

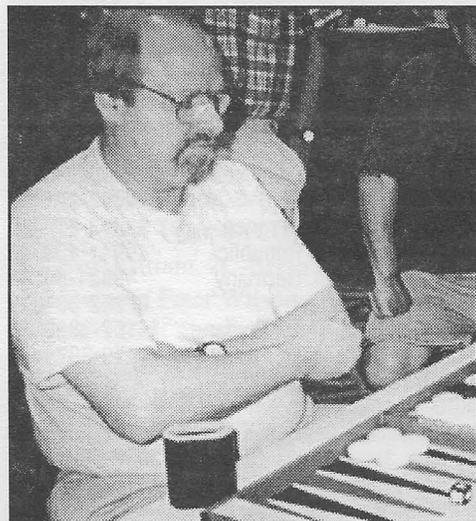
2000 michigan summer championships

SENK TAKES BISHOP IN MICHIGAN

Al Jones Wins Masters Title

Summer in Michigan. It's the place to be for more and more backgammon players each year. The 2000 Michigan Summer Championships, held 30 June-3 July at the Novi Hilton Hotel was no exception. Main event attendance reached 184 players (13 more players than 1999) with well over 200 gammoners in the holiday weekend mix.

The double elimination format in the 82-player Championship event meant that the winner of seven rounds in the undefeated bracket could only lose the title by suffering two losses in a row at the hands of the second chance victor. On Saturday evening, New York's international master Michael Senkiewicz defeated Canadian Hugh McNeil to win the undefeated sheet.



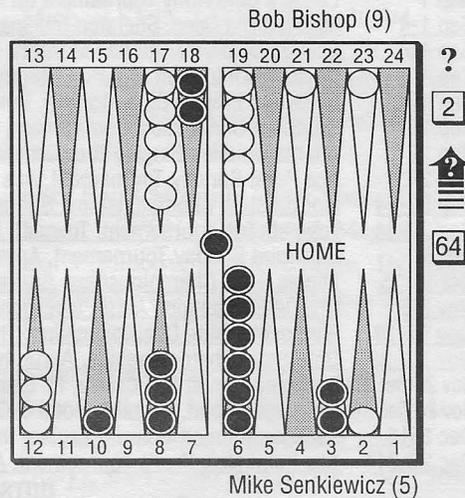
Mike Senkiewicz ponders a 4-cube en route to winning the Michigan Summer Championships.

Can you imagine having to win two 13-point matches in a row against Michael Senkiewicz? Following Bob Bishop's exciting double match-point semifinal win over Hugh McNeil (see "Ask Danny," page 4), that was the challenge he faced on Sunday afternoon. And through most of the

battle, it appeared that fellow New Yorker Bishop (this year's Pittsburgh Championship winner) was up to the challenge.

Senk had the best of many positions, offering the initial double seven times in the first match (Bishop took all seven times). But when lose five of the seven doubles you offer, it's tough to win a 13-point match. Here's one of the two cubes that Senkiewicz was able to bring home:

Match #1 to 13 points. Bob Bishop (White) leads Mike Senkiewicz (Black), 9 to 5. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



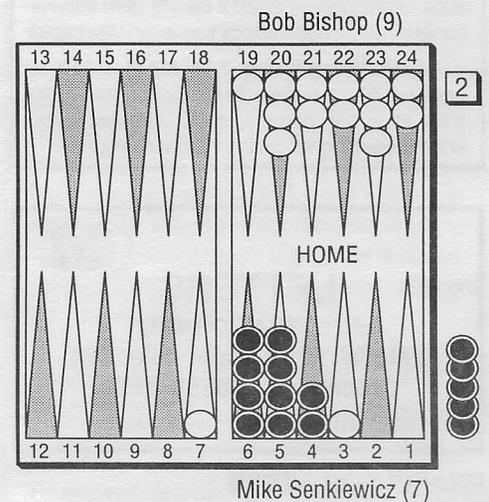
The better question is whether or not to double. With only a handful of market-losers

threatening Bishop (4-4, 2-2, and some hit/dance sequences), he has an easy take. Senk won this game to trail 7-9, but didn't score again, losing the first match 13-7.

Bishop remained hot in the deciding match, jumping out to a 5-1 advantage. But four single games later, the score was tied at 5-all.

With Bishop ahead 9-7 and holding a 3-cube, Senkiewicz had an interesting 1-1 to play:

Match #2 to 13 points. Bob Bishop (White) leads Mike Senkiewicz (Black), 9 to 7. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**



[Continued on page 6]

MAGNETIC PERSONALITY



Carol Joy Cole takes a break from her Michigan Summer Championships directorial duties to enjoy a magnetic energy massage. The massages were sponsored at the tournament by Lawrence Sonné and "Backgammon Elegance."

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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PRAISE FOR STEVE

I just finished reading Steve Mellen's analysis of Problem #263 in the June issue. Steve is showing the rest of the world what we in the Midwest have known for some time: he is one Mellen who needs no thumping! It is great to see Generation X wielding a pen with the same flourish as Generation X-22. Please encourage him to keep the ink flowing.—*Jake Jacobs, Des Plaines, IL*

HOTEL WARNING

Despite the fact that I did not win a single match (such is backgammon), this Spring's Midwest Backgammon Championships was once again a finely run and fun event that I enjoyed . . . almost.

When I got home and received my hotel bill, I found a big surprise. I apparently I

