

*michigan summer championships*

## JEB HOT AT SUMMER CHAMPS

**Richard Lloyd is Michigan Master**

Carolina Invitational director Jeb Horton of Matthews, NC barreled through a stellar 86 player Open field to win the 2005 Michigan Summer Championships. Carol Joy Cole's 4th of July weekend extravaganza, celebrating its 30th year, drew over 200 players to the Novi Hilton July 1-4.



Carolina winners on and off the court: Jeb Horton (Open) & Ben Elliott (Intermediate).

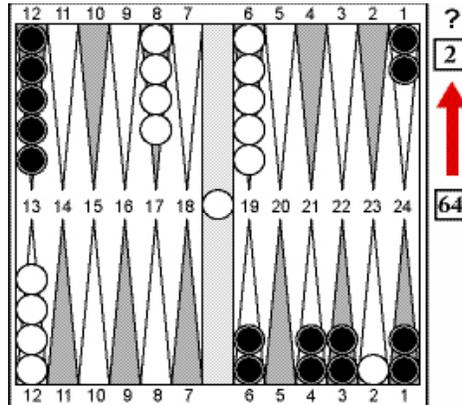
Following victories over Frank Talbot (IL) and Carter Mattig (IL), Horton waited for the winner between one-loss survivors Mike Corbett (FL) and Chicago's Tak Morioka. Corbett advanced in a thrilling double match-point victory to get a shot at Horton.

Jeb started fast, jumping out to a 5-0 lead after three games. In the pivotal 4th game, Jeb opened with a 4-2, building his 4-point. Mike responded with 5-1 playing 13/8 and splitting his back men. Jeb followed with 5-5, making two home board points while hitting. Mike's entry failure lead to the cube problem shown above right.

Mike dropped the double almost instantly. 720 Snowie rollouts (3-ply, precise) show the position to be an easy take (by 0.137), and it's all about the score. If Mike had instead been leading 5-0, his drop would have been clearly correct (by 0.101).

Although Snowie says that Corbett outplayed Horton 6.2 to 8.2 (both Advanced ratings), Jeb Horton's dice would not be denied as he went on to win 13-1. The victory earned him enough points to move into

13 pt. Michigan finals. Jeb Horton (Black) leads Mike Corbett (White), 5 to 0. Black doubles. **SHOULD WHITE TAKE?**



third in the 2005 ABT standings [see pg. 3].

Richard Lloyd (TN), a Vanderbilt University researcher, is \$10,000 richer after defeating Ray Glaeser 13-10 in the Michigan Masters finals. It was Lloyd's first major title. He's also excited about the release of his new book: "Neo-Bohemia: Art and Commerce in the City."

In other events, Ben Elliott outlasted a



Richard Lloyd accepts his Michigan Masters trophy from director Carol Joy Cole.

determined Brad King (MI) the Intermediate, Moti Nissani (MI) captured the Novice, and Peter Kalba & Peter Beling were "Re-Peters" winning the Doubles tourney for the second straight year.

Aside from the well-run tournament, there were fun diversions including tennis each morning and private poker games in the evening. All in all, another fun weekend courtesy of the Flint Backgammon Club and sponsors Sandy Kaplan, Frank Talbot, BG Elegance, Crisloid & GamesGrid. —BD

[Complete results on page 9]

## SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK

Talk about good fortune! Backgammon turned poker player Phil "Unabomber" Laak has already cashed for \$163,000 at this year's World Series of Poker. Now we find out that his girlfriend is 1994 Academy Award nominee Jennifer Tilly! Tilly proved she can play poker, too, winning \$158,000 in this year's WSOP Ladies Hold'em tourney. [Photograph by Ron Chilston.] Δ



# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## THE TRUTH ABOUT "2-6"

Lets set the record straight: I do *not* claim to have coined the phrase "2-6 from the bar?!" That this number has recently become synonymous with my name is rather coincidental and somewhat contrived.

I like to think that I am merely popularizing an age-old backgammon legend that I first read about in one of Danny Kleinman's early backgammon books. Since I found my name associated with the number at least twice in the most recent POINT, and on the cover with my photograph depicting the phrase in real life in the previous issue, I thought it would be good to give credit where credit is due.

Down through the years, many players have associated themselves with this number. Who was first, I have no idea. Recently Val Zimnicki claims to have done so. Similarly, Todd Vander Pluym, Gene Chait, Emily Fischer, Steve Mellen . . . did I leave

[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.*

Jul 16	Austin Club Saturday Bimonthly, JC's Steakhouse, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Jul 21	Third Thursday Bonus (Indiana Open), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 23	Georgia Warm-up & Peach Cup Qualifier, Mazzy's Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Jul 23*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/688-9722
Jul 29-31	<u>1000 Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	<u>585/396-0969</u>
Jul 29-31	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	<u>608/516-9109</u>
Aug 1	Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Aug 2*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Aug 6	Chouette Tournament, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Aug 7	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 7	Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Aug 13	Hot As Hades Open, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Aug 13*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Aug 13-14*	Summer Cooker, Steve Hast's residence, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	412/823-7500
Aug 14	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Aug 18*	Third Thursday Bonus (Florida), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Aug 18-21	<u>12th Georgia Championships, Marriott Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Aug 27*	Atlanta Summer Party Tournament, Mazzy's Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Aug 28*	Michigan Club Challenge, Grand Rapids Brewing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.	616/647-9965
Sep 2-5	<u>53rd Indiana Open, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 5*	Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Sep 6*	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Sep 10*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Sep 10*	Red, White & Blue Open, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Sep 11*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Sep 15*	Third Thursday Bonus (Illinois), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Sep 16-18	<u>Florida State Championship, Sheraton Suites, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Sep 17-18	Jon Viotor Invitational Cup, Jon Viotor's residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 23-25	<u>2nd Pacific Northwest Championships, Holiday Inn, Seattle, Washington</u>	<u>253/856-7513</u>
Sep 24*	Atlanta Fall Chouette Tournament, Mazzy's Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Oct 1*	Bar Point Saturday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Oct 14-16	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
Oct 28-30	<u>2005 Minnesota Open, Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, Minnesota</u>	<u>651/699-6758</u>
Nov 11-16	Backgammon Pro Am Doubles, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Nov 16-20	2005 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025

