

2000 illinois state championships

## DOUEIHI RALLIES TO TAKE ILLINOIS TITLE

by Bill Davis

High-rated Peoria player Milad Doueihi rallied in his last two matches to capture the 2000 Illinois State Backgammon Championship. The annual event, organized by the Randy Armstrong and the Sangamon Valley Backgammon Association, was again staged in Illinois' state capitol at the beautiful Springfield Hilton Hotel 13-15 October. Player participation involved five midwestern states.



2000 Illinois State champ Milad Doueihi (right) receives his 1st place trophy from director Randy Armstrong.

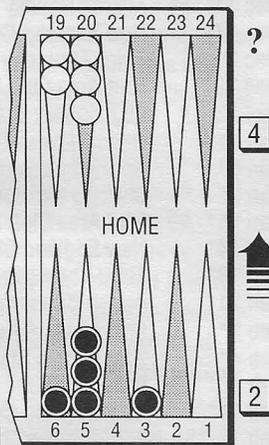
Doueihi had excellent results playing in the Advanced division of the Midwest Championships (1st-1988, 2nd-1991, 2nd-1995). But he has only played a few random Championship events with little luck since stepping up in 1996. Tell that to his semifinal opponent Bruce Russell. With a 12-11 Crawford lead in the 13-point semifinal, Milad aggressively gammoned Russell to win 13-12 and advance to the semifinal.

On the other side of the drawsheet, I was slithering past Sam Pottle (WI) at double match point late Saturday evening. I figured that by advancing past Sam, my

final match would be somewhat easier. At least, that's what I thought.

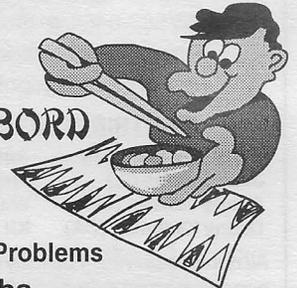
The 15-point Championship battle began at noon on Sunday. One-half hour later, I commanded a 9-0 lead and had Milad babbling to himself. But following a long rally by my opponent that cut my lead to 12-9, it was me doing the babbling. Then in the diagrammed position, Doueihi pushed a well-timed 4-cube in my face:

15-point Illinois State Champ finals. Black (Milad Doueihi) trails White (Bill Davis), 9-12. **BLACK DOUBLES. SHOULD WHITE TAKE?**



[Continued on page 4]

## ASIAN SMORGASBORD



12 Challenging Problems  
by Jake Jacobs

This next player is absolutely pathetic, as the 52 points I won from him last week conclusively proves. I am sure you all have the good sense not to waste your money on him, so I'll be the sport! I'll bid \$2000."

"\$3000."

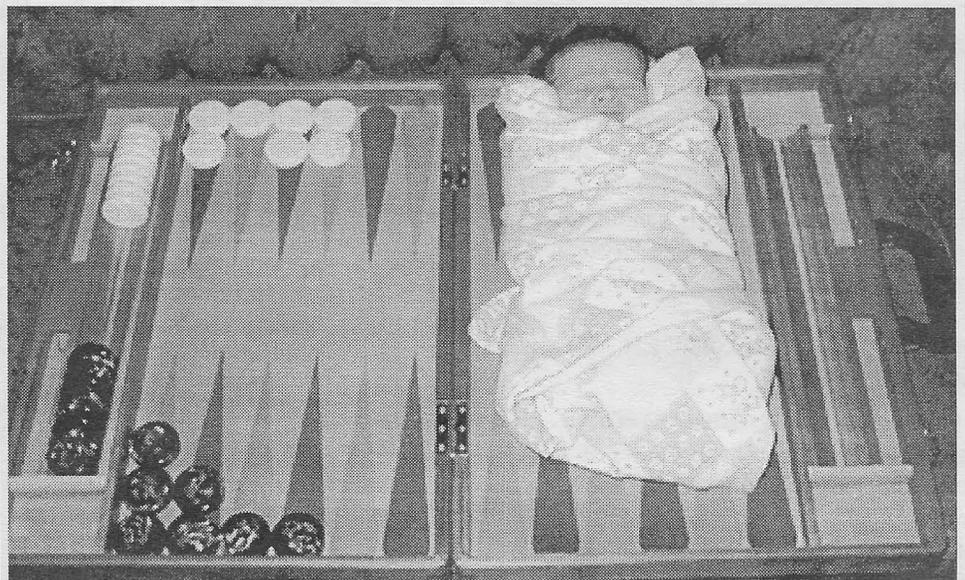
"\$4000."

"\$4500!"

"I have \$4500. You're making a huge mistake. He's an absolute mug, I tell you. Won't change your mind? Going once. Going twice. Sold for \$4500."

[Continued on page 6]

## DON'T DROP THIS!



Redwood Empire BG Club director Timothy Jaxon (Sebastopol, CA) and wife Audrey waited less than a week to get their new baby boy Alexander Gregory Jaxon (born 21 October 2000) involved with backgammon. By the way, if you're black in this money game position, and "Xander" doubles you, don't drop him!

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## CLOSE

I thought Joe Wollick had bettered my double direct shot reduction position until I read your explanation ("Letters" in CHICAGO POINT #132). I still suspect that the double direct shot is the most likely candidate to be bettered, so encourage Joe to try harder!—*Ray Kershaw, London, England*

## SEXY WOMEN NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE!?

In the October 2000 CHICAGO POINT, there is a letter from Diane Varner of Asheville, NC, objecting to your use of scantily clad women at the Chipoint website. Ms Varner, unfortunately, will not be reading this response since, as she notes, she is not a subscriber. She does not subscribe, she says, because your graphics are sexist, inconsiderate, and offensive, and

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
810/232-9731  
[cjc@tir.com](mailto:cjc@tir.com)

\* Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Nov 14	18th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Nov 16	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 17-19	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, MN</u>	612/378-1536
Nov 18	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Nov 18*	Rochester Monthly Tournament, Bagel Bin Cafe, Rochester, NY	716/461-2619
Nov 19	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Nov 19	New England Bonus Tournament, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Nov. 24-26	<u>Ohio State Championships, Akron/Fairlawn Holiday Inn, Akron, OH</u>	330/966-2811
Nov 26	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Nov 26	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
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 1	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer <i>tournaments@cyberarts.com</i>	
Dec 2*	Springfield Series #2, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, IL	217/5280117
Dec 3-10	Backgammon on Board V Cruise, New Orleans-Montego Bay-Cozumel	773/583-6464
Dec 10	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly Tournament, Q Cafe, Palo Alto, CA	831/688-9722
Dec 10	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Dec 16	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Emba-ssy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Dec 17	Atlanta Holiday Tournament, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Dec 17	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Dec 21	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Dec 28*	Flint Area Club Holiday Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Dec 30-31	<u>ABT Holiday &amp; Ace Pt Club Championship, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u>	212/753-0842
Jan 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer <i>tournaments@cyberarts.com</i>	
Jan 6*	Springfield Series #3, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Jan 9*	Chicago Bar Point Club 2000 Awards Tourney, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Jan 11*	Flint Area Club 2000 Awards Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 14*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Jan 18*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 21*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Feb 3*	Springfield Series #4, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, IL	217/528-0117
Feb 4*	21st Illinois State Challenge Cup, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, IL	773/583-6464
Feb 10*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Feb 11*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Feb 16-18	<u>23rd Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	412/823-7500
Feb 16-18*	Vegas Backgammon Madness II, Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	661/275-5769
Mar 3*	Springfield Series #5, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Mar 18*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Mar 23-25	<u>2001 Midwest Championships, Radisson Hotel Lisle-Naperville, Lisle, IL</u>	773/583-6464
May 25-28*	<u>22nd Chicago Open, Wyndham NW Chicago Hotel, Itasca, IL</u>	702/893-6025
Jun 28-Jul 1*	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI</u>	810/232-9731
Aug 3-5*	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	716/387-0767
Aug 9-12*	<u>Georgia State Championships &amp; Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, GA</u>	770/333-1876
Aug 31-Sep 3*	<u>49th Indiana Open, Sheraton Hotel &amp; Suites, Indianapolis, IN</u>	317/255-8902

