

*las vegas open & pro-am doubles*

## “MOCHY” LEADS JAPAN IN VEGAS BLITZ

**Magriel Captures Masters  
Ballard & McCormick win Pro-Am  
by Nack Ballard**

Las Vegas was buzzing with backgammon action November 15–23 as the Las Vegas Open and Pro-Am Doubles Invitational crowned champions for 2003. Howard Markowitz and staff did an outstanding job organizing and directing both events held at the Riviera Hotel with a total attendance of over 300 players from across the globe.

You can sum up the entire Las Vegas Open Tournament with one word: Atari! Japanese players had a field day with Masayuki “Mochy” Mochizuki defeating Hironobu Yazawa in the Championship finals, Yoshito Takeuchi topping Yasuo Mishima among the Intermediates, and Akiko Abe placing second in the Beginner division. Additionally, Champ winner Mochizuki won the Limited Jackpot and Sho Sengoku, now living in California, captured a Mini-Match title.



(At left) Japan's Masayuki “Mochy” Mochizuki was a double winner at the Las Vegas Open. (At right) Paul Magriel in action winning the \$4000 Masters tournament. [All photos by Patrick Gibson.]

Chalk up a nice victory for the legendary Paul Magriel (NV) who defeated Brazilian expert Danilo Sahione in the

\$4,000 Superjackpot.

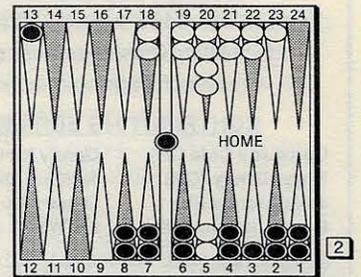
Backgammon giant Nack Ballard (CA) won a \$500 Jackpot which was over-shadowed by his huge Pro-Am Doubles victory with Wayne McClintock (CA) just prior to the Las Vegas Open. The \$13,000 entry fee drew 18 teams coupling backgammon's big-name professionals with “amateur” partners. Nack, who also won the event in 2001, provides us with his first-person view of an exciting game from the big-money finals:

### A Memorable Pro-Am Sequence by Nack Ballard

WAYNE MCCLINTOCK AND I played some exciting games in our 23-point Pro-Am finals. (With over \$100,000 at stake, every game is exciting!) Our first problem was trying to determine which of the members of our opponent's team (Matvey “Falafel” Natanzon or Ken Arnold) might be the “Amateur”!

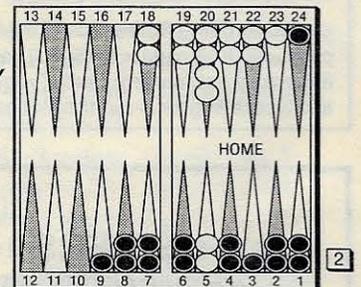
The following sequence of plays was the most memorable for Wayne and I. **It was a 23-point finals with we (Black) leading they (White) 3–2 . . .**

POS. 1.  
BLACK  
TO PLAY  
4-1.



Wayne and I played Bar/24, 13/9. This was criticized by some experts who thought we should make the fifth point in the board. In fact, 13/9 (duplicating 4s) is correct by a huge margin. Our opponent's next roll turned out to be a key swing number:

POS. 2.  
WHITE  
TO PLAY  
6-2.



[Continued  
on page 8]

## DOUBLES WORLD CHAMPS CROWNED IN SWITZERLAND



Andrea Bolzoni & Vincenzo Riceputi, dentists by profession, “drilled” the field to win the 2003 World Doubles Championship. The annual event was held 5-9 November in Lugano, Switzerland in conjunction with the Grand Prix de Suisse. This year's Italian pair joins the ranks of such past champions as Paul Magriel/Victoria Semanova (2000) and Dirk Schiemann/Peter Heitmüller (2001). Complete results on page 11. Δ

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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CHICAGO POINT is published monthly. The subscription rate is \$30/12 issues (\$40 international airmail in USD check drawn on U.S. bank).

**Advertising Rates:** 2 3/8" x 3 1/4" = \$40. 1/4 page = \$70. 1/2 page = \$115. Full page = \$200. If the ad is not "camera ready," request layout and typesetting for an additional charge.

## LETTERS

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## THE PREMATURE ROLL

During the bear-off, Player 1 rolls but the dice are cocked. Player 2 rolls out of turn. What should happen next? We play that there are no premature rolls in no-contact positions, but in this situation, would the no-contact rule still be in effect?—*SSupersel, via Internet*

[Answered by Danny Kleinman—Ed.] *The no-contact rule doesn't exist in tournament play. All premature rolls must be recast without exception.*

*I believe strongly that a rule requiring premature rolls to be canceled is wrong. Whether there is contact or not, a premature roll should stand, with only one exception: an opponent who can legally take a cube action and chooses to do so may cancel the premature roll. When the premature roll stands, the premature roller should suffer these consequences:*

[Continued on page 11]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
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\* Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Jan 10*	Ed Chambers Memorial, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Jan 11	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Jan 11*	South Florida Monthly, NorthRidge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jan 13	Chicago Bar Point Club Awards Night, Clarion Hotel, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jan 15	Third Thursday Bonus (Pittsburgh), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 15-19	3rd Boston Open & Masters Jackpot, Hyatt Harborside, Boston, MA	781/641-2091
Jan 16-18	<u>4th Carolina Invitational, Holiday Inn-Woodlawn, Charlotte, NC</u>	<u>704/814-0850</u>
Jan 18*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/688-9722
Jan 22	2003 Flint Club Awards Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 24	Atlanta Awards Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Jan 25*	Ace Point Club Monthly, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/888-2231
Feb 1*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, Ohio	330/268-4610
Feb 5*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Holiday Inn Sugars Lounge, Fairborn, Ohio	937/864-1748
Feb 7*	2nd Battle of Bull Run, Swim & Racquet Club, Manassas, Virginia	703/577-1927
Feb 7*	Springfield Series #4, Wildlife Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois	217/622-3182
Feb 8	BPC Doubles Club Championship, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Feb 8	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Feb 8*	South Florida Monthly, NorthRidge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Feb 14*	Columbia Memorial, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Feb 15*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/688-9722
Feb 19	Third Thursday Bonus (Midwest Championships), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Feb 21	Southern Open Warm-Up, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Feb 13-15	<u>26th Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Feb 26-29	<u>Southern Open, King &amp; Prince Beach &amp; Golf Resort, St. Simons, Georgia</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Feb 29*	Ace Point Club Monthly, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/888-2231
Mar 4*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Holiday Inn Sugars Lounge, Fairborn, Ohio	937/864-1748
Mar 6*	Springfield Series #5, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/622-3182
Mar 7*	Colorado State Tournament, Cadillac Jacks, Denver, Colorado	719/574-5598
Mar 7*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, Ohio	330/268-4610
Mar 13*	Ides of March Tournament, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Mar 14*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Mar 18*	Third Thursday Bonus (Ohio State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Mar 19-21	<u>2004 Midwest Championships, Wyndham Lisle Hotel, Lisle, Illinois</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Mar 21*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/688-9722
Mar 27*	Atlanta Spring Chouette Tourney, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Mar 28*	Ace Point Club Monthly, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/888-2231
Apr 4*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Apr 16-18*	<u>10th Ohio State Championships, Marriott Hotel, Middleburg Hts., Ohio</u>	<u>330/268-4610</u>
May 5-9*	21st Nevada State Tournament, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
May 28-31	<u>25th Chicago Open, Oak Brook Hills Hotel &amp; Resort, Oak Brook, Illinois</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
Jul 1-4	<u>29th Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton, Novi, Michigan</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 30-Aug 1	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>585/396-0969</u>
Jul 30-Aug 1	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	<u>608/516-9109</u>
Aug 12-15	<u>11th Georgia Championships &amp; Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Sep 3-6	<u>51st Indiana Open, Sheraton Hotel &amp; Suites, Indianapolis, Indiana</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Oct 8-10*	<u>Illinois State Championships, Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria, Illinois</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
Oct 15-17*	<u>Florida State Championship, Sheraton Suites, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>

### OUTSIDE USA

Jan 9-11	Bright 'n' Breezy, Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton, England	44152-2888676
Jan 17*	Québec Fédération Tournament, Boutique Stratégie, Montréal, Canada	514/252-3035
Jan 30-Feb 1	2nd Cotswold Fireside BG & Hold'em Poker, Crown Inn, Blockley, UK	44145-3821479
Feb 7-8	Jarvis Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England	44152-2888676
Feb 12-15*	4th Trophée du Groupe Partouche, Palm Beach, Cannes, France	41-793205276
Feb 15*	Toronto Masters, Bayview Games Club, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Feb 21-22*	Everyman Mindsports Trophy, Ramada Jarvis, East Grinstead, England	44163-4304908
Feb 23-29*	5th Paris Master & Open, Concorde Lafayette Hotel, Paris, France	331-42618080
Mar 4-7*	Bonzo Backgammon Tournament, Salzunger Hof, Bad Salzungen, Germany	49-52164314
Mar 13-14*	Slattery Scottish Open, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, England	44152-2888676
Apr 3-4*	At-A-Glance British Open, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, England	44152-2888676
Apr 8-12*	16th Nordic "Wide" Open, Scandic Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Apr 17-18*	Tom Duggan's Time Trophy, George Ramada Hotel, Solihull, England	44163-4304908
Apr 22-25*	1st Casino Salzburg Open, Casino Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria	49171-5422222
Apr 29-May 2*	4th City of Jesolo BG & Gin Tournament, Hotel Casa Bianca, Jesolo, Italy	3941-5211029
Apr 30-May 2*	3rd Velden Open, Casino Velden, Velden, Austria	392-69018168
May 8-9*	County Cups Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, England	44152-2888676
Jun 5-6*	Hilton Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, England	44152-2888676
Jun 19-20*	Peter Bennet's 50th Birthday, Ramada Jarvis, East Grinstead, England	44163-4304908
Jul 12-18*	29th World Championship, Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 954/527-4033



# AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2003

Top 100—Final Standings after 18 tournaments  
184 players earned points



Malcolm Davis	37.88	Hunter Jones	11.15	Neil Garvie	7.08	Barry Gittleman	4.87
Dean Adamian	28.67	Ben Elliott	10.57	J.A. Miller	7.08	Doug Johnson	4.85
Ray Foglerlund	27.65	David Rubin	10.57	Neil Kazaross	6.94	Bill Davis	4.75
Gregg Cattanach	26.69	Bill Finneran	10.57	Jeff Kane	6.90	Gayle Wolf	4.73
Gyl Savoie	22.39	Richard Reasin	10.00	Tom Machaj	6.86	Karen Davis	4.56
Art Grater	21.36	Tom Meyer	10.00	Emil Mortuk	6.73	Vadim Musaelyan	4.50
Bob Glass	19.06	Beth Martinson	9.29	Perry Firooz	6.73	Eden Windish	4.50
Mike Ungerleider	16.81	Tak Morioka	9.18	Pat McCormick	6.63	Boris Golubov	4.47
Ed Bennett	16.73	Simon Kennedy-Rose	9.00	Terry Leahy	6.44	Herb Roman	4.44
Ilia Guzei	16.38	Ron Sanders	8.89	Daniel Dorinbaum	6.41	Ed Ratajczyk	4.28
Brad Andersen	16.27	Philip Smith	8.82	Carol Joy Cole	6.41	Tad Bright	4.27
Sam Pottle	15.64	Wally Wolf	8.66	Mary Franks	6.40	Fred Kalantari	4.27
Bruce Russell	15.60	Curtis Lucas	8.66	Larry Arnold	6.30	Bob Zavoral	3.94
Dave Cardwell	15.01	George Haskour	8.54	Jim Zimmerman	6.02	Stuart Katz	3.93
Matt Reklaitis	14.33	Judy Collins	8.54	David Rogers	6.00	Hy Halpern	3.93
Faddoul Khoury	14.15	Sho Sengoku	8.36	Michael Flohr	5.55	Greg Feller	3.93
Howard Markowitz	13.82	Betty Coppic	8.29	Sina Bigdeli	5.45	Martha Ghio	3.90
Brian Barber	13.80	Greg Merriman	8.03	Steve Mellen	5.42	Chris Stanford	3.61
Adam Versaw	13.53	Gary Fries	7.80	Chuck Bower	5.29	Russell Sands	3.61
Steve Sax	13.18	Al Jones	7.80	Jeremy Bagai	5.27	Kit Salsbury	3.61
Alan Fenster	13.00	Dana Nazarian	7.74	Walter Trice	5.27	Al Tesoro	3.58
Petko Kostadinov	13.00	Phil Simborg	7.33	Paul Stebbing	5.20	Doug Mayfield	3.58
Paul Weaver	12.79	Abbas Zaltash	7.18	Tom Hodous	5.15	Trina Smith	3.56
Raymond Rickard	12.29	Ray Woo	7.14	Marilyn Kubiak	5.15	Dan Mowczan	3.55
Frank Talbot	11.98	Drew Robinson	7.08	Sean Garber	5.00	2 tied with	3.37

## MALCOLM DAVIS WINS AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR TOP HONORS IN 2003

Malcolm Davis of Dallas, Texas, parlayed victories in the Midwest Championships and Florida State Championships to become the American Backgammon Tour's Player of the Year for 2003. 184 players earned master points in 18 sanctioned tour events held throughout the United States last year.

Malcolm's 37.88 point total is very impressive because he entered only four ABT-rated tournaments in 2003. And this is just a part of the Backgammon Giant's (ranked in the top 32 worldwide) outstanding year.



Davis reached the finals in the MBC Grand Crystal Beaver and Georgia Peach Cup Masters' tournaments. Additionally, he finished second in the Southern Open Kickoff event. And internationally, Malcolm prevailed over a tough 256-player field to capture the World Cup Challenge Kickoff (January in Bucharest, Romania) defeating Jes Bondo (Denmark) in the finals.

Davis, along with the second and third place finishers—Plymouth, Michigan director Dean Adamian and author/analyst Ray Foglerlund (Bakersfield, California)—will receive their marble trophies 13–15 February at the Pittsburgh Championships. Complete 2003 results are at left. Δ



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2003 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FINAL STANDINGS  
89 players earned pts.

Bob Zavoral	36.30	Bill Keefe	8.44	Tim Serges	3.14	Mark King	1.12
Tim Mabee	25.52	Steve Klesker	8.24	Wendy Kaplan	2.80	Spencer King	1.04
Gary Kay	23.08	Arline Levy	8.16	Royal Robinson	2.64	Barry Miller	1.04
Phyllis Smolinski	19.96	Bill Bartholomay	8.00	Larry Goldstein	2.56	Jolie Rubin	1.04
Joe Wollick	19.88	Paul Franks	7.64	David Marcus	2.16	Kathy Sorci	0.96
Herb Roman	19.28	Norma Shyer	6.60	Ken Tyszko	2.16	Linda Rockwell	0.96
Lucky Nelson	19.08	Richard Stawowy	6.56	Bob Holyon	1.92	Richard Lloyd	0.96
Paul Baraz	18.26	Roland Dieter	6.08	David Rubin	1.92	Aaron Ashmann	0.88
David Rockwell	17.64	Joann Feinstein	5.92	Mitch Pomper	1.84	James Roston	0.72
Phil Simborg	17.36	Mike Sutton	5.60	Ilia Guzei	1.76	Elaine Andrews	0.72
Val Zimnicki	16.88	Howard Ring	5.52	Glenn Martells	1.72	Mike Wolock	0.72
Ken Bond	16.80	Mary Franks	5.36	Rory Pascar	1.64	Paul Klein	0.72
Tak Morioka	14.82	Ed Buerger	4.96	David Araiza	1.52	Don Jayhan	0.64
Carter Mattig	14.72	Paul Friedman	4.88	Matt Borden	1.44	Los Moshinsky	0.64
Alice Kay	14.44	Barbara Levinson	4.72	Jake Jacobs	1.44	Brian Leventhal	0.56
Bill Davis	12.76	Nora Luna-Righter	4.48	Sakura Sugawara	1.44	Don Garner	0.56
Georgina Flanagan	12.60	Tim Carroll	4.48	Ken Tibbs	1.36	Roz Ferris	0.56
Michael Peters	12.56	Doug Rodgers	4.36	Joe Szwedo	1.28	Neville Kerr	0.56
Mark Murray	12.00	Brian Barber	4.04	Dan Cox	1.28	Bobbie Ivanova	0.48
Roger Hickman	11.04	Elaine Kehm	3.68	Phil Martorelli	1.12	Lloyd Esses	0.48
Eric Johnson	10.60	Joe Sylvester	3.40	Carol Hooker	1.12	Frank Ley	0.48
Peter Kalba	9.88	Wayne Wiest	3.36	Rodney Gonzalez	1.12	Jay Bleiman	0.32
Bob Steen	8.68						

November Player of the Month: **GARY KAY's**, incredible 9.92 November point total (highlighted by 20 wins in a row) dominated otherwise outstanding monthly performances by Bob Zavoral (5.18) and Val Zimnicki (4.52).

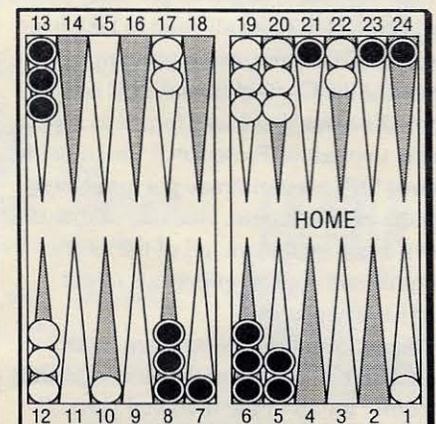
December Player of the Month: **Bob Zavoral** finished in a blaze of glory winning the last tournament of the year to collect 5.44 total December points. Finishing tied for second were Georgina Flanagan and Ken Bond with 4.88 points each.

your move

## PROBLEM #296

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**



64

## ASK DANNY

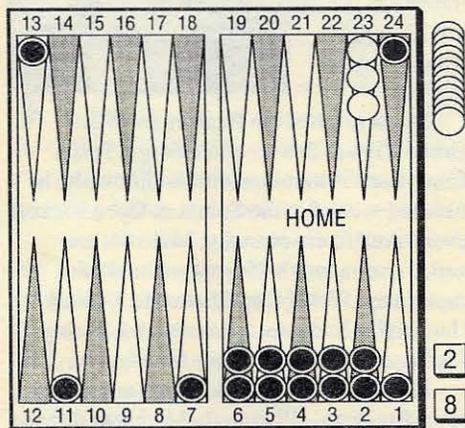


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### A FAIR SETTLEMENT

**D**ear Danny: In a recent chouette, the following position came up. Player A and B (White) were partners in the box and had already booked 2 points from Player C earlier in the game. Player D was the Captain (playing the Black pieces) and holding an 8-cube, while Player E, the last Crew member, was holding a 2-cube:

Money game. Captain (Black) holds an 8-cube and his crew member holds a 2-cube. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



The Captain proceeded to roll 6-1 and made a quick decision to run 24/18, 13/12. Before the Captain picked up his dice, E began to scream violently that running was wrong and since they were already gammoned, the proper action was to play for the shot if White rolled a 1 next turn. The Captain took exception to this, arguing that he had the most to risk and didn't want to be backgammoned for 24 points. Under our chouette rules, the Captain does have the final say, but E began to get nasty about it and demanded to be allowed to take over the Captain's 8-cube, using profanities directed at the Captain to make his point. Bottom line was that I was forced to separate the two just as E escalated the situation to blows! E's violent tirade got him banned from the establishment. Had one of them known a fair settlement, all of the angry proposals and counter-proposals might never have happened.