### OUTSIDE USA

Jul 11-17	30th World Champs, Fairmont Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA contact: 954/527-4033
Jul 15-17	Festival Games Czech Open, Duhova Arena, Pardubice, Czech Republic	420737-677242
Jul 19-21	Porteño Championship Series #4, Porteño Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina	54114-313178
Jul 20-24	Riviera's Challenge 3/Nation's Challenge, Palm Beach, Cannes, France	336624-67001
Jul 23-24	10th Liverpool Open, Liverpool Bridge Club, Liverpool, England	441514-283082
Jul 30-31	Gammonitis League Tournament, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038
Jul 30-31	3rd Nagoya Open, Nagoya Kowan Kaikan, Nagoya, Japan	81904-4481829
Aug 6-7	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Aug 10-14	1st Backgammon & Golf Fun Invitational, Bad Griesbach, Germany	491715-422222
Aug 12-14	BG Sommerfestival, Hotel GlockenSpitze, Altenkirchen, Germany	49521-64314
Aug 16-18	Porteño Championship Series #5, Porteño Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina	54114-313178
Aug 18-21	BG On the Beach/8th Friuli Championship, Grado Beach, Gorizia, Italy	392690-18168
Aug 18-21	1st Sommer-Cup & DBGL Team Cup, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-48190
Aug 20-21	Gammonitis Live Challenge Finals, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038
Aug 20-29	9th MindSports Olympiad BG, Netherhall College, Cambridge, England	441522-888676
Aug 27-28	Bristol Wide-Open Wedding Tourney, Bristol, England	441179-241145
Sep 1-15	Zykanthos Festival of Backgammon, Peligoni Club, Zakynthos, Greece	447798-614800
Sep 2-4	Mittleuropa Championship, HIT Park Hotel, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392-69018168
Sep 3-4*	Backpacker Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Sep 10-11*	Åbne Jyske Mesterskaber, Fredericia Billard Club, Fredericia, Denmark	4982-508558
Sep 10-11*	3rd Antwerp Open, Café Den Bengel, Antwerp, Belgium	324-75256734
Sep 20-22*	Porteño Championship Series #6, Porteño Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina	54114-313178
Sep 22-25*	1st Vienna BG Open & Poker, Concord Card Casino, Vienna, Austria	491715-422222
Sep 27-29*	2nd Tango Tourney, Trilenium Casino, Tigre, Argentina	541143-736138
Sep 29-Oct 2*	12th German Open, Hotel GlockenSpitze, Altenkirchen, Germany	49521-64314
Oct 6-9*	Austrian Open & Doubles Championship, Veronika Hotel, Seefeld, Austria	43512-287244
Oct 8-9*	Sandy Osborne Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Oct 8-10*	11th Japan Open, Nakano Sunplaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733814

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

anyone out? All have claimed some remote attachment to this fabled number.

I am merely perpetuating the legend. What fun it is, too! Online, I have a macro that I click on every time someone rolls 2-6 from the bar. Occasionally, when that num-

ber would be particularly effective, I will activate the macro *before* I roll. Legions of GamesGridders have watched me do this for almost a decade. At tournaments and in chouettes, I will call it out both when it is rolled, or when it would be particularly effective or damaging. For comic relief, I often will call it out after my opponent has made his 2-point and I am on the bar! One

cannot let superstition guide them in this game, trust me.

Many times as I walk past a table, the number seems to magically appear—to either the delight or demise of the affected participants. Astute players looking for the ultimate angle often call me over when a 2-6 would help their cause. It has just become fashionable to associate me with this number.

So let me make it clear that I neither claim to own the number nor have I copyrighted it. Otherwise you would all be receiving *royalty bills* from me for it's usage! In all fairness, perhaps we should call in Danny Kleinman to sort through the morass and identify the true originator. Maybe it really was you, Val, I don't know.

The main thing is that everyone is having fun with it. Call my name if you feel you must, but I don't think it does the legend justice. Why not just exclaim, (as I do), "2-6 from the bar?!" whenever it happens? It just becomes fun after a while.—Ray Fogelrund, Bakersfield, California

## PAINTING ON PIPS

I know you sell Taki-Boards and was wondering if you could answer a question for me. If you don't want to answer (because of conflict of interest), I will understand.

I want to make my own backgammon board (I love to do crafts and paint). Could you tell me what kind of paint to use to make the pips? Considering how the dice are thrown and men get slapped on the board, it seems to me that if you don't use a durable paint, the pips are apt to chip.—Pam Larsen, via Internet

[Continued on page 4]



## AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005

Top 100 compiled through 4 July 2005 after 8 events

(Upcoming: 1000 Islands, Wisconsin State, Georgia)



Neil Kazaross	52.78	Doug Mayfield	7.04	Marc Gray	3.53	Carmen Webb	2.06
Phil Simborg	40.24	Ray Fogelrund	7.04	Jona Alexander	3.52	Stuart Thomson	1.90
Jeb Horton	31.05	Carlos Azcarate	6.40	Lynn Lusk	3.20	Ernie McCombs	1.64
Ray Glaeser	18.39	Chuck Bower	6.40	Karen Chung	3.20	Cole Parker	1.60
Howard Shirey	16.71	Brad King	6.01	Cookie Frazin	3.20	Murray Bryntesen	1.59
Ed O'Laughlin	15.50	Herb Roman	5.80	Bruce Ballance	3.19	Mark King	1.57
Ben Elliott	15.40	Jim Wark	5.40	Fred Lindsay	3.00	Tony Garcia	1.56
Jason Lee	14.40	Tom Green	5.27	Jim Zimmerman	3.00	Neil Garvie	1.49
Jeremy Bagai	14.35	Mary Ann Meese	5.27	Ralph Byrns	2.94	Sonya Sidky	1.49
Mike Corbett	14.35	Michael Plog	5.20	Doug Roberts	2.90	Eden Windish	1.49
Carter Mattig	14.11	Randy Armstrong	5.09	Steve Goldstein	2.90	Mark Antranikian	1.49
J. A. Miller	12.64	Boris Dekhtyar	4.99	Connie Tipton	2.80	Joe Davidson	1.41
Larry Strommen	10.61	Jeff Acerno	4.94	Sasan Taher	2.64	Sina Bigdeli	1.32
Bob Hathaway	10.54	Wayne Wiest	4.92	Richard Armbruster	2.64	Dean Hayes	1.30
Bill Minser	10.40	Joe Freedman	4.67	Tim Mabee	2.58	Woody Halbritter	1.30
Malcolm Davis	9.37	Don Sloan	4.49	Jonah Seewald	2.58	Shane Joos	1.28
George Barr	9.04	Jack Takala	4.49	Kathy Sorci	2.56	Dick Nelson	1.28
Mark Rozans	8.64	Carol Joy Cole	4.32	Les Moshinsky	2.53	Suzu Jazwa	1.25
Ed Zell	8.43	Neil Garvie	4.23	Moti Nissani	2.50	Carol Hooker	1.04
Dana Nazarian	7.74	Mark Murray	4.11	Mike Cyrkiel	2.50	Mark Hong	0.99
Todd Obadal	7.74	Petko Kostadinov	3.80	Jolie Rubin	2.50	Greg Buonocore	0.96
Joe Feldman	7.66	David Rogers	3.80	Richard Schwartz	2.46	Ray Reed	0.96
Vadim MUSAELYAN	7.60	Ed Johnson	3.68	Gregg Cattanach	2.22	Kim Owens	0.94
Mary Hickey	7.17	Rick Todd	3.57	Rory Pascar	2.22	Frank Patrick	0.80
Tak Morioka	7.17	Al Jones	3.57	Michael Edge	2.12	Tim Johnson	0.67



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2005 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 30 JUNE

