Yotoko (PHIL). CHAMPIONSHIP (19): 1-Kazuko Numazawa (JPN), 2-S. Kaneko (JPN); 1C-richard Goss, 2C-Alex Lichauco (PHIL); 1LC-Glenn De Guzman (PHIL), 2LC-Luisa Sequeira (POR). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Ernest Ho, 2-Mario Sequeira (POR). DRAGON SLAYER I (128): 1-Jonas Sjolander, 2-Goran Hasselquist (THAI). DRAGON SLAYER II (64): 1-Gregg Westrick, 2-Jerry Godsey. DOUBLES (16): 1-Patrice Hattu & Max Modesti, 2-Najib Najibullah & Friend (AFGH). BLITZ (64): 1-Michy Kageyama (JPN), 2-Goran Hasselquist (THAI). TEAM EVENT (8): 1-Blenders, 2-HK/THAI. LADIES EVENT (7): 1-Pearl Lu, 2-Lynn Ehrlich (US).

•**5th Irish Open** (Dublin, Ireland; 4-5 Oct.)... OPEN (82): 1-Tim Cross, 2-Julian Hayhurst, 3/4-Dave Coyne / Brian Lever. CONSOLATION (64): 1-Rick Janowski, 2-Dave McNair, 3/4-Jeff Ellis / Paul Money. TEAM EVENT (16): 1-Roy Hollands & Jackie Reed & Clement Byrne, 2-Dan O'Farrell & Gerry Robinson & Peter Chan.

•**17th Swedish Open** (Stockholm, Sweden; 30 Oct.-2 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (40): 1-Johan Moazed, 2-Petter Bengtsson, 3/4-Henrik Hartman / Jan Helander; 1C-Tomas Welin, 2C-Michael Löfblad. INTERMEDIATE (32): 1-Einar Tryggvason, 2-Jan Bergström, 3/4-Ola Hamring / Lak Praerttham; 1C-Claes Melin, 2C-David Asplund. RE-BUY BLITZ (34): 1-Lak Praerttham, 2/3-Anders Brenner / Dan Sandberg. DOUBLES (8): 1-Johnny Backlund & Conny Eriksson, 2-Jörgen Granstedt & Rita Lönnroth.

•**3rd Japan Open** (Tokyo, Japan; 1-3 Nov.)... OPEN (26): 1-Mika Iaukkanen (FIN), 2-Masahiro Yamaguchi, 3/4-Yoshihiro Ujiie / Masahito Yamamoto. CHAMPIONSHIP (256 with reentries): 1-Yoshikaze Hashoto, 2-Yukio Nakamura, 3/4-Hidenori Kakihsa / Tsuyoshi Minakami. BEGINNER (99): 1-Hirohisa Tezuka, 2-Miki naito, 3/4-Akira Hosaka / Kiyotaka Yao. DOUBLES: 1-Shinichiro Kaneko & Masayuki Mochizuki. LADIES EVENT: 1-Harue Kuribayashi, 2-Hitomi Mochizuki. KIDS EVENT: 1-Hiroki Takahashi.

•**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 3 Nov.)... OPEN: 1-Peter Winkler, 2-Marc Mostacci; 1C-John Simon, 2C-Save Nelson. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Karl Hurst, 2-Asdis Gudmann; 1C-Robert Stone.

•**1st Moscow Open** (Moscow, Russia; 12-16 Nov.)... MASTERS (49 + 6 reentries): 1-Carsten Joh (GER), 2-Leonid Riskin (GER), 3/4-Rasmus Nohr (DEN) / Mario Sequeira (POR); 1C-Dirk Schiemann (GER), 2C-Ronald Reinhardt (GER), 3C/4C-Emzar Laitadze (GEO) / A. Muradyan (ARM); 1LC-Harald Johanni (GER), 2LC-Johannes Levermann (GER). CHAMPIONSHIP (16): 1-W. Kalantryan (ARM), 2-E. Maibritt (DEN); 1C-K. Karagezyan (ARM), 2C-S. Kotov (RUS); 1LC-Luisa Sequeira (POR). INTERMEDIATE (28): 1-Z. Gugulashvili (GEO), 2-V. Andrianov (RUS); 1C-G. Melya (GEO), 2C-A. Buhtiyarov (RUS); 1LC-Ingrid Weiss (AUS). TEAM TOURNAMENT (10): 1-Jerevan: Muradian, Kalantarian, Karagezyan, 2-Fishcake: Joh, Mortuk, Michel. DOUBLES: 1-