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731
cjc@tir.com

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL *American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Jul 15	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Jul 20	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jul 22*	Bayview Beach Barbeque Championship, Rob Roy's cottage, Milford, CT	203/592-9207
Jul 23	New Eng. Midsummer Tour./BG Flea Market, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Jul 23	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Jul 23	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Jul 28-30	<u>Y2K Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
Jul 30	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Jul 30*	Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Aug 1	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer <i>tournaments@cyberarts.com</i>	
Aug 5-6	7th Annual Summer Cooker & Pool Party, Hast Home, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Aug 6	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Aug 13*	Ace Point Doubles Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-042
Aug 13*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, Q Cafe, Palo Alto, CA	831/688-9722
Aug 13*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Aug 17*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Aug 19*	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Aug 19	2000 Summer Sizzler Picnic, Jubilee State Park, Peoria, IL	309/691-8983
Aug 20	2000 Summer Sizzler Tournament, Sly Fox Pub, Iacon, IL	309/691-8983
Aug 20*	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Aug 27*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Aug 11-13	<u>Georgia State Championships & Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Sep 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer <i>tournaments@cyberarts.com</i>	
Sep 1*	Lainer's Bimonthly Tournament on FIBS, via computer <i>lainer@fibs.com</i>	
Sep 1-4	<u>48th Indiana Open, Sheraton-Indianapolis Hotel & Suites, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 10*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, Q Cafe, Palo Alto, CA	831/688-9722
Sep 10*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Sep 16*	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Sep 16*	Southern Connecticut Tournament, Hampton Inn, Milford, CT	203/592-9207
Sep 17*	Atlanta Doubles/Singles Tournament, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Sep 24*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Sep 22-24	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/938-4304</u>
Sep 22-24	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
Oct 8*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Oct 13-15	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, IL</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
Nov 3-5*	<u>NEW DATES: Gammon Assoc. Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Nov 17-19	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, MN</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
Nov. 24-26	<u>Ohio State Championships, Akron Holiday Inn, Akron, OH</u>	<u>330/966-2811</u>
Nov 26-Dec 3*	Backgammon at Sea Cruise, Ft. Lauderdale-St. Thomas-Bahamas	819/685-2078
Nov 29-Dec 3*	Las Vegas Open, Harrah's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Dec 3-10	Backgammon on Board V Cruise, New Orleans-Montego Bay-Cozumel	773/583-6464
Dec 29-31*	<u>Ace Point New Year's Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Jul 10-16	World Championship, Monte Carlo Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 954/527-4033
Jul 15-16	Bergen Open, Sardinien, Verftet, Norway	4755-321132
Jul 17-18	10th Nice Open, Lido Plage Beach Bar & Restaurant, Nice, France	33493-879438
Jul 19-23	Czech Open, Millennium Casino, Marriott, Prague, Czech Republic	49911-409505
Jul 27-30	6th Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Aug 3-6	Israeli Championship, Eilat Resort (on the Red Sea), Israel	97252-501329
Aug 5-6	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Aug 11-15*	NEW DATES: Grand Prix de Lugano 2000, Hotel Grand Eden, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Aug 13*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Aug 19-20	Danish Doubles Championship, Solrød ABC, Denmark	4556-144282
Aug 19-28	Mind Sports Olympiad/British Open, Alexandra Palace, London, England	44152-2888676
Sep 1-3	12th European Championship, HIT Casino Park, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	3902-69018168
Sep 2-3	Roy Hollands Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Sep 2-3	Sjællands Mesterskabet, Roskilde Backgammon Klub, Denmark	4546-366012
Sep 10*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Sep 23-24*	3rd Humlebæk Open, Humlebæk Backgammon Klub, Humlebæk, Denmark	4549-222821
Sep 29-Oct 2*	2000 Asian Championships, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong, China	8522-523 1306
Sep 30-Oct 1	Sandy Osborne Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Oct 5-8	3rd Austrian Open & Doubles Championship, Casino Seefeld, Austria	431-971 5889
Oct 7-9	6th Japan Open & 30th Championship, Nakano Sun Plaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733814
Oct 12-15	Salvador Open, Clube da Bahia, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil	5571-3511478
Oct 14-15	9th Åbne Fynske Mesterskaber, Fyns BG Union, Odense, Denmark	4565-912551
Oct 20-21	Swiss Meisterschaft 2000, Zurich, Switzerland	4179-401 5811
Oct 25-29*	NEW DATES: Doubles World Champ. & Grand Prix de Suisse, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-337 4425
Oct 28-29*	Solrød Open, Solrød Backgammon Club, Solrød, Denmark	4566-144282
Nov 1-5	7th German Open, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Nov 11-12	Town Harbor Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

stayed three days at the hotel instead of just two. I was billed for two days on my March bill and then another one day stay on my April bill. That's a neat trick because I had actually been there just two nights. Or maybe I'm just getting old and forgetful! (This is the second time I have found an "error" on my bill from a hotel in Chicago area.)

Players need to know that checking

one's credit card bills is necessary to avoid what some fraudulent companies do. Illegally charging a card is not common for 99.99% of merchants. But because most customers pay their bills without a careful check of what is charged, these customers can become an easy mark, so one needs to be diligent in checking. Hopefully, knowing someone has experienced a false or illegal charge will stimulate others to do some good checking.

It's like policing the backgammon room late at night for items left by players who forgot an important item. (I've been

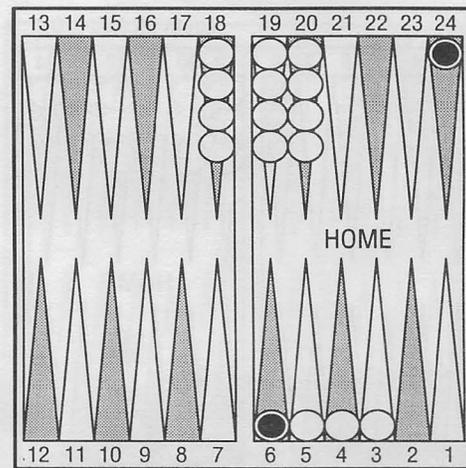
able to secure a set or two in my time, and now I have been the recipient of same when I left my backgammon set. I really appreciated what Bob Zavoral collecting it for me.)—Larry Strommen, Indianapolis, IN

'PHANTOM' ERROR

Regarding the \$100 challenge you offered in my "Phantom Direct Shots" article, I hope your money is still safe. Just one correction: my Position 3B (which is 3A with the bottom moved to the left) has been printed as Position 4. The astute reader should be able to work that out.—Ray Kershaw, London, England

Sorry about that, Ray. Others wrote to let us know about the error. The correct position 3B is as follows:

Pos. 3B. Black (on roll) has a triple direct shot and 11 hitting numbers.



[Continued on page 9]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2000

Top 100 compiled through 3 July 2000 after 5 events
(Next 3 events: Y2K 1000 Islands, Georgia Champs, 48th Indy Open)



Bob Bishop	35.99	Neil Kazaross	6.84	Ralph Dietz	3.42	Andy Natale	1.76
Mike Senkiewicz	27.33	Jona Alexander	6.55	Walter Trice	3.42	J.A. Miller	1.70
Paul Franks	22.88	Bob Glass	6.55	David Todd	3.42	Larry Yudin	1.70
Doug Roberts	21.83	Steve Maas	5.60	Adam Versaw	3.40	Cam Trenor	1.70
Sam Pottle	20.74	Walt Swan	5.47	Eliot Bean	3.27	Paul Lombardo	1.58
Mike Ungerleider	16.36	Phyllis Smolinski	5.25	Perry Firooz	3.27	Leon Weiner	1.46
Roy Appey	15.46	Mark Anshus	5.20	Tom Leahy	3.21	Tom Hodous	1.25
George Barr	15.39	Timothy Jaxon	5.00	Jim Price	3.20	Boris Mindich	1.23
Herb Gurland	13.64	Steve Kovach	5.00	Gary Fries	2.50	Alan Binkow	1.12
Joe Ausmann	11.44	Alan Gaarder	5.00	Phil Michelson	2.50	Bud Bowers	1.12
Jeff Kane	11.40	Guy Nicosia	5.00	Ed King	2.50	Jay Cordes	0.94
Ed Zell	11.20	Bill Tallmadge	5.00	Elayne Feinstein	2.40	Bob Sexton	0.90
Hugh Sconyers	10.92	Matt Reklaitis	5.00	Bobbie Shifrin	2.24	Jacquie Lee	0.88
John Greci	10.75	Jake Jacobs	4.68	Marianne Gatenby	2.23	Fran Miller	0.86
Andy Palumbo	10.59	Roz Ferris	4.37	Tom Machaj	2.08	Jeff Dillinger	0.68
Ray Baker	10.40	Sal Chehayeb	4.20	Don Heinsler	2.08	Tony Burbach	0.59
Chris Wilson	9.62	Laila Leonhardt	4.16	David Rubin	1.90	Glenn Martells	0.59
Sean Garber	9.10	Linda Rockwell	4.16	Ken Ellenberger	1.89	Luther Lute	0.54
Dave Wetzell	6.85	Garo Tchalabian	3.78	Charles Toots	1.89	Ellen Allen	0.53
Len Dangremond	6.85	Wendy Kaplan	3.65	Joe Davidson	1.81	Richard Plumer	0.44
Hugh McNeil	6.84	Steve Michelson	3.53	Dee Webster	1.81	Nan Spector	0.44



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2000 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 JUNE

