

illinois state championships

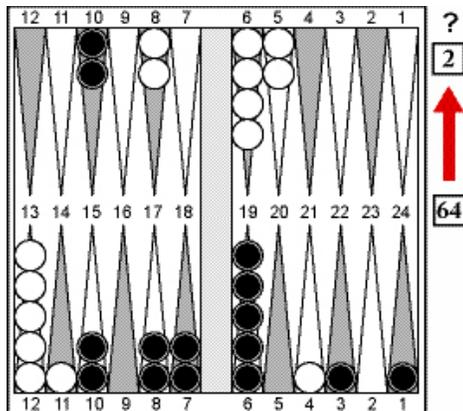
FADDOUL WINS TWO! Neil Kazaross Takes Masters

The Illinois State Championship proved to be Faddoul Khoury's playground for the weekend of 14-16 October as he swept the Springfield Open and Illinois State title. The event was held atop the Springfield Hilton with Sangamon Valley director Randy Armstrong in charge. A great attraction was the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library just two blocks from the hotel.

Top-ranked Peoria Club player Faddoul Khoury had initially planned to play the State Championship final match against Chicago's Gary Kay at noon. When Kay failed to show by 12:30 PM, Faddoul opted to make "productive use" of his waiting time, playing Madison's Stan Livingston in the Springfield Open finals and winning a double match-point nail-biter.

The 15-point Open finals rolled off at 2:00 pm. Khoury navigated to a 6-3 lead against the more experienced Gary Kay. Then in the 7th game, the first major blunder of the match occurred:

15 point Illinois State finals. Faddoul Khoury (Black) leads Gary Kay (White), 6 to 3. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

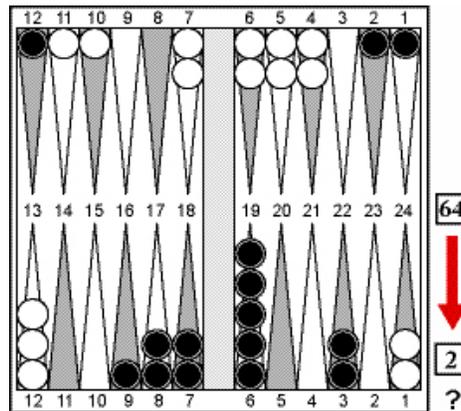


Up 36 pips in the race, this is an easy double for Faddoul and a stone cold drop for Gary. Perhaps Gary saw the two blots in Faddoul's board as a big negative. For whatever reason, he ended up losing two

more points

Following a much-needed break, Kay won the next game, and then trailing 4-8, doubled Faddoul in this position:

15 point Illinois State finals. Faddoul Khoury (Black) leads Gary Kay (White), 8 to 4. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Gary can send another checker behind his 4-prime with 14 shakes (any ace, plus



Faddoul Khoury displays his two 1st place trophies at the Illinois State Champs.

4-4 and 5-3). Additionally, Faddoul's structure is awkward and although he leads the race by 17 pips, it is a big blunder to take. But Khoury did take and got gammoned to knot the score at 8-all.

Perhaps frustrated with his decision to take, Faddoul compounded his problems by doubling early in the next game. Although

[Continued on page 5]

WHAT IS THIS GUY THINKING ABOUT?



Don't you hate it when products advertise backgammon and they don't set up the board properly. This one for Cris Sportsbook is even worse. Forget the fact that the poor guy is pondering a forced bear-off (the dice roll is 4-4); what's really sad is that he's playing with the board positioned sideways! Δ

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

Tel: 773/583-6464 ♦ Fax: 773/583-3264

E-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com

www.chicagopoint.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Carol Joy Cole (MI) | Danny Kleinman (CA) |
| Mary Hickey (OH) | John O'Hagan (IN) |
| Jake Jacobs (IL) | Steve Sax (CA) |
| Duane Jensen (MN) | Phil Simborg (IL) |
| Neil Kazaross (IL) | Kit Woolsey (CA) |

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LETTERS



c/o CHICAGO POINT

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

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RULING QUIZ QUESTION

I faced a ruling situation almost identical to Problem 1 in Danny Kleinman's Ruling Quiz last month. At a critical point in the match at the recent Florida State Championships, my opponent, while attempting to roll his dice, realized that he should double. He tried to stop himself, but the dice did come out of the cup. One die landed on the board, the other on the floor. Then, he doubled me.

I told him I didn't think he could legally cube. The eventual ruling barred my opponent from doubling which goes against Danny's answer. Who is right? — *Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois*

Danny Kleinman responds: Assuming that your narration of the events is accurate Phil, I agree that your opponent could not legally cube. Your opponent was rolling, tried to stop the roll, and did not succeed

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | |

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

*Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

| | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------|
| Nov 11 | Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Purple Hotel, Lincolnwood, Illinois | 773/583-6464 |
| Nov 11-16 | Backgammon Pro Am Doubles, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada | 702/893-6025 |
| Nov 12 | Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana | 219/785-2082 |
| Nov 12 | Turkey Trot Open, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas | 281/556-0428 |
| Nov 13 | Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio | 937/864-1748 |
| Nov 13* | South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida | 954/564-0340 |
| Nov 16-20 | 2005 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada | 702/893-6025 |
| Nov 17 | Third Thursday Bonus (California), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan | 810/232-9731 |
| Nov 19 | Atlanta Fall Doubles Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia | 770/333-1876 |
| Nov 20* | Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio | 614/784-8132 |
| Nov 20 | Pittsburgh Monthly Tournament, Hartner's Lounge, Cranberry Twp., PA | 412/826-1334 |
| Nov 29-Dec 4* | NEW VENUE: Invitational Tournament, Ritz-Carlton, Henderson, Nevada | 775/829-8403 |
| <u>Dec 2-4</u> | <u>California State Championship, Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Los Angeles, CA</u> | <u>818/901-0464</u> |
| Dec 3 | Bar Point Saturday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois | 773/583-6464 |
| Dec 3* | Springfield Series, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois | 217/622-9447 |
| Dec 3 | Austin Saturday Bimonthly Tournament, JC's Steakhouse, Austin, Texas | 512/261-8518 |
| Dec 4 | New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts | 617/945-1257 |
| Dec 4 | Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio | 330/268-4610 |
| Dec 5 | Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri | 816/561-4330 |
| Dec 5 | Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California | 805/966-5636 |
| Dec 6 | Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona | 602/279-0215 |
| Dec 10 | Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana | 219/785-2082 |
| Dec 10 | Tournament of Champions, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas | 281/556-0428 |
| Dec 10* | Backgammon By the Bay, Peking Express, Berkeley, California | 831/688-9722 |
| Dec 11 | Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio | 937/864-1748 |
| Dec 11* | South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida | 954/564-0340 |
| Dec 15* | Third Thursday Bonus (North Carolina), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan | 810/232-9731 |
| Dec 17* | Atlanta Holiday Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia | 770/333-1876 |
| Jan 2* | Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri | 816/561-4330 |
| Jan 2* | Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California | 805/966-5636 |
| Jan 3* | Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona | 602/279-0215 |
| Jan 7* | Springfield Series, Damon's Ribs, Normal, Illinois | 217/622-9447 |
| Jan 8* | South Florida Monthly, Northridge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida | 954/564-0340 |
| Jan 8* | New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts | 617/945-1257 |
| Jan 14* | Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana | 219/785-2082 |
| Jan 19* | Third Thursday Bonus (Pittsburgh), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan | 810/232-9731 |
| Jan 13-15 | 6th Carolina Invitational, Hilton University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina | 704/814-0850 |
| Feb 4* | Springfield Series, Wildlife Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois | 217/622-9447 |
| Feb 12* | Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois | 773/583-6464 |
| Feb 17-19 | Pittsburgh Championships, Holiday Inn Airport, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | 412/823-7500 |
| Feb. 25* | Illinois State Challenge Cup, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois | 773/583-6464 |
| Mar 17-19 | 2006 Midwest Championships, Wyndham Lisle, Lisle, Illinois | 773/583-6464 |
| Apr 7-9* | Ohio State Championships, Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio | 330/268-4610 |
| May 26-29* | 26th Chicago Open, Oak Brook Hills Resort & Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois | 847/674-0120 |
| Jun 30-Jul 3* | Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi Hotel, Novi, Michigan | 810/232-9731 |
| Jul 28-30* | Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin | 608/516-9109 |
| Sep 1-4* | 54th Indiana Open, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana | 317/255-8902 |