Tak Morioka	17.68	Jerry Brooks	5.04	Dave Cramer	2.04	David Marcus	0.80
David Rockwell	13.32	Yamin Yamin	4.84	Joann Feinstein	1.96	Ken Tibbs	0.72
Herb Roman	12.88	Howard Ring	4.56	Randee Simborg	1.76	Greg Merriman	0.72
Phyllis Smolinski	12.30	Alice Kay	4.56	Mark Murray	1.68	Linda Rockwell	0.72
Lucky Nelson	11.56	Oleg Raygorodsky	4.36	Sargon Benjamin	1.52	Michael Brand	0.72
Carter Mattig	11.32	Georgina Flanagan	3.96	Paul Franks	1.44	Bob Sexton	0.64
Paul Baraz	9.96	Larry Goldstein	3.88	Joe Auszmann	1.44	Roland Dieter	0.64
Tim Mabee	9.44	Bill Bartholomay	3.40	J. A. Miller	1.32	Cookie Frazin	0.56
Albert Yakobashvili	8.84	Eric Johnson	3.36	Elaine Andrews	1.28	Julia Ring	0.56
Phil Simborg	8.70	Michael Ginat	3.08	Val Zimnicki	1.28	Nan Feiber	0.56
Bill Davis	8.64	Richard Stawowy	2.88	Josh Riddell	1.28	Don Marek	0.48
Bill Keefe	8.28	Igor Kaplunovsky	2.80	Royal Robinson	1.20	Mark Phillips	0.48
Gary Kay	6.96	Arline Levy	2.72	Barbara Levinson	1.12	Les Moshinsky	0.48
Wayne Wiest	6.64	Ken Bond	2.64	Elaine Kehm	1.08	Bill Stegich	0.40
Steve Klesker	5.92	Boris Dekhtyar	2.60	Kurt Thompson	0.96	Lisa Nelson	0.32
Norma Shyer	5.60	Dan Weymouth	2.40	Kwong Chan	0.88	Dave Settles	0.24
Bob Steen	5.60	Roger Hickman	2.40	Adrian Rios	0.84	Joe Szwedo	0.16
Mike Wolock	5.04						

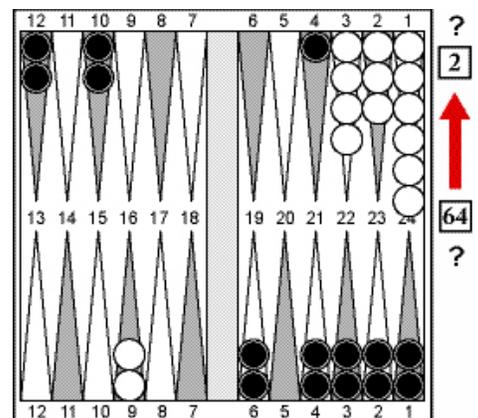
BOB STEEN collected 3.44 points in June—enough for monthly honors. Tim Mabee placed second with 3.32 points, and Herb Roman tied Carter Mattig for third with 2.68 points.

your move

### PROBLEM #311

to be analyzed by Steve Sax

5 point match. Black and White tied at 1-1. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



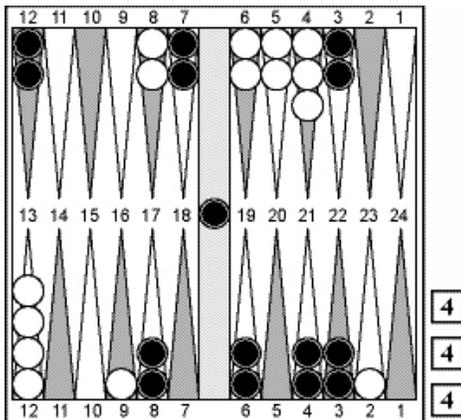
ASK  
DANNY

© 2005 by Danny Kleinman

## PLAYING CONSTRUCTIVELY

**D**ear Danny: Four of us play a regular Monday night chouette for dimes at the neighborhood tavern. There is never any consulting, even when the game has been doubled. During the last hour, we start the cube on two. The position I am sending you is from our last game of the evening. A few rolls prior, all of us had accepted the Box's early cube. Although the Captain is the weakest player among us, it was still an easy take. Or was it?

Money game. **BLACK** (the Captain) TO PLAY 3-1.



*My fate was in the Captain's cup, and he spits out a roll like this. Sick! Anyway, after taking forever, he played Bar/24, 8/5. Of course with three blots on the board, we get gammoned losing 8 each and all my profit was wiped out in one game.*

*We don't have that Snowie program, so can you enlighten us on how bad the Captain's move was? My personal feeling is that Bar/22, 4/3 (which only leaves one blot) was the way to fly. Don't get gammoned on a 4-cube: that's my motto.—Victimized by the Captain*

**DEAR FIRST MATE:** Take your motto and throw it into the sea. If you're not willing to risk losing a gammon on a 4-cube, you shouldn't play in a game that starts the cube at 2 . . . or perhaps you shouldn't play at all. You must be willing to take reasonable risks of loss to retain chances of gain.

I don't have Snowie either, but I don't think your Captain's move was bad. In contrast, I consider the move you recommend a blunder. Breaking an inside point in this mid-game position with lots of contact is bad, but if I had to break an inside point, I would not break the key 4-point to put a third man way down on the 3-point. Instead I would boldly break the 3-point to hit, Bar/22, 3/2\*, leaving two inside blots instead of one. This play has a big upside if things go well, as your inside blots can become new inside points when your opponent doesn't hit.

However, I don't like breaking any inside point, so I would reject the bold play,

which is only my third choice. The real dilemma is between your Captain's play and Bar/22, 8/7. Between the two, I prefer your Captain's play, as I wouldn't be concerned about the blot in your opponent's home board, and slotting the 5-point (an inside point) not only leaves fewer shots but is more constructive than slotting the bar-point.

I wouldn't be surprised if Snowie rollouts revealed either Bar/22, 8/7 or Bar/22, 3/2\* to be best, but I would be shocked if Snowie rollouts showed your "safe" Bar/22, 4/3 to be anywhere in the ballpark.—Yours, Danny

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

Chicago Bar  
Point Club

SUNDAY BACKGAMMON

**DOUBLE MASTER POINTS!**

7 August 2005

12:00 noon

Champs Bar &amp; Grill

17 W. 517 Roosevelt Road

Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

Peter Kalba: 312/316-1432

## LETTERS...

*[Continued from page 3]*

*Board craftsman Tak Morioka answers: I use a spray enamel on fabric. First, I mask the area with a high adhesive tape and spray in light layers to avoid bleeding. It's a matter of practice to get the right amount of color without overdoing it. I recommend trying this technique on a fabric sample before you get started.—Tak Morioka*

## TOUGH RULING FROM EUROPE

With reference to letters from Ray Foglerlund and Danny Kleinman on players' conduct and specifically touching your opponent's checkers, you should take a look at the BIBA website at [www.backgammon-biba.co.uk](http://www.backgammon-biba.co.uk) where there is an article in the "Latest News" section 20/4/05 "Salzburg report," written by Rosie Bensley who refers to an incident where a player was disqualified by director Chiva Tafazzoli at the conclusion of a match after his oppo-

nent had provocatively moved his checkers in a forced play during a tense match. It seems that in this case, gamesmanship was the order and the victor of the day.—Name withheld upon request, via Internet

## NEW PLAYERS HIT THE BEACH IN CHICAGO

As a result of my notices in the Chicago Reader, various college magazines, and on

several websites, there was a nice turnout of new players Saturday, June 25 at North Avenue Beach in Chicago. Elaine Kehm and I were busy most of the afternoon, as about a dozen people showed up for free lessons and play.