Tim Carroll	13.12	Mary Franks	3.84	Georgina Flanagan	2.08	Jill Ferdinand	0.80
Herb Roman	12.48	Romeo Kap	3.76	Harry Cohn	1.92	George Marasas	0.64
Ken Bond	10.64	Paul Lombardo	3.68	Matt Surecki	1.92	Brian Barber	0.64
Jake Jacobs	9.92	Ed Buerger	3.54	Wendy Kaplan	1.60	Bobbie Shifrin	0.64
Tim Mabee	9.56	Paul Friedman	3.52	Steve Klesker	1.60	Phil Simborg	0.64
Harold Elgazar	8.92	Paul Klein	3.44	Reginald Porter	1.34	Keith Kuigowski	0.60
Phyllis Smolinski	8.24	David Araiza	3.36	Elaine Kehm	1.32	John Brussel	0.48
Joe Wollick	7.04	Marc Rosset	2.92	Ralph Byrns	1.28	Roger Blaine	0.36
Tak Morioka	6.96	Gary Kay	2.88	Peter Kalba	1.28	Howard Chow	0.36
Carter Mattig	6.00	Alice Kay	2.80	Val Zimmicki	1.20	Jerry Brooks	0.24
Sinan Yoyen	5.60	Joe Ausmann	2.72	Andy Natale	1.12	Richard Stawowy	0.20
Paul Franks	5.36	Norma Shyer	2.64	Chris Wilson	1.12	Joe Szvedo	0.20
Bob Zavoral	5.28	Bob Steen	2.56	Mike Cyrkiel	0.88	Ann Thomas	0.16
Richard Lloyd	4.56	Mike Sutton	2.48	John Jennings	0.88	Brian Kozin	0.16
Don Jayhan	4.56	Rodney Bell	2.28	Dave Cramer	0.88	Tom Machaj	0.12
Bill Bartholomay	4.56	Joann Feinstein	2.16	Bill Davis	0.84	Jon Sion	0.08
Paul Baraz	4.00	Bill Keefe	2.16	Bridget McCoy	0.80		

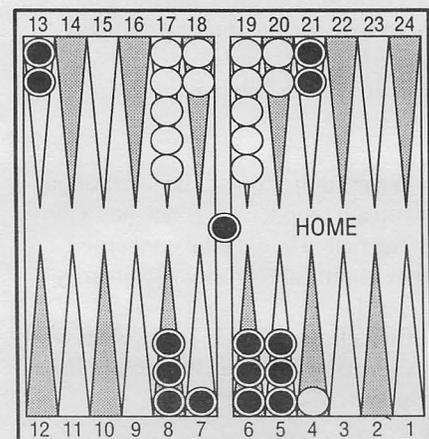
June's BPC Player of the Month is **TIM CARROLL**. Tim's 3.68 points was enough to vault him into the top spot at the halfway mark. Monthly runner's-up were David Araiza (3.36) and Alice Kay (2.80).

your move

PROBLEM #265

to be analyzed by Mary Hickey

Money game. Black on roll with a man on the bar. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.**



2

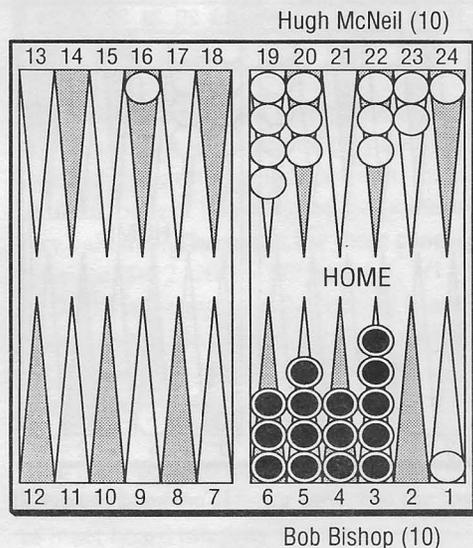
ASK
DANNY

© 2000 by Danny Kleinman

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Dear Danny: The Bob Bishop/Hugh McNeil 11-point semifinal match at the recent Michigan Summer Championships was a great one. Trailing 6-10, McNeil rallied to knot the score at 10-all and force a double match-point game. The position I'm wondering about occurred as Bishop was bearing off for the win:

Michigan Summer Championships 11-point semifinal match. Bob Bishop (Black) and Hugh McNeil (White) are tied at 10-all. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



Bishop (Black) hit with the 5 (6/1*) and then bore off the same checker. Hugh answered with 3-1, entering on the ace-point and playing 6/3 with the 3. Bob then tossed a 2-1. This time, he made his 2-point.

As a new intermediate player, I am uncertain why Bishop didn't follow his previous plan and simply play 3/1*/off. Can you explain the change of strategy?—*Wondering Why*

DEAR WHY: In the contact bear-off about which you are wondering, Black has a large lead in the race. He must be concerned primarily about safety, only secondarily about speed.

With his first roll, 5-1, Black does well to hit 6/1*/off. By hitting, he accomplishes three things:

(1) He prevents White from getting back in

- the race with double-6s,
 (2) He locks up an even bigger lead in the race if White dances, and
 (3) Most significantly, he obtains a safer position if White reenters on the 2-point, for then he will be able to play some future awkward rolls behind White's blot instead of having to hit loose on the 1-point.

Note that there is no other constructive way to play the 5-1: Black can neither point on the 1-point, nor fill a gap by making the 2-point, nor move flexibly to retain spares on all four of his existing points.

With his second roll, 2-1, Black can accomplish the same three things by hitting 3/1*, 1/off. However, 4/2, 3/2 is a more constructive alternative, for it provides a new safe landing place for checkers on his higher points in the future if White is able to stay back waiting for a shot. As noted initially, safety takes priority over speed in this position.

I wonder too: why aren't you wondering about White's play of the 3-1? In case you hadn't noticed, White could have played Bar/24, 9/6, bearing his next-to-last man in, but instead played Bar/24, 6/3, moving within his home board. That play reflects White's strategy: hanging his victory hopes on hitting a shot rather than outracing Black. By keeping a man in his outer board, White preserves a 6 that he

can play without breaking contact.—*Yours, Danny Δ*

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or send e-mail to: bg@chicagopoint.com



ILLINOIS ACTION



CHICAGO
BAR
POINT
CLUB

Bill Davis
773/583-6464

Peter Kalba
773/252-7755

Tuesday, 6:00 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.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Chatham Computers; 8119 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago. Reginald Porter (708/715-2917).

PUB CLUB: Tourn. Mon., 7:00 P.M. at Danny's Grill and Bar, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. Joe Wollick (847/755-0887).

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

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wed., 6:30 P.M. at Brewhaus, 617 E. Washington, Springfield. Ben Zemaitis (217/483-4028).

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

PEORIA BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/674-0557).

**CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB
REVERSES IT'S POSITION.
WILL SEND 1999 DRAW-
SHEETS TO BE KG-RATED**

Despite an editorial in the May CHICAGO POINT to the contrary, the Chicago Bar Point Club will supply 1999 Midwest Backgammon Championship drawsheets to Laila Leonhardt for recording in the resurrected KG International Rating System. Although we never notified the players in advance that either the 1999 Championship (Main & Consolation) or the Grand Crystal Beaver would be KG-rated, they will now be rated.

Why the change? We feel that withholding these events was correct on principle, but counterproductive to what Ms. Leonhardt is attempting to accomplish. Our argument, "What difference does it matter whether you begin compiling in 1999 or 2000?" can be thrown right back at us. Assuming the list still exists in 10 years, it will make no difference either way.

We have made our position known to Ms. Leonhardt. We hope that she will follow the principles of advance notifica-

tion as soon as it is possible. Those are also the wishes of a majority of players voting in the July Internet Gigapoll conducted by Art Grater.