OUTSIDE USA

| | | |
|------------|---|---------------|
| Nov 11-13 | Backgammon Live in London 2005, Spice Island & YHA, London, England | 442077-001798 |
| Nov 12-13* | Gammonitis League Tournament, Eynsham Hall, Witney, England | 447900-983038 |
| Dec 3-4 | Gilbertson United Kingdom Finals, Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, UK | 441522-888676 |
| Dec 10-11* | Julian's Christmas Cracker, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England | 447900-983038 |
| Dec 14-18* | Championship of France (residents only), Hotel Castiglione, Paris, France | 33142-618080 |
| Dec 27-30 | 2nd Weihnachts-Open, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany | 49711-48190 |
| Jan 2-8 | 10th Thailand Open, 19th Hole Superpub, South Pattaya, Thailand | 669544-3047 |
| Jan 6-8 | Swiss Championships, Grand Casino Baden, Switzerland | 4179-4015811 |
| Jan 7-8* | Year-end Rhein-Neckar-Cup, Maxim's, Mannheim, Germany | 496204-620396 |
| Jan 13-15* | Franken-Cup, Hotel Daucher, Nürnberg, Germany | 49711-486190 |
| Jan 14-15 | Bright 'n' Breezy, West Pier Hotel, Brighton, England | 441522-888676 |
| Jan 27-29 | 4th Cotswold Fireside BG & Hold'em Poker, Crown Inn, Blockley, England | 441453-821479 |
| Feb 4-5* | Jarvis Trophy Tournament, Hilton Hotel, Coventry, England | 441522-888676 |
| Feb 11-12* | Gammonitis League Tournament, The Grange, Bristol, United Kingdom | 447900-983038 |

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

in stopping it. In *Rulings Problem 1*, the player was shaking his dice prior to rolling them—two different sets of circumstances.

The situation resembles a hacking foul in basketball. Did the foul occur before the shot, or was the fouled player in the act of shooting?—DK

PRAISE FOR NACK'S ARTICLE

I really enjoyed Nack Ballard's article

("Anchor or Hit with 5-4?") in the October POINT. Studying this quality backgammon article definitely helped me on the way to winning the Illinois State Intermediate title last month in Springfield.—Jack Fagan, St. Louis, Missouri



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005

Top 100 compiled through 30 Oct. 2005 after 16 events
(Final 2005 event: California State Championship)



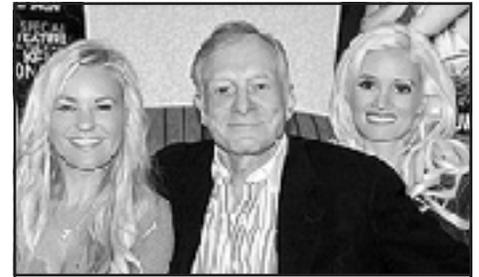
AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Neil Kazaross | 73.22 | Bob Hathaway | 10.54 | Neil Garvie | 5.72 | Ed Johnson | 3.68 |
| Phil Simborg | 40.24 | Bill Minser | 10.40 | Stuart Thomson | 5.65 | Murray Bryntesen | 3.61 |
| Jeb Horton | 31.05 | Eden Windish | 10.21 | Bob Glass | 5.60 | Al Jones | 3.57 |
| Mike Corbett | 26.79 | Faddoul Khoury | 10.00 | DeWayne Derryberry | 5.60 | Rick Todd | 3.57 |
| Steve Sax | 23.53 | Sal Chehayeb | 9.96 | Jim Wark | 5.40 | Marc Gray | 3.53 |
| Ray Glaeser | 18.39 | George Barr | 9.04 | Mary Ann Meese | 5.27 | Jona Alexander | 3.52 |
| Gregg Cattanach | 17.38 | Mark Rozans | 8.64 | Tom Green | 5.27 | Cookie Frazin | 3.20 |
| Howard Shirey | 16.71 | Richard Armbruster | 8.45 | Michael Plog | 5.20 | Karen Chung | 3.20 |
| Dana Nazarian | 16.63 | Todd Obadal | 7.74 | Randy Armstrong | 5.09 | Lynn Lusk | 3.20 |
| Ed O'Laughlin | 15.50 | Ernie McCombs | 7.71 | Joe Sylvester | 5.00 | Bruce Ballance | 3.19 |
| Ben Elliott | 15.40 | Joe Feldman | 7.66 | Gary Kay | 5.00 | Fred Lindsay | 3.00 |
| Carlos Azcarate | 14.92 | Vadim Musaelyan | 7.60 | Jim Zimmerman | 5.00 | Ralph Byrns | 2.94 |
| Renee Rosenbloom | 14.44 | Tak Morioka | 7.17 | Boris Dekhtyar | 4.99 | Cole Parker | 2.93 |
| Jason Lee | 14.40 | Mary Hickey | 7.17 | Jeff Acierno | 4.94 | Katherine Denison | 2.91 |
| Jeremy Bagai | 14.35 | Dave Wetzell | 7.11 | Joe Freedman | 4.67 | Tim Ferrell | 2.91 |
| Carter Mattig | 14.11 | Ray Fogelund | 7.04 | Lee Pflugrad | 4.63 | Steve Goldstein | 2.90 |
| Chuck Bower | 13.51 | Doug Mayfield | 7.04 | Jack Takala | 4.49 | Doug Roberts | 2.90 |
| Malcolm Davis | 13.06 | Stacy Turner | 6.29 | Don Sloan | 4.49 | Connie Tipton | 2.80 |
| J. A. Miller | 12.64 | Mike Friedman | 6.22 | David Todd | 4.44 | Molly Anderson | 2.80 |
| Ed Zell | 11.99 | Chris Spieldenner | 6.22 | Carol Joy Cole | 4.32 | Lenn Schneider | 2.67 |
| Michael Edge | 11.55 | Brad King | 6.01 | Patty Geoffroy | 4.19 | Neville Kerr | 2.67 |
| David Rogers | 11.30 | Wayne Wiest | 5.92 | Mark Murray | 4.11 | Sasan Taher | 2.64 |
| Stephan Nuniyants | 11.20 | Kit Woolsey | 5.88 | Steve Neidecker | 4.00 | Jonah Seewald | 2.58 |
| Perry Gartner | 11.18 | Alex Juskovic | 5.83 | Jack Fagan | 4.00 | Tim Mabee | 2.58 |
| Larry Strommen | 10.61 | Herb Roman | 5.80 | Petko Kostadinov | 3.80 | Kathy Sorci | 2.56 |