Matthias Körner & Ronald Reinhardt (GER), 2-Johannes Levermann & Dirk Schiemann (GER). SPONSOR'S TOURNEY: 1-Paul Magriel (USA)... The tourney was organized by Youri Akopov (Moscow BG Fed.) and directed by European Backgammon News publishers Martin and Bambi de Bruin

•**NEBC Bonus Tournament** (Cambridge, MA; 20 Nov.)... EXPERT (20): 1-Garbis Zerdelian, 2-Evan Diamond, 3/4-John Mansey / Ernie Pitelli; 1C-Mark Damish, 2C-Ed Abou-Zeid. A DIV. (12): 1-Jim Williams, 2-Alex Zamanian, 3/4-Fred Ferguson / John Lorenz; 1C-Jim McKenna, 2C-Fred Ferguson.

•**3rd Northern Ohio Thanksgiving Tournament—ABT** (Canton, OH; 28-30 Nov.)... OPEN (22): 1-Don Sloan (OH), 2-David Haddad (AL); 1C-Jan Carlstrom (PA), 2C-Alex Caraplis (NJ). ADVANCED (14): 1-Donna Fisher, 2-Mike Vasilatos, 3-Wally Wolf (MI). NOVICE (11): 1-Mark Larios (IN), 2-Carol Gonda (CT). DOUBLES (8): 1-Mary Kickey & Jon Stephens. ADVANCED DOUBLES (6): 1-Bruce King & Marty Kohler. BLITZ (16): 1-Mike Rezaei. 1-POINT EVENT (28): 1-Jon Stephens.

•**National Danish Championship** (Denmark; 29-30 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (128): 1-Thomas Bræmer-Jensen, 2-Karsten Bredahl, 3/4-Finn Mølgaard / Chris Ternel; 1C-Kurt Klifoth, 2C-Marcelo Zagal, 3C/4C-Freddie Noer / Michael Schou. UNDER 21 CHAMPIONSHIP (14): 1-Nanna Ibsen, 2-Louisa Dahlin, 3-Karsten Nielsen, 4-Peter Switon.

•**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 1 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Patrice Hattu, 2-Peter Wong; 1C-Jonathan Barnes, 2C-Jonas Sjolander. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Robert Stone, 2-Olivia Lee; 1C-P. Jean-Richard, 2C-Jon Johnsson.

•**Double Doors 1997 Club Championship** (Amsterdam, Holland; 30 Nov.)... OPEN: 1-John van der Geesk, 2-John Brussel (US).

•**Gammon Associates 40th Invitational—ABT** (Los Angeles, CA; 5-7 Dec.)... OPEN (31): 1-Save Sax, 2-Art Benjamin; 1C-Peter Zacks, 2C-Paul Gedigian. ADVANCED (18): 1-Ron Coffin, 2-Dave Hart; 1C-Jerry Hays, 2C-Jobey Calitri. LIMITED (8): 1-Andre Anderson, 2-Larry Burkhart; 1C-Michael Nash. SUPER-32 (23): 1-Norm Wiggins, 2-Odis Chenault, 3/4-Jerry Hays / Wendy Kaplan (IL). DOUBLES (12): 1-Barry Corchnoy & Cecilia Pedroza, 2-Paul Gedigian & Azzam Masarani. 1-POINT BLITZ (48): 1-Tad Bright, 2-Leon Weiner (TX).

•**Springfield Series #2** (Bloomington, IL; 6 Dec.)... OPEN (18): 1-Mark Kaye, 2-Sue Will; 1C-Dave Cornwall, 2C-Cinda King; 1LC-Randy Reif.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 7 Dec.)... OPEN (18): 1-Rick Bieniak, 2-Jake Jacobs, 3/4-Yamin Yamin / Herb Roman; 1C/2C-Neil Kazaross / Gary Kay. INTERMEDIATE (13): 1-Ed Buerger, 2-Sam Pottle (WI), 3/4-Sonja Peacock (WI) / Roz Ferris; 1C/2C-Elaine Kehm / Mark Murray.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 7 Dec.)... OPEN (14): 1-Ron Karr, 2-Elliott Winslow; 1C/2C-Tom Henson / Richard McIntosh. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-J.C. Dill, 2-Mo Wasley; 1C/2C-Marc Lowe / Jim Mason. BEGINNER (6): 1-Claudia Imatt, 2-Barbara Chriss, 3-Bill Landry.