But Ms. Leonhardt had taken on the massive task of keeping the ratings and is entitled to set the rules as she desires. We will abide by her rules. Δ

"KG RATING" GIGAPOLL RESULTS

Should ratings only include tournaments with advance notification?

Yes (57%). Not necessarily (28%). Yes, but with exceptions (14%).

Some players have ratings from the old KG rating list. What should happen?

Start all players at 1500 with 0 experience (44%). Start all players at their 1995 ratings and experience points (25%). Players at 1600+ keep rating but start with 0 experience points; all others start at 1500 and retain experience if over 300 (29%).

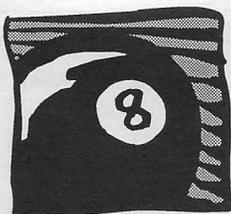
Which flights should be rated?

Main, Cons., Last Chance (57%). Main & Cons. only (33%). Main only (8%).

From which point should results commence?
 1996 (22%). 1999 (37%). 2000 (39%).

Behind 8's A Ball!

by Jake Jacobs

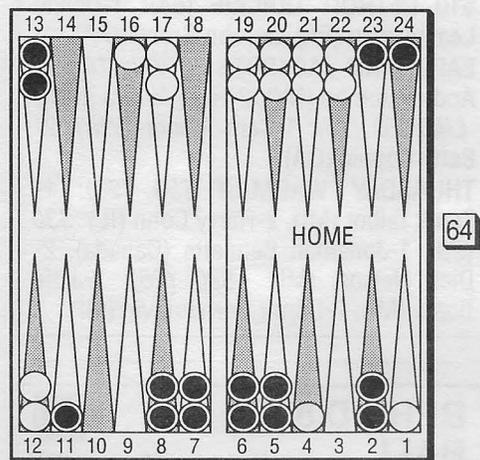


Two years ago, in an article I wrote called "Fourplay" (CHICAGO POINT, July 1998), I talked about the hidden pitfalls of doubling when one's opponent needed 8 points. The unwary player stumbling headlong into the pit full of bunji sticks was Johannes Leverman, who I mentioned might be the best player in the world.

The wearer of today's bunjied body is Mike Senkiewicz. In the forward scramble of young claimants to Backgammon's throne, Mike's name slipped several slots from its usual berth at 1st or 2nd. An important reminder to the reader: Mike may *still* be the best player in the world. And that only serves to emphasize the trickiness of the score 4-away, 8-away.

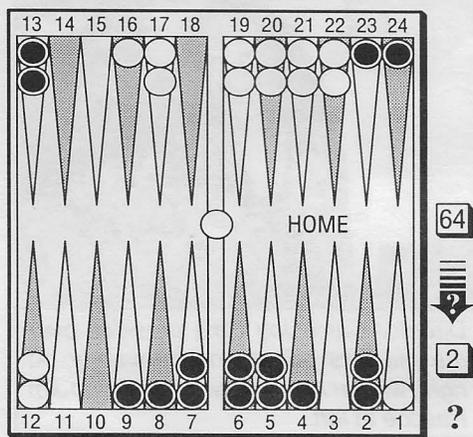
As it happens it was not Mike who thrust this position under my nose. The thruster was LA player Steve Sax, who faced Mike in the Jackpot at this year's Chicago Open. As he showed it to me, it was his checker play that concerned him.

Pos. 1. Steve Sax (Black) trails 3-7 to 11 vs. Mike Senkiewicz (White). **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**



Steve's 4-2 is, all by itself, a great problem. He can hit, prime, pick-and-pass, play safely – there is something for everyone here. In an informal poll conducted around the dinner table priming got the most votes, but if my friends had good judgment, would they be eating with me? Snowie™ prefers 8/4*, 8/6. Steve decided that the measure of a hit was the amount of blood, and played 8/4*, 11/9.

Pos. 2. Steve Sax (Black) trails 3-7 to 11 vs. Mike Senkiewicz (White). White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Mike doubled from the roof. Should he have doubled? On the other hand, should Steve have taken?

The take is easier to answer. It is a money take, so it is certainly not a pass at the score. The double, however, is wrong. This is hard to fathom since it is a strong money double, and since Mike could use, should he win a gammon, or be redoubled, all four points. (And very efficiently thank you!)

The reason why the double is incorrect may be seen by looking at the position one roll later. That position, following Senk's entry failure, was identical to the one above, except for two small changes: Steve owned a 2-cube, and he was on roll. Steve redoubled, and Mike took.

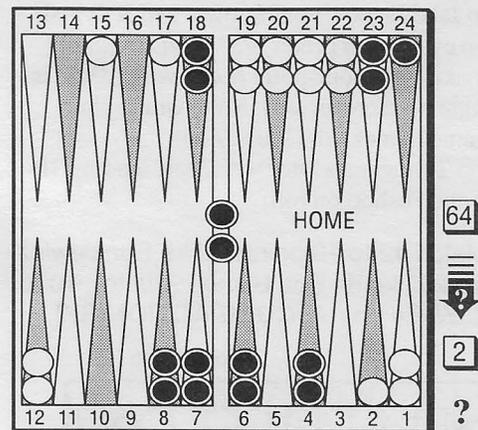
Should each have done as they did? Yes, and no. Black redoubling this in a money game would invite a beaver. At this score, White must pass! Even without the cube, White wins over 43% of his games, and nearly 16% are gammons. Unfortunately, at the score he *was* without the cube, and *his* gammons were worthless.

Steve's gammons, though, were very valuable, and half of his wins would be gammons. If White should take, he would win 43.2% of his matches immediately, and another group of matches equal to half of his plain game losses (which would put the score at 7-7 to 11). Those plain losses amount to 28.5%. Half of that is 14.25%, which, added to 43.2% comes to only 57.5%, even if wearing elevator shoes. Mike's winning chances from 7-5 to 11, if he passed the redouble, would have been 63.7%, so this was a rather big pass. (Mike, like Johannes before him, did happen to win. No law bars the great ones from rolling well.)

I saw this early in the tournament, and so had the benefit of the wisdom above

when I faced David Rockwell in the semi-finals of the Open Consolation.

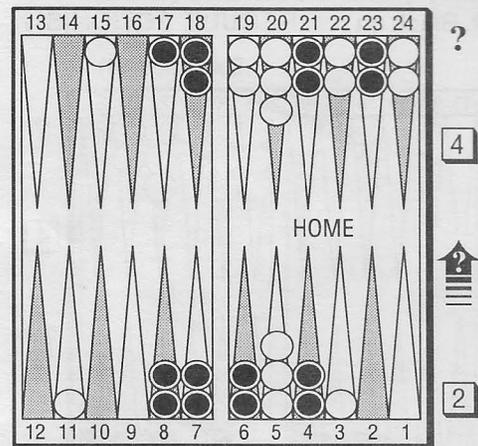
Pos. 3. Jake Jacobs (Black) trails David Rockwell (White) 1-4 to 9. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Some people think that the two men on the bar are liabilities, but I like to think of them as secret weapons. This position bears many points of resemblance to Steve's and Mike's, so I was thrilled to be cubed here. I was not thrilled later to find that Snowie™ thinks that this was a fine cube, and a big pass. It seemed to think my secret weapons were aiming more toward me, but who listens to the niveous little nonentity anyway?

It is easy to say that one will use the redouble to punishing effect, but another thing altogether to actually work out when to fling it back. Here was a good time, but I cannot swear that I didn't miss others as good or better.