Danny, could you please step in and describe a fair settlement that accomplishes fair equity for all of the involved parties? Also, I know you were a director in the

past. What penalty would you impose against E for his inappropriate actions?—  
*Ref E. Ree*

**DEAR REF:** A fair settlement, given that the Captain had decided to run and was not persuaded to change his play, is a gammon loss for the Captain and the remaining Crew member. So D loses 16 points and E loses 4 points to the two players sharing the Box. Never mind that the Captain's play was wrong: when the Captain errs, his Crew also pays—that's the nature of chouette, a wild and crazy form of competition.

What would a fair settlement be had the Captain chosen 13/7, 11/10 (as I would) or any similar play that kept a man in the back court and left the 1-point slotted? We can calculate that in 1296 representative games, Black loses 273 backgammons and 603 gammons, and hits a shot 420 times: 200 games in which White rolls a single ace and leaves two blots, 220 games in which White rolls two different non-aces and leaves one blot. After hitting, I would estimate that Black is still about a 3-to-1 underdog to win the game. So let's credit him with about 105 wins. Do the math, and you'll estimate that a fair settlement is about 1.7 times the size of the cube. So D would pay 13.6 points and E would pay 3.4 points to the pair of players sharing the Box.

As to the appropriate penalty for E's behavior, you apparently need little advice from anyone. Banning the player was clearly right. Whether you should lift the ban some time after heads have cooled depends on a number of things. I can think of a few:

- how the player has behaved on other occasions;
- whether others at your club fear that he may become violent;
- whether he apologizes and begs forgiveness from the Captain;
- whether he has paid any backgammon debts he may owe;
- whether he comes to you and promises to behave graciously in the future; and
- your personal judgment of the consequences of allowing him to play.—

*Yours, Danny*

*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)*

## ZAVORAL IS CBPC 2003 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

For the third time in five years, Bob Zavoral is the Chicago Bar Point Club Player of the Year. After overtaking Tim Mabee in July, Bob never looked back. He went on to earn a personal best 36.30 points that surpassed Mabee's runner-up total by over 10 points. Bob's annual BPC figure is the best since Tak Morioka earned 42.48 points in 1988.



Zavoral, who also makes outstanding backgammon boards, was Player of the Month in January, September and December. He finished the last two months of the year strong, pointing in 8 of 11 tournaments. Bob now stands 19th on the All-Time Chicagoland point list with 232.37 points. And on the national level, let's not forget his big win over Malcolm Davis in the Grand Crystal Beaver Masters at the Midwest Championships in March 2003. A very successful year indeed.

On 13 January at the Clarion Hotel, we will salute Bob Zavoral's achievements along with those of Tim Mabee (25.52), Gary Kay (23.08) and the other 17 players who make up our Top-20 for 2003.

Thanks to the management of the Clarion Barcelo Hotel for hosting our weekly tournament, and to our hostess Rose Gecht who has provided us with outstanding service for more than 15 years. Δ

### KAY WINS 20 BPC MATCHES IN A ROW

Apparently unsatisfied with his 17 victories in a row (Aug.–Sep. 2003), Gary Kay outdid himself winning a record 20 straight matches in Chicago Bar Point Club competition. The million-to-1 feat, completed in December 2003, capped an incredible four month run that saw Gary climb into the top three for the year. Additionally, he won the BPC Fall Trophy Tourney in November.

Kudos to Gary on an outstanding 2004. Δ

CHICAGO POINT's 2004 Listing of...

# Backgammon Clubs in North America

Information for this listing has been obtained directly from the featured backgammon clubs. Changes are inevitable and we suggest that you always call before attending. CHICAGO POINT would like to maintain an accurate listing of USA Backgammon Clubs online at: [www.chicagopoint.com/usclubs.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/usclubs.html). Please send club information, including new clubs and club closings and updates to: **CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659. 773/583-6464. Fax: 773/583-3264. E-mail: [bg@chicagopoint.com](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com)**

## WEST

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT [E-MAIL]	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Arizona Backgammon Club	Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub	Phoenix, AZ	1st Tuesday monthly-7:00 PM	Pete Campbell ( <a href="mailto:arizonabackgammon@webtv.net">arizonabackgammon@webtv.net</a> )	602/279-0215	928 E. Berridge Lane; Phoenix AZ 85014
Gammon Associates	Acapulco Cantina	Burbank, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Patrick Gibson ( <a href="mailto:pgibsonmfic@adelphia.net">pgibsonmfic@adelphia.net</a> )	818/901-0464	7641 Orion Avenue; Van Nuys, CA 91406
"	A.R. Private Club	Los Angeles, CA	Sunday-2:00 PM	"	"	"
Imperial Valley Backgammon Club	Downtown Chiropractic	El Centro, CA	1st Thursday monthly-7:00 PM	Doyle Pritchard ( <a href="mailto:drbackjack@hotmail.com">drbackjack@hotmail.com</a> )	760/353-3045	707 State Street; El Centro, CA 92243
Sacramento Backgammon Club	Player's Sports Pub & Grill	Fair Oaks, CA	2nd & 4th Tuesday-6:30 PM	Doug Wilson ( <a href="mailto:dbwilson@pacbell.net">dbwilson@pacbell.net</a> )	530/756-4872	3016 Bryant Place; Davis, CA 95616
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Embassy Suites Hotel	La Jolla, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Tom Fahland ( <a href="mailto:tom_fahland@yahoo.com">tom_fahland@yahoo.com</a> )	858/472-1516	10770 Aderman Avenue 92; San Diego, CA 92126
Redwood Empire BG Association	Embassy Suites Hotel	San Rafael, CA	3rd Saturday monthly-10:30 AM	Timothy Jaxon ( <a href="mailto:redwood@kinhaven.net">redwood@kinhaven.net</a> )	707/477-6430	7171 E. Hurlbut Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472
"	Flatiron Grill	San Rafael, CA	2nd Thur. monthly-6:30 PM	"	"	"
Backgammon By The Bay	Peking Express Restaurant	Berkeley, CA	2nd Saturday monthly-12:00 PM	Beth Skillman ( <a href="mailto:beth@backgammon.org">beth@backgammon.org</a> )	831/688-9722	308 Arthur Avenue; Aptos, CA 95003
"	Britannia Arms Pub/Restaurant	Cupertino, CA	4th Saturday monthly-12:00 PM	"	"	"
"	It's Your Move Game Room	Oakland, CA	Monday-6:00 PM	"	"	"
Aloha State Backgammon Club	Waikiki Yacht Club	Honolulu, HI	Friday-6:00 PM	George Quillin ( <a href="mailto:georgeq@hawaii.rr.com">georgeq@hawaii.rr.com</a> )	808/922-2674	2999 Kalakaua Avenue 501; Honolulu, HI 96815
Boise Backgammon Club	TableRock Brewpub & Grill	Boise, ID	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Tami Jones ( <a href="mailto:boisebackgammon@hotmail.com">boisebackgammon@hotmail.com</a> )	208/724-8432	7116 Ashland Drive; Boise, ID 83709
Backgammon Club of Las Vegas	Elks Lodge	Las Vegas, NV	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Michael Maxakuli ( <a href="mailto:maxgammon4@yahoo.com">maxgammon4@yahoo.com</a> )	702/732-9483	750 Royal Crest Circle 357; Las Vegas, NV 89109
Nevada Backgammon Association	Riviera Hotel	Las Vegas, NV	Event dates: <a href="http://www.nvbg.com">www.nvbg.com</a>	Howard Markowitz ( <a href="mailto:howard114@cox.net">howard114@cox.net</a> )	702/893-6025	3131 Espanol Drive; Las Vegas, NV 89121
Puget Sound Backgammon Club	Wizards Restaurant/Casino	Seattle, WA	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Ruth Robbins ( <a href="mailto:ruthles5@comcast.net">ruthles5@comcast.net</a> )	425/226-3120	12611 155th Ave. SE; Renton, WA 98059

