

### Modern Openings

by Kit Woolsey

With the advent of Snowie and other computer programs, our view of the best opening rolls has gone through changes. Presently, this is what I believe to be an accurate synopsis of the 15 possible opening rolls:

**2-1:** The slotting play 13/11, 6/5 and the splitting play 24/23, 13/11, the two most common plays, seem to be about equal. Nothing else is a serious contender.

**3-1:** 8/5, 6/5 is obviously the only play.

**4-1:** The splitting play 24/23, 13/9 has come out clearly superior to the slotting play 13/9, 6/5. Probably the reason is that with the builder on the 9 point there are so many good pointing numbers next turn anyway that you don't need the 5 point slotted.

**5-1:** The splitting play 24/23, 13/8 has come out a bit better than the slotting play 13/8, 6/5. A third less common alternative, 24/18,

came out clearly worse.

**6-1:** The obvious 13/7, 8/7 is correct. Paul Magriel's experiment of 13/7, 6/5 is awful.

**3-2:** The splitting play 24/21, 13/11 came out a bit better than building with 13/10, 13/11.

**4-2:** 8/4, 6/4 of course.

**5-2:** The normal play for years has been 13/11, 13/8. However the newer splitting play, 24/22, 13/8, (shunned because of the crushing 5-5 threat) has come out a bit better. The slotting play of 13/8, 6/4 (which used to be my choice) did not survive the rollouts -- it was clearly inferior.

**6-2:** The splitting play of 24/18, 13/11 comes out fairly clearly superior. Running with 24/16 is 2nd, but the run isn't far enough. Slotting with 13/5 (a common choice several years ago) was definitely in third place.

**4-3:** The building play of 13/10, 13/9 and the common splitting play of 24/20, 13/10 were just about tied. The alternative split of 24/21, 13/9 was only a little behind.

**5-3:** The simple 8/3, 6/3 is clearly best. The once common 13/10, 13/8 has been found vastly inferior.

**6-3:** The splitting 24/18, 13/10 comes out best, but the running play of 24/15 is not too far behind.

**5-4:** Splitting with 24/20, 13/8 and building

with 13/9, 13/8 come out quite close (that builder on the 9 point is powerful), with the split generally a tiny bit better. 24/15 is weaker still.

**6-4:** Both running with 24/14 and splitting with 24/18, 13/9 are about equal. However the once laughed at 8/2, 6/2 has reared its head as a serious contender and comes out about equal with the other choices—nice play to try if you get familiar with it, since your opponent probably won't be.

**6-5:** The simple 24/13 is clearly better than any other possibilities.—Kit Woolsey Δ

### UPCOMING AREA EVENTS Information: 773/583-6464

Aug. 6	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, PurpleHotel, 4500 W. Touhy Avenue, Lincolnwood, IL
Aug. 20	Bloomington-Normal Summer Sizzler, Ned Kelly's Steak House, 1603 Morrisey Drive, Bloomington, IL
Oct. 6-8	Illinois State Championships, Holiday Inn City-Centre, Peoria, IL
Oct. 15	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, PurpleHotel, 4500 W. Touhy Avenue, Lincolnwood, IL
Nov. 10	BPC Fall Trophy Tourney, Purple Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy Avenue, Lincolnwood, IL



### CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2006 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 JULY

David Rockwell 16.40	Roger Hickman 6.64	Amy Trudeau 3.12	Adrian Rios 1.12
Tak Morioka 16.06	Bob Steen 6.44	Willis Elias 2.92	Ken Tibbs 1.12
Herb Roman 15.44	Albert Yakobashvili 6.36	Ken Bond 2.88	Marcia Karen 1.08
Phil Simborg 12.28	Bill Keefe 5.46	Glenn Martells 2.76	Mike Sutton 0.88
Steve Klesker 12.12	Michael Ginat 5.20	Richard Stawowy 2.64	Tom Harrison 0.76
Gary Kay 10.32	Alice Kay 4.96	Russ Lyutik 2.16	Dave Cramer 0.72
Bob Zavoral 8.96	Wayne Wiest 4.56	Vlad Genkin 2.16	Martha Ghio 0.72
Tim Mabee 8.76	Mark Murray 4.48	Larry Goldstein 2.00	Ryan Anderson 0.64
Bill Davis 8.12	Boris Dekhtyar 4.16	Elaine Kehm 1.80	Ron Washington 0.52
Phyllis Smolinski 7.60	Arline Levy 3.92	Efim Leiberman 1.60	Doug Rodgers 0.48
Eric Johnson 7.40	Jacob Moreno 3.76	Nora Luna Righter 1.56	Judy Zager 0.48
Oleg Raygorodsky 7.36	Carter Mattig 3.56	Kwong Chan 1.52	Tony Santori 0.48
Linda Rockwell 7.28	Peter Kalba 3.48	Jerry Brooks 1.48	Elaine Andrews 0.48
Bill Bartholomay 7.24	Sargon Benjamin 3.48	Steve Mellen 1.44	Tony Garcia 0.48
Mike Wolock 6.84	Les Moshinsky 3.44	Dave Settles 1.40	Kamau Jibri 0.24
Georgina Flanagan 6.76	Rory Pascar 3.28	Ken Tyszko 1.20	Michael Peters 0.16
Paul Baraz 6.72	Alex Owen 3.16	Felix Yen 1.20	

JACOB MORENO won points in every July event collecting 3.76 points and top monthly honors. Bob Zavoral (2.88) and Mike Wolock (2.44) finished second and third respectively.



### ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6-7 p.m. at The Purple Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy Avenue, Lincolnwood. 847/677-1234.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 noon at The Purple Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy Avenue, Lincolnwood. 847/677-1234.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Ned Kelly's Steak House, 1603-A Morrisey Drive, Bloomington. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. at Capitol Teletrack, 1766 W. Wabash Ave., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

WINNETKA BG 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).