### OUTSIDE USA

Nov 18-19	Swiss Meisterschaft 2000, Restaurant Roter Turm, Baden, Switzerland	4179-401 5811
Nov 18-19	XXV Finnish Open, Scandic Hotel, Espoo, Finland	35840-5433778
Nov 18-19*	Denmark Speed Tournament, Cafe Central Park, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-202204
Nov 18-19	9th & 10th Ranglistenturnier 2000, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Gerny	49521-64314
Nov 25-26*	Denmark Championship 2000, Østerbrohuset, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Dec 9-10	13th Open von Thun & Swiss Doubles, Hotel Seepark, Thun, Switzerland	4179-656 9700
Dec 9-10	United Kingdom Finals, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Dec 9-10*	Tromsø Open 2000, Speiderhuset, Tromsø, Norway	4793-204371
Dec 10*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's, Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Dec 14-17*	Championnat de France, Aviation Club, Paris, France (residents only)	331-42618080
Jan 3-7	6th Thailand Open, Style Restaurant, Jomtien Beach, Pattaya, Thailand	6638-303136
Jan 6-7	Bright 'n' Breezy, Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton, England	44152-2888676
Jan 18-28	2nd South Pattaya Cup, 19th Hole Super Pub, Nongprue, Thailand	6638-428293
Jan 25-28*	Principe Leopoldo 2001 Challenge, Villa Leopoldo, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Feb 10-11*	Jarvis Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Feb 12-18*	Paris Master & Open Tournament, Holiday Inn Republique, Paris, France	33607-551516
Mar 3-4*	Slattery Scottish Open, East Kilbride, Scotland	44152-2888676
Mar 11-14*	37th Championships & Ted Basset Cup, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Mar 15-18*	27th Winter Championships, Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Apr 12-16*	13th Nordic "Wide" Open, Hotel Marienlyst, Helsingør, Denmark	4533-363601

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

that they are indicative of your attitude towards women. She adds that you are making a statement that is "...no longer acceptable to most women, and to many men. This is a new age of acceptance of

women as equals in life and at the backgammon tables all over the world."

I would hate to think that I am unaccepting of women as equals, at or away from the BG tables. (And I, for one, have been to BG tables all over the world.) Heck, Patricia Ireland might stop sending me those nice letters thanking me for my

contributions to NOW. I do not, however, find Bill's models offensive. Let the semioticians imbue them with weighty cultural significance—I think they're just pictures of sexy women. Since when did finding a woman attractive mean finding them inferior?

The sad fact is that many women in backgammon complain that the men are not paying enough of that sort of attention to them. Definition of a Backgammon Stud? One who knows 110 positions—all from his last match!

Four years ago at the World Cup Patrice Robertie, prompted by curiosity (or perhaps she heard the fries were good), drafted a group to accompany her to that whirling maelstrom of male hormones – Hooters. Her five male escorts were a backgammon brain trust: five of the top players in the game. (Actually, at the World Cup, any five players would fill the bill!) It is perhaps telling that none of the five had ever been to a Hooters. They entered, took in the attractions, and immediately their eyes lit up with a strange and avid gleam. "Oh my God, look at that! They've got both preseason games on big screen!"

Perhaps Bill, you are performing a public service. If so, keep up the good work. Keep reminding us that there is more to the world of Backgammon than just, well, backgammon!—*Jake Jacobs, Des Plaines, IL*

[Continued on page 5]



## AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2000

Top 100 compiled through 5 Nov. 2000 after 12 events  
(Remaining 2000 Events: Minnesota State, Ohio State, Ace Point Holiday)



Bob Bishop	35.99	Renée Rosenbloom	9.50	Timothy Jaxon	5.00	Jim Price	3.20
Mike Senkiewicz	27.33	Sean Garber	9.10	Steve Kovach	5.00	Ed Johnson	3.00
Paul Weaver	23.53	Sal Chehayeb	8.81	Alan Gaarder	5.00	Abbas Zaltash	2.94
Paul Franks	22.88	Bill Tallmadge	8.78	Guy Nicosia	5.00	Jerry Soskin	2.94
Doug Roberts	21.83	Milad Doueihy	8.41	Matt Reklaitis	5.00	Stan Livingston	2.80
Sam Pottle	20.74	Bill Robertie	8.33	Jake Jacobs	4.68	Kate Elmore	2.61
Mike Sharp	18.18	Jack Takala	8.33	Steve Flam	4.60	Gary Fries	2.50
Mike Ungerleider	16.36	Walter Trice	7.92	Bob Wilensky	4.60	Phil Michelson	2.50
Hugh McNeil	16.05	Doug Mayfield	7.27	Steve Bromfield	4.38	Richard Armbruster	2.42
Len Dangremond	15.98	Jeff Burdsall	7.27	Roz Ferris	4.37	Chris Rosin	2.42
Roy Appey	15.46	Jeb Horton	7.22	Bill Davis	4.20	Elayne Feinstein	2.40
George Barr	15.39	Eliot Bean	6.91	Bruce Russell	4.20	James Roston	2.30
Bob Zavoral	13.89	Dave Wetzell	6.85	Laila Leonhardt	4.16	Jim Hickey	2.29
Herb Gurland	13.64	Neil Kazaross	6.84	Linda Rockwell	4.16	Dennis Culpepper	2.29
Ed Zell	13.29	Jona Alexander	6.55	Garo Tchalabian	3.78	Bobbie Shifrin	2.24
Mike Friedman	13.22	Bob Glass	6.55	Ed King	3.68	Marianne Gatenby	2.23
Joe Ausmann	11.44	Carl Sorg	6.47	Wendy Kaplan	3.65	Ben Zemaitis	2.09
Jeff Kane	11.40	Drew Giovanis	6.01	Mike Thundstrom	3.64	Tom Machaj	2.08
Dion Hogan	11.35	Steve Sax	5.88	Steve Michelson	3.53	Don Heinsler	2.08
Jeremy Bagai	11.35	Jacquie Lee	5.83	Ellen Allen	3.47	David Rubin	1.90
Hugh Sconyers	10.92	Steve Maas	5.60	Ralph Dietz	3.42	Ken Ellenberger	1.89
John Greci	10.75	Walt Swan	5.47	David Todd	3.42	Charles Toots	1.89
Andy Palumbo	10.59	Phyllis Smolinski	5.25	Adam Versaw	3.40	Joe Davidson	1.81
Ray Baker	10.40	Mark Anshus	5.20	Perry Firooz	3.27	Dee Webster	1.81
Chris Wilson	9.62	Ron Sanders	5.17	Tom Leahy	3.21	Andy Natale	1.76



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2000 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 OCT.