## CENTRAL

Chicago Bar Point Club	Clarion Barcelo Hotel	Chicago, IL	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Bill Davis ( <a href="mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com">bg@chicagopoint.com</a> )	773/583-6464	3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659
"	Champs Sports Bar	Oakbrook Terrace, IL	Sunday bimonthly-12:00 PM	"	"	"
Bloomington-Normal BG Club	Damon's Place for Ribs	Normal, IL	Monday-6:30 PM	Michael Flohr ( <a href="mailto:mflohr0925@verizon.net">mflohr0925@verizon.net</a> )	309/662-7967	707 Broadmoor Drive; Bloomington, IL 61704
Peoria Backgammon Club	Peoria Pizza Works	Peoria, IL	Thursday-6:30 PM	Ed Zell ( <a href="mailto:peoriabg@thezells.com">peoriabg@thezells.com</a> )	309/674-0557	2009 W. Clarke Avenue, West Peoria, IL 61604
Sangamon Valley BG Association	Brewhaus	Springfield, IL	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Ben Zemaitis ( <a href="mailto:b.zemaitis@insightbb.com">b.zemaitis@insightbb.com</a> )	217/483-4028	301 Estes Park Drive; Chatham, IL 62629
Sangamon Valley Springfield Series	Various locations	Central Illinois	1st Sat/Nov to Apr-11:30 AM	Randy Armstrong ( <a href="mailto:randya@insightbb.com">randya@insightbb.com</a> )	217/528-0117	2012 N. 20th Street; Springfield, IL 62702
Pub Club	Danny's Grill & Bar	Villa Park, IL	Monday-7:00 PM	Joe Wollick	847/942-2068	1416 Keele Drive; Carpentersville, IL 60110
Winnetka Backgammon Club	Winnetka Community House	Winnetka, IL	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Trudie Chibnik ( <a href="mailto:winnbackgammon@aol.com">winnbackgammon@aol.com</a> )	847/446-0537	740 Ballantrae Drive B; Northbrook, IL 60062
Hoosier Backgammon Club	Neon Johnny's	Indianapolis, IN	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Butch & Mary Ann Meese ( <a href="mailto:indybg@comcast.net">indybg@comcast.net</a> )	317/255-8902	1008 Tuckahoe Street; Indianapolis, IN 46260
Northwest Indiana BG Association	VFW Hall	Porter, IN	Saturday monthly-3:00 PM	Charlie Halberstadt ( <a href="mailto:chbug@yahoo.com">chbug@yahoo.com</a> )	219/785-2082	P.O. Box 84; Westville, IN 46391
Flint Area Backgammon Club	Days Inn	Flint, MI	Thursday-7:00 PM	Carol Joy Cole ( <a href="mailto:cjc@tir.com">cjc@tir.com</a> )	810/232-9731	3719 Greenbrook Lane; Flint, MI 48507
Grand Rapids Backgammon Club	Garden Room Cafe	Grand Rapids, MI	Tuesday-7:00 PM	John Drexel ( <a href="mailto:info@grbg.org">info@grbg.org</a> )	616/647-9965	4845 Brookgate Drive NW; Comstock Park, MI 49321
Plymouth Backgammon Club	Box Bar & Grill	Plymouth, MI	Wednesday-7:30 PM	Dean Adamian ( <a href="mailto:Dean3491@hotmail.com">Dean3491@hotmail.com</a> )	734/981-5706	42954 Barchester; Canton, MI 48187
Metro North Backgammon Club	Mr. B's Restaurant	Troy, MI	Monday-6:30 PM	Paul Berg ( <a href="mailto:paulberg@wideopenwest.com">paulberg@wideopenwest.com</a> )	313/330-7803	921 Winchester; Lincoln Park, MI 48146
Twin Cities Backgammon Club	Little Wagon	Minneapolis, MN	Thursday-7:00 PM	Steve Brown ( <a href="mailto:scbrown@visi.com">scbrown@visi.com</a> )	651/699-6758	1369 Scheffer Avenue; St. Paul, MN 55116
Ohio State Backgammon Club	Thirsty Dog Brewery	Canton, OH	Sunday monthly-1:30 PM	Joe Miller ( <a href="mailto:osbc@neo.rr.com">osbc@neo.rr.com</a> )	330/268-4610	1066 Winston Street; Akron, OH 44314
"	Boulevard Tavern	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	Wednesday-6:30 PM	"	330/268-4610	"

(Continued on opposite side)

**CENTRAL (continued)**

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Miami Valley Backgammon Club	Sugars Lounge	Fairborn, OH	1st Thursday monthly-6:45 PM	Roger Foster (mvbackgammon@aol.com)	937/864-1748	4151 West Enon Drive; Enon, OH 45323
Greater Columbus Backgammon Club	Lucky's Grille	Hilliard, OH	3rd Sunday monthly-1:30 PM	Michael Haney (gcbc@columbus.rr.com)	614/771-0981	5289 Bonner Drive; Hilliard, OH 43026
Dallas Backgammon League	IHOP	Addison, TX	Wednesday-8:00 PM	Tom Wheeler (malcolm3@ix.netcom.com)	972/484-3038	3705 Pageant Place, Dallas, TX 75244
Austin Backgammon Association	JC's Bar and Grill	Austin, TX	Mon-7:30 PM; Sun bimthly-12:30 PM	Jackie Seiders-Smart (jseiders@austin.rr.com)	512/261-8518	30 Hightrail Way, Austin, TX 78738
Houston Backgammon Club	Sansone's West Oaks Bar	Houston, TX	2nd Saturday monthly-1:00 PM	Tom Wright (tomw64@hotmail.com)	281/556-0428	14147 Lost Meadow Lane; Houston, TX 77079
West Texas Backgammon Club	Big Daddy's	Odessa, TX	1st & 3rd Saturday-12:30 PM	Joe Tucker (wtxbc@yahoo.com)	432/366-1631	3313 Sherbrook Road; Odessa, TX 79762
Madison Backgammon Club	J.T. Whitney's	Madison, WI	Tuesday-6:30 PM	Tom Machaj (ttmachaj@hotmail.com)	608/516-9109	P.O. Box 45405; Madison, WI 53744

**NORTHEAST**

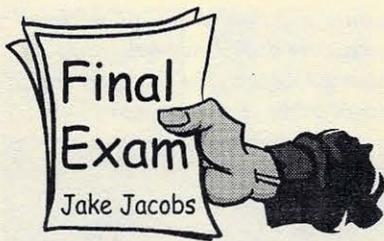
Beltway Backgammon Club	Promenade Cardroom	Bethesda, MD	Twice Sunday monthly-12:00 PM	Barry Silliman (sillybaz@beltwaybg.org)	202/777-2641 x1375	P.O. Box 612; Walkersville, MD 21793
New England Backgammon Club	Holiday Inn	Somerville, MA	Wed-7 PM, Sun monthly-12:30 PM	Brad Mampe (mamps@mindspring.com)	617/779-8209	185 Chestnut Hill Ave. 2; Brighton, MA 02135
New Jersey Backgammon Club	Bergen Bridge Club	Paramus, NJ	Friday-7:00 PM	Fred Fado (qcamm@america.com)	973/537-9128	670 Mt. Hope Avenue; Wharton, NJ 07885
Ace Point Backgammon Club	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-12 PM, Tour. Sun.-1:30 PM	Alan & Lourdes Steffen (asteffen@acepointclub.com)	212/888-2231	328 East 61st Street 5; New York, NY 10021
New York Chess & Backgammon	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-11:30 AM, Tour. Sun.-2:30 PM	Steve Manning (nycbtournaments@earthlink.net)	212/869-6057	120 W. 41st Street 4; New York, NY 10036
Pittsburgh Backgammon Club	Toby's Restaurant	Forest Hills, PA	Thursday-8:00 PM	Steve Hast (pghsteve1@aol.com)	412/823-7500	3560 Ridgewood Drive; Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Harrisburg Backgammon Club	Elephant & Castle Pub	New Cumberland, PA	1st Sunday monthly-12:00 PM	Steve Shoemaker (nls132@comcast.net)	717/545-4546	6261 S. Highlands Circle; Harrisburg, PA 17111
Tyson's Corner Backgammon Club	Doubletree Hotel	Falls Church, VA	Monday-7:00 PM	Bill Etue (billetue@aol.com)	703/620-3153	11833 Shire Court 1A; Reston, VA 22043
Bull Run Backgammon Club	Bull Run Racquet Club	Manassas, VA	Quarterly-11:00 AM	Bill Pow (bill_22003@hotmail.com)	703/396-7224	10961 Pettigrew Way; Manassas, VA 20109

**SOUTH**

Tampa Bay Backgammon Club	Chick-N-Bones Restaurant	Brandon, FL	Thursday-4:00 PM	Stacy Turner (stacyleeturner@yahoo.com)	813/748-7608	1832 South Ridge Drive; Valrico, FL 33608
Suncoast Backgammon Association	New York, New York Lounge	Clearwater, FL	Monday & Friday-6:00 PM	Bob Carpenter (5point@earthlink.net)	727/771-6544	1801 Eastlake Road 12E; Palm Harbor, FL 34685
South Florida Backgammon Club	NorthRidge Raw Bar/Restaurant	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Sat.-1 PM, Sun. monthly-1 PM	Elayne Feinstein (BGinFla210@aol.com)	954/564-0340	659 W. Oakland Park Blvd.; Oakland Park, FL 33311
Orlando Backgammon	Mulligan's	Orlando, FL	Tuesday-7:30 PM	David Thomas (dlt@iag.net)	386/736-0502	P.O. Box 803; Deland, FL 32721
Atlanta Backgammon Association	Barnacles Restaurant	Doraville, GA	1st & 3rd Monday-7:30 PM	Dave Cardwell (info@BGinGA.com)	770/333-1876	111 Radford Circle SW; Marietta, GA 30060
"	Rock Bottom Brewery	Marietta, GA	1st & 3rd Thursday-7:30 PM	"	"	"
"	Mazy's Sports Bar & Grill	Roswell, GA	Last Sat. monthly-12:00 PM	"	"	"
Louisville Backgammon Club	Abyssinia Café	Louisville, KY	1st & 3rd Tuesday-6:30 PM	Quint McTyeire (hnm@gdm.com)	502/896-9783	4906 Crofton Road; Louisville, KY 40207
Charlotte Backgammon Club	O'Charley's	Charlotte, NC	Monday-6:30 PM	Jeb Horton (jeb@carolina.rr.com)	704/814-0850	2217-D Matthews Twsp Pkwy 128; Matthews, NC 28105
Charleston Backgammon Society	Bourbon Street Cafe	N. Charleston, SC	Monday-7:00 PM	Brett Meyer (mrbmeyer@comcast.net)	843/764-0768	8058 Long Shadow Lane; N. Charleston, SC 29406
Nashville Backgammon Club	Sam's Place	Nashville, TN	Wednesday-6:45 PM	J.P. White (info@nashvillebackgammon.com)	615/824-9461	114 Dorcas Drive; Hendersonville, TN 37075

