

"All Animals Are Equal, But Some Animals Are More Equal Than Others"

by Duane Jensen

Most players know the "average" backgammon roll is valued at 8 1/6 (add up all the rolls and divide by 36), but like George Orwell's "more equal" pigs in the book *Animal Farm*, some rolls are "more average" than others.

The most obvious deviation from the average is the first roll of each game. Since doubles are not permitted on the opening roll, the average first roll is exactly 7. The last roll of a game deviates from the theoretical average of 8 1/6 because of positions such as the ones in columns 2 and 3.

The average pip count for the last roll of the game in **Position 1** is 9.14.

$$(1/6)(14) + (5/6)(8 \frac{1}{6}) = 9.14$$

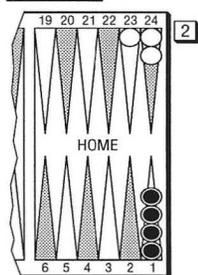
The average pip count for the last roll of the game in **Position 2** is 8.35. If White

should fail to come in, she would have to drop Black's double. The average pip count of these 9 fanning shakes is 80/9. The average for the last roll becomes:
 $(9/36)(80/9) + (27/36)(\text{approx. } 8 \frac{1}{6}) = 8.35$

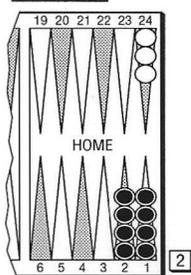
The average pip count for the last roll of the game in **Position 3** is 7.36. Black must roll a double now or the game is over.
 $(5/6)(7) + (1/6)[(1/6)(14) + (5/6)(8 \frac{1}{6})] = 7.36$

Some positions generate "last rolls" that are higher than the average and some that are lower. But I would conjecture that all the last rolls taken together do not average exactly 8 1/6.—*Duane Jensen* Δ

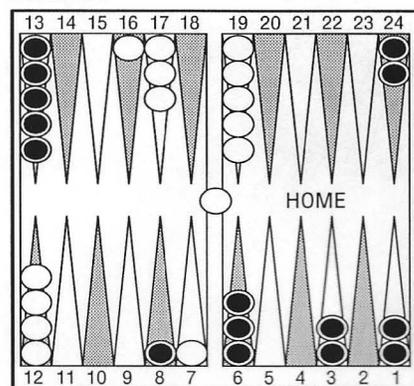
Position 1



Position 2



Position 3



UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Information: 773/583-6464

- Aug. 5 Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways, Oakbrook Terrace
- Aug. 18-19 2001 Summer Sizzler Picnic & Tourney, (8/18) The Zell's House, Peoria & (8/19) Sly Fox Pub, Lacon
- Sep. 30 Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways, Oakbrook Terrace
- Oct. 19-21 Illinois State Championships, Hilton Hotel, Springfield
- Dec. 2 Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways, Oakbrook Terrace



2001 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 JULY

Bob Zavoral	20.24	Bill Keefe	4.48	Bob Katz	0.88
Glenn Martells	15.08	Peter Kalba	4.40	Richard Lloyd	0.88
Jake Jacobs	14.28	Alice Kay	4.08	Wendy Kaplan	0.88
Tim Carroll	12.28	Scott Richardson	3.68	Karsten Nielsen	0.88
Brian Barber	12.08	Marc Rosset	3.60	Mary Franks	0.88
Tim Mabee	11.76	Steve Klesker	3.20	Gary Kay	0.88
Lucky Nelson	11.56	Mark Ryan	2.56	Jolie Rubin	0.80
Joe Wollick	11.16	David Araiza	2.40	Wayne Weist	0.80
Bill Bartholomay	10.04	Tom Meyer	2.24	Brian Leventhal	0.64
Norma Shyer	9.52	Ed Buerger	2.20	Paul Friedman	0.64
Herb Roman	7.84	Joe Auszmann	2.16	Mike Sutton	0.64
Carter Mattig	7.20	Mark Murray	1.76	Roger Blaine	0.64
Phyllis Smolinski	7.20	Paul Lombardo	1.76	Brian Kozin	0.64
Tak Morioka	6.64	Georgina Flanagan	1.68	Beverly Becker	0.64
Bob Steen	6.24	Roger Hickman	1.60	Reginald Porter	0.56
Don Jayhan	6.20	John Brussel	1.36	Tom Roberts	0.48
Bill Davis	5.88	Don Marek	1.28	Barbara Levinson	0.48
Arline Levy	5.04	Ken Bond	1.28	Richard Stawowy	0.48
Howard Chow	4.96	Erik Erland	1.12	Joe Szvedo	0.32
J.A. Miller	4.96	Jerry Brooks	1.12	Scott Zucker	0.32
Elaine Kehm	4.72	Ken Tyszko	1.12	Sakura Wells	0.24
Joann Feinstein	4.56	Leo Campos	0.88		

A great July for **LUCKY NELSON** (5.12) who in the last weeks of the month, had a streak of 15-1. Breathing down Lucky's back was Glenn Martells (4.72). Jake Jacobs (3.20) finished third.



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 (847/942-2068).

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).

JAVA BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. and Sunday monthly, 11:45 A.M. at Java Oasis; 2240 S. Michigan, Chicago. J.A. Miller (312/719-1245).

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