Pos. 4. Jake Jacobs (Black) trails David Rockwell (White) 1-4 to 9. Black on roll. **RECUBE ACTION(S)?**



Somewhere along the way David suffered an unexpected outbreak of double 3s. David would win slightly less here than

[Continued on page 6]

SENK TAKES BISHOP...

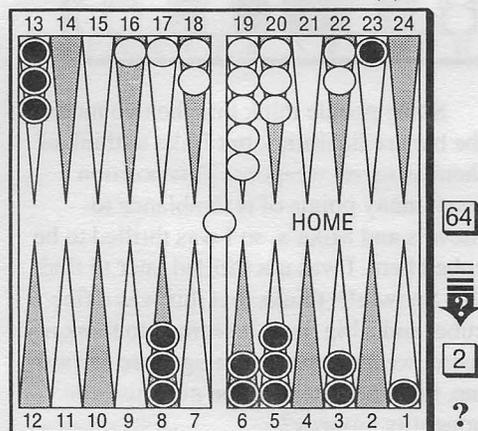
[Continued from page 1]

Mike played 6/4(2), best for winning a plain game, but not a gammon. According to Jake Jacobs, both Snowie and JellyFish on evaluation prefer 5/3*, 4/3(2). Simply making the four-point board with 5/3(2) is right up there as well. Mike won a plain game to make the score 9—all.

Two games later with Senk leading 10–9 and Bishop on roll:

Match #2 to 13 points. Mike Senkiewicz (Black) leads Bob Bishop (White), 10 to 9. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

Bob Bishop (9)



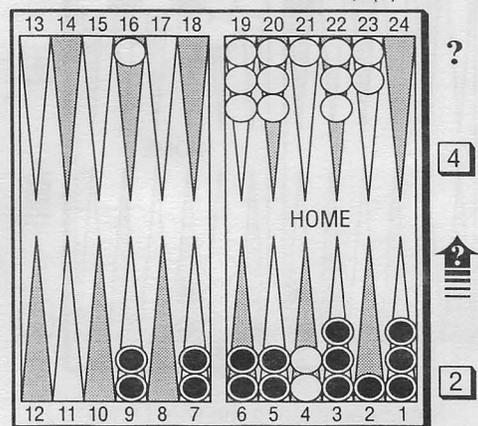
Mike Senkiewicz (10)

A gutsy double by Bishop. Jake Jacobs feels that many players would fail to double, but comments, “Obviously no double for money, but seems mandatory at the score.”

Mike took, which led to:

Match #2 to 13 points. Mike Senkiewicz (Black) leads Bob Bishop (White), 10 to 9. Black on roll. **RECUBE ACTION(S)?**

Bob Bishop (9)



Mike Senkiewicz (10)

Jake continues: “If many players don’t double as Bob, how many do you suppose



Director Carol Joy Cole presides over the Masters prizegiving ceremony. At right, winner Al Jones with runner-up Jim Pascoe at left.

redouble as Senk? the evaluation says “pass,” but it is very, very close. Whatever the rollout says, it looks like it is too close to comment on either way. Bob did pass.”

The turnaround seemed to take the wind out of Bishop’s sails. Within two games, the match was over. Mike Senkiewicz held on to capture first place by a final score of 13–10.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Masters winner Alan Jones (Canada) who prevailed over a tough 32-player field to claim the \$10,000 first prize money. Congrats also to the other winners including Intermediate victor Ron Appey (NY) and Novice champ Marianne Gatenby (Canada).

Another fine job by director Carol Joy Cole and staff. We can’t wait for next year’s event, scheduled for 28 June–1 July. Complete results at right: Δ

2000 MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (82): 1-Mike Senkiewicz (NY), 2-Bob Bishop (NY), 3-Hugh McNeil (Canada), 4/5-Ralph Dietz (MI) / Walter Trice (MA); 1C-Herb Gurland (MA), 2C-Neil Kazaross (IL), 3C/4C-Sam Pottle (WI) / David Todd (FL)

INTERMEDIATE (82): 1-Ron Appey (NY), 2-Dave Wetzell (MN), 3-Sean Garber (IN), 4/5-Cam Trenor (WA) / Larry Yudin (Canada); 1C-Len Dangremond (MI), 2C-Adam Versaw (PA), 3C/4C-Sal Chehayeb (MI) / J.A. Miller (IL).

NOVICE (20): 1-Marianne Gatenby (Canada), 2-Alan Binkow (MI); 1C-Bud Bowers (PA), 2C-Luther Lute (OH).

MICHIGAN MASTERS (32): 1-Al Jones (Canada), 2-Jim Pascoe (CT).

SUMMER FREEZE-OUT (32): 1-Elliott Winslow (CA), 2-Greg Cattanach (GA).

OPEN DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Denny & Carol Leatherman (PA), 2- Steve Hast (PA) & Steve Mellen (NY), 3/4-Wendy Kaplay & Neil Kazaross (IL) / Mike Rezaï & Bonnie Rogoff (OH).

LIMITED DOUBLES (12 teams): 1-John Bashian (OH) & Lou Steiner (PA).

MICHIGAN BLITZ (128): 1-Abbas Zaltash (PA), 2-Paul Klein (IL).

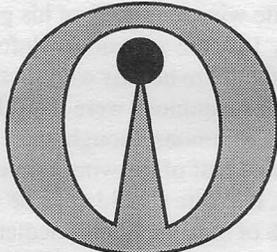
FIRECRACKER JACKPOTS \$300 (16): 1-Joe Freedman (VA), 2-Paul Klein (IL).
\$100 (16): 1-Julian Haley (SC), 2-Jim Slomkoski (MI).

\$20 DETROIT QUICKIES #1 (64): 1-Andy Palumbo (NY), 2-Bill Versaw (PA). **#2 (64):** 1-Wally Wolf (MI), 2-David Todd (FL).

\$10 DETROIT QUICKIE (64): 1-Denny Leatherman (PA), 2-John Grecni (PA).

EARLYBIRD JACKPOTS OPEN (16): 1-Andy Palumbo (NY), 2-Herb Avram (MD).
LIMITED (16): 1-Cam Trenor (WA), 2-Betty Coppic (GA).

THURSDAY WARM-UP \$50 (23): 1-Frank Talbot (MI), 2-Harry Cohn (IL) **\$30 (28):** 1-Jonathan Bennetts (Canada), 2-Dick Nelson (MI). **\$20 (26):** 1-Jeffe Boats (MI), 2-Damir Berhamovic (MI).



Indiana open

Labor Day Weekend
September 1–4, 2000
Sheraton-Indianapolis Hotel/Suites
 Indianapolis, Indiana
 Butch & Mary Ann Meese

317/255-8902
meese@worldnet.att.net




BEHIND 8'S A BALL...

[Continued from page 5]

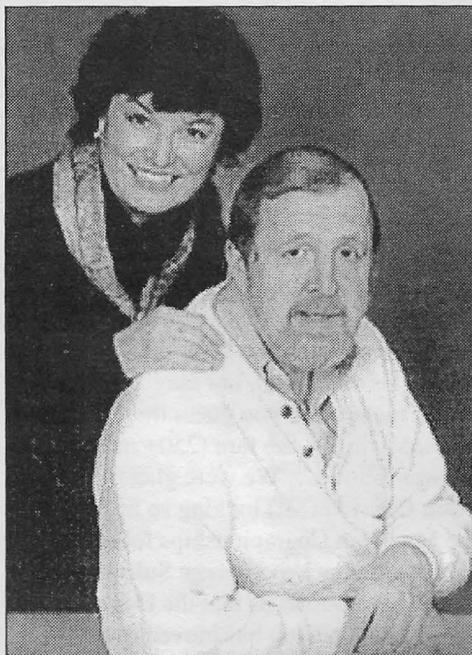
Senk—only 41.2% instead of 43.2% (and once again nearly 16% gammons), but Black’s gammons come to only a quarter of his wins, not one-half, so David correctly took. I nearly gammoned him for the match, until I got cute in the bear-in. I wasn’t cute enough to actually lose the game, and went on to win the match, only to finish second to Sam Pottle (WI) in the Consolation final. Δ

The Great White Hope

by Duane Jensen



For many years Minnesotan Riley Harrison was a frequent participant in backgammon tournaments all over the country. He usually played in the Intermediate division but spent much of his spare time watching the big-bucks chouettes.