**CANADA**

Nat'l Capital Backgammon Club	Bobby's Bar & Restaurant	Gloucester, ON	1st Sunday monthly-10:00 AM	Eden Windish (rlessard707@rogers.com)	613/741-2530	396 Bangs St.; Ottawa ON, K1K 2N6; Canada
Toronto Backgammon Club	Bayview Games Club	Toronto, ON	Daily-7:00 PM, Tour. Thursday	Vladimir Dobrich	416/722-9709	106 Well's Street; Toronto ON, M5R 1P3; Canada
Quebec Backgammon Federation	Bar La Paz	Montreal, QC	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Marie Bienvenue (fedebackgammon@sympatico.ca)	514/722-7035	4545, ave. Pierre-de-Coubertin; CP 1000; succursale M; Montreal QC, Canada H1V 3R2

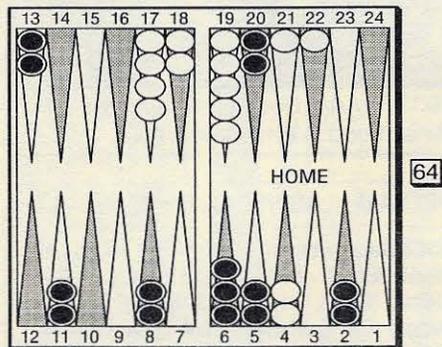


Each year at the Japan Open Itikawa Masanori, aka Othello, presents the latest version of the Othello Quiz. He selects ten problems from his online matches that offer some of the trickiest checker plays imaginable. This year 70 players tried their judgment and averaged only three correct! The most anyone scored was seven. You may test yourself at:

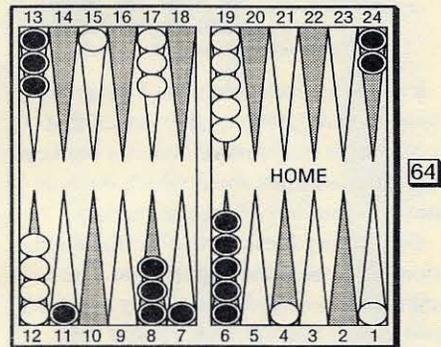
<http://www.backgammon.gr.jp/problem/problem04/index.html>.

As a warmup, try these 12 problems. They were drawn from the finals of last year's Japan Open (Fukamisu Yoshimichi over Yamamoto Masahito) and the Japan Championship (Yamamoto over Shimada Makoto). **Check the answers and your grade on page 11.**—*Jake Jacobs*

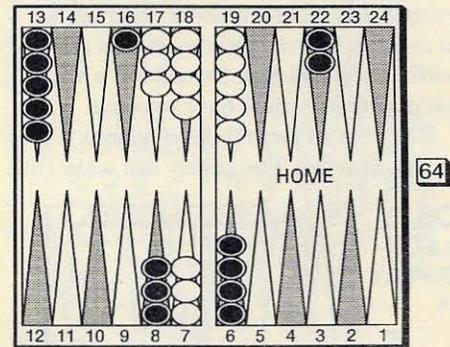
1. Black (leading 9-4 to 15) to play 5-1.



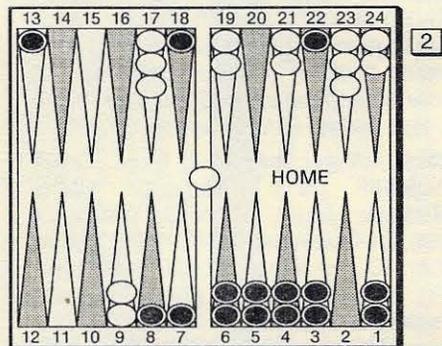
2. Black (tied 2-2 to 15) to play 5-2.



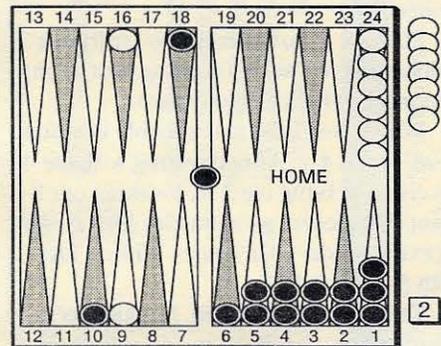
3. Black (leading 4-2 to 15) to play 6-1.



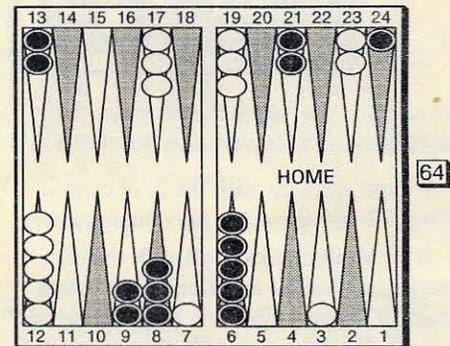
4. Black (leading 4-2 to 15) to play 5-1.



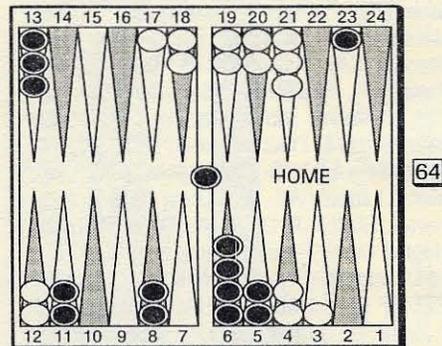
5. Black (leading 7-2 to 15) to play 6-5.



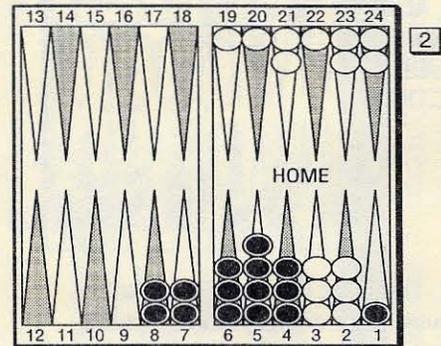
6. Black (trailing 4-9 to 15) to play 6-2.



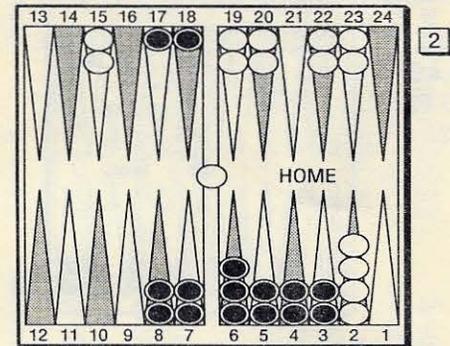
7. Black (leading 1-0 to 17) to play 3-2.



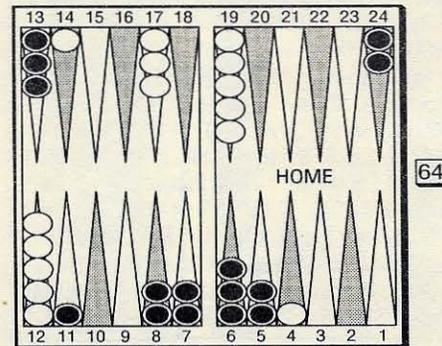
8. Black (trailing 2-7 to 15) to play 2-1.



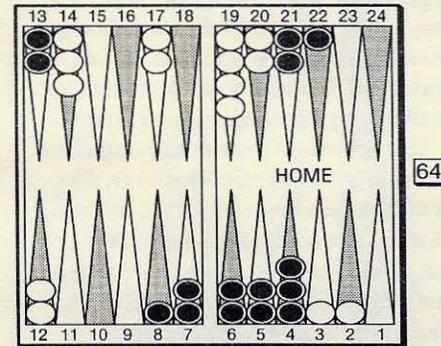
9. Black (leading 6-0 to 17) to play 4-4.



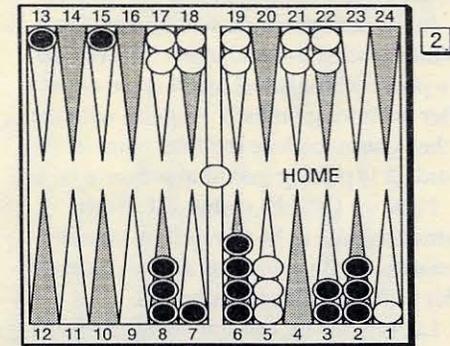
10. Black (leading 13-2 to 17) to play 4-1.



11. Black (trailing 0-1 to 17) to play 4-4.



12. Black (trailing 4-16 to 17) to play 2-1.



# VEGAS...

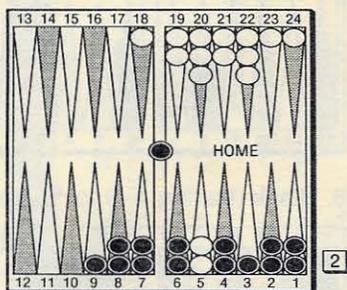
[Continued from page 1]

Falafel and Ken diversified the 2 inside their board (the easy part). Then, after long deliberation, they used their 6 to hit on the ace point. This does not win as many games as running with the 6, but it does better with gammons in both directions.

Snowie is way wrong on Position 2. It evaluates the hit as a blunder, but rolls it out as being tied or slightly correct. Accredit Falafel and Ken for making a brilliant play that I would have rejected.

The loser of these types of games is the one who fans first. Fortunately that wasn't us.

**POS. 3.**  
BLACK  
TO PLAY  
2-1.

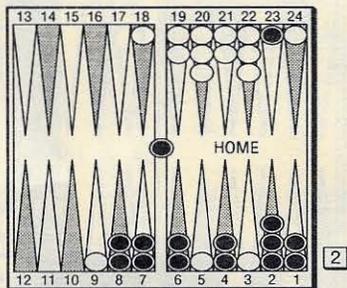


[We suggest you set up the above position and follow along on your own board.—Ed.]