That was a landmark study in last month's issue by Nack Ballard (anchor, cusp, hit). I put it right up there with Paul Weaver's "000357 Trice Optimal Bearoff" article in the November 1994 POINT, which I still read from time to time.—Roland Dieter, Deerfield, Illinois

THE GIRLS NEXT DOOR

The two girls pictured with Hugh Hefner on page 11 of your October newsletter are Holly Madison and Bridget Marquardt, stars of "The Girls Next Door" TV show. [Sunday nights on the E! channel.—Ed.] Coincidentally, right after receiving the issue, I was with them on Mancow's morning radio show promoting their appearance in the November *Playboy*, so I was able to show them their pictures in CHICAGO POINT.—Kathy Posner, Chicago, Illinois



Hef with Holly and Bridget are welcome in CHICAGO POINT anytime!

[Continued on page 7]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2005 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 OCT.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|----------------|------|
| Tak Morioka | 30.72 | Mike Wolock | 7.80 | Vadim Genkin | 1.92 | Greg Merriman | 0.72 |
| David Rockwell | 21.60 | Michael Ginat | 7.48 | Royal Robinson | 1.84 | Michael Brand | 0.72 |
| Herb Roman | 20.24 | Eric Johnson | 7.20 | Michael Peters | 1.84 | Jim Gibbs | 0.72 |
| Paul Baraz | 17.80 | Larry Goldstein | 6.84 | Randee Simborg | 1.76 | Bob Sexton | 0.64 |
| Bill Davis | 17.00 | Norma Shyer | 6.72 | Linda Rockwell | 1.68 | Roland Dieter | 0.64 |
| Phyllis Smolinski | 16.80 | Joann Feinstein | 5.80 | Sargon Benjamin | 1.52 | Elaine Andrews | 0.60 |
| Carter Mattig | 15.40 | Georgina Flanagan | 5.32 | Mary Franks | 1.44 | Cookie Frazin | 0.56 |
| Albert Yakobashvili | 15.22 | Jerry Brooks | 5.04 | Shaw Dogan | 1.38 | Julia Ring | 0.56 |
| Phil Simborg | 15.14 | Yamin Yamin | 4.84 | J. A. Miller | 1.32 | Nan Feiber | 0.56 |
| Lucky Nelson | 13.72 | Arline Levy | 4.80 | Elaine Andrews | 1.28 | Joe Szwedo | 0.56 |
| Tim Mabee | 13.04 | Howard Ring | 4.56 | Val Zimnicki | 1.28 | Russ Lyutik | 0.56 |
| Steve Klesker | 10.36 | Mark Murray | 3.96 | Josh Riddell | 1.28 | Don Marek | 0.48 |
| Ken Bond | 10.28 | Roger Hickman | 3.84 | Alex Owen | 1.26 | Mark Phillips | 0.48 |
| Boris Dekhtyar | 9.80 | Kwong Chan | 3.72 | Will Thomsen | 1.20 | Les Moshinsky | 0.48 |
| Bob Steen | 9.68 | Richard Stawowy | 3.48 | Mike Sutton | 1.20 | Bob Bartolone | 0.48 |
| Gary Kay | 9.64 | Igor Kaplunovsky | 2.80 | Barbara Levinson | 1.12 | Roz Ferris | 0.44 |
| Bill Bartholomay | 9.40 | Dan Weymouth | 2.40 | Ken Tyszko | 1.12 | Bill Stegich | 0.40 |
| Oleg Raygorodsky | 9.36 | Adrian Rios | 2.28 | Elaine Kehm | 1.08 | Lisa Nelson | 0.32 |
| Alice Kay | 8.92 | Dave Cramer | 2.04 | Kurt Thompson | 0.96 | James Roston | 0.32 |
| Bill Keefe | 8.68 | Joe Auszmann | 2.04 | David Marcus | 0.80 | Dave Settles | 0.24 |
| Wayne Wiest | 8.04 | Paul Franks | 2.00 | Ken Tibbs | 0.72 | | |

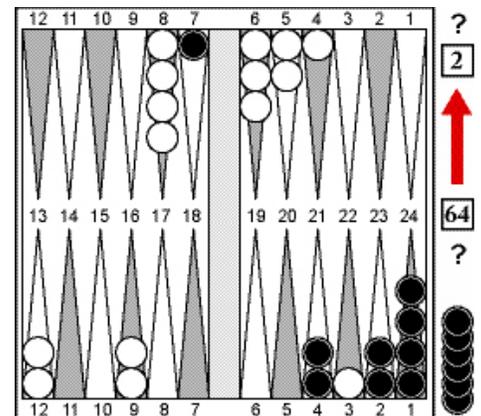
TAK MORIOKA extended his 2005 BPC lead by winning 3.50 points in October. Bill Bartholomay and Paul Baraz were runners-up with 3.36 points each.

your move

PROBLEM #314

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

9-point match. Black and White are tied at 6–6. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS

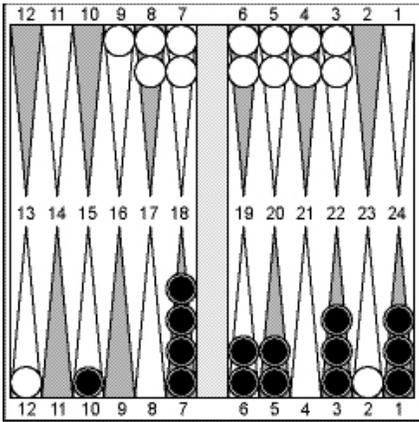


© 2005 by Danny Kleinman

'VICTIM MENTALITY' VICTIM

Dear Miss Lonelyblots: I need your help. It has nothing to do with my backgammon play which is quite solid. The problem is my mental attitude. The following position from a recent match is a perfect example:

9 point match. Black leads White, 7 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



64

I had zipped through the first two rounds of our Sunday monthly to reach the semifinals. The 5-1 roll really helped my bear-in. Pointing was an easy choice because an undoubled would win me the match.