Tim Carroll	21.36	Bill Bartholomay	5.44	Harry Cohn	1.92	Bobbie Shifrin	0.64
Herb Roman	18.56	Don Jayhan	5.20	Matt Surecki	1.92	John Meyers	0.56
Tim Mabee	17.96	Val Zimnicki	5.04	Bob Gekas	1.84	John Brussel	0.48
Jake Jacobs	17.44	Joann Feinstein	5.00	J.A. Miller	1.80	Dimitri Giannakopoulos	0.48
Joe Wollick	14.48	Norma Shyer	4.84	Reginald Porter	1.68	Richard Stawowy	0.44
Phyllis Smolinski	13.80	Richard Lloyd	4.56	Wendy Kaplan	1.60	Mark Murray	0.40
Ken Bond	12.96	Paul Klein	4.32	Brian Barber	1.52	Sam Pottle	0.40
Harold Elgazar	12.36	Bob Steen	4.16	Elaine Kehm	1.32	Roger Blaine	0.36
Tak Morioka	9.68	David Araiza	4.08	Ralph Byrns	1.28	Howard Chow	0.36
Carter Mattig	9.04	Georgina Flanagan	4.08	Arline Levy	1.28	Mike Anderson	0.34
Paul Franks	8.96	Paul Baraz	4.00	Andy Natale	1.12	Brooke Gottshall	0.32
Mike Sutton	8.88	Bill Keefe	4.00	Chris Wilson	1.12	Jim Roland	0.24
Bob Zavoral	8.32	Alice Kay	3.84	Jerry Brooks	1.08	Joe Szvedo	0.20
Sinan Yoyen	7.76	Romeo Kap	3.76	Mike Cyrkiel	0.88	Ann Thomas	0.16
Marc Rosset	7.08	Paul Lombardo	3.68	Dave Cramer	0.88	Brian Kozin	0.16
Ed Buerger	6.74	Steve Klesker	3.52	Scott Richardson	0.88	Jim Anderson	0.16
Gary Kay	6.72	Peter Kalba	2.96	Shah Dogan	0.88	Tom Machaj	0.12
Joe Ausmann	6.48	John Jennings	2.80	Bridget McCoy	0.80	Bob Sexton	0.12
Mary Franks	6.08	Bill Davis	2.76	Jill Ferdinand	0.80	Steve Neidecker	0.12
Paul Friedman	5.76	Rodney Bell	2.28	George Marasas	0.64	Jon Sion	0.08
Phil Simborg	5.72	Keith Kuligowski	2.12				

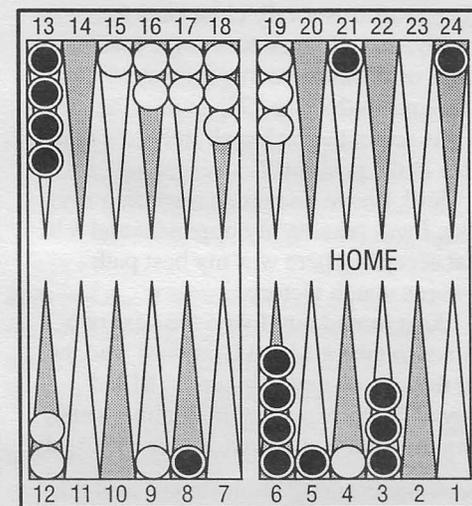
**TIM CARROLL** poured it on in October, placing in 4 of 6 events to earn 5.44 points. Tim Mabee was second with 4.68 points, and Joe Wollick placed third earning 4.08 points.

your move

## PROBLEM #268

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Match to 11 points. Black leads White, 10–9 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



# ASK DANNY

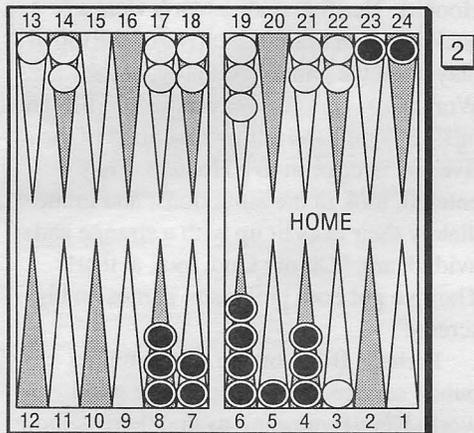


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## THE BEST DEFENSE . . .

**D**ear Danny: I've always been taught that the best defense is a good offense. Well, I'm not so sure. Trailing a player far better 3-6 in a match to 7 points, I had an interesting 4-3 to play:

7-point match. Black (the lesser-skilled player) trails White 3-6. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**



Based on our differences in skill, I decided to go for the aggressive match-winning gammon by playing 8/5, 7/3\*. Unfortunately for me, White replied with 6-1, playing B/1/7\*. I fanned, was closed out with three men on the bar, and eventually

lost the match.

Tell me Danny: was my play really that bad?—Agressive Al

**DEAR AL:** Your play left White 18 shots to send a third man back, including the 3-4 that sends a third and a fourth man back. Additional men back are disastrous when White has a nearly-full prime that you must surmount. You figure to have enough trouble springing the two men that are already back. That should be one of your two top priorities, along with containing White's lone back man.

Even if White doesn't hit a shot now, you have broken your own blockade and have two blots to cover. Moreover, the 3s and 4s with which you would like to cover duplicate the 3s and 4s you need to escape.

You can take a giant step towards escape by playing 24/20, 23/20. That leaves White only 11 shots at your blot on the 5-point, and is much better than your actual 8/5, 7/3\*.

However, I don't think that is your best play. Even if White doesn't roll the deuce he needs to hit, you will remain with a vulnerable blot on your 5-point, which you may not be able to cover easily. With your 13 front men already far advanced, the golden anchor doesn't glitter much. You will soon have to break it, and the man you leave behind will become an inviting target. The best way to escape in this position is one man at a time.

The play I like best, 24/20, 8/5, serves both your priorities. Though it gives White an inviting target now, some of his pointing rolls require him to break part of his prime,

and some duplicate the 6s he needs to leap the solid 5-prime you have created. If White does point on his 5-point, you still remain with only two men back, not three.

With not just one but two far superior alternatives, I would have to say yes, your play really was that bad.

I don't buy the slogan, "The best defense is a good offense." I'll stick with the older saying, "To everything there is a season." A time for offense, a time for defense, and a time for plays that give you a little of both. In backgammon, you must look at the particulars of each position to discern what you need most.—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](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com)

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## DOUEIHI...

(Continued from page 1)

According to a Paul Weaver analysis, "The bearoff is a very close pass for money, and a bigger pass at the match score with Black leading 3-away, 6-away. Black needs 26% or 27% to take the recube at this score, but he has slightly less than 23% in the position."

Still, I have no regrets regarding my take. I was playing my opponent and felt that accepting here was my best path towards match victory.

As it turned out, I won the next two games to take a 14-13 Crawford lead, but for the second match in a row, Milad played big to win a natural gammon and earn the title. A nice victory for a nice guy.

**IN OTHER RESULTS,** Dion Hogan won the Land-of-Lincoln Masters and John

Jennings was a double winner, capturing the Springfield Open and Capitol Punishment. Complete results: Δ

### 2000 ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**CHAMPIONSHIP (21):** 1-Milad Doueihy (IL), 2-Bill Davis (IL); 1C-Bruce Russell (WI), 2C-Ed Zell (IL); 1LC-Ben Zemaitis (IL).