Wayne and I hit with the 2, of course. Lifting 3/2 with the ace is ugly but necessary.

With **White's next roll, 4-3**, the dice have forced Falafel and Ken into a worse variant of the very situation they were trying to avoid. After entering with the 3, their only reasonable 4 is to break their 5-anchor, hitting us outside and leaving five blots.

**POS. 4.**  
BLACK  
TO PLAY  
6-2.



Now it's our turn to be skating on thin ice. The lesser of evils is to leap out with Bar/23/17 and hope not to be closed out.

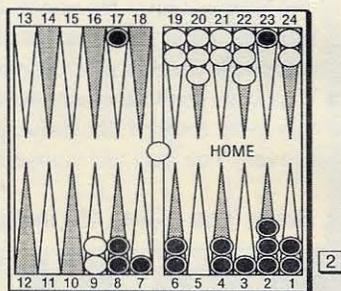
In the next position, Falafel and Ken (**White**) rolled **6-4** and made the best use of a poor roll (only 4-2 and 4-3 are worse). After anchoring on their 16-point with the 4, they chose to close the fifth point in their board (7/1) putting maximal pressure on us.

Now we (**Black**) rolled **3-1**. Both teams continue to be tortured by volatile scenarios. In this position, all we could do is hit (7/3\*) and brace ourselves.

Luckily for us, our opponents chose

this moment to fan. This presented us with our first real opportunity to redouble.

**POS. 5.**  
BLACK  
ON ROLL.  
CUBE  
ACTION?



I will often redouble what I am pretty sure is not a redouble on the chance that my opponent might pass. This is a big key to winning matches about which the bots (Snowie, Gnu, JellyFish) are clueless.

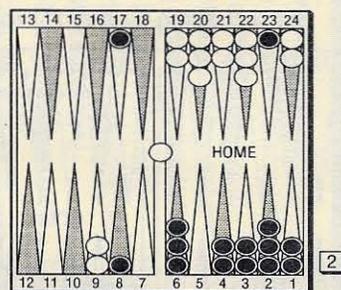
For making these sorts of brilliant cube actions that cause the opponent to pass a giant take, Snowie should (in my opinion) credit a clever player with a better than perfect decision. Instead Snowie charges this same player what it perceives to be a huge error.

Position 5, however, is too far from a redouble to risk such a coup against strong opponents who will surely take.

Wayne and I did not redouble Position 5 and rolled 4-2. After covering with the 4, we chose to bring the 2 in, breaking our 8-point. This leaves an extra blot (that is also an extra builder), but denies White a hit with 5-6 and 5-5.

Our opponents danced, bringing us to Position 6:

**POS. 6.**  
BLACK  
ON ROLL.  
CUBE  
ACTION?



This is the flipside of the bluff redouble. By waiting, you may reach a position your opponents are more likely to miscalculate. Although Position 6 is a much bigger take than it is a rewhip, I believe many players, down 15 pips and facing a possible gammon, would pass. In fact, Falafel and Ken nearly did pass, but their excellent judgment and experience prevailed.

Our opponents were not rewarded for their strong 4-cube take. However, they did get off the gammon, to hold the score to 2-7. Subsequently, though continuing to play well, Falafel and Ken ended up losing the match 23-6. Backgammon is, after all, ruled by the dice.—Nack Ballard

Nack Ballard and Paul Weaver have been working hard on their new book series Backgammon Genesis. The first volume will be published in the coming months.—Ed. Δ



2003 Pro-Am Doubles Champions Nack Ballard and Wayne McClintock.

## PRO-AM / LAS VEGAS OPEN RESULTS

**2003 Backgammon Pro-Am** (Las Vegas, NV; 15-19 Nov.)... PRO-AM (18 teams): 1-Nack Ballard (CA) & Wayne McClintock (CA), 2-Ken Arnold (CA) & Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (Israel), 3/4-Lars Bønding & Morten Holm & Michael Olsen (Denmark) / Alex Lehmann (MI) & Morris Mosseri (NY) & Albert Tow (USA). \$1,000 JACKPOT (8): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Ary Nogueira (Brazil). \$1,500 JACKPOT (8): 1-Henrik Bodholdt (Denmark/Costa Rica), 2-Jose Salema (Portugal). \$2,000 JACKPOT (8): 1-Herb Gurland (MA), 2-Ray Foglerlund (CA).

**2003 Las Vegas Open** (19-23 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (121): 1-Masayuki "Mochi" Mochizuki (Japan), 2-Hironobu Yazawa (Japan), 3/4-Dean Adamian (MI) / Elliott Winslow (CA); 1C-Jake Jacobs (AZ), 2C-Howard Ring (IL), 3C/4C- Bart Brooks (Canada) / Arkadiy Tsinis (NY); 1LC-Stuart Hosen (TX), 2LC-Wayne McClintock (CA). INTERMEDIATE (145): 1-Yoshito Takeuchi (Japan), 2-Yasuo Mishima (Japan), 3/4-Steve Jepsen (CA) / Wolfram Sauer (TX); 1C-Robert Caradien (CA), 2C-Greg Merriman (MI), 3C/4C-Elli Nache (CA) / Jacob Shapiro (CA); 1LC-Ira Ofsink (CA), 2LC-Alex Rasic (NY). BEGINNER (49): 1-Terry Bateman (IN), 2-Akiko Abe (Japan), 3/4-Ronald Bernstein (VA) / Sandra Short (ND); 1C-Pete Campbell (AZ), 2C-Glen Lipska (CA); 1LC-Alisha Lauby (VA), 2LC-Diana Dumin (Germany). SUPER JP (16 @ \$4,000 level): 1-Paul Magriel (NV), 2-Danilo Sahione (Brazil), 3/4-Ed O'Laughlin (FL) / Bob Wachtel (CA). LIMITED JP (64): 1-Masayuki Mochizuki (Japan), 2-Jorge Pan (Argentina), 3/4-Bill Piland (OR) / Jonah Seewald (CO). SENIORS (128): 1-Tom Wheeler (TX), 2-Sam Orandle (NV). DOUBLES (64): 1-John Rockwell (CA) & Norm Wiggins (CA), 2-Jerry Padova (NH) & Walter Trice (MA). BLITZ (384): 1-Charlie Raichle (CO), 2-Doug Zare (MA). MINI-MATCH (128): 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Ray Foglerlund (CA). MINI-MATCH OVERFLOW (64): 1-Sho Sengoku (CA), 2-Jackie Seiders-Smart (TX). SATURDAY JP \$500 (16): 1-Nack Ballard (CA), 2-Ray Foglerlund (CA). \$100 (55): 1-Ruth Robbins (WA), 2-Steve Brown (MN). AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT \$50 (38): 1-Thomas Hanlon (CT), 2-Jerry Padova (NH). \$20 (24): 1-Damjan Plesec (Slovenia), 2-Simon Kennedy-Rose (GA).

**WINNER'S CIRCLE**



NOV.-DEC. 2003

• **Doubles World Championship & Grand Prix de Suisse** (Lugano, Switzerland; 5-9 Nov.)... DOUBLES WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Andrea Bolzoni & Vincenzo Riceputi (Italy), 2-Johan Sallfors & Niclas Wigström (Sweden). GP DE SUISSE "LES AMBASSADEURS" CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Oliver Werthmüller (SWIZ). INTERMEDIATE: Yannis Vallianos (Greece). AMATEUR: 1-Raffaele Castro. SUNRISE JACKPOT WINNERS: Sacha Van de Graaf

**2003 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR**

**NATIONAL (Alphabetized by State)**

American Backgammon Tour: *Malcolm Davis (TX)*  
 Gammon Associates (CA): *Azzam Masarani*  
 Redwood Empire BG Club (CA): *Mike Colgan*  
 South Florida Backgammon Club (FL): *Al Tesoro*  
 Atlanta Backgammon Assn. (GA): *Greg Cattanaach*  
 Bloomington-Normal BG Club (IL): *Michael Flohr*  
 Chicago Bar Point Club (IL): *Bob Zavoral*  
 Peoria Backgammon Club (IL): *Faddoul Khoury*  
 Pub Club (IL): *Joe Wollick*  
 Sangamon Valley BG Assn. (IL): *Jena Rooney*  
 T/P Backgammon Club (IL): *J. A. Miller*  
 Winnetka Backgammon Club (IL): *Paul Friedman*  
 Hoosier Backgammon Club (IN): *Sean Garber*  
 Louisville Backgammon Club (KY): *Jim Hatcher*  
 Beitway Backgammon Club (MD): *Ed Maslansky*  
 New England BG Club (MA): *Alex Zamanian*,  
 Wizard of Wednesday Night: *Herb Gurland*.  
 Flint Area Backgammon Club (MI): *Frank Talbot*  
 Grand Rapids BG Club (MI): *Mike Darooge*  
 Plymouth Backgammon Club (MI): *Dion Hogan*  
 Troy Backgammon Club (MI): *Paul Berg*  
 Universal Mall Series (MI): *Paul Berg*  
 Las Vegas Backgammon Club (NV): *Jeff Burdsall*  
 Ace Point Club (NY): *Richard Munitz*  
 Charlotte Backgammon Club (NC): *David Rogers*  
 Greater Columbus BG Club (OH): *Mary Hickey*  
 Ohio State Backgammon Club (OH): *Mary Hickey*  
 Miami Valley BG Club (OH): *Roger Foster*  
 Pittsburgh Backgammon Club (PA): *Adam Versaw*  
 Charleston BG Society (SC): *Brett Meyer*  
 Nashville Backgammon Club (TN): *Rollow Mickle*  
 Austin Backgammon Club (TX): *Wolfram Sauer*  
 Dallas Backgammon League (TX): *Rich Weaver*  
 Houston Backgammon Club (TX): *Gary Fomby*,  
 Club Champion: *Ira Hessel*

**Puget Sound BG Club (WA): Molly Anderson**

Madison Backgammon Club (WI): *Alan Gold*

**INTERNATIONAL (Alphabetized by Country)**

World Champion: *Mads Andersen (Denmark)*  
 European Champion: *John Slattery (Scotland)*  
 National Capital BG Club (Canada): *Scott Douglas*  
 Backgammon Vancouver (Canada): *Brent Wik*  
 Quebec BG Federation (Canada): *Alexandre Lesiège*  
 Finnish Champion: *Simo Suhonen*  
 Italian Champion: *Giorgio Cardazzo*  
 BIBA Grand Prix (UK): *John Slattery & Uldis Lapikens*  
 BIBA Ranking (UK): *John Slattery & Peter Bennet*  
 Gammmonitis (UK): *Peter Bennet*

(NL), Vittorio Castro (SWIZ). HOTELPLAN WARM-UP: 1-Filippo Oddo (Italy). ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA AFTER-TOURNAMENT: 1-Yannis Vallianos (Greece).