As my opponent shook her dice, I just knew she was going to roll a 6-4. I tried to get the thought out of my head, but there was nothing I could do about it. Of course she did roll 6-4 and went on to win the game and match.

I remember that two former World Amateur Champions, David Leibowitz and Russell Sands, truly believed that they could channel positive mental energy into their dice. Baron Vernon Ball even wrote a book on the subject—Alpha Backgammon—back in 1980, so there must be something to this.

How can I change my negative thoughts into positive ones? I'm really tired of my "victim" mentality.—Jokered Out

DEAR JOKERED: If David, Russell and Vernon were right, all probability calculations would go out the window . . . and Norman Vincent Peale, author of *The Power of Positive Thinking*, would have cleaned all the expert backgammon players out of all their money. So forget about that nonsense, and think about the game, the

game, the game.

Were the cube unavailable, your pointing play would be right, for just the reason you say: the extra gammon chances it gives you outweigh the extra risk of losing the game. Apparently, however, you refrained from doubling in hopes of winning an undoubled gammon.

However, with the cube available, you can eliminate all risk of losing the game while still retaining small gammon chances. Simply move 10/5, 7/6, putting spares on your 5- and 6-points. If your opponent stays in your home court, keep playing until you face rolls that can leave a blot. If she escapes, or you are in danger of leaving a blot, cash the game with the cube.—Miss Lonelyblots

Do you have a backgammon-related question for Miss Lonelyblots involving people problems, game etiquette or the play itself? Write: Dear Miss Lonelyblots, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or e-mail bg@chicagopoint.com.

BPC SATURDAY BACKGAMMON
Saturday, December 3, 2005
Champs Bar • Oakbrook Terrace, IL
Info: Peter Kalba (312) 316-1432



Marcy's BG Holiday Gift Ideas

by Marcy Sloan

Here's another sackful of backgammon-related goodies from our favorite Santa, Marcy Sloan (Northbrook, IL). Everything here can be purchased at the Internet address shown.—Ed.



Keep your game accessories stored safely in these wooden dice boxes. Set of 3 for \$27.99. www.touchofclass.com



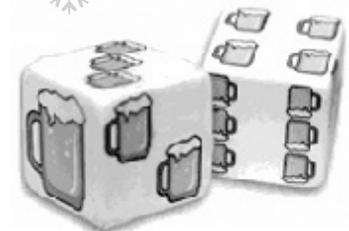
Enjoy your favorite game anytime with this oversized backgammon rug. Other game rugs available. \$24.90 from: www.solutionscatalog.com



Bring a little luck to the table with the "Roll the Dice" Table Lamp. \$89.75 from www.touchofclass.com



Here's a 14k gold charm for the true backgammon lover. 6.5 grams and just over 1" square. www.charmville.com



Stop playing games with boring old fashion dice. Spice things up a bit and get these cool 3/4" beer mug dice. \$2.99/pair from: www.bwild.com

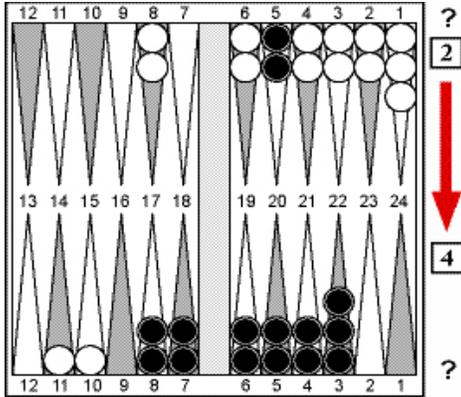
ILLINOIS...

[Continued from page 1]

the double rolled out as a blunder, Faddoul found himself bearing in for the win only to have Gary hit a back door shot and steal two points.

Trailing 8–10, Faddoul offered a timely double that Gary should have passed. Gary was again able to turn the tables on his junior opponent reaching this position:

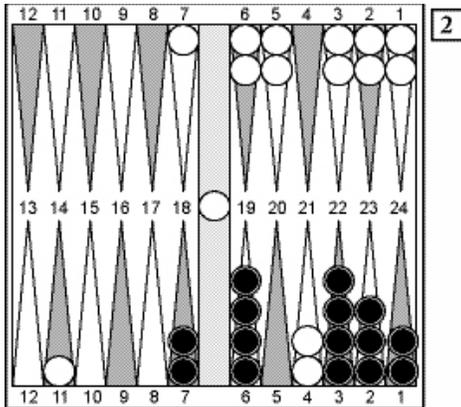
15 point Illinois State finals. Faddoul Khoury (Black) trails Gary Kay (White), 8 to 10. **SHOULD WHITE RECUBE?**



Although Kay is up 31 pips in the race and Snowie makes him a 70.7% favorite to win this game, he should not recube to 4. That's because at the given score (5-away, 7-away), Faddoul could have a very efficient recube to 8. In fact Gary did cube to 4 and Khoury made a monstrous 4.34% match equity blunder by passing!

Trailing 9–12, Faddoul doubled Gary in the next game. Two points were nearly his, but first he had to make the proper play with 5-2:

15 point Illinois State finals. Faddoul Khoury (Black) trails Gary Kay (White), 9 to 12. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**

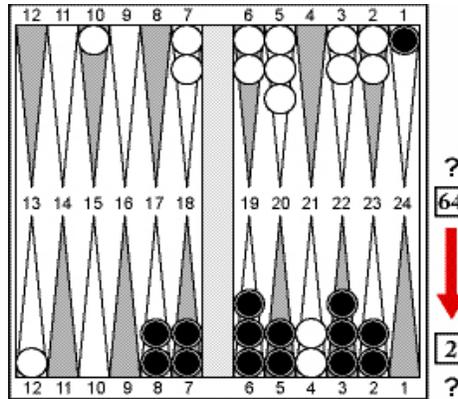


Faddoul volunteered six hitting numbers by playing 7/2, 3/1. A 720 full Snowie rollout (3-ply, precise) showed Faddoul's play slightly superior to the "safe for now"

6/1, 3/1. Although both moves win a similar percentage of plain games, Faddoul's play wins nearly 4% more gammons. (It bears in quicker!)

With his lead down to just one point, Gary took another break. Upon returning, he offered Khoury an even-money hedge. Faddoul surprisingly refused, later claiming that he didn't understand the offer. Gary must have had a negative premonition as the next game would be the last of the match.