**INTERMEDIATE (14):** 1-Stan Livingston (WI), 2-Mark Kaye (IL); 1C-Mike Flohr (IL), 2C-William Huchison (IL); 1LC-Bill Minser (WI).

**LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (5):** 1-Dion Hogan. **DOUBLES (8 teams):** 1-Ed Bauder (IL) & Dave Steinberg (OH).

**SPRINGFIELD OPEN (19):** 1-John Jennings (IL), 2-Randy Armstrong (IL); 1C-Dave Steinberg (OH), 2C-Peter Kalba (IL).

**CAPITOL PUNISHMENT (32):** 1-John Jennings (IL), 2-Mark Kaye (IL).



## ILLINOIS ACTION



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).

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

### OPEN LETTER TO DIANE VARNER

Dear Diane: I cannot speak for all men, but I can tell you how it is for this man. I will start by posing a riddle, and giving my answer to it, which may differ from the answers of other men and which I hope will differ from your answer and the answers of other women.

Riddle: What is the second most beautiful thing in the world?

My answer: A woman who isn't. (But yet she is, unless she has done something to make herself ugly.)

By inference, the first most beautiful thing in the world is a beautiful woman. I

enjoy looking at such pictures. It enhances my enjoyment if the woman is scantily clad or not clothed at all, posed sexily, and smiling. Research has suggested that male homosexuality is hard-wired in the brain. If so, then male heterosexuality is also hard-wired in the brain, and part of male heterosexuality is enjoying looking at women.

However, such enjoyment says nothing at all about whether a man regards women as inferior, equal, or superior to men. It is not a statement at all, and is compatible with any number of different attitudes towards women. I respect and appreciate people for their talents and performance, character and behavior. How a woman looks, and how she is dressed, pales in comparison.

Nonetheless, I agree with you on one

point: the picture of Karen McDougal has nothing to do with backgammon. Despite my appreciation of such pictures, I would rather see a picture of Katie Scalamandre, Mika Lidov or you, fully clothed or face only, than a picture of Karen McDougal in a bathing suit.

And oh yes, if I thought for one moment that you and other women could enjoy looking at a picture of me as I can enjoy looking at pictures of you, I would urge Bill Davis to show my picture in the CHICAGO POINT website, and provide naked pictures to enhance your enjoyment. And I would hope that you would not judge me by how well I filled out a bathing suit, just as I would not judge you by the same criterion.—*Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, CA* Δ

## Looking Back

### Time Magazine examines the new national craze in 1930.

*How popular was backgammon in the early 1930s? Dozens of books were written in this period which is a good indicator. But this article, appearing on page 63 of the 5 May 1930 issue of Time Magazine tells the real story.*



## Backgammon

The Emperor Claudius wrote a book on the Roman form of the game. Domitian was adept and Caligula a cheat. Its English name comes from the Saxon *baec* (back) and *gamen* (game)—a game in which the draughtsmen are liable to be sent back.

For a long time it has been played on sidewalk tables in European restaurants, on steamers, in school common rooms, and in nurseries. In the U.S. it has gained new favor in the last year. Its vogue came mysteriously, quickly: boards, once relatively easy to get, came to be in such demand that toy and sporting goods stores could hardly supply them fast enough.

Because interruptions do not spoil it and because of its speculative possibilities, club-car members took it up; fellow-members mocked at first, then also learned. Now, as club-cars rattle home in the fag-end of early summer afternoons, the dice click on the board with the raised sides, the draughtsmen move from point to point, doubles are exchanged, and money.

An authority on backgammon is

Grosvenor Nicholas, Manhattan clubman, retired wine importer. Last week his book, issued in 1928 when nobody cared, enjoyed high sales. Backgammoner Nicholas himself, urbane, quiet-spoken, contradicted his own contention that there is no skill in the game by winning, in one afternoon, 35 games of backgammon in a club (New York Racquet & Tennis) where sometimes 1,000 games are played a day. Writes he: "It is unnecessary to preserve silence, always so depressing. The disturbing presence of the fair sex . . . is never unwelcome. Where there is no concentration, there can be no distraction."

After discussing the derivation of the game, telling how to play it, codifying its rules\*, Backgammoner Nicholas accounts for the present vogue. Backgammon has become popular, will become more so, he insists, because to the old deliberate dicing game of Egyptian kings and Roman politicians, contemporary rules have added a new convention—doubling. After a game has started, any player may, at any time before he throws his dice, double the stake for which the game is being played. The opponent can either accept the double and go on with the game or refuse it, sacrifice his stake, start a new game. When he has accepted the double, he has the whole right to double a second time. He can make this second double before any of his throws. The right of making the third double goes back to the first doubler.

There is no limit to the number of doubles that can be made, but the greatest number ever recorded in a game starting at \$1 stake is twelve (\$4,096). If two excited brokers on a club-car should make 20 doubles in a \$1 game, they would be playing for \$1,048,576.

"For some unaccountable reason," writes Backgammoner Nicholas, "opponents at backgammon indulge themselves in mental and emotional activities to an extraordinary degree and far beyond anything that the play of this simple game seems to require. . . . The extent of these manifestations seems to be peculiar to backgammon. . . ." Δ

*\*This article infers that the rules of backgammon were codified at the New York Racquet & Tennis Club in 1930 or before. Chapter 15 of The Backgammon Book by Oswald Jacoby says the code of laws was produced at that New York club in 1931. Jacoby stated in his 1970 book that he was ". . . the only member of the (rules) committee still alive." Jacoby's memory may have failed him, or perhaps the laws were updated in 1931.—Ed.*

# BACK To Attack

## 2001 MIDWEST BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS

23-25 March 2001  
RADISSON HOTEL LISLE-NAPERVILLE  
Lisle, Illinois

REQUEST AN ENTRY (AVAILABLE JAN. 2001)  
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John Simon brought his shoe smartly down on the top of the antique armoire serving as his podium. The shoe was a substitute they had taught him in medical school, for those occasions when he lost his little rubber hammer. The antique armoire was a legacy of the British colonial era. Other parts of that legacy had taken a worse beating in recent years than the one delivered by John and his shoe, though not within the confines of the LRC, the hundred and some year old Ladies' Recreation Club, home to Hong Kong backgammon.

The auction dinner went very well, with a delicious buffet spread (including my favorite, murgh (chicken) makhawala – “murky mugwump” is the way we usually request it), and with John coaxing and threatening an average of over \$4000 per player out of the bidders. Those were Hong Kong dollars, of course, but Hong Kong dollars are worth enough to be considered real money, and not a mere accessory to some exotic board game, so the auction generated its share of excitement.

Hong Kong is part of the fall circuit in Asia. First up are the Asian Championships in Hong Kong, then the Japan Open the following week in Tokyo. If I am to convince you all to come next year, I think I'd better start with the attractions of each venue. Then, I'll finish up with a quiz, just to show you the sort of backgammon being played over there.

First up, the tournament. One of the lures of Hong Kong backgammon is that there is more wild and woolly, unrelenting chouette action than even that found in Indy, (and the accents are easier to understand). Second, during the week between tournaments, Hong Kong is one of the most amazing cities on earth. One of the luxuries of living in a cosmopolitan city like Chicago is the variety of restaurants: “Chinese tonight? Mandarin? Szechwan? Hunan? . . .” In Hong Kong it's: “Chiu Chou? Manchu? Hakka? Fujian?” They have more choices than most cities have restaurants.