• **Turkey Trot Open** (Houston, TX; 8 Nov.)... OPEN (16): 1-David Cohen, 2-Ed Chambers.

• **1st Battle of Bull Run** (Manassas, VA; 22 Nov.)... OPEN (8): 1-Gary Fries; 1C-Todd Obadal.

• **52nd Gammon Associates Invitational—ABT** (Los Angeles, CA; 5-7 Dec.)... OPEN (47): 1-Art Grater (CA), 2-George Haskour (CA), 3-Tad Bright (CA); 1C-Judy Collins (CA), 2C-Fred Kalantari (MN). ADVANCED (23): 1-Sina Bigdeli (CA), 2-Bob Appell (CA); 1C-Mirori Okuma (CA), 2C-Richard Armbruster (CA). SUPER 32 : 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Jeff Burdsall (NV), 3/4-Todd Crosner (CA) / Nick Maffeo (CA). 2-POINT QUICKIES (64): 1-Dana Nazarian (CA), 2-Ray Fogertlund (CA). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Greg Merriman (MI) & Jon Vietor (CA), 2-Bill Choi & David Taniguchi (CA).

• **Bar Point Saturday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 6 Dec.)... OPEN (27): 1/2-Phil Simborg / Tim Mabee, 3/4-Matt Borden / Eric Johnson; 1C-Ken Bond, 2C-Paul Baraz. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Barbara Levinson, 2-Val Zimmicki.

• **UK Finals** (Coventry, England; 6-7 Dec.)... MAINEVENT (34): 1-Tony Lee, 2-Ian Shaw, 3/4-Emmanuel Di Bona / Peter Chan. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS (6): 1-Mardi Ohannessian. PROGRESSIVE CONSOLATION (44 with re-entries): 1-Jeff Barber, 2-Liz Barker. SUICIDE! (16): 1-John Slattery, 2-Bob Young. FRIDAY KNOCKOUT (10): 1-Michael Crane, 2-Paul Gilbertson. DOUBLES

(5): 1/2-The Yorkshire Buries/Dancer & Blitzen.

• **Sydney Backgammon Championships** (Sydney, Australia; 7 Dec.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Wally Bartelme, 2-Charlie Brown, 3/4-Ryan Jones / Marijo Udovicic. CUBELESS DIVISION: 1-Ian Dunstan, 2-Robby Solomon. 8-PLAYER JACKPOT: 1-Ian Dunstan, 2-Jim Bean.

• **Houston Club Tournament of Champions** (Houston, TX; 13 Dec.)... OPEN (16): 1-Ira Hessel, 2-Gonzalo Molina; 1LC-Gary Fomby.

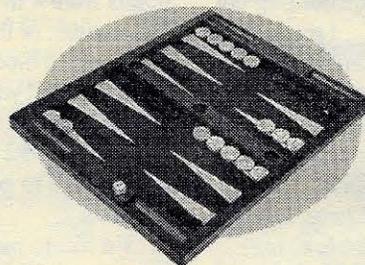
• **2003 Rosey Bensley 50th Birthday Trophy** (Bristol, England; 13-14 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Peter Bennet, 2-Chris Bray; 1C/2C-Brian Busfield / Paul Christmas. FRIDAY JACKPOT WINNERS: Julian Minwalla (£100), Jason Champion (£50), Tom Duggan/David Markwick (£25). SATURDAY JACKPOT WINNERS: Peter Bennet/Chris Bray (£50), Uldis Lapikens (£25). HOLD'EM POKER: 1-Tom Duggan.

• **So. Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 14 Dec.)... OPEN (14): 1-Mike Corbett, 2-Don Heinsler.

• **29th Finnish Open** (Tampere, Finland; 20-21 Dec.)... Championship (29): 1-Simo Suhonen, 2-Timo Väättäin, 3/4-Matti Tienari/Arto Tainen. BEGINNER (4): 1-Pan Nuutinen. LAST CHANCE (12): 1-Jyri Lammi, 2-Kai Kanerva.

• **Ace Point Holiday Tournament—ABT** (New York, NY; 26-28 Dec.)... OPEN (11+5 re-entries): 1-Boris Golubov (NY), 2-François Tardieu (France), 3/4-Gregg Cattanaach (GA) / Karen Davis (NY); 1C-Steve Mellen (NY). INTERMEDIATE (4): 1-Alex Berger (NY). KICK-OFF (5): 1-Madeline Leonard (NY). DOUBLES (4 teams): 1-Donald Gabbai (NY) & François Tardieu (France). Δ

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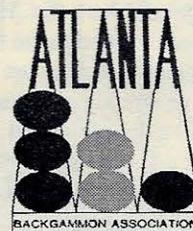
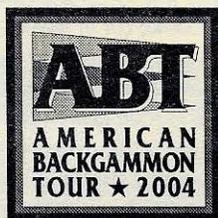
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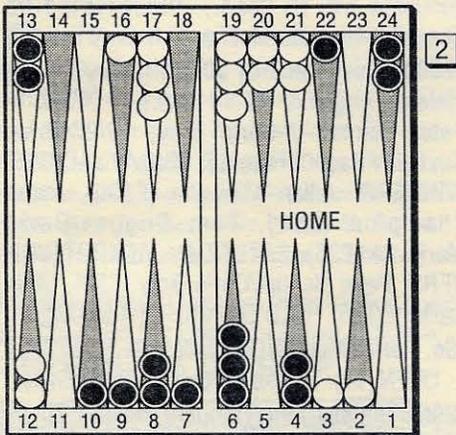
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# PROBLEM #295 ANALYZED

by Ray Foglerlund

Match to 7 points. Black trails White 1 to 4. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**



Well, I finally got my wish. I asked the editor to let me answer one of the CHICAGO POINT problems, and now it's my turn! Thankfully, he gave me a match situation, because, I suck in money games.

Now then, having read all of the problem solutions over the last few years, I have always been struck by the organization and methodical approach that Kit, Jake, and all the other guest experts use to arrive at their solutions. I often wonder how I ever beat any of them in a match, because it is just not the way I do it! I am not organized or methodical; I go more by feel. You'll see me moving the checkers all over, and checking out the resulting positions. I'll be talking to myself, counting out loud, making hand gestures . . . I must be a pain in the ass to play with! One of my friends, a great chess player, called it "major table presence" once. I liked that. I am sure that others have more colorful, yet less complimentary, descriptions.

Okay, as to Problem #295 here, I am Black and I am behind (I mumble to myself). How did this Bozo get me in *this* position? Oh, that's right. He gammoned me on my own double last time. He wasn't tricked into passing my "Extra Sensory Deception" cube. Damn it! Now I have to play good. I hate that. He has also taken *this* cube, and forced me to try and bring another game home. Takers are tough to beat!

I've already given up the cube, probably in a double-edged position where I didn't want to lose my market because my opponent is so far ahead. Looks like things have not gone so well. This roll of double aces is about as much as I can ask for given

the circumstances.

Considering my plight, my first instinct would be to use half my roll to button up on the 22-point and figure out what to do with the other two aces after having "stopped the bleeding." Quite often in difficult situations it is best to establish a defensive foothold and go from there. Whatever happens, if I make his 22-point, I will be breathing and much less likely to be gammoned. Unfortunately, even a regular game loss will put me down 1-6 Crawford, with only about 10% match-winning chances. So considering the score, I know that I should try very hard to win this game, not just "try to keep it respectable." I am almost to the point where I must assume that I will win, because any more losses are likely to be fatal. I'd better look for a more offensive alternative.

Offensively thinking, it's best to make is my 5-point and build the 9-point. The problem with this play is that it gives my opponent a completely free hand to play his full roll. Combinations containing 6s, 5s, and 1s make his bar, and 6s, 5s, and 3s point on me on the 3-point. His 4s can block the 9-point, or run as he chooses. The key phrase to make note of is "as he chooses." You don't want an able opponent (or even a disabled one) to be picking his best move when he is holding the cube, has an equal or better position than you do, and has a lead in the match. Many times this is the situation immediately prior to notifying the coroner that there has been a "casualty."

But what else is there? Well, desperate times call for desperate measures. I also have the option of hitting twice. There are two ways that this can be done. Switching points from 4 to 2 hitting two checkers in the process, or the more pure hitting loose twice with a blot from the 6-point. I had to learn the hard way that the hitting loose option is a little too optimistic. Purity is nice and all, but this is survival mode and I can't afford to get "winged" when he throws a 2.