15 point Illinois State finals. Faddoul Khoury (Black) trails Gary Kay (White), 11 to 12. White on roll **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Gary doubled here. Although Snowie rollouts show the cube to be a small (0.047) error—partially because White is down 21 pips in the race—there are players who would drop this position and play from 11–13 down. Hence the double has merit.

But Faddoul was taking all the way. And following Kay's 4-4 shake (played 13/1*, 5/1), he reflexively recubed for the match! Following the game, Faddoul admitted that he thought the score was 2-away, 4-away. But despite this 2.08% match equity error, the dice gods were with him as he rolled the game home to become the 2005 Illinois State Champion.

OTHER EVENTS

In yet another double match-point victory. Jack Fagan (MO) came back from a 5–12 Crawford deficit to edge Bloomington player Jim Zimmerman 13–12 to win the



Intermediate Champion Jack Fagan.

Intermediate Championship. It was the biggest win of Jack's life.

Neil Kazaross continued his record-breaking year by capturing the Land of Lincoln Masters. The "An-Neil-ator" bested David Todd (MO) to claim his second Lincoln bust (Kaz also won in 2002).

Congrats also to Sonya Sidky (WI) who like Faddoul, captured two first place trophies (Intermediate Consolation and Doubles with Tom Machaj).



Doubles champs Sonya Sidky and Tom Machaj. Sonya was a two-time winner.

And kudos to Tak Morioka who won the Taki Hold'em Poker Tournament. First prize was a Taki Board! Δ



Jena Jennings deals Tak Morioka the winning hand in Taki-Hold'em Poker.

ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (25): 1-Faddoul Khoury (IL), 2-Gary Kay (IL); 1C-Joe Sylvester (MO), 2C-Alan Gold (WI); 1LC-Linda Rockwell (IL). INTERMEDIATE (20): 1-Jack Fagan (MO), 2-Jim Zimmerman (IL); 1C-Sonya Sidky (WI), 2C-Wayne Wiest (IL); 1LC-Ramez Abi-Akar (IL). LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (6): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-David Todd (MO). SPRINGFIELD OPEN (28): 1-Faddoul Khoury (IL), 2-Stan Livingston (WI); 1C-Joe Sylvester (MO), 2C-Alan Gold (WI). LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DOUBLES (10 teams): 1-Tom Machaj (WI) & Sonya Sidky (WI), 2-Michael Flohr (IL) & Jim Zimmerman (IL). TAKI HOLD'EM POKER (10): 1-Takao Morioka (IL), 2-Bruce Russell (WI), 3-Beth Martinson (WI). CAPITOL PUNISHMENT (30): 1-Bruce Russell (WI), 2-Randy Armstrong (IL).

The Veto Option

CJC & I play Doubles in Minnesota



First person account by Bill Davis

At the recent Minnesota Open, Carol Joy Cole and I played in the Doubles event. Like any partnership, we sometimes disagree on moves. To avoid arguments, we utilize the “veto option”—a concept I created 20 years ago to improve partnership harmony.

Whoever is rolling acts as the “captain” and continues to roll until the team loses. Whenever a playing dispute arises that can’t be resolved, the captain makes the final decision for the team. But with the veto rule, the non-rolling player can still get his way.

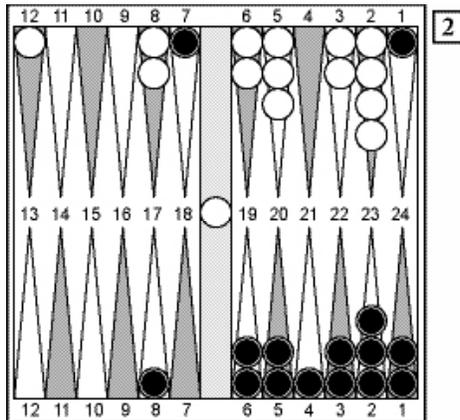
At the start of the match, both team members get one veto that can be used to override their captain’s decision. Surprisingly, this causes less arguments because if the captain’s play is not that critical, the non-roller tends to let it go and wait for a more opportune time to veto.

If and when a partner vetoes his captain’s play, the captain must accept the partner’s wishes without argument. The vetoing player loses his ability to veto again

until his partner also uses his veto. When that happens, both players are recharged with one additional veto.

Carol and I faced Minnesotans Yury Millman and Dave Minikus in our opening 7-point match. Carol began rolling and won the first game. In game two, we doubled and had a fair shot to win a four point gammon when:

7-point doubles match. CJC & Bill (Black) lead Yuri Millman & Dave Minikus (White), 1 to 0. **CJC ROLLS 6-6.**



Double 6 was certainly not our best roll. Carol liked 24/6, 18/12. I was gammon-hungry and wanted to go all out for the second blot with 24/6, 8/2. Carol stood her ground, but with an extra two points on the line, I vetoed her play giving us one outside straggler on the 18-point.

The play didn’t matter as our opponents answered with 4-4 and we were nearly the ones getting gammoned.

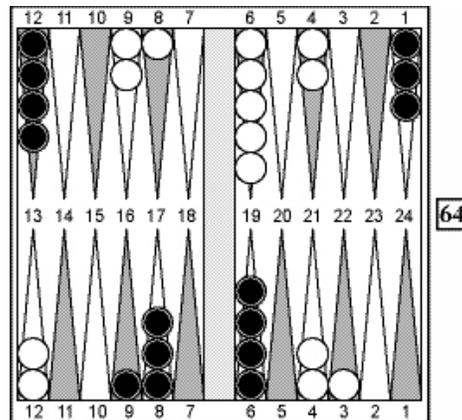
Following the loss, I took the captain’s chair and only a few moves into the game, we faced a choice between two different positional plays:

compared to today’s computer generation. Is it possible to analyze this? Back then, we had to believe what the gurus told us. Nowadays, we can simply run the position on “Gnu” or “Snowie.”

Kiumars had vision and could count, but he didn’t have computer software. How would he do in the world tournaments of today?—*Jaakko Salava, Helsinki, Finland*

In his 1995 book *Classic Backgammon Revisited*, *Jeremy Bagai*, using *Snowie*, reanalyzed positions in the works of *Oswald Jacoby & John Crawford* (The Backgammon Book), *Joe Dwek* (Backgammon For Profit), *Paul Magriel* (Backgammon), *Barclay Cooke* (Paradoxes and Probabilities), and *Bill Robertie* (Advanced Backgammon). *Jeremy’s book contains 120 significant errors from these books proving how far we have come in 30 years.*—*Ed. Δ*

7-point doubles match. CJC & Bill (Black) trail Yuri Millman & Dave Minikus (White), 1 to 2. **BILL ROLLS 4-1.**



I liked making the 5-point; Carol wanted to play 13/9, 24/23. I knew from playing *Snowie* that cleanly making the 5-point early in the game is almost always right. I really wanted the 5-point and told Carol, “If you want your play, you’ll have to veto me.”