Between meals, Hong Kong is a shopping mecca. Ryan Jones brought five new suits and 18 new shirts with him to Tokyo, and Gayana Meyberg reportedly had Michael schlepping seven suitcases when they left Chek Lap Kok.

Tokyo more than holds up its end of the tour. Added to the tournament side of things this year was the Mogami Cup. Sponsored by Ms. Kazuko Numazawa, owner of the Mogami Restaurant, the Cup

featured added money to boost first prize to ¥1,000,000, as well as a spectacular, well, cup.

Director Kenji Shimodaira has seen attendance increase geometrically; in the last year it doubled to over 200. In an effort to encourage foreign attendance, he and the Japanese players and directors have been offering the most incredible hospitality I have seen or heard of. Six of us came over this year: myself, Ryan Jones of Australia, Hugh Sconyers, Gayana and Michael Meyberg, and Nack Ballard. We were wine and dined (saked and sushied) until tiny little fish came swimming out our ears. (The sashimi was almost *too* fresh.) The days were backgammon, but the nights were karaoke.

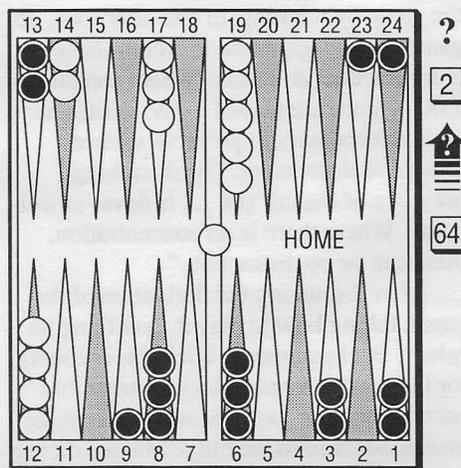
I won't sing any of the songs for you,

(you're welcome!) but will mention a few of the victors. The Japan Open saw local expert Mr. Nagai fall to Michael Meyberg. The Mogami Cup finals pitted Nack Ballard against Mr. Hasagawa of Nagoya, the Japan Backgammon League champion. Hasagawa-san came back from a 13-11 deficit, tipping the cup his way at DMP. The Othello Challenge, an impossibly difficult quiz, was answered perfectly by Hugh.

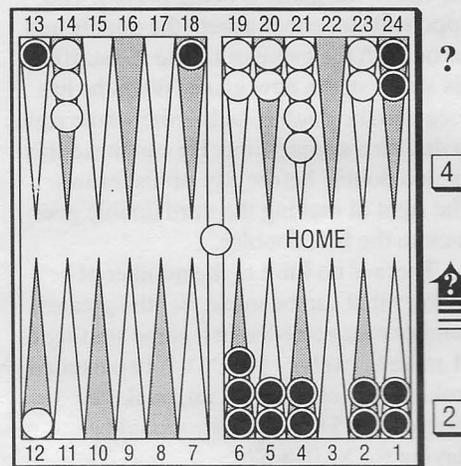
Speaking of impossibly difficult quizzes... If you want to take a look at Othello's Challenge (you should!), go to [www.backgammon.gr.jp/problem/problem01](http://www.backgammon.gr.jp/problem/problem01)

Meanwhile, try these on for size: [Answers appear on page 9.]

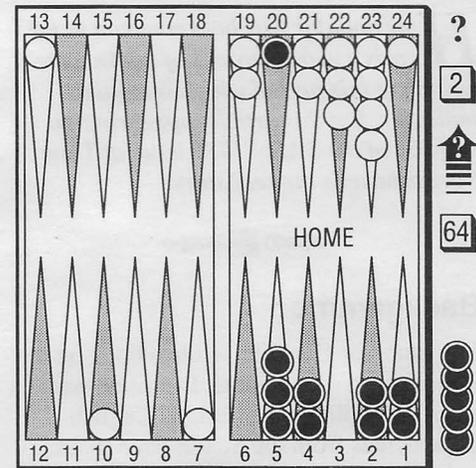
**1.** Black leads 2-0 to 15. Should Black double? Should White take? If Black does double, and then rolls 6-1 (23/16), and White fans again, what cube actions should each now take?



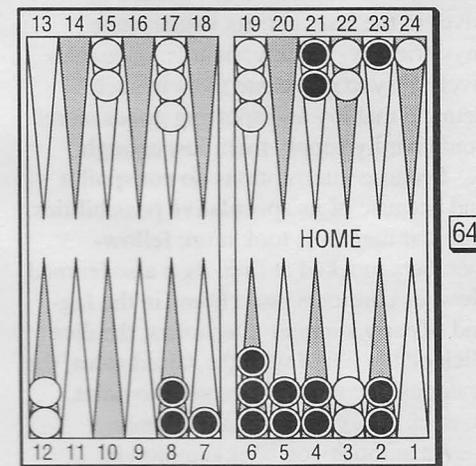
**2.** Black trails 2-5 to 13. Should Black redouble? If Black redoubles, should White take?



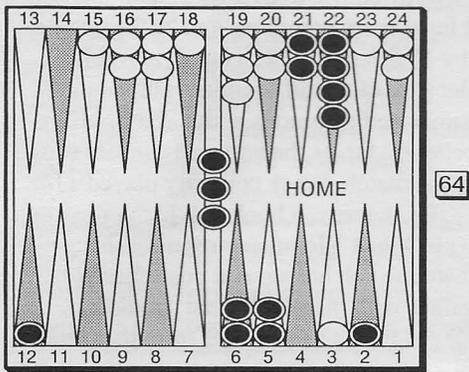
**3.** Black leads 7-2 to 9. Should Black double? If Black doubles, should White take?



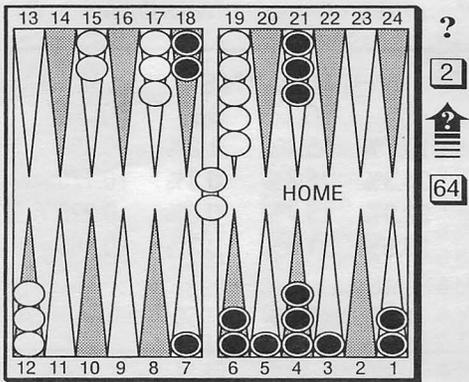
**4.** Black leads 8-5 to 11. How should Black play 5-5?



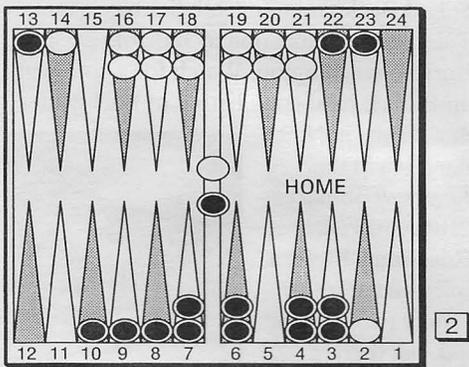
5. Black trails 3-away, 2-away. How should Black play 3-3?