I'd like to mention that situations like this is where the new lions in the game—like the Danes, Germans, or more recently the Japanese who dominated the recent Las Vegas Open—may have the edge on the jaded pros from the USA. We all learned purity and slotting and plenty of other bad habits from Barclay Cooke (or at least I did). In a pinch, one tends to return to his roots. The 30-something pros don't have to unlearn any of the misguided principles that were the foundation of the American game. We try to keep up by studying Snowie and all, but many of us are carrying lots of "baggage," I mean, I'm 47 and

considered "young" for an American player. Youth will be served; old age and treachery are overrated "assets."

Anyway, having identified all of my playable options, and eliminated the pure play from my "double hitter" list, I have a decision to make. My gut reaction here is to play offense rather than defense, but making the 5-point and hitting twice are both offensive plays! The more I think about it, the more I like hitting twice. I am in trouble here, and while either the defensive or offensive modes could arguably be correct, what I need the most is some time. This is the only play that buys me some. It has the added benefit of potentially freezing the blot on White's 9-point for this turn. I'll need to get lucky, but that is a common denominator in all of my plays. Any 6 or 2 by White will give me added respite, and further options for attack. Isn't it comforting to note that 2-6 from the bar affords me my best opportunity of all?!

To settle the issue, I consulted Snowie 4. A 3-ply precise evaluation showed the following [ $-0.030 = \text{error}$ ,  $-0.110 = \text{blunder}$ ]:

10/9, 7/6, 6/5(2)	-0.169	
4/3*2*(2)	-0.200	(-0.031)
24/22, 9/7	-0.245	(-0.076)

A victory for making the 5-point. However, I was a little suspicious so I followed up with 720 full cubeless 3-ply precise rollouts of the three top plays (White is unlikely to re-whip it here):

4/3*2*(2)	-0.179	
Black wins 42.4% including 19.4% Gs		
24/22, 9/7	-0.203	(-0.024)
Black wins 43.5% including 11.7% Gs		
10/9, 7/6, 6/5(2)	-0.235	(-0.056)
Black wins 42.6% including 13.4% Gs		

The results provided a rare reversal for Snowie 4. Switching points is now the solid winner providing Black with more opportunities for good fortune. Black wins more games and considerably more gammons with the switching play than Snowie had originally analyzed. One bad roll by White, or another good one for Black and he will be poised to do some devastating damage. Down in the match, Black will go on attack mode against White. White will then have to respond as an underdog to keep the dogs at bay.

We all agree that it is better to be lucky than good, so why not create bad luck for your opponent thereby increasing the good luck that can happen for you? This play seems like a real life application of Ray's Rule #5: "Don't Worry, Be Lucky!"—Ray Foglerlund Δ

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

- 1) His opponent may complete the turn with foreknowledge of his roll.
- 2) He may not double or redouble with foreknowledge of his roll.—Danny Kleinman

### A REALLY GOOD DOUBLE

Who are the twins in your “Good Doubles” quiz from last month? That is one of the five I definitely would have gotten “wrong”! ;)—Jake Jacobs, Tucson, Arizona

Those are the Olsen Twins (Mary-Kate and Ashley) who in 2002, generated over one billion dollars in revenue. And they don't even turn 18 until June 13, 2004!—Ed.

### CUBING AT DOUBLE MATCH-POINT

Has it ever happened in live tournaments that the cube was offered at double match-point? If it has happened, is this counted as a legitimate cube?

I have an on-line backgammon league. Our sight recognizes the Crawford Rule, however it cannot recognize when a game is for match point. Some players are cubing at 4-4 in a 5 point match in hopes that the other player is not paying attention to the score or maybe clicks on the wrong decision and declines the cube. I am currently debating instituting a new rule in the league that will disqualify a player for doing this, as I personally felt it's a cheap maneuver. However, if this is allowed in live tournaments then I may not want to institute that as a rule. Can you shine some light on this?—Lori Connell, Armed4Fun, [www.myleague.com/wlge](http://www.myleague.com/wlge)

[Answered by Danny Kleinman—Ed.] I hate making any rule that depends on mind-reading, that is, on trying to guess whether the player who turned the cube at double match-point made an inadvertent error or was knowingly turning it in hopes that his opponent would err.

A rule change that might work is to provide for (possibly) two Crawford Games: putting the cube out of play during the game after either player reaches match-point, not only after the first player reaches match-point. However, that rule would not prevent redoubles when each player is 2 points away, or turning the cube to 8 when one player needs 4 points and the other needs 3, and so forth.

I do not think we can make rules to protect players against their own foolishness (e.g. the leader doubling in the Crawford Game). However, there is a procedure that can

prevent the abuse you speak of. I recommend:

At double match-point, permit either player to remove the cube from the playing surface entirely. At other scores where the cube has reached a level so high that a plain-game win for either player is decisive, permit either player to write “Decisive Game: cube at 4” (or whatever level the cube has reached) on his scoresheet, and then remove the cube from the playing surface.

Furthermore, I don't think any rule change is needed to implement this procedure. I see nothing illegal about following this procedure now.—Danny Kleinman Δ

## AMALGAMATION

Peter Kalba (IL) has sold his house and may be moving to Indiana. But it would be just over the border, so he'll still be co-directing CBPC events... The 21 Dec. Chicago Tribune focused on the rise in popularity of Poker Tournaments worldwide and included color pix of Phil “Unibomber” Laak (NV), Tino Lechich (Australia), and two-time WPT champion Gus Hansen (aka Gustav Jacobsen of Denmark)... The Green Bay News Chronicle reports that a 79-year-old woman died after being hit by a beer truck 4 November just blocks away from Green Bay Packer stadium in the “Backgammon Pub & Restaurant” parking lot... Get well wishes to Tom Meyer (IL) who continues on the mend following sinus surgery... The Illinois State Championships will be held in Peoria at the classic Pere Marquette Hotel next year under the co-direction of Randy Armstrong and Ed Zell. We believe the new venue will significantly boost attendance... Texas backgammon mourns the passing of long-time player Ed Chambers who died of a heart attack last month. In his memory, Tom Wright's Houston Club will run the “Ed Chambers Memorial” 10 January... Congratulations to our own guest columnist Kit Woolsey (CA) who has won the Senior's Bowl World Bridge Championship in Monte Carlo... Food for thought: Kathy Posner (IL) was quoted in last month's *Good Housekeeping* article about how she spies on her workers by reading their e-mails... Maurice Barie (MI) is selling a reproduction of the *Vanity Fair* backgammon cover from the 1930s. We hope to have a picture next issue. For info on purchasing (\$105+p&h), call 248/543-8199... Congrats to Georgina Flanagan (IL) who joined the ranks of the Chicago Bar Point Club 1000-to-1 club with 10 wins in a row in December... According to games expert Aleks Krotoski, women are today's number one gamers. “They go for the more traditional games like backgammon and solitaire.”... The next POINT will be published in March. Δ

## 'FINAL EXAM' ANSWERS

[From test on page 7]

1. **13/8, 11/10 – 9 points.** White has a one-point board (compared with your own three-point board), and two inner board blots.
2. **6/1\*, 6/4\* – 8 points.** More dynamic than the alternatives.
3. **16/10, 6/5 – 8 points.** The alternatives are cramped and feeble. White's 3's are duplicated with this play, and his large numbers play poorly.
4. **13/8, 7/6 – 8 points.** Better containment if the blot on the roof comes in, and better coverage of the outer boards.
5. **Bar/20, 19/13 – 8 points.** Entering on the 20-point is obvious. What might be less obvious is the need to keep an eye on White's rear checker by coming out to the midpoint.
6. **24/16 – 8 points.** No need to panic. You have an advanced anchor, and better structure on your side of the board. Hitting only makes a mess.
7. **Bar/23, 6/3\* – 9 points.** It is tempting to enter on the 22-point, and play quietly down to the 11, but anchoring and hitting is safer.
8. **8/6, 5/4 – 8 points.** Clearing the 8-point completely or trying to crack White by keeping the prime with 6/4, 6/5 are both strong plays, but the combination of good bearing distribution, and the possibility of going back for more checkers makes it correct to leave the blot.
9. **17/1 – 9 points.** Greed is a terrible thing to waste!
10. **11/10, 8/4\* – 8 points.** Don't let White escape.
11. **7/3(2)\*, 6/2(2)\* – 8 points.** Swinging from the hips! If you are White, I'll bet you wish you had played problem #9 correctly.
12. **15/13, 2/1\* – 9 points.** Don't let White have the acepoint anchor.

### GRADING:

- 81–100 Never mind passing the exam—you ought to be teaching it!
- 80–61 You passed with high marks.
- 41–60 Study harder.
- 21–40 There's always next year.
- 20–0 You know that movie Good Will Hunting, the one where the janitor sneaks in and solves the really hard math problem that is too tough for the students? That was only a movie!—Jake Jacobs Δ

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### Pittsburgh Schedule of Events

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2003

- 1:00 pm Registration Opens
- 2:00 pm Early Masters & Amateur Jackpot
- 2:30 pm Open Doubles (Early Section) & Blitz
- 6:00 pm Doubles Tournaments
- 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 15, 2003

- 9:00 am Bagels & Coffee. Regist. Opens
- 10:00 am Registration Closes
- 10:15 am ABT Awards Presentations, Door Prizes, Calcutta Auction (Champion & Advanced Divisions)
- 12:00 pm Play Begins (Champion & Advanced)
- 1:00 pm Novice Event Begins
- 5:00 pm Dinner Break
- 7:15 pm Play resumes
- 8:00 pm Pittsburgh & Three Rivers Cup entries accepted
- 10:00 pm Hoagies (play continues)

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2003

- 9:30 am Doughnuts & Coffee
- 10:00 am Tournament play resumes
- 11:00 am Pittsburgh Memorial Cup & Three Rivers Amateur Cup tournaments
- 11:30 am 8-Player Jackpots
- 12:00 pm Micro Blitz Playoffs (time approx.)
- 1:00 pm Finals—Main Event (time approx.)

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