Probably because I had previously used my veto, Carol exercised her option and we made her inferior blocking and splitting play. But again, it didn’t matter as we were smothered in this game and went on to lose 7-1.

AFTER THE MATCH, there wasn’t much to talk about. I tried to explain to Carol how making the 5-point is nearly always right in early game positions. Then I called over *Jeb Horton*, *Gregg Cattanach*, and *Neil Kazaross* for expert backup opinions. Of course, they all agreed with me. But Carol remained unconvinced, so I went upstairs and ran the position on *Snowie* 4.4.

Yikes! After 720 full rollouts (3-ply, precise), CJC’s blocking and splitting was 0.040 better than making the 5-point.

And to add insult to injury, another 720 game rollout showed my 6-6 gammon-hungry veto play 0.040 worse than Carol’s more flexible choice.

Maybe I should veto the “veto option”!
—*Bill Davis Δ* [Photo by Duane Jensen]



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Backgammon on Board VIII

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

BACKGAMMON PODCASTS?

With the advent of Podcasts, distribution of audio and video programs via the Internet, I was wondering about the option of Podcasting live from backgammon tournaments. It would be a great way of getting live updates.—*Bob Carpenter, Director, Suncoast Backgammon Assoc., Florida*

Any comments on this interesting idea?—*Ed.*

YESTERDAY’S BG EXPERTS RATED

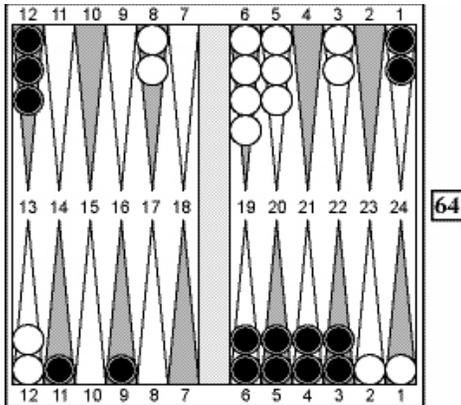
Enclosed is my renewal for another year of the POINT which I still enjoy very much.

I’ve been wondering how good the “experts” from the 1970s were (like *Joe Dwek*, *Kiumars Motakhasses*, *Gino Scalamandre*)

PROBLEM #313 ANALYZED

by Paul Weaver

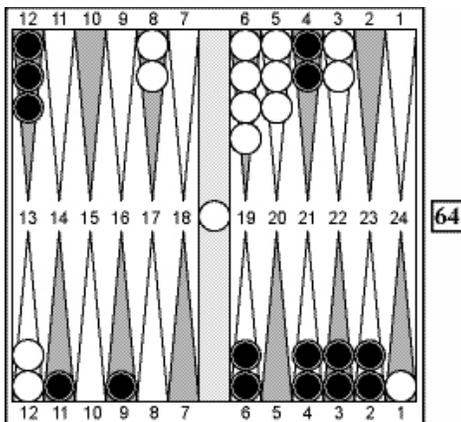
7-point match. White leads Black 4 to 3.
BLACK TO PLAY 3-3.



Double 3s is a great roll in this position. It should be played carefully and not quickly. I believe that it would be misplayed by many, if not most strong players.

The analysis begins with a review of six candidate plays (not necessarily the six best), two of which are diagrammed (313A and 313B). The analysis ends with a study of 313N, a variation of Problem #313. We will see how changing only one checker affects Black's decision.

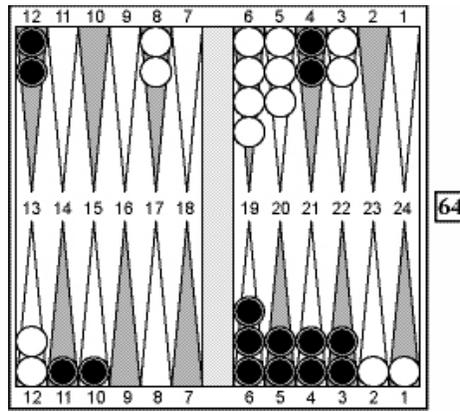
Play 313A 24/21(2), 5/2*(2)
Correct: Anchor and Switch



Anchor-and-switch is correct by a huge margin. By grabbing the 21-point anchor, Black nullifies the strong potential of White's builders on her 5-point and 6-point. This play puts White on the bar against a four point board and leaves only four shots (6-5, 5-4). Additionally, the 5-4 is duplicated.

If White is foolish enough to fan at such a critical juncture, Black should double and White has a close pass.

Play 313B 24/21(2), 13/10, 9/6
Close at DMP: Anchor and Build



Anchor-and-build, the second best play, is ideal for wimps. Instead of actually attacking as Black does in 313A, this play merely prepares for Black to attack.

Anchor-and-build leaves more shots (10 vs. 4) than anchor-and-switch (313A). By not hitting, anchor-and-build also gives White an assortment of other strong rolls (6-6, 6-5, 5-5, 4-4, and 4-3) plus the chance to anchor with an ace.

It is far better to strike now (313A) than get ready to strike later (313B).

UNDIAGRAMMED PLAYS

Play 313C: 24/21(2), 11/5. This play is roughly as strong as 313B and much weaker than 313A.

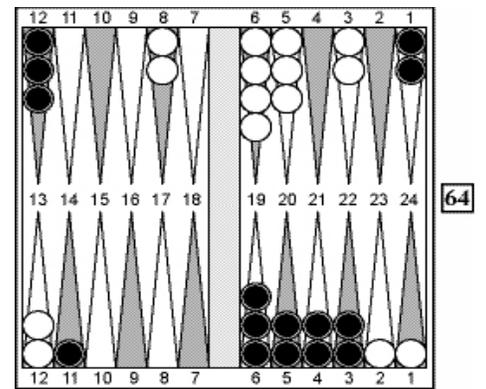
Play 313D: 13/7(2). Making the five-prime gives 15 costly shots and leaves Black stuck on the 24-point. He may soon find himself on the losing end of the prime-vs.-prime battle.

PLAY 313E: 24/18(2). Making the 18-point gives 12 shots, does nothing to improve Black's offense, and invites White to make her 4-point.

PLAY 313F: 5/2*(2), 4/1*(2). The double switch is correct at Gammon Go, but is a blunder here. Black will often need to hit loose on his 4-point or 5-point. His edge can dissipate quickly when White, with a threatening offense, hits a return shot from the roof.

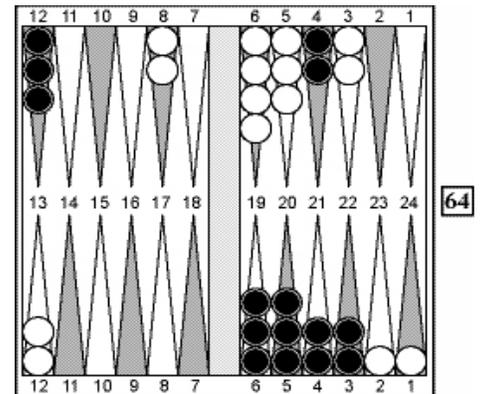
PROBLEM #313N

7-point match. White leads Black 4 to 3.
BLACK TO PLAY 3-3.