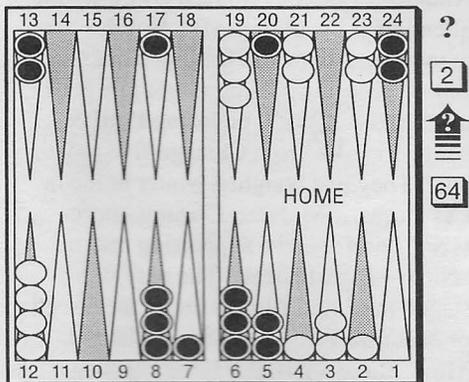
6. Black trails 4-away, 3-away. Should Black double? Should White take?



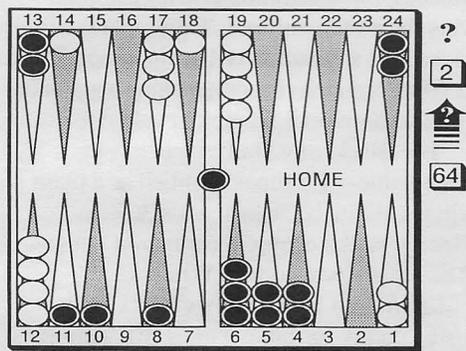
7. Black trails 0-4 to 11. How should Black play 2-1?



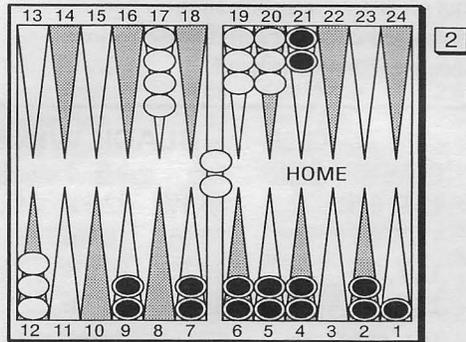
8. Black trails 2-9 to 11. Should Black double? Should White take? Assuming no double, how should Black play 6-4?



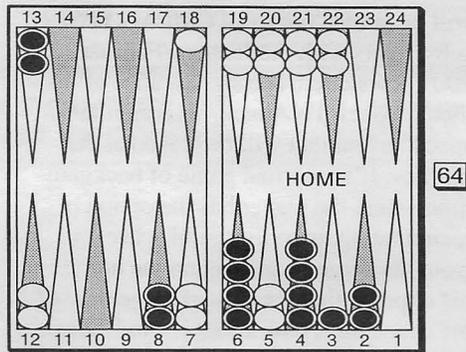
9. Black trails 0-6 to 11. Should Black double? Should White take?



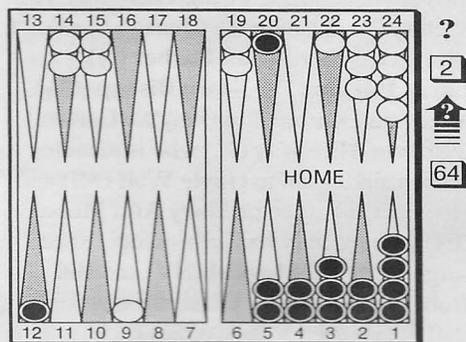
10. Money game. Black to play 3-3.



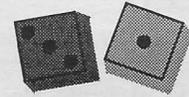
11. Chouette, Black in the box. How should Black play 6-3? Assuming Black plays 13/4, should White double? Should Black take? Assuming that all of the above occurs, and then White misses with 5-4 (13/8, 13/9): Should Black redouble? Should White take?



12. Black trails 5-9 to 15. Should Black double? Should White take? Assuming this action, Black to play 5-3.



## I NEVER COMPLAIN ABOUT THE DICE



By Phil Simborg

Here is why I NEVER complain about the rolls, or luck:

- 1) **It's rude.** It suggests your opponent is just lucky and distracts from his skill. It's poor form.
- 2) **Nobody cares.** Everyone is tired of hearing it. Everyone only sees their own bad rolls and forgets their great ones.
- 3) **It's not true.** Everyone rolls the same. If you think you are rolling more than your share of bad rolls, you're probably playing badly and not realizing it . . . because the worse you play, the more bad rolls there are and the more good rolls you give your opponent.

This also applies to complaining about the on-line servers. No machine cares or knows who is rolling or what the position is. The dice are random, and every study done on every server so far has proven this. The dice are just plain goofy everywhere. It's the nature of statistics that sometimes you will get a bunch of doubles in a row, or dance five times on a two point board.

- 4) **Complaining focuses your mind and energy on the wrong things.** You start concentrating on how bad you are rolling, or how good your opponents roll, instead of what you really should be concentrating on: what is the right decision? And if you start thinking about your bad luck, you might start changing yours plays assuming you are going to roll bad, or that your opponent might roll a joker, instead of considering what really matters: the odds.
- 5) **Complaining makes the game less enjoyable.** For you. The more you make an issue of your bad luck, the more you will remember the bad luck and the less fun you will have playing.

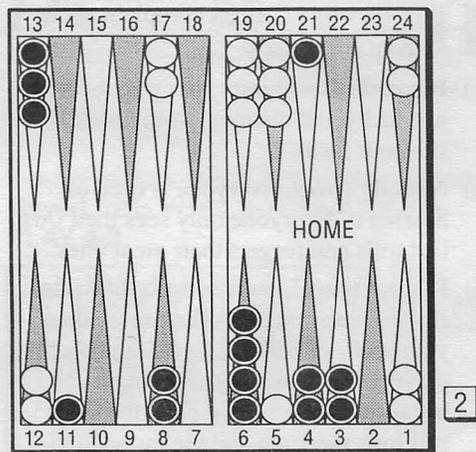
*Bottom Line:* I NEVER complain about a roll, or bad luck. Ever. I'm sure my opponents appreciate it, and I am sure I play better and am happier as a result.

And when I win and opponents tells me how lucky I was, I give them my standard reply: "Yes, I was lucky that I got you for an opponent!" Δ

**PROBLEM #267  
ANALYZED**

by Antonio Ortega

Venice 1999. 15-pt. finals. Neil Kazaross (Black) leads Francois Tardieu (White), 14 to 12. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



Black has four plausible plays:

- 13/9, 6/5\*
- 11/7, 6/5\*
- 11/7, 8/7
- 11/6

At Post-Crawford (even), Black (as usual) owns a dead cube at 2, White having doubled at the first opportunity, and Black of course having taken. In money play and with a strong position, Black would have doubled prior to this roll or earlier, so White would own a live 2-cube. Let's see how Black should play this 4-1 in each case.

In **money play**, Black does best to attack 13/9, 6/5\*, fighting for the pivotal 5-point and maximizing Black's gammon chances. That's much better than attacking with 11/7, 6/5\*, which yields more return shots and fewer covering rolls. Making the bar-point, 11/7, 8/7, is worse still because it fails to hit on the 5-point while letting White hit with 3s, a number that White cannot play constructively elsewhere.

The safe 11/6 is inferior to 13/9, 6/5\* because it leaves White free to make an advanced anchor or attack the blot in White's home board. However, 11/6 is better than Black's other two alternatives because Black leads in the race and doesn't want to lose his advantage by getting another man sent back.

Things are dramatically different in **match play** at the score shown. Gammons and backgammons, which are worthless to Black, are enormously valuable to White. Trailing 12-14 at the start of the game,

White has 30% match chances. A plain 2-point win ties the score, giving White 50% chances, but a gammon or backgammon wins the match outright. Thus a plain win adds 20%, a gammon or backgammon 70%, to White's match chances, making a gammon or backgammon 3.5 times as valuable.