Riley's 6' 4" height helped him get a good view of the action, even in those chouettes congested by gawkers and kibitzers. I always tried to grab Riley as a dinner companion at these tournament sites because he came with chouette stories of what Kissane rolled, or what Goulding said, or the cube Ring dropped, or the cube Sylvester should have dropped.

The dinner conversation turned to Riley's last name, "Harrison." I knew his ancestors had been in America for many years and asked if he was related to the presidential "Harrisons," Benjamin and William. Of course he was, and he described what it was like for him as a child growing up in a huge southern mansion.

He went to school in Virginia as a teenager. Two of his high school classmates were Shirley MacLaine and her brother Warren Beatty. Shirley was not very well-liked in high school, but Warren was an excellent student and athlete and admired by everyone. Riley and Warren

Beatty were in the same high school fraternity, and Riley gave him a high rating as "a nice guy."

Then Riley asked me if I went to high school with anyone famous. I thought for awhile and came up with only one person who found his fifteen minutes of fame. His name was Jim Beattie.



Riley said what you're probably thinking now: "Jim who?" Jim Beattie was four years older than me and about two feet taller. He was almost 6' 9", and his height was exaggerated when he walked down the hallway with Judy Larson, his girlfriend, who was barely five feet tall.

Mr. Rose our high school basketball coach was crushed when he learned that the "big guy" had no interest in playing basketball. Jim Beattie wanted to be a boxer. Very few tall athletes become good boxers. While they have excellent reach and can jab away at their opponents, their tall frames make excellent targets for body shots. Tall boxers are slow-footed, and a shorter, quicker fighter can usually wear them down. Wilt Chamberlain is an example of a tall athlete who failed miserably at prize-fighting.

Jim Beattie had limited success as a fighter but never really made the big-time. His career as a boxer wasn't his fifteen minutes of fame; that came in 1970 as an "actor."

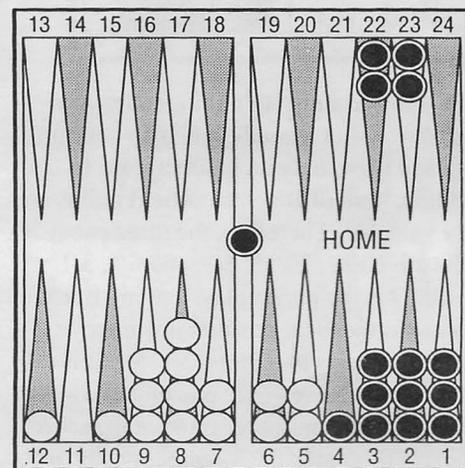
Jack Johnson was the first black heavyweight champion of the world. His flamboyant lifestyle and his in-your-face attitude irritated many people. A plea went out to find someone to defeat Johnson. Writer Jack London directed these words to former champion Jim Jeffries: "Jim Jeffries must emerge from his alfalfa farm and remove the golden smile from Johnson's face. Jeff it's up to you."

It was inevitable that Jack Johnson's

colorful life would one day be portrayed in a movie. In 1970 the play "The Great White Hope" was made into a motion picture starring James Earl Jones who was nominated for an Academy Award. Jim Beattie had been an actor in high school and a prize fighter for many years. The director needed a tall fighter to portray "The Kid" in the movie, and Jim Beattie was a perfect fit. Jim had found his fifteen minutes of fame, becoming the only film celebrity I went to school with.

Eventually the quest for "The Great White Hope" was successful when Jess Willard defeated Jack Johnson for the heavyweight championship in Havana, Cuba in 1915. In the following position, try to find "The Great White Hope."

Tournament double match-point.
WHITE TO PLAY 2-1.



The first thing to look at is the match score. Since this is double match-point, gammons do not hurt Black or benefit White. This is a case where *greed* is unimportant and *safety* is the goal. If possible, White should try to create a position which will lead to the safest bearoff.

The most obvious play is 12/10 (making the 6-prime) and 8/7 (leveling off the stack on the 8-point). Though pleasing to the eye, this 6-prime doesn't serve any purpose at this point in the game. The prime can be sustained for only a couple more rolls, and Black's inner board is not about to crash. If White makes the obvious play, Black usually ends up with a 2-3-4 backgame and will get several good shots at White's blots as he attempts to bring his men home.

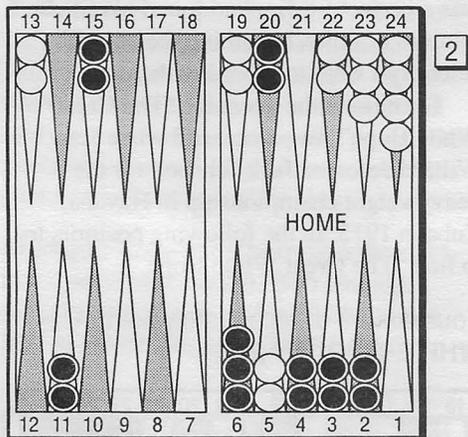
The best play I've found is 5/4* and 8/6. This unorthodox play exposes four White blots, but it does retain a four-prime. Even if White is hit, it's very difficult for Black

[Continued on page 8]

**PROBLEM #264
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

Chicago Open 15-point finals. Hugh Sconyers (Black) leads Doug Roberts (White), 5 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



Black certainly isn't going to leave a direct shot when he can play comfortably and leave only an indirect shot. In addition, both of Black's outfield points are very valuable. Therefore, the three candidates are 20/12; 20/15, 6/3; and 6/1, 3/1.

20/12 is the purest play, leaving Black's offense in the ideal position it is in now; but that exposes two blots. 20/15, 6/3 is safer since it leaves only one blot and a less dangerous one; however moving the spare from the 6-point to the 3-point is costly. 6/1, 4/1 is completely safe for now, but the loss of inner board integrity is serious.

How dangerous is it for Black to leave an indirect shot? Not very dangerous. 20/12 duplicates White's 7s, and White doesn't hit in the outfield with 6-1 anyway. Even if White does hit, his board is not in great shape and Black will probably be able to enter in time to pick off one of White's fleeing checkers. If White doesn't hit anything, obviously Black would rather have played 20/12.

How important is it for Black to maintain his offensive structure? Very important. The key is that even though White's game is a mess, it is White who is ahead in the race. This means that Black will have to hit something in order to win. Also White's position is completely stripped, so White will almost certainly be releasing one of his points next turn. Black will need all the pounders he has to pounce on what is left, and he needs to have a strong board with no unnecessary inner board blots. That

means keeping the spare on the 6-point where it is and playing 20/12 must be the right play.