It was a step in the right direction towards attracting new players to our game. Hopefully, this idea will expand nationwide.—Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois. Δ



*Phil Simborg (far left) and Elaine Kehm (far right) in search of new backgammon players.*

# The Gold Standard



## A 9-problem quiz

By Jake Jacobs

There are four national holidays in Japan that fall during “Golden Week”—the first week of May. Actually, the first of them this year came on a Friday, and the other three were bunched together the following Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The surrounding Monday and Friday were technically work days, but many people converted those, giving them ten uninterrupted days off. Air fares tripled, as millions flew off to sunny spots. Country inns were packed, as millions more left the city. In a city the size of Tokyo, there are always a spare ten million or so left over to fill the subways, and most of those found their way to the Tokyo Dome (home of the

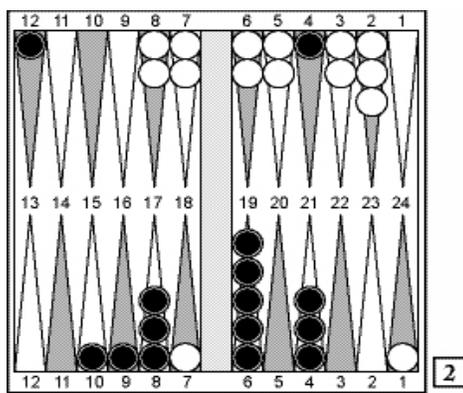
Yomiuri Giants) and the adjacent Laqua Amusement Park.

That still left a hundred or so who found their way next door to the Bunkyo-ku ward office building where the annual *Oui Sen* (“King of Backgammon”) tournament was held. Winning this year’s crown was Katagami Daisuke, a professional shogi (Japanese chess) player, who triumphed over Takahashi Kodebu 2–0 in their best-of-three final.

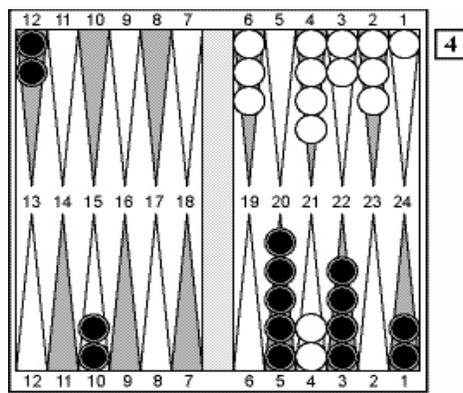
I have compiled a quiz based on nine positions from Golden Week. Here’s your chance to test yourself against the “Gold Standard.”

ANSWERS ON PG. 8.—Jake Jacobs Δ

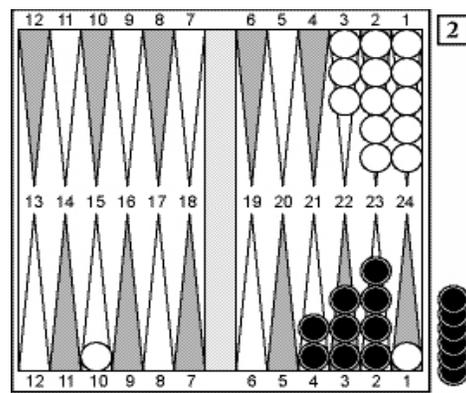
1. Black (leads 8–2 to 25) to play 5-1.



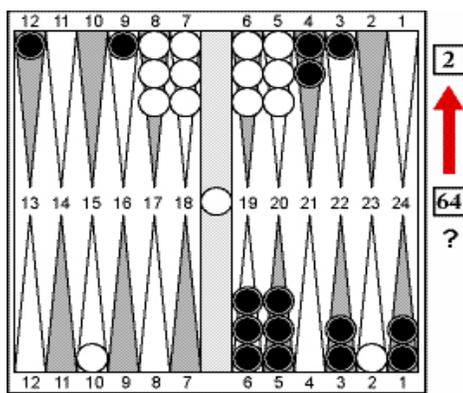
2. Black (tied 8–8 to 25) to play 5-2.



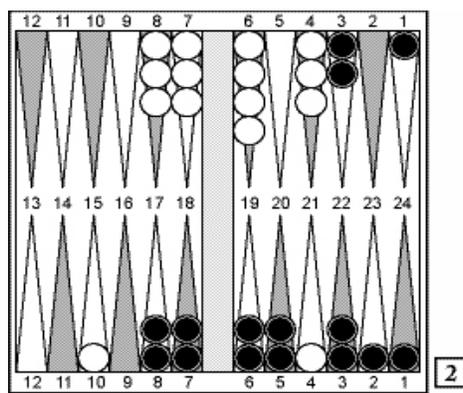
3. Black (tied 12–12 to 25) to play 1-1.



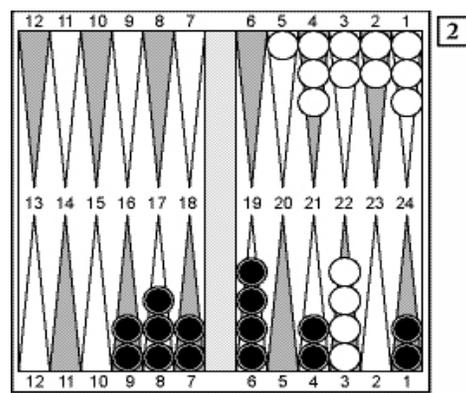
4. Black (trails 12–14 to 25). Cube actions?



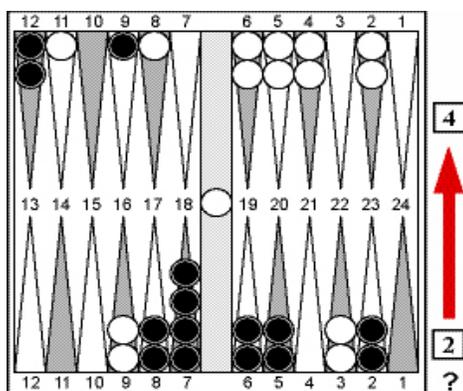
5. Black (trails 4–6 to 11) to play 5-4.



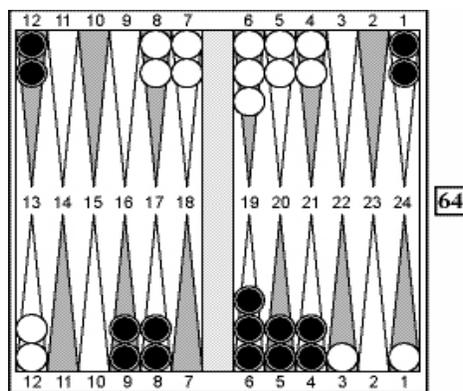
6. Black (trails 8–10 to 11) to play 4-3.



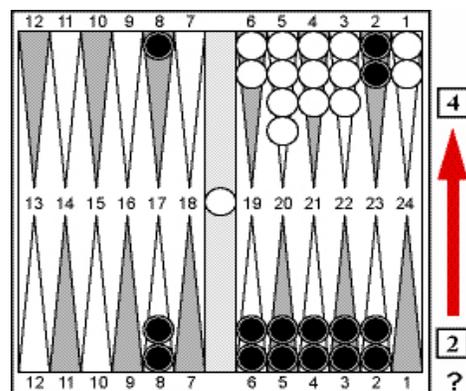
7. Black (leads 1–0 to 11). Cube actions?