•**Ace Point Club Holiday Tournament—ABT** (New York, NY; 26-28 Dec.)... OPEN (14): 1-Julian Schulman (NJ); 1C-Phil Laak (NY), 2C-Antoinette Williams (NY). INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Walt Swan (NJ); 1C-Mat Ozbek (NY), 2C-Brian Scoben (NJ). CHOUETTE TOURNEY: 1-Walt Swan (NJ), 2-Elliott Winslow (CA), 3-Marc Freeman (NY). TURKEY TOURNAMENT CHALLENGE: Phil Laak, Mike Natanzon, Lonnie Linderbaum. Δ

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

two shots. It seems better.—Doug Amenda, Phoenix, AZ

KIT WOOLSEY RESPONDS: *Compare your play to 13/11, 12/9. More blots, lost 8-point, and same number of builders for 3-point and bar point. What is the upside for your play?*—KW

LUCK IN BACKGAMMON

Why hasn't anyone come up with the kind of backgammon tournament where no luck whatsoever is involved? It might sound strange, but it can be done. And it's very simple. I call it "Double Board Backgammon."

Two games are played simultaneously. The first player plays the black pieces on board #1 and the white pieces on board #2. His opponent does the opposite. So on the opening roll, both players make a move using the same roll on different boards. Then both players respond to the opening roll on the other board. Players may not see each other's moves until both players complete their move.

This way, with equal dice, the one with the better knowledge of checker play and cube handling will win the game. There is no fairer method of backgammon tournament play.

Please let me know what you think about Double Board Backgammon—Kurt Altay, via Internet, amkk@kc.net

But there is still a lot of luck involved with your game, Kurt. Let's say I open the game rolling a 2-1 and play 13/11 then split my back men. You instead incorrectly play 13/10. The next roll is 4-1. I play 13/9, 24/23. You hit two checkers (6/2/1*). The next roll is 6-6. You can move, but I am on the bar. So your are rewarded for your misplay as a great racing number for you turns into a dancing number for me.*

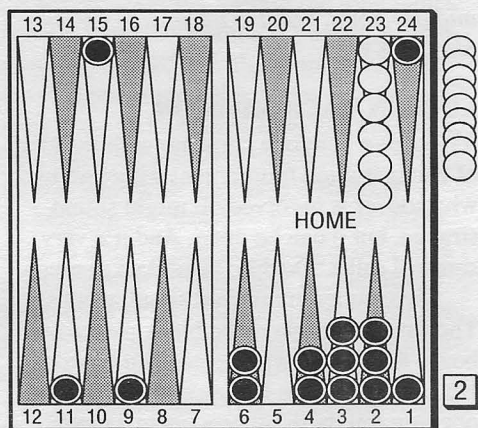
No, this way of playing doesn't eliminate luck. But then again, why would we want to remove all luck from backgammon? Luck is why the game has been around for thousands of years. If luck was removed from backgammon, I think we would see a big drop in tournament attendance. Luck gives everyone a chance to win. Without luck, that chance would be gone.—Ed. Δ

1998 MIDWEST	BACKGAMMON 20-22 March 1998	CHAMPIONSHIPS
	20-22 March 1997 Radisson Hotel Lisle, Illinois	
	Special Calcutta Auction performance by "Mathemagician" Art Benjamin.	
	To request an invite, call: 773/583-6464.	

PROBLEM #239 ANALYZED

by Laila Leonhardt

Match to 7 points. Black leads White, 4 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



When I first saw this position I instantly determined that staying on the 24-point and playing 9/6 had to be right. Bearing in maintained contact and the chance of a shot, and also gained a crossover towards the possibility of saving a gammon.

Level 7 JellyFish™ agreed with my play, so all that was left was proving my case via rollout verification.

I did several rollouts using JF (level 6) for two different plays: staying (9/6) and leaving (24/21). All other moves were ignored. The results of the rollouts for **staying** were:

A = games won = 1.8%
B = gammons lost = 88.8%
C = singles lost = 4.2%
D = BGs lost = 5.2%

And the results for **leaving** were:

E = gammons lost = 97.1%
F = singles lost = 2.9%

The 7-point match equities at the various possible scores are:

Z = 6 to 0 (Crawford) = 92%
X = 4 to 4 = 50%
Y = 4 to 2 = 65.5%
Q = 4 to 6 (Crawford) = 24.5%

[Editor's Warning. Mathematics follows. Proceed at your own risk!]

