

TOO GOOD TO DOUBLE, BUT STILL A TAKE!

By Phil Simborg

While playing in a match at the Bar Point Club, I came across a position that I thought might be too good to double, but at the same time, I thought it might still be a take, given the score. I was leading 4-0 in a match to 7. When I put the position in Snowie, I found out that it was double/drop. I started playing around with the checkers to find out if I could create a position that was no double/take, and I couldn't do it.

So I sent this conundrum out as a challenge to my "backgammon friends" list