For Black, any kind of win has the same value—1.5 times as much as a plain win for White because it adds 30% to Black's match chances, compared to the 20% a plain win adds to White's.

The chart below shows Black's adjusted equity for plain games (P), gammons (G) and backgammons (BG), taking the value of gammons and backgammons at this score into account. In this chart, we have used cubeless JellyFish™ rollouts because the cube is dead.

PLAY	CUBE SIZE	BLACK WINS			WHITE WINS			BLACK'S EQUITY
		P	G	BG	P	G	BG	
13/9, 6/5*	2	39.1%	22.6%	2.1%	19.7%	15.3%	1.2%	+0.365
11/7, 8/7	2	39.9%	18.1%	1.6%	24.3%	15.8%	0.3%	+0.175
11/7, 6/5*	2	39.1%	20.0%	1.7%	22.9%	15.7%	0.6%	+0.225
11/6	2	44.0%	15.7%	1.5%	26.9%	11.6%	0.3%	+0.465
<i>Value of gammons and BGs:</i>		1.50	1.50	1.50	1.00	3.50	3.50	

We see that while the attacking 13/9, 6/5\* still wins more games than the safe 11/6 (by 63.8% to 61.2%, a small margin), it loses more gammons and backgammons (by 16.5% to 11.9%, a larger margin). Because of the differential value of plain games and gammons at this score, 11/6 is better by far, as the adjusted equities show. In the match, Black correctly played 11/6.

By the way, a book that I am preparing with Danny Kleinman presents this long match which has several post-Crawford games with many rolls that should be played in ways that differ from the usual. Δ

*Thanks to Antonio Ortega and Danny Kleinman for sharing a problem from their upcoming book. We understand that Neil Kazaross is also making contributions.—Ed.*

**AMALGAMATION**

2001 Midwest Championship invitations will be mailed out to all CHICAGO POINT subscribers with the January/February 2001 newsletter. The significance of the theme "Back To Attack," is from the special event that will be played at the tourney. It's a normal game of backgammon where the player has the option of recirculating up to four of his checkers from his home board around the horn into his opponent's home board at the time of his choosing. Think about it. No bearoff will be safe up to the very end!... The winner of the POINT October front page caption contest is **David Menkes** (Nashua, NH). David's caption for the crab and lobster chouette: "Clawing Their Way To Victory."... Visiting the Chicago Bar Point Club in October: **Brian Barber** (NY), **Larry Harbin** (TN), **Dorn Bishop** (CA), **Massimo Lombardini** (Italy)... Get well wishes to **Alice Kay** (IL) who is mending a broken ankle, and to **Gayle Wolf** (MI) and Hoosier Club director **Mary Ann Meese** (IN) who recently had arthroscopic knee surgery... **Paul Magriel** (NV) and **Bill Robertie** (MA) have joined the editorial staff of Gammon Village online backgammon

magazine ([www.gammonvillage.com](http://www.gammonvillage.com))... **Ruth Robbins** informs us that the Puget Sound Backgammon Club has move their Tuesday night location to *Wizards* in Burien, Washington. Watch for a complete up-to-date hard copy listing of Backgammon Clubs in North America in the January/February CHICAGO POINT... **Rosemary Steffen** (pictured at right) is only two months old, but there's already talk of "future world backgammon champion" coming from proud parents **Alan and Lourdes Steffen** (NY). If you attend their upcoming ABT Holiday event at the Ace Point Club in New York City (30-31 December), you might just get to meet Rosie... We'll be losing **Paul & Mary Franks** from Chicago five months a year. They just bought a winter home in Las Vegas... Midwest Champs staffer **Greg Tomlin** had a supporting role in "Nine—The Musical." The play was staged in central Illinois under the direction of **Melinda Pitt Kaye** (Springfield player **Mark Kaye's** wife)... Happy Holidays! Δ



Rosie Steffen

**WINNER'S CIRCLE**



SEP.—NOV. 2000

•**Redwood Empire Backgammon** (San Rafael, CA; 16 Sep.)... OPEN (10): 1-David Montgomery, 2-Kit Woolsey, 3-Unes Gollestani. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Cindy Moss, 2-Glenn Nuñez.

•**Vietor Invitational** (LaJolla, CA; 16-17 Sep.)... SUPER-16 (16): 1-Odis Chenault, 2-Sho Sengoku. LIMITED (8): 1-Kalisa Wells, 2-Jacque Lee... *John Vietor (with assistance from Patrick Gibson) continues his father's "Vietor Cup" tradition (1962-1981).*

•**Milwaukee Bimonthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 24 Sep.)... OPEN: 1-Wally Bergman, 2-Jeff Kane; 1C-Bob Holyon.

•**6th Japan Open** (Tokyo, Japan; 7-9 Oct.)... OPEN (33): 1-Michael Meyberg (Germany), 2-Nagai Seiichi, 3/4-Itikawa Masanori / Tezuka Hirohisa; 1C/2C-Nasu Masahiko / Itoh Toshiaki. CHAMPIONSHIP (136): 1-Yamaguchi Masahiro, 2-Tabata Makoto. INTERMEDIATE (96): 1-Kawada Kuniyasu, 2-Ejiri Toshikatsu, 3/4-Kuribayashi Kazumi / Tezuka Shimako; 1C/2C-Nakamura Junko / Tezuka Shimako. BEGINNER (113): 1-Murakami Kagenobu, 2-Funatsu Taichi, 3/4-Kunii Shigeru / Suekuni Makoto. SPECIAL JACKPOT (8): 1-Hasegawa Syunsuke, 2-Nack Ballard (USA). DOUBLES (8): 1-Sroussi/Phillipe, 2-Yukio/Junko. MIXED DOUBLES (16): 1-Nagai & Nishizawa, 2-Kidokoro & Nonomura. LADY'S EVENT (18): 1-Nakamura Junko, 2-Numzwa Kazuko. UNDER 18 (12): 1-Satoh Yu-ya. BEGINNER'S CUP (32): 1-Mizutani, 2-Tezuka Shimako. TEAM (11): 1-Kanta & His Group. SUGIYAMA KOUICHI CUP (64): 1-Tezuka Shimako. 1-POINT MINIMATCH (64): 1-Yamada Hideaki. QUIZ WINNER: 1-Hugh Sconyers.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (Palo Alto, CA; 8 Oct.)... OPEN/INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Robert Caradien, 2-Rawlin Pullen; 1C-Roger Gabrielson. BEGINNER I (5): 1-Mark Antranikian. BEGINNER II (5): 1-Vladimir Kurnetsov.

•**Irish Open** (Dublin, Ireland; 28-29 Oct.)... MAIN (61): 1-Sean Casey, 2-John Slattery, 3/4-Steve Pickard / Dave McNamara. CONSOLATION (32): 1-Asger Kring, 2-Peter Ozanne, 3/4-Uldis Lapikens / Monica Beckerson. TEAM EVENT (16): 1-Paul Turnbull & Dave Coyne & Stuart Mann, 2-Simon K. Jones & Dave Motley & Gary Sweeney. FRIDAY KO (16): 1-Jens Neregaard.

•**22nd Flint Area Club Championships** (Flint, MI; 29 Oct.)... OPEN (30): 1-Paul Berg, 2-Sandy Kaplan, 3/4-Joe Miller (OH) / Emil Mortuk. INTERMEDIATE (32): 1-Dan Grogan, 2-Abdul Alchalabi, 3/4-Mark Gough (Canada) / Lilly Undieme, 5/6-Gary Marchenia / Nancy Takala. NOVICE (5): 1-Charlotte Mowczan, 2-Danny Clark.