This sort of problem is quite easy to solve if you look at the race and see what is going on. White is ahead in the race, so Black will have to hit and contain a checker. This means that builders and flexibility rather than complete safety have the highest priority for Black. If it were Black who were well ahead in the race it would be another story. Then safety would be more important. Δ

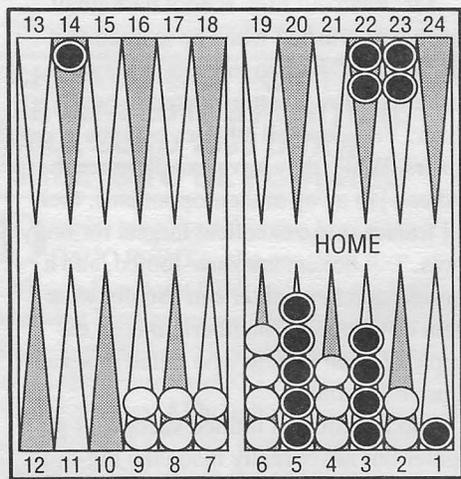
THE GREAT WHITE...

[Continued from page 7]

Black to play a forward game and escape 11 men from behind that four-prime.

If White is hit, the game slows down as the checkers are recycled. This slow-down is not a good thing for Black because it opens the possibility for Black to roll doublets like 2s, 3s and 4s which may force him from White's ace- and deuce-points.

If the recycling plan is successful, White will find himself in a position like the one below, a position which is much safer to bear in against than battling a 2-3-4 backgame:



It's tough to pass up the chance to make a six-prime, but the "Great White Hope" in this game is to try to make a mess of your opponent's timing by giving him some blots to hit. Δ

Reminder

The next issue of Chicago Point
will be printed
11 September 2000.

AMALGAMATION

Don't forget the Bar Point Club Sunday bimonthly event 6 August at Anyways in Oakbrook Terrace, IL. Starting time in 12:00 noon. For more info, call **Peter Kalba** (IL) at 773/252-7755... **Bill Marczak** (Sydney, Australia) is currently working in Moscow, Russia. Bill notes a lot of backgammon action there, and is planning to establish a backgammon club. But Bill's running into problems with some Russian players who don't like "foreigners" telling them about "their game" (Nardi)... Congratulations to Peoria Backgammon Club director **Ed Zell** and wife **Lisa** on the 16 June birth of their new daughter **Mary Viola Zell**. You can meet her at the Peoria Summer Sizzler picnic and tournament 19-20 August. Call Ed at 309/691-8983 for the details... With all the weight he's lost, it's hard to recognize **Drew Giovanis** (FL)... **Laila Leonhardt** (IL) was without transportation to the Michigan Summer Championships until Pub Club director **Joe Wollick** (IL) offered to take her in his cab. For laughs, he turned on the meter. Can you guess the Chicago to Novi, Michigan cab fare (250+ miles)? The answer follows... We were glad to see **John Carrico** (MI) looking so healthy at the Michigan Championships following his June heart attack... **George Sulimirski** (England) informs us that the Double Five Backgammon Club has moved to St. John's Wood Bridge Club in London. Club days are Thursdays and Sundays. Call 020 7286 7465 for the details... The cab fare from Chicago to Novi was \$590 before a tip!... The European backgammon scene mourns the passing of Germany's **Heiner Haussleiter**. The *European Backgammon News* states that he was "well known and extremely well liked." WBF General Secretary **Marco Fornasir** (Italy) tells us that in Mr. Haussleiter's honor, the Warm-up tournament at the upcoming European Championship will be renamed the Heiner Haussleiter Memorial... Long time Chicago backgammon players will remember the name **Kent Maynard** who still ranks 26th on the All-Time Chicagoland Backgammon list. Col. Maynard, a WWII and Korean War vet, passed away 29 May. He was 81... Although the deadline for Backgammon on Board has passed, the Cruise Consultants booked two extra cabins, so if you want to take the 3-10 December cruise from New Orleans to Montego Bay and Cozumel, call **Sue Will** at 309/699-6005. Δ

**WINNER'S
CIRCLE**



May–July 2000

•**Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 7 May)... OPEN (10): 1-Ron Weiner, 2-Bob Holyon; 1C-Tom Machaj.

•**6th EBN May Tournament** (San Roque, Spain; 7-14 May)... CHAMPIONSHIP (32): 1-Colin Martin, (UK/Spain), 2-Andreas Humke (GER), 3/4-Pedro Matos (POR) / Christian Harkort (GER); 1C-Dag Ekmark (NOR), 2C-Pawel Bielewicz (SWE), 3C/4C-Dirk Schiemann (GER) / Chris Ternel (DEN); 1LC-Ronald Reinhardt (GER), 2LC-Andreas Maertens (GER), 3LC/4LC-Ricardo Maias (LEB) / François Tardieu (FRA). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Louisa Sequeira (POR), 2/3-Randolph von Gans (GER) / Marc van Damme (BEL), 4-Martin Lee (ENG), 5/6-Martin Schubert (GER) / Peter Winkler (AUS). PARTOUCHE KICK-OFF (64): 1-Peter Van de Bruck (GER), 2-Tom Jays (ENG). DOUBLES (16): 1-Pawel & Rita (SWE), 2-Humke & Rumker (GER). GIN RUMMY (64): 1-Carl Tovas (SWE), 2-Bambi de Bruin (GER), 3/4-Dirk Schiemann (GER) / Ronald Reinhardt (GER). LADIES PRIZE: Louisa Sequeira (POR). LUCKY \$500 DRAW: Peter Winkler (AUS).

•**BIBA Hilton Trophy Tournament** (Coventry, England; 3-4 June)... OPEN (57): 1-Jeff Barber, 2-Raj Jansari, 3/4-John Slattery / Bill Pope, 5/8-Dod Davies / Brian Lever / Paul Turnbull / Uldis Lapikens; 1C-Graham Brittain, 2C-Brian Lever, 3C/4C-Jon Barnes / Peter Wilson, 5C/8C-Sima Sahami / Paul Turnbull / Francine Brandler / David Fall; 1LC-John Clark, 2LC-David Nathan. SUICIDE!(32): 1-John Broomfield, 2-Roy Hollands, 3/4-Paul Barwick / Keith Robertson. FRIDAY KNOCKOUT (20): 1-John Slattery, 2-Roy Hollands, 3/4-Tim Cross / Emmanuel di Bona. DOUBLES (15): 1-The Post Futurists, 2-Timphuctoo.

•**Copenhagen Open 2000** (Frederiksgård Skole, Denmark; 3-4 June)... CHAMPIONSHIP (89): 1-Ken Bang Henriksen, 2-Jes Bondo, 3/4-Karsten Nielsen / Morten Aagren Svendsen; 1C-Tobias Christensen, 2C-Kim Brusgaard, 3C/4C-Mathias Jörg / Thomas Kokholm. INTERMEDIATE

(74): 1-Morten Nielsen, 2-Steen Jørgensen, 3/4-Niels Smedegaard / Clement Breum; 1C-Harry Breuer, 2C-Peter Switon, 3C/4C-Khosrow Samadi / Ulla Hellsten. BEGINNER (40): 1-Malene Hansen, 2-Jacob Dahl, 3-Jacob Smith.