Proposed by Nack Ballard, this is a variation of Problem #313 that shows a situation in which anchor-and-build is correct. It is identical to 313, except that Black's checker on his 9-point is now a spare on his 6-point.

Play 313O 24/21(2), 11/5
Correct: Anchor and Build



Anchor-and-build is wrong by a huge margin in 313B, but correct by a huge margin here. Black now has two builders bearing on White's blots and he leaves no indirect shots. In this position, keeping the purer board trumps putting White on the bar.

I AM VERY HAPPY to acknowledge Nack Ballard for making numerous valuable suggestions that I have gladly incorporated. I have learned a lot from Nack, not only about how to handle the checkers and cube in specific positions, but also about his effective methodology of studying backgammon.

As many readers of CHICAGO POINT may realize, Nack and I have now been working for three years on a book series, Backgammon Openings. We have learned enough to quit predicting the publication date of our first volume, but we can say that the vast majority of the first volume and roughly half of the second volume have already been completed. We are hoping to finish volume one soon and thank you for your patience.—Paul Weaver

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**WINNER'S
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OCT./NOV. 2005

•**Kansas City Club Monthly** (Kansas City, MO; 3 Oct.)... OPEN (8): 1-James Worley, 2/3-Scott Schaper / Jim Collings.

•**11th Japan Open** (Tokyo, Japan; 7-10 Oct.)... JAPANESE CHAMPIONSHIP (16x8): 1-Kiyokazu Nishikawa, 2-Don Thompson Jr. (USA), 3/4-Masahiko Nasu / Yo-suke Takahashi. JAPAN OPEN (51): 1-Takumitsu Suzuki, 2-Tatsuya Tanaka, 3/4-Kazuya Nagai / Osamu Omodera; 1C/2C-Toshiyuki Fujita / Yoshito Takeuchi, 3C/4C-Daisuke Katagami / Yukio Nakamura. INTERMEDIATE (32x4): 1-Yo-ichiro Woomets, 2-Shinichi Minami, 3/4-To-ru Kaji / Tomiaki Nakajima. BEGINNERS (32x4): 1-Yuri Nakamura, 2-Kaoru Tokutake, 3/4-Kumi Naka / Satoshi Aoki. LADIES EVENT (32): 1-Motoko Murakami, 2-Michiko Matsumiya. DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Mariko & Ryuzo Suzuki, 2-Akiko Abe & Hironobu Yazawa. TEAM MATCH (16x4): 1-Tozen Dance (Tomoya Mitsuyoshi, Motoko Murakami, Yo-suke Takahashi, Tatsuya Tanaka). 1-POINT MATCH (64): 1-Tom Duggan (ENG). BLITZ (24x4): 1-Akiko Abe, 2-Hironobu Yazawa, 3/4-Bjarne Riboe (DEN) / Shunsuke Hasegawa. ROUND ROBIN (57): 1-Teruyuki Suzuki, 2-Yu-ki Takahashi, 3-Tom Duggan (ENG). OHELLO'S QUIZ (67): 1-Shinichiro Kaneko. WARM-UP (16): 1-Nozomu Kawazoe. JAPAN-DENMARK FRIENDLY MATCH (2): 1-Karsten Bredahl (DEN), 2-Daisuke Katagami (JPN).

•**Houston Fall Classic** (Houston, TX; 8 Oct.)... OPEN (16): 1-Gary Oleson, 2-Ira Hessel; 1C-Donna Smith, 2C-Gonzalo Molina.

•**Sandy Osborne Trophy** (Hinckley, England; 8-9 Oct.)... OPEN (30): 1-David Startin, 2-David Nathan, 3/4-Myke Wignall / Dave Motley; 1C-Dave Motely, 2C-Jeff Ellis; 1LC-Uldis Lapikens. KAMIKAZE (24): 1-Nicky Check, 2-Myke Wignall, 3/4-Stephen Cole / John Gilbertson. Friday Warm-up (8): 1-Michael Crane, 2-John Gilbertson. £50 JACKPOT (4): 1/2-John Slattery / Chris Ternel. POKER (7): 1-Tony Walters, 2-Rosey Bensley, 3-John Gilbertson. DOUBLES (4): 1-Prime Suspects, 2-Unlikely Lads.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 9 Oct.)... OPEN: 1-Dan Chicoine, 2-Howard Rosenthal, 3/4-Larry Yeager / Gil Evans; 1C-Roger Rondeau, 2C-Walter Trice.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 9 Oct.)... OPEN (8): 1-George Nader, 2-Danielle Bastarache.

•**1st European Doubles Championship**

(Enghien-les-Bains, FRA; 25-28 Oct.)... (32 teams): 1-Howard Markowitz & Emil Mortuk (USA), 2-Jorge Figueredo & José Salema (POR), 3/4-Jacques Elbilila & Eric Sfez (FRA) / Andreas Humke & Sven Rümcker (GER).

•**3rd Lucien Barrière Open** (Enghien-les-Bains, FRA; 27-30 Oct.)... MASTERS (81): 1-Jürgen Orlowski (GER), 2-João Borges (POR), 3/4-Olivier Decultot (FRA) / Marcus Reinhard (GER); 1C-Marc Santo-Roman (FRA), 2C-Nicolas Merant (FRA); 1LC-Sven Rümcker (GER). ADVANCED (29): 1-Kolya Mosoyan (ARM), 2-Sirazh Ghambaryan (ARM), 3/4-Manuel Avetissian (ARM) / Dominique Leboulenger (FRA); 1C-Jonas Nielsen (DEN), 2C-Minh Nguyen (FRA); 1LC-Myke Wignall (UK). INTERMEDIATE (20): 1-Simonetta Barone (UK), 2-Dan Grogan (USA), 3/4-Sam Chabansky (FRA) / Casimir Tsarev (FRA); 1C-Carla Doumard (FRA), 2C-Jérôme Pierrat (FRA); 1LC-Timothy Zimin (RUS). PRESIDENT'S TOURNAMENT/1-POINT BLITZ (128): 1-Hamza Nar (TUR), 2-Hamza Nar (TUR). GAMESGRID CHALLENGE (138): 1-Harald Johanni (GER), 2-Dan Grogan (USA). SUPERJACKPOT #1 (8): 1-Ray Fogelund (USA). #2 (8)-Howard Markowitz (USA). LADIES TOURNAMENT (16): 1-Maria Krancheva (BUL), 2-Cécile Wolf (FRA).