8. Black (trails 3–7 to 11) to play 4-2.



9. Black on roll for money. Cube actions?



## PRAXIS MAKES PERFECT



Marty Storer's 2-Volume Work  
Reviewed by John O'Hagan

*Backgammon Praxis: The Matches of Malcolm Davis*, by Marty Storer, ©2005, 2 volumes, 430 pages, soft-cover, published by Fortuitous Press; \$40 each, both for \$75.

What do you look for in a match analysis book? Well written, insightful analysis from a world class player? Neural net evaluations and rollouts by Snowie? Comments from the participants themselves? Lots of diagrams so you can follow along without having to open your board?

If this is what you're looking for, then Marty Storer's *Backgammon Praxis: The Matches of Malcolm Davis* is for you. *Backgammon Praxis* thoroughly analyzes three matches played by Malcolm Davis of Texas, a world class player who has won or cashed in more tournaments in his life than many of us have entered in ours. Volume One features Malcolm's 2000 Monte Carlo World Championship match against Ed O'Laughlin. Volume Two features Malcolm vs. Marty Storer from the 1997 Pittsburgh Championships, and against Frank Talbot from Monte Carlo 2001.

Marty is an excellent writer and obviously has a real love for the game. He's also a great player although he doesn't get to play in tournaments much anymore. That's too bad because reading his analysis leaves no doubt in my mind that he would have very good results if he did play more. When Marty was active, he actually won the premiere American Backgammon Tour in 1993. In this book he goes to great lengths explaining why he likes or dislikes certain checker plays and/or cube actions. He sees things in backgammon at a very high level and is able to communicate what is the right play/cube action and why it's correct. His insights are very good and virtually everyone will learn something by reading what he has to say.

Marty's not always correct, of course, so *Backgammon Praxis* makes full use of the neural-net Snowie. All non-trivial positions include the Snowie (version 3.2)

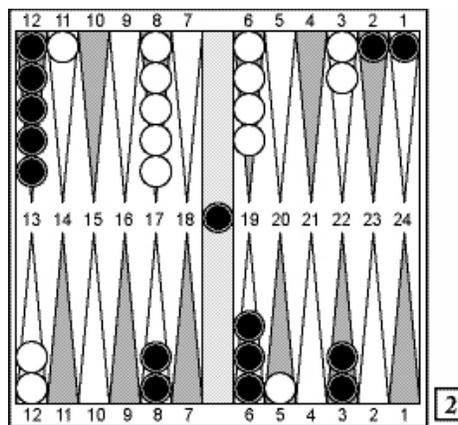
3-ply evaluation and many include rollouts as well. Is Snowie's evaluation always correct? Of course not. A full 20% of the 200 positions that were rolled out reversed the initial evaluation.

You also get comments from the players themselves. Malcolm, Ed, Marty, and Frank are all world class and frequently add something worthwhile to the discussion.

Another great *Backgammon Praxis* feature is the huge number of diagrams. Paul Weaver is quoted on the cover as saying "One great feature is the generous use of diagrams: before the move, after the move, as well as various alternatives." This allows you to see what the position is after the chosen move and also what it would look like if one or more of the alternates had been chosen. So you can easily follow along without a board.

Some of the positions that came up fooled our world class competitors and/or Snowie. Here's one that Ed O'Laughlin and Snowie got wrong:

11-point match. Ed O'Laughlin (White) and Malcolm Davis (Black) are tied at 3-3. **WHITE TO PLAY 5-3.**



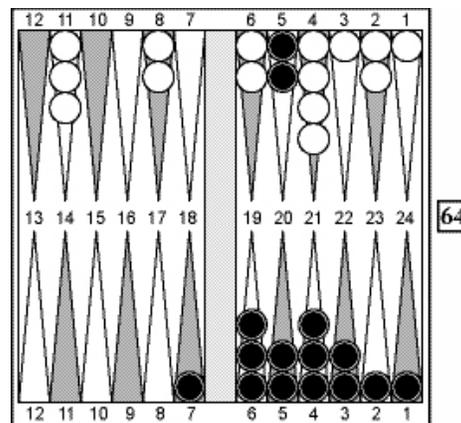
Clearly a very difficult play. Ed chose 20/15, 6/3 while Snowie thought 11/3 was right. But the rollout showed that 6/1\*, 8/5 is best. Marty calls this type of play a "Phantom Double Hit."

Let's look at one more position [shown at the top of the next column].

I think the vast majority of us (myself included) would quickly play 11/8, 4/3 although 4/1, 4/3 is right by a lot. 11/8, 4/3 was Ed's choice, and who can blame him? He's up in the race and starts to clear the 11-point. His play gains a lot on 5-3 and a little on 2-2 and 1-1 but (as Marty points out) it forces a direct shot on 6-5 and 6-4, loses the 6-point on 5-4, and loses a little on 4-4. There are quite a few other positions in the book like this where a move that looks almost automatic to us humans turns out to

11-point match. Ed O'Laughlin (White) leads Malcolm Davis (Black) 9-3.

**WHITE TO PLAY 3-1.**



be wrong for one reason or another.

Was there anything I didn't like about the book? Nothing major, but one of the games turned into a straight race which led the author into a discussion of racing formulas. He explained the "8-9-12" rule (double when up by 8%, redouble when up by 9%, take if down by less than 12%) and the "10% ± 2" rule (double if within 2 pips of a 10% lead, redouble if within 1 pip, and take if down less than 10% plus 2 pips). These two methods are fine for money and moneylike scores but they aren't very useful at lopsided scores. They won't help you at all if you're way up in the match and thinking about redoubling a pure race where the opponent has a 10% takepoint. They will only tell you that the opponent has a huge pass for money.

A much better tool to use for this type of cube action decision is Danny Kleinman's D<sup>2</sup>/S formula (as explained in Danny's 1982 book *Double-Sixes From the Bar*). The great advantage that Kleinman's formula has over the others is that it will give you a pretty accurate estimate of each side's cubeless winning chances. For money or at most match scores these figures are not important at all since once your cubeless chances dip below the 21-22% range you just pass and get on to the next game. But when the opponent has a 10% takepoint, it's crucial to know if his cubeless chances are 12%, 10%, or 8%. Kleinman's formula is alone in giving you these estimates and that makes it the best pip count formula to use in tournament play. Since *Backgammon Praxis* is a book about match play, I think Kleinman's formula should have been mentioned along with the other pip count formulas.

*Backgammon Praxis* is a great addition to backgammon literature and wholeheartedly recommend it to any serious student of the game. Buy it, read it, study it, and you'll become a better player. —John O'Hagan Δ

# Classy Venue



## A Play in one Act By Larry Liebster

**B**ased on a real life incident at the 2005 Chicago Open Backgammon Tournament held at the Oak Brook Hills Resort over the Memorial Day weekend.

*Cast of characters: Backgammon enthusiasts Larry Liebster and Peter Kalba, plus a "mysterious stranger."*

*Setting: Larry and Peter are seated at a table in the "Windows" restaurant overlooking the resort's verdant, rolling, manicured golf course. In view to the right is a beautiful fountain spraying water into the manmade lake. The stranger approaches.*

**STRANGER:** I left my money in my car. Can I have \$40?

*Peter reaches into his pocket and hands him two twenties. The stranger leaves.*

**LARRY:** Well, Ray Fogerlund is right again. During the Calcutta auction he stated that of all the US backgammon tournament venues, this is probably the classiest.