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 29 Oct.)... OPEN (10): 1-Herb Gurland (MA), 2-Gabe Davis;

1C/2C-Alex Rasic / Perry Gartner. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Robert Regan, 2-Joseph Jemal; 1C-Eydie Noble. NOVICE (2): 1-Red Grabel.

•**7th German Open** (Brakel, Germany; 1-5 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Dimitrios Pappas, 2-Johannes Levermann.

•**46th Gammon Associates Invitational—ABT** (Los Angeles, CA; 3-5 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (40): 1-Mike Sharp (CA), 2-Doug Mayfield (CA), 3-Eliot Bean (CA); 1C-Jeff Burdsall (NV), 2C-Mike Thundstrom (CA). ADVANCED (22): 1-Jacque Lee (CA), 2-Richard Armbruster (CA);

1C-Chris Rosin (CA), 2C-Curtis Lucas (TX). LIMITED (5): 1-Sandy Barnes (CA), 2-Chinh Pham (CA); 1C-Nan Spector (CA). SUPER-32 (29): 1-Doug Mayfield (CA), 2-Paul Landanyi (CA), 3/4-Odis Chenault (CA) / Jim Pasko (CA). DOUBLES (12 teams): 1-Saul Meir & John Rockwell (CA), 2-Steve Sax & Patrick Gibson (CA). ONE-POINT BLITZ (64): 1-Saul Meir (CA), 2-Sandy Barnes (CA), 3-John Rockwell (CA).

•**Springfield Series #1** (Springfield, IL; 4 Nov.)... OPEN (16): 1-Ed Zell, 2-Mark Jennings; 1C-Wally Kuester, 2C-William Hutchison; 1LC-Greg Tomlin. Δ

**ASIAN ANSWERS...**

[From quiz on pp. 6-7]

1. Double – 4 points; take – 3 points; after 6-1 double – 1 point; pass – 3 points. This was from the Mogami Cup final. The four builders make this a big double the first time around, and a bare take. The cash is clear the next time.

2. No double – 6 points; pass – 2 points. Michael Meyberg knew not to double, but unfortunately, like me, he didn't know why! I would never have guessed this one was too good, but it was.

3. Double – 3 points; pass – 3 points. Snowie rollouts make this one too good also, at 1.004, but the chance of someone taking (would you be sure it was a pass at the score?) must be at least as great as that 0.004 you are giving up!

4. 22/16(2), 23/13 – 7 points. I missed a chance for a great play when I talked myself into doing something else. The double shot is not so serious – compare home boards – and no other choice does as much to escape everyone.

5. Bar/22(3), 21/18\* – 5 points. The first three are easy ;-) , after that, it looks tough to abandon the anchor, but it turns out to be the only play. It wins more, and loses fewer gammons (and even wins a few). Of course, Michael did wind up with eleven men on the 22-point . . .

6. Double – 4 points; pass – 6 points. Yep, 6s don't play well, and Black has five men back. For money this would be a silly cube, but at the score it is actually a cash.

7. Bar/24, 10/8 – 2 points. I spent a long time with this one, but it turns out that there just isn't that much difference between the choices. No wonder it was so hard.

8. Double – 2 points; take – 1 point; 17/7 – 4 points. Later in the same match as above . . . I missed a double, but the error was only 0.010. The take is clear. Making the bar-point is mandatory, and then but-

toning up is better than anchoring: White doesn't have enough ammo to make the anchor essential.

9. Double – 2 points; take – 5 points. Earlier in the same match. No one liked Hugh's take, except a Snowie rollout, which said it was actually pretty trivial, even at the score.

10. 21/18, 9/6, 7/1 – 5 points. What's with Michael and tough double threes plays? This set tumbled out of his cup in Hong Kong, and it must have been bad feng shui that caused him to make the 6-prime. White's best chance of anchoring is to hit on the ace, though it was Michael's own 4-4 that did him in.

11. 8/2, 6/3 – 4 points; no double – 3 points; take – 1 point; redouble – 2 points; take – 4 points. I thought the 7 extra shots were worth leaving because of the powerful cube when missed. It turns out that, not only am I leaving 7 more shots, but also I am much worse off after being hit. Making my 3-point is big, especially when more of the hits come off the 20-point anchor. Playing 13/4 is a .3 error, and not even their mistaken cubes compensated for it. My redouble is correct, but so, it turns out, is their take. I leave an immediate double shot 13 times when I don't clear, and there is a fair amount of residual jeopardy clearing the 8-point.

12. Double – 2 points; pass – 2 points; 12/9\*, 9/4 – 4 points. This is a monster double, don't let that peculiar three-prime seduce you into taking. My opponent was seduced. I did hit, trading 2% game winning chances for over 9% extra gammons, but that peculiar 3-prime cracked me, and my opponent was able to save the gammon.

**SCORING**

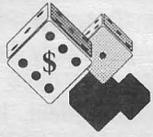
**86-60 points:** You have something to sing about in the karaoke!

**59-40 points:** Better skip the karaoke and rest up tonight.

**39-20 points:** Don't worry, raw fish is brain food.

**19-0 points:** You're pretty raw, fish! Δ

Find out why they call us "The Hospitality Specialists."



# The 23rd Annual Pittsburgh Backgammon Championships and ABT Awards Ceremony



February 16–18, 2001  
Pittsburgh Greentree Radisson Hotel  
800/333-3333 • 412/922-8400

**Featuring:** Hospitality all weekend (Coffee, tea, soft drinks, hoagies, pizza bagels and munchies), Main events (Championship, Advanced, Novice), Doubles, Masters & Amateur Jackpot, Micro Blitz, and Quickies. KG-rated.

Make your **Radisson Hotel Reservations** (\$76/night, dbl. or single occ.) by Feb. 7, 2001. 800/333-3333. Be sure to mention "Backgammon."

**Information:** Steve Hast • 412/823-7500 • e-mail: [pghsteve1@aol.com](mailto:pghsteve1@aol.com)  
or Abbas Zaltash • 412/921-7040.

See you at the fastest-growing tournament in America (Last year's attendance: 165).

## Pittsburgh Schedule of Events

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2001

1:00 pm	Registration Opens
2:00 pm	Early Masters & Amateur Jackpot
2:30 pm	Quickies & MicroBlitz
6:00 pm	Doubles Tournament
7:00 pm	Amateur Jackpot (2nd section)
7:30 pm	Masters Jackpot (2nd section)
9:30 pm	Pizza (play continues)
11:30 pm	Registration Closes

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2001

9:00 am	Bagels & Coffee. Regist. Opens
10:00 am	Registration Closes
10:15 am	ABT Awards Presentation, Door Prizes, Calcutta Auction (Champion & Advanced Divisions)
12:30 pm	Play Begins (Champion & Advanced)
1:00 pm	Novice Event Begins
5:00 pm	Dinner Break
7:15 pm	Play resumes
10:00 pm	Hoagies (play continues)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2001

9:30 am	Doughnuts & Coffee
10:00 am	Tournament play resumes
11:30 am	Special Jackpot Events
12:00 pm	Micro Blitz Playoffs (time approx.)
2:00 pm	Finals—Main Event (time approx.)



Backgammon in advertising,  
circa 1930s–1940s.