•**2005 Minnesota Open—ABT** (Prior Lake, MN; 28-30 Oct.)... OPEN (20): 1-Dana Nazarian (CA), 2-Neil Kazaross (IL); 1C-David Todd (MO); 1LC-Art Moore (CA). INTERMEDIATE (18): 1-Save Neidecker (IL), 2-Jesse Eaton (MN); 1C-Eliot Grant (MN); 1LC-Jeff Barrows (MN). NOVICE (4): 1-Susan DeWitt (MN), 2-Doug Rohde (MN). MYSTIC MASTERS JACKPOT (8): 1-Dana Nazarian (CA), 2-Fred Kalantari (MN). DOUBLES (8): 1-Glen de Guzman (MN) & David Wetzell (MN), 2-Yury Milman (MN) & Dave Minikus (MN). BLITZ (16): 1-Bob Schumacher (MN). MINI-MATCHES (32): 1-Art Moore (CA).

•**2nd Caribbean Open** (St. Maarten; 1-5 Nov.)... MASTERS (21): 1-Werner Hertel (GER), 2-Bernard Chetrit (FRA), 3/4-Rainier Witt (GER) / Danny Cohen (UK); 1C-Zoran Maric (BOS/FRA), 2C-Fabrizio Los Surdo (ITA); 1LC-Eric Guedj (FRA). INTERMEDIATES (12): 1-Michael Levi (FRA), 2-Domenico Torrielli (ITA), 3/4-Freddy Ayoub (USA) / Alberta da Pra (ITA); 1C-Ahmet Baydar (TUR), 2C-Antoine Nuko Bauk (CRO); 1LC-Maria Grigis (ITA). WARM-UP: 1-Bernard Chetrit (FRA), 2-Zoran Maric (BOS/FRA). ONE-POINT PRESIDENT'S TOURNEY: 1-Zoran Maric (BOS/FRA). SPERTI TROPHY: 1-Karl Baranyi (AUT), 2-Renato Sovani (ITA).

•**Kansas City Club Monthly** (Kansas City,

MO; 2 Nov.)... OPEN (12): 1-Eric Barr, 2/3-David Eaton / Al Morrone.

•**Springfield Series #1** (Springfield, IL; 5 Nov.)... OPEN (16): 1-Faddoul Khoury, 2-Scott Day; 1C-Greg Tomlin, 2C-Ed Zell; 1LC-Scott Johnston. Δ

AMALGAMATION

Last call for the 23rd Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney. The action begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Purple Hotel in Lincolnwood, Illinois on Friday, 11 November... According to **Peter Gzowski's** book *Game Of Our Lives*, hockey great one **Wayne Gretzky** (CA) was just one backgammon game away from playing in Winnipeg instead of Edmonton. Gzowski wrote that Gretzky was sold by the Indianapolis Racers to Edmonton after Racers owner **Nelson Skalbania** lost a backgammon game to Oilers owner **Peter Pocklington**. Had Skalbania won, he would have sold Gretzky to the Jets... Belated congratulations To Minnesota Open champ **Dana and Amanda Nazarian** who were married in Porto Alegre, Brazil 16 September. The couple will live in Sunnyvale, CA... "Way to go" **Paul Magriel** (NV) for knocking poker brat **Phil Hellmuth** out of the World Series of Poker. And congrats to **Phil Laak** (CA) who recently won \$50,000 in the GSN Unabombers vs. **James Woods** gang poker tourney... October Get Well department: **Paul Franks** (NV) had quintuple bypass surgery to correct a major blockage in his heart on 25 October in Chicago. **Roger Hickman** (IL) who was hospitalized due to his diabetes, and **Lucky Nelson** (IL) was hospitalized for a kidney stone attack on . All three men are currently recuperating... Backgammon websites that have recently been purchased by online BG/Poker servers: backgammoncentral.com, gammon.com, back-gammon.com, gammoned.com, backgammon.org. The won't get chicagopoint.com!... Pokerzone televised the first game from the Monte Carlo tournament over in England. There is a chance that a US cable network will pick up the series... If you own Snowie, definitely download the free 4.4 patch from www.bgsnowie.com. Snowie beta-tester **Gregg Cattanach** (GA) says it fixes a lot of crash issues found in earlier versions... The Chicago Journal had a 12 October front page article on the Chicago Greek backgammon scene titled "Searching For Tavli"... Best wishes to **Larry Buckingham** (OH) who takes over the Miami Valley Club directorial duties... Finally, some words of wisdom from **Jean Cocteau**: We must believe in luck. For how else can we explain the success of those we don't like?... Happy Holidays from CHICAGO POINT. Δ



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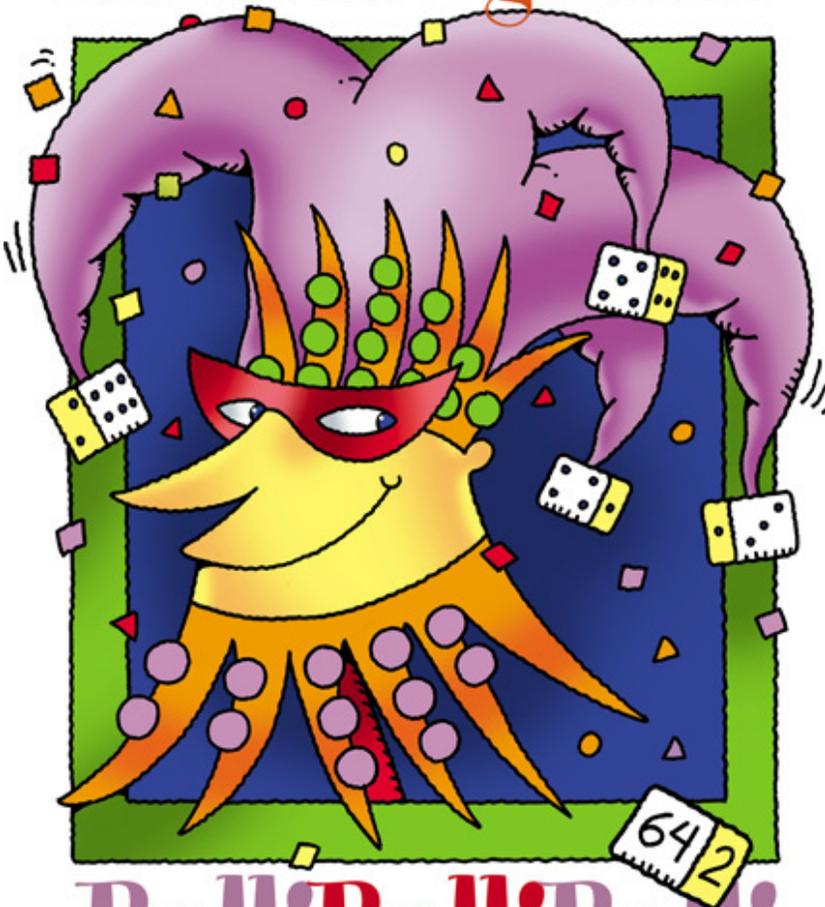
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