**PETER:** How does that apply here?

**LARRY:** In New York when a panhandler comes over, he asks: "How 'bout a little change for a cup of coffee?"

**PETER:** And your point?

**LARRY:** Here they come over and say, "I left my wallet in the glove compartment of my Ferrari." Give me \$40." Now that's class.

**PETER:** That was no panhandler—that was Yamin Yamin, a Chicago backgammon legend who came out of retirement for this event.

**LARRY:** Yamin?

**PETER:** Yes.

**LARRY:** Is that his first name or last name?

**PETER:** Yes.

— THE END —

LA open—abt

## JASON LEE & CHRIS NANJI WIN BIG AT LA OPEN

### I Take The Open Consolation

By Ray Fogerlund

**A**ttendance was down for the recent LA Open tournament in Van Nuys, California (17–19 June). Director Pat Gibson attributed this to Father's Day and other factors including the ever-present poker-mania. Still, the usual suspects showed up. ABT leader Neil Kazaross, late due to flight problems, missed the Super-32, but was available for the main event. Sax, Glass, Vietor, Fogerlund, Wiggins and all of the LA locals were in attendance, as was Jona Alexander, reigning California State Champion.

Some new faces emerged victorious. Brand new to the ABT circuit (and tournament backgammon period) was the Super-32 winner, Chris Nanji. Chris is a friend of my old buddy Ray Spehar, who had sort of retired from backgammon 15 years ago to raise a family. Chris beat me in the money round 15–8, and then dumped Steve Sax in the semifinals by a similarly lopsided score.

Who is this guy? Ask Nick Maffeo, his victim in the finals. Chris was a refreshing presence, with a great attitude and personality. He played confidently, was a gentleman in defeat (I paid him back in the Consolation of the LA Open), and contributed generously to the auction. He also purchased the beautiful new backgammon table prominently displayed at the front of the room and built by craftsman Rob Davis.

In the LA Open event, another relatively new face—Jason Lee—became a champion for the first time. Jason emerged as the undefeated finalist besting Ted Chee. I thought I might make it to the finals after losing my first round match, but after winning six straight matches, I crashed head on into another old timer, Doug Mayfield, and was a casualty in that accident. Over the last 20 years, Doug and I have undergone a transformation of sorts. We've learned how to *lose!* It was my turn to concede defeat this time, and send Doug off to his demise at the hands of the young warrior, Jason Lee.

I have only seen Jason at three ABT events, all of which were held in the LA area. This was his second "finals," having lost to Wayne Jeffcoat as the loser bracket representative in 2004. Looks like Jason is a fast learner who overcame a couple of treacherous positions orchestrated by the wily veteran Mayfield to claim the title.

Jason has recently earned a Doctorate in his chosen field of study, so it is safe to assume that we haven't heard the last of Jason Lee!

Relegated to the consolation bracket, I needed two match wins to take first and one to garner some ABT points. But it would not be easy. The inimitable Clarine stood in my way. Tougher than an old sailor, and with a vocabulary to match, she had been dubbed the "Best Player in Los Angeles" by Bob Glass at this tournament. She had dispatched both Bob, and Steve Sax on her way to me.

Bob noted that although Clarine rarely plays, when she does, she always *wins* (e.g. she was the Nevada State Champion the only year she ever played). I was glad to hedge even with her, and it looked like it was a good bet when she stole two of the first three games from me in scary fashion. However, I opened the rest of the games with a 4-2 or a doubles response to her opening, and I finally prevailed.

At the end of the sheet stood the imposing figure of the current California State Champion, Jona Alexander. Jona had taunted me earlier in the tournament, hoping to get the chance to play me. I would need to *rise* to this occasion. I led 3–0 when Jona took 12 checkers off in three rolls to gammon me in a pretty un-gammonish position. This was going to be a war!

Reaching 8–5 (Crawford), I was fortunate to hit Jona's last checker in the next game and save a gammon. Trailing 6–8, post Crawford, Jona started fast with an early 6-6 and then two sets of 4s. Virtually dead in the race, I managed to roll 5-5 and 6-6 consecutively in the bearoff. When Jona failed to take a single man off his 6-point with 4-1, the stage was set for my own roll of 4-1 which neatly bore off my last two checkers—conveniently placed on the 4- and 1-points!—Ray Fogerlund Δ

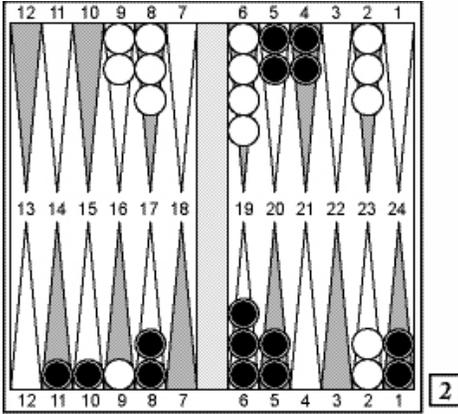
### L.A. OPEN—ABT

OPEN (32): 1-Jason Lee (CA), 2-Doug Mayfield (CA); 1C-Ray Fogerlund (CA), 2C-Jona Alexander (CA). ADVANCED (24): 1-Jim Wark (CA), 2-Sasan Taher (CA); 1C-Richard Armbruster (CA), 2C-Signa Bugdeli (CA). LIMITED (5): 1-Greg Brockman (CA), 2-Ali Avcioglu (CA); 1C-Jan Willis (CA). SUPER-32 (27): 1-Chris Nanji (CA), 2-Nick Maffeo (CA), 3/4-Steve Sax (CA) / Jon Vietor (CA). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Saul Meir & Mike Sharp (CA), 2-Mark Antranikian & Ted Chee (CA). 2-POINT QUICKIES (88): 1-Ted Chee (CA), 2-Jim Wark (CA).

## PROBLEM #310 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

5-point match. Black leads White 4 to 2. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



Black has four reasonable candidate plays. He can make his 4-point, break a back anchor and make a new outer board point, or play safe with 11/5, 10/6.

20/10 and 21/11 are thematically similar, so let's decide between these plays first. The 20-point anchor is more valuable than the 21-point anchor. It is easier to eventually escape, and White's options are more limited when Black owns the 20-point. On the other hand, the 10-point is better offensively than the 11-point, since the 5-point is already owned

while the 4-point is empty. It looks close, but I believe holding the 20-point is better. I'm not convinced that there is too

much difference between the 10- and the 11-point here. Black has already made his ace point, so he can't expect to create a prime in any event. Simply having a build-er aimed at the 4-point should be sufficient.

So now we are down to three choices: 10/4, 8/4; 21/11; and 11/5, 10/6.

Black has made his ace point, so he isn't going to win with a priming game. Given that, making the fourth inner board point with 10/4, 8/4 may seem reasonable. If Black had some more ammunition up front, there would be a lot to be said for this approach. If White hits one of the blots, Black could hit back. With the stronger inner board, this would give him the advantage in a blot-hitting contest. But Black doesn't have that ammunition. If Black makes the 4-point and White rolls an ace or a 6,

White can hit in complete safety. Black's 8-point will be gone forever, and his forces will be divided into two while White takes complete control of the outfield. Look at it from White's point of view. There you are sitting on Black's 2-point, with those checkers on the 8-point both blocking escape with 6s and poised to pounce if you run one back checker. Suddenly Black gives up the 8-point, leaving a blot there instead. Wouldn't you breathe a big sigh of relief? Making the 4-point is not the right idea here.