The total match equity for **staying** is:
 $AZ + BX + CY + DQ = 50.081\%$

The total match equity for **leaving** is:
 $EX + FY = 50.450\%$

Shocking Holmes! The total match equity turned out to favor leaving.

Time for an investigation. Let's change the match score slightly and maybe the genius will prevail . . .

Match to 7 points. Black leads White, 4 to 1. The match equities then become:

$Z2 = 6 \text{ to } 1 = 90.5\%$
 $X2 = 4 \text{ to } 5 = 40.5\%$
 $Y2 = 4 \text{ to } 3 = 58\%$
 $Q2 = 4 \text{ to } 7 = 0\%$

Equity for **staying** =
 $AZ2 + BX2 + CY2 + DQ2 = 40.029\%$

Equity for **leaving** =
 $EX2 + FY2 = 41.0075\%$

But Holmes, this time it is correct to leave by almost 1%! So if you can lose the match by staying, then it seems leaving is correct.

Dear Watson, maybe if we go back to the original match score and make the match longer to avoid the Crawford game, we could find the key to the mystery.

Match to 9 points. Black leads White, 4 to 0. Match equities:

$Z3 = 6 \text{ to } 0 = 84.5\%$
 $X3 = 4 \text{ to } 4 = 50\%$
 $Y3 = 4 \text{ to } 2 = 63\%$
 $Q3 = 4 \text{ to } 6 = 34.5\%$

Equity for **staying** =
 $AZ3 + BX3 + CY3 + DQ3 = 50.361\%$

Equity for **leaving** =
 $EX3 + FY3 = 50.377\%$

Aha! In calculating backgammon, we seldom use more than one decimal due to the error margin of formulas and rollouts. One should always allow 0.5% on any calculation. So it seems the further away from the match-end we are in this position, the more we can justify staying. Either way is correct.

But Holmes, you are not making sense. What should I do in a position like this? I might encounter just this position in tomorrow's chouette in the Doctor's Club.

Good point, Watson. Let's take a look at the money game side of it.

NetWorth for **staying** =
 $A \times (2 \text{ pts.}) + B \times (-4 \text{ pts.}) + C \times (-2 \text{ pts.}) + D \times (-6 \text{ pts.}) = -3.912 \text{ points per game}$

NetWorth for **leaving** =
 $E \times (-4 \text{ pts.}) + F \times (-2 \text{ pts.}) = -3.942 \text{ points per game}$

But Holmes, you are not making sense. Which is correct?

Let me make a last inquiry before drawing a conclusion my dear Dr. Watson

Let us change the position a tad. We will make the 5-point with the extra checker from the 2- and 3-point, making a beautifully intriguing five point board. The match equities will stay the same as the original position, but the winning equities will change:

$A2 = 3.3\%$ $D2 = 6.4\%$
 $B2 = 86.6\%$ $E2 = 97.1\%$
 $C2 = 3.7\%$ $F2 = 2.9\%$

Equity for **staying** =
 $A2Z + B2X + C2Y + D2Q = 50.2615\%$

Equity for **leaving** =
 $E2X + F2Y = 50.4495\%$

Money game NetWorth for **staying** =
 $A2 \times (2 \text{ pts.}) + B2 \times (-4 \text{ pts.}) + C2 \times (-2 \text{ pts.}) + D2 \times (-6 \text{ pts.}) = -3.856 \text{ points per game}$
Money game NetWorth for **leaving** =
 $E2 \times (-4 \text{ pts.}) + F2 \times (-2 \text{ pts.}) = -3.942 \text{ points per game}$

Well, well Watson. It seems that the conclusion to the mystery can be summed up thusly. In a match (and preferably with a good board), one should stay on the 24-point against six checkers only if (1) it is early in the match, or (2) gammons don't matter. In a money game, there is a fraction of a point to be earned, so staying is correct.

Very perceptive, Holmes. But I guess you proved your own intuitive play wrong.

So I did, dear Watson, but remember the size of the error margin. There really isn't much difference whether you stay or leave in this position. One of life's small wonders.

Yes indeed. Δ



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 The Old Main Inn, 2330 N. Main St., Wheaton. Val Zimmnicki (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. Ed Zell (309/673-7622).