•**2nd Annual Spring Fling** (Bloomington, IL; 4 June)... OPEN (23): 1-Greg Tomlin, 2-Faddoul Khoury, 3/4-Chris Wilson / John Jennings; 1C-Terry Leahy, 2C-Mike Flohr.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 11 June)... OPEN (15): 1-Wendy Kaplan, 2-Phil Simborg, 3/4-Jake Jacobs / Chris Wilson; 1C-Ken Bond, 2C-Joe Wollick. INTERMEDIATE (15): 1/2-Reginald Porger / Ed Buerger, 3/4-Elaine Kehm / Joe Szewedo; 1C-Tim Carroll, 2C-Roger Blaine.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (Palo Alto, CA; 11 June)... OPEN (20): 1-Michael Klein, 2-Odis Chenault, 3/4-Ernest Ho / Nicky Niknam; 1C/2C-Steve Clark / Mo Wasley. INTERMEDIATE (9): 1-Clint McClintic, 2-Jim Fulton; 1C-Glenn Nuñez.

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 25 June)... OPEN (10): 1-Mark Megalli, 2-Boris Golubov; 1C-Steve Elkin. INTERMEDIATE (12): 1-Henry Byzinski, 2-Eydie Noble; 1C-Ron Appey.

•**Marbella Open** (Marbella, Spain, 30 June-2 July)... MASTERS (32): 1-Mike Svobodny (USA), 2-Lorenzo Laganá (Italy), 3/4-Leonid Riskin (Ukraine) / José Salema (Portugal); 1C-Paul Magriel (USA), 2C-Andrea de Zandonati (Italy); 1LC-Murray Sharp (UK), 2LC-Ralf Zimmermann (Germany); Ladies Prize: Not assigned. CHAMPION (30): 1-Eduardo Velasco (Spain), 2-Martin Rasmussen (Denmark), 3/4-Randy von Gans (Germany) / Marc Steyvers (Belgium); 1C-Brian Lever (UK), 2C-Martin King (UK); 1LC-Martin Barkwill (UK), 2LC-Carlo Facchitti (Italy); Ladies Prize: Carmen Alvarez Cancela (Spain). INTERMEDIATE (12): 1-Maria Croce (Italy), 2-Jean King (UK); 1C-Frederick Hostrup (Denmark), 2C-Micle Chervony (Russia); 1LC-Anatoli Machulski (Russia), 2LC-Alberto da Pra (Italy). WARM-UP (49): 1-Martin King (UK), 2-Alberto da Pra (Italy). ONE POINT TOURNAMENT—PRESIDENT'S TOURNAMENT: 1-Werner Reisel (Austria). Δ

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

Remember that you have until 1 September 2000 to take us for \$100. (See the June 2000 issue for details.)—Ed.

JUST WHEN YOU THINK...

I have come across and bought a 3-player backgammon board. I've played backgammon for years and just when you think you know it all . . . well I do not even know how the board should be set up. Do you have any idea at all, or do you even know where to find out how to play this game???

—Kathie Levert, Ottawa, Canada

Not sure if we know how to play Kathie, but we can definitely set up the board. You can find this info along with online rules at Tom Keith's "Backgammon Galore" site: www.bkgm.com/rules.html.

By the way, what is a "3-player backgammon board"?—Ed

RULES QUESTION

At the recent Chicago Open. My opponent rolled his dice and one of them landed on an ever-so-slightly raised piece of felt on the playing field. He was trying to come in from the bar and this roll wasn't one that entered for him. He said the dice were "cocked," so I let him roll again without protest. From that point, he went on to win the game and match.

Could this have been handled better? Do official Tournament Rules exist? Do the rules change somewhat from tournament to tournament?—Bob Sexton, Chicago, IL

To answer your last question first, Bob: the US Tournament Rules are basically the same across the nation. They can be viewed online at: www.chicagopoint.com/usrules.html.

You did not handle the ruling incident properly. Whenever there is a dispute about the proper procedure to follow, call for a tournament director. Rule 4.2 reads:

VALID ROLLS. Both dice must come to rest flat (not cocked) on the playing surface to the right of the bar; otherwise they must be rerolled.

Despite this, it is rare when the playfield alone is the cause of cocked dice. Usually a side wall or a checker is involved. If, as you state, the dice landed in the middle of the playfield on fabric that was only slightly raised, the roll is usually ruled "valid." A die would have to be resting at a very severe angle for it to be ruled "cocked."—Ed. Δ

The Worldwide Backgammon Federation is proud to present the



12th European Backgammon Championship Mitteleuropa Backgammon - and Black-jack - Decennial

HIT Casinò Park of Nova Gorica (Slovenia)

Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd September, 2000

supported by the Slovenian Ministry of Tourism
and valid for the official title of WBF European Championship 2000

Valid also for the 2000 WBF official Italian Championship

Tournament Committee

To be announced at the Tournament under the Presidency of **Alberto da Pra**, president of the Worldwide Backgammon Federation

Tournament Director

Marco Fornasir
Sanctioned by the
Worldwide Backgammon Federation.
WBF Tournament rules will apply

Entry Fees

MASTER (13 pt) 850.000 Lire (438,99 €)
CHAMPION (11 pt) 300.000 Lire (154,94 €)
INTERMEDIATE (7 pt) 100.000 Lire (51,65 €)

Registration Fees

EACH CATEGORY 50.000 Lire (25,82 €)



Accommodation

HIT PARK HOTEL

Delpinova 5 - Nova Gorica (ph. 386-65-28225)

Single	Double
about 116.000 Itl (59,91 €)	about 85.000 Itl (43,90 €)

per night (+ 2.000 Itl. taxes), per person
Rates valid for direct reservations only. Fax
reservation by August 14 to +386-65-22381.
Attn: Reception. Mention "Backgammon".

For more information **Marco Fornasir**
ph. +39 02 69018168 - fax +39 02 69018163 - fornasir@iol.it - www.wbf.net

Monday, August 28

19:30-20:00 Registration
Backgammon Tournament at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-jack Tournament
at the Casino
22:30 Quarter-entries, Jackpots
and Minijackpots

Tuesday, August 29

10:30 Excursion
19:30-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-jack Tournament at the
Casino
22:30 Quarter-entries, Jackpots
and Minijackpots

Wednesday, August 30

10:30 Excursion

19:30-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-jack Tournament at the Casino
22:30 Quarter-entries, Jackpots
and Minijackpots

Thursday, August 31

17:30 Public draw for warm-up Memorial
Heiner Hausleiter (free of charge)
18:00 Start of play Warm-up,
Quarters, Jackpots
and Minijackpots
20:00 Black-jack Tournament at the
Casino; Public draw for Sperti Trophy
(free of charge - only for WBF supporters)
20:00-22:30 Break for Dinner
20:15 Celebration dinner for all former
European and Mitteleuropa Champions
22:30 Start of Sperti Trophy

Friday, September 1

17:00 Warm-up, Sperti Trophy,
Quarters, Jackpots
and Minijackpots continues
19:00-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Welcome cocktail in hotel lounge;
Black-jack Tournament at the Casino
22:00 Last registration
22:30 Public draw
23:00 Start of play, Quarters, Jackpots
and Minijackpots

Saturday, September 2

16:00 Main Tournament continues and
start of Progressive Consolation
Tournament
17:00 Quarters, Jackpots
and Minijackpots

20:00 Black-jack Tournament at the Casino
20:00-22:30 Break for Dinner
22:30 Saturday Franz Josef
Super-Jackpot and play continues

Sunday, September 3

15:00 Start of Last Chance Tournament,
Finals, Quarters, Jackpots
and Minijackpots
17:00 Black-jack Tournament at the
Casino; Semifinals and Finals
20:30 Schönbrunn dinner party and
awarding ceremony at Park Hotel

All registered players
will receive
the official decennial
celebration gift

The organization reserves the right to change the program in any of its parts. Changes will be announced in advance and posted on the Notice Board. The Trophies will be presented only during the awarding ceremony.



DAL NEGRO