21/11 is the outfield play. It makes a new point (which is always good) and keeps the pressure on White's outfield blot pretty much forcing White to move it if she can't make the 4-point on Black's head. Black will have to get his back men moving sometime, and this looks like a good opportunity to do so making a point in the

process. The play has the downside of the two blots. White can hit in the outfield with an ace, or make the 4-point on Black's head with a good roll. This will hurt, but it is far from fatal. Black has the stronger inner board and an advanced anchor in White's board, so there is little danger that anything really bad will happen even if White rolls a good number.

11/5, 10/6 is safe. This is good. In a mutual holding game, the race is very important. In addition, the checkers are placed well for future development. The main problem with this play is the encore. White will be free to move her outfield checker or start a new inner board point. Black, on the other hand, will be pretty much forced to break one of the back

anchors next turn, and he won't be able to choose which one—he will be at the mercy of the dice telling him which checkers can move. In addition, this play relinquishes outfield control to White.

While the safe play is quite reasonable, I would go with 21/11. This move puts Black in position to make the bar point as well as inner board points, and hem in White's back checkers. Black is going to have to spring a back checker or two at some point, and this is a good time to do so while White's game is still disjointed.

When both sides have several men back, these checkers have to escape and pass through the outfield in order to win the game. The player who controls the outfield both creates a safe passage for his back checkers and hinders the escape of enemy back checkers. Outfield control is the name of the game in this sort of position.—*Kit Woolsey* Δ

## The Gold Standard Answers

[Quiz appears on page 5]

- 8/7\*, 6/1\* – 11 points. It is tempting to try a quieter play, buttoning the 9-point and either coming out or down, but desperate times call for desperate measures.
- 13/8, 13/11 – 15 points. A fine mess you've gotten yourself into! Clearing the 10-point leaves the fewest blots and shots, but you are still faced with the question: *what do I do for an encore?* Snowie says that for the long term, bringing both down is best.
- 2/off(2) – 7 points. The four point board is safer, and White may dance longer, but getting two extra men off wins more gammons.
- Double – 3 pts.; Pass – 9 pts. Here's a case where four in a row is *not* "more than you think."
- 8/4\*, 7/2 – 11 points. You leave almost as many shots running out without otherwise

accomplishing much. What are a few extra blots among friends?

- 8/5, 6/2 – 15 points. Which is more important: the 5-point or the 9-point? Why not go for both!? (Second best is making the 5-point.)
- Redouble – 3 points; Take – 10 points. Over 30% of Black's losses are gammons, but he wins over 30% of the time.
- 9/3\* – 15 pts. The splitting plays are nearly tied in a distant second; Black has to get active here.
- Redouble – 3 points; Take – 7 points. White won't like entering with a 1-5, but at the moment, she has a five point board and two men behind a four-prime, giving her enough to take.

### SCORING

- 81–100 24-karat solid gold  
61–80 18-karat gold  
41–60 Gold plate only  
21–40 Iron pyrite isn't measured in karats  
0–20 With a score like this, are you sure you aren't a carrot?—*JJ* Δ



## ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis  
773/583-6464  
Peter Kalba  
312/316-1432

Tuesday, 6–7 P.M. at Whistler's Restaurant, 3420 W. Devon, Lincolnwood. 847/673-9270.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Champs Sports Bar, 17 W. 517 Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace. 630/691-1888.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Damon's Grill, 1701 Fort Jesse Road, Normal. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. at Krieger's Sports Bar, 1975 Washburn Ave., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

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

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Thurs., 6:45 P.M. at Playoffs Bar, 720 E. North Ave., Carol Stream. Tim Mabee (630/606-2388).

PEORIA BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/689-1964).

**WINNER'S CIRCLE**



MAY-JULY 2005

•**New England Club Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 15 May)... OPEN: 1-Howard Rosenthal, 2-John Leonard, 3/4-Herb Gurland / Roger Rondeau; 1C-Walter Trice, 2C-Douglas Zare.

•**1st Bergenz Open & Texas Hold'em** (Bergenz, Austria; 2-5 Jun.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (16): 1-Werner Schmuck (AUT), 2-Tobias Hellwag (GER); 1C-Artur Muradian (ARM). INTERMEDIATE (16): 1-Arut Martirosian (ARM), 2-Udo Kindler (SWZ); 1C-Gian Isoppi (SWZ). LADIES PRIZE: Conny Schoch (SWZ). TEAM TOURNEY: 1-Team Armenia, 2-Team Schwabenland. GAMESGRID FREEROLL: 1-Udo Kindler (SWZ), 2-Rino Mathis (SWZ). POKER WINNERS: Rino Mathis (SWZ), Udo Kindler (SWZ).

•**Hilton Trophy** (Daventry, England; 4-5 Jun.)... OPEN (28): 1-Mardi Ohanessian, 2-Simon K Jones, 3/4-Rogier Van Gemert / Chris Ternel, 5/8-John Slattery / Ron Havenhand / Stephen Cole / Paul Barwick; 1C-Rogier Van Gemert, 2C-Chris Ternel, 3C/4C-Paul Barwick / Paul Van Dijke; 1LC-Rosey Bensley, 2LC-Uldis Lapikens. PARIS HILTON VIDEO (26): 1-Dave Motely, 2-Mick Vacarey. FRIDAY WARM-UP (14): 1-Mardi Ohanessian, 2-Paul Van Dijke, 3/4-Rogier van Gemert / John Slattery. £100 JACKPOT (8): 1-Paul Van Dyke, 2-Peter Bennet. POKER (8): 1-Simonetta Barone, 2-Simon K Jones, 3-Rosey Bensley.

•**Ohio State Monthly Tournament** (Copley,

OH; 5 Jun.)... OPEN: 1-Howard Shirey, 2-Bob Koca.

•**Kansas City Monthly** (Kansas City, MO; 6 Jun.)... OPEN (10): 1-Eric Barr, 2/3-James Worley / Kathleen Schuler.

•**South Australian Monthly KO** (Adelaide, South Australia; 7 Jun.)... OPEN (8): 1-Nick Lavrentiadis, 2-Nick Begakis.

•**Father's Day Open** (Houston, TX; 11 Jun.)... OPEN (19) 1-Kerry Blodgett, 2-Jack Erwin, 3-Brian Stine, 4-Scott Ward; 1C-Dr. James Bray, 2C-Mary Morse.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 12 Jun.)... OPEN (8): 1/2-Mike Corbett / Lee Genud. ADVANCED (8): 1-Fabricio Schaffrath, 2-Neal Rosensweig.