AMALGAMATION

Condolences on the passing of Pub Club (IL) director **Val Zimmnicki's** father in November... Math professor **Art Benjamin** (CA), the 1997 ABT champ, enjoyed a front page write-up about his backgammon talents in the Inland Valley (CA) newspaper in November. See Art perform some of his "Mathemagics" talent at the Midwest Championships Calcutta Auction 20-22 March... **Dru Heggen** (IL) promises us that the red cast on her wrist won't effect her Pig Mistress duties at the Midwest Championships... We're happy to report that former Isle of Man director **Hercules, Baron of Culcreuch** is doing fine following a mild stroke. Get well wishes go out to **Gayle Wolf's** (MI) mother who is recovering from a hip fracture. **Sarg Serges** (IL) continues to recover from torn knee cartilage... Arizona to San Carlo, Mexico: **Mike & Veronica Mooney**. Pennsylvania to Kenya: **Bob Koca** who is working with the Peace Corps. Send CHICAGO POINT an e-mail <chipoint@interaccess.com> and we'll send you back Bob's interesting report from Africa... Best wishes to **Maureen & Doug Amenda** (AZ) who recently adopted a baby girl, **Andrea Nicole Amenda**... In this issue, we list Backgammon Clubs in North America.

Here's an update from Argentina. **Claudio Salamone** reports tournaments Mondays and Wednesdays at Pueblo Chico in Buenos Aires. Call Claudio for info: 011-541-794-7000... Good luck to the Inner Table Backgammon Group, a new UK backgammon club founded by **Jim Moore, Jeff Ellis, Robert Parmley** and **Roger Porter**. Organizers stress that "the group has NOT been formed in opposition to any other backgammon group. It is in existence to enhance the opportunities for backgammon players of all levels and abilities." For information, telephone Jim Moore at: 01522 721630, or e-mail **Martin Lee** at: <mlee@legend.co.uk> ... **J. Maranto** (CA) informs us that he is selling high quality beach towels with a backgammon board motif—perfect for your winter Florida vacation. They include game pieces, dice and a tote bag. Price: \$10 plus \$3 s&h. Mail to: 150 Ave. Aragon, San Clemente, CA 92672... Finally, **Duane Jensen** (MN) tells us about an occasional player named Frank who was at the Minneapolis BG Club showing off the new board he'd purchased in Chicago. It was one of those gorgeous wooden sets designed by Tak Morioka. Frank said it was pretty expensive, adding he "had to get it now because he knew he wasn't going to get it after he got married." Just then, a newly-married player named Steve walked past and quipped, "I'll back you up on that, Frank!" Δ

Don't know what to serve? How about a...

Backgammon Dinner

by Bob Koca



You've invited some friends over for dinner and a chouette. What do you serve? Here's your menu, thanks to Reneé Rosenbloom, Rich Riesen, Frank Klein and Beth Skillman.

APPETIZERS

Tossed Salad, Rolls, Stone Bread, Fantail Shrimp

SIDE DISHES

Steamed Vegetables, Blintzes, Diced Potatoes, Fruit Cup, Split Pea Soup, Egg Drop Soup

ENTRÉES

Cube Steak, Prime Rib, Fish, Shark, Shake 'N Bake Chicken, Dumplings served with Slotted Spoon, Scored Gammon.

BEVERAGES

Root Beer, Shots from the Bar, Wine

DESSERTS

Double Fudge Sundae, Ice Cream Bars, Banana Split, Beaver Tails, Draw Sheet Cake. Δ

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Pittsburgh Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1998

5:00 pm Registration Opens
5:30 pm Micro Blitz Event Begins
7:00 pm Amateur Jackpot
7:15 pm Masters Jackpot (Part I)
7:30 pm Doubles Tournament
8:15 pm Masters Jackpot (Part II)
9:30 pm Hoagies (play continues)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1998

9:00 am Doughnuts and Coffee
9:30 am Registration Opens
10:30 am ABT Awards Presentation
Calcutta Auction (Championship & Advanced Divisions)
12:30 pm Play Begins (All Divisions of Main Event)
5:00 pm Dinner Break
7:00 pm Play resumes
10:00 pm Pizza (play continues)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1998

9:30 am Doughnuts and Coffee
10:00 am Tournament play resumes
11:30 am Special Jackpot Events
12:00 pm Micro Blitz Playoffs
12:30 pm Knock-Outs begin
3:00 pm Finals—Main Event

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