•**Liz Barker's 30th Birthday** (Bromley, England; 18-19 Jun.)... OPEN (36): 1-Lawrence Powell, 2-Brian Lever, 3/4-Simon Barget / Tony Lee; 1C-Mike Heard, 2C-Alan Beckerson; 1LC-Chris Bray, 2LC-Barry McAdam. BIRTHDAY BONUS: 1-Ray Kershaw, 2-Chris Ternel, 3/4-Liz Barker / Kaj Mielsen. £50 JACKPOT (8): 1-Steve John. £100 JACKPOT: 1-Simon Barget. TEXAS HOLD'EM: 1-Paul Myers, 2-Jo Curl, 3-Ray Tannen.

•**Arizona Club Monthly** (Phoenix, AZ; 5 Jul.)... OPEN: 1-Pete Campbell, 2-Frank Boorboor.

•**1st Lucien Barrière Gold Cup & Cannes Open** (Cannes, France; 8-10 Jul.)... MASTERS (40): 1-Artur Muradian (ARM), 2-Patrick Gaillardo (FRA). CHAMPIONS (23): 1-Giuseppe Ricciardi (ITA), 2-Siraz Ghambaryan (ARM). INTERMEDIATE (31): 1-Andranik Hazutyunyan (ARM), 2-Giorgio Castellano (ITA). Δ

**MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS—ABT**

OPEN (86): 1-Jeb Horton (NC), 2-Mike Corbett (FL), 3-Tak Morioka (IL), 4/5-Al Jones (Canada) / Carter Mattig (IL); 1C-Jeremy Bagai (CA), 2C-Mary Hickey (PA), 3C/4C-Malcolm Davis (TX) / Rick Todd (MI). INTERMEDIATE (72): 1-Ben Elliott (NC), 2-Brad King (MI), 3-Jim Zimmerman (IL), 4/5-Mark Antranikian (CA) / Eden Windish (Canada); 1C-Joe Feldman (MI), 2C-Fred Lindsay (MI), 3C/4C-Neil Garvie (Canada) / Sonya Sidky (WI). NOVICE (23): 1-Moti Nissani (MI), 2-Woody Halbritter (MI); 1C-Dean Hayes (MI), 2C-Carmen Webb (PA). MICHIGAN MASTERS (32): 1-Richard Lloyd (TN), 2-Ray Glaeser (OH). OPEN DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Peter Beling (VA) & Peter Kalba (IL), 2-Jeremy Bagai (CA) & Greg Merriman (MI), 3/4-Danielle Bastarache & Mike Corbett (FL) / Carol & Denny Leatherman (CO). SATELLITE DOUBLES (14 teams): 1-Robert Lessard & Paul Stebbing (Canada), 2-Nora Luna Righter (MA) & Phyllis Smolinski (IL). LTD. DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Charlotte & Dan Mowczan (MI), 2-Steve Kenney (DE) & Sandy Mintz (DE). FIRECRACKER JACKPOTS: \$500 (8): 1-Ray Fogerlund (CA), 2-Bob Glass (CA). \$200 (16): 1-Lucky Nelson (IL), 2-David Todd (MO). \$100 (16): 1-Neil Garvie (Canada), 2-Cole Parker (TX). GAMESGRID BLITZ (128): 1-Denny Leatherman (CO), 2-John Bashian (OH). SUMMER FREEZEOUT (32): 1-Joe Miller (OH), 2-Sal Pittelli (MI), 3/4-Sean Garber (IN) / Frank Talbot (MI). JOHN BRUSSEL MEMORIAL (32): 1-Barry Miller (IL), 2-Peter Kalba (IN). (\$300 was raised for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.) EARLYBIRD WINNERS: Carl Sorg (SC), Michael Edge (SC). QUICKIE WINNERS: Sean Garber (IN), David Kettler (TX), Dan Kuirski (MI), Brad King (MI) / Sal Pittelli (Canada). WARM-UP WINNERS: Fred Kalantari (MN), Perry Berlinski (MI), John Lopetrone (MI). AFTER TOURNAMENT WINNERS: Todd Obadal (MD), Steve Kenney (DE).

**AMALGAMATION**

A kitchen fire hit Whistler's (the Bar Point Club Tuesday home) on 6 June. Thinking fast, **George Barr** relocated us to The Purple Hotel (4500 W. Touhy Avenue). Whistler's repairs should be completed by the end of July. Watch [chicagopoint.com](http://chicagopoint.com) for BPC location updates... Interested in daily Monte Carlo World BG Championship reports and live match broadcasts? Then log onto [truemoneygames.com](http://truemoneygames.com) 11-17 July... Visiting the Bar Point Club in June/July: **Josh Riddell** (IN), **Nora Luna Righter** (MA), **Jim Gibbs** (CA), **Paul & Mary Franks** (NV)... With the World Series of Poker in full swing, the following backgammon players have cashed in side events: **Erik Seidel** (691k), **Lars Bonding** (318k), **Phil Laak** (163k), **David Wells** (12k), **Paul Magriel** (8k), **Philip Marmorstein** (5k), **Jason Lester** (4k), and **Patty Beadles** (3k)... Due to various issues, the Indiana Open has replaced guest lecturer **Joe Sylvester** (MO) with **Kit Woolsey** (CA)... Although it is still 17 months away, Backgammon On Board will sail for an 8th time in January 2007, tentatively to the Mexican Riviera... New York to London: **Brian Barber**... **Amy Egger** (Switzerland) informs us that a Snowie patch should be ready for distribution later this month... **Randy Armstrong** announces that the Sangamon Valley Club is now playing every Wednesday at Krieger's Sports Grill. Check "Illinois Action" (pg. 8) for the location and time... You know former BG player **Phil**

**Laak** has made it in the poker world when they are selling a bobblehead doll of him! It's available at [card-sharx.com](http://card-sharx.com)... The '04-'05 New England BG Club season comes to an end with **Herb Gurland** as the Wednesday Night Wizard and **Walter Trice** as the Club Champ... First chess, and then backgammon; will poker be next? Programmers are working on a poker robot that will be able to play online.



*Bobble-Laak*

**Paul 'X-22' Magriel** comments in a Los Angeles Times article: "There are already lots of robots playing online, and that's definitely unethical. They should identify themselves. It was a little depressing in chess and backgammon that computers got so good. In poker, it won't really depress me. I sort of expect it at some point..." Finally, this quote from **Bernard Gittelson**: "Wanting something intensely is the motivating power that produces good luck..." CHICAGO POINT will return after Labor Day. Have a great summer. Δ

# 2005 Pacific Northwest Championships

September 23-25, 2005

Holiday Inn Sea-Tac, Sea-Tac, Washington

Everything in One Location  
For full details or to register  
[www.backgammonnorthwest.com](http://www.backgammonnorthwest.com)  
or call 253.856.7513



# Indiana open

Backgammon Tournament

*Labor Day Weekend*

September 2-5, 2005

Sheraton-Indianapolis Hotel & Suites  
Indianapolis, Indiana



Featuring  
Free Kit Woolsey Lecture  
Swiss Format, MicroDoubles



Indy 300, Amateur, Labor Day,  
KillPhil, and John Brussel Jackpots

Reserve a room by Aug. 21. 800/325-3535

Butch & Mary Ann Meese: 317/255-8902  
[indybg@comcast.net](mailto:indybg@comcast.net) • [hoosierbgclub.org](http://hoosierbgclub.org)

*Now open two blocks from our tournament!*



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**2005 Illinois State  
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for an \$850 Taki-Board**

**October 14-16, 2005**

**Springfield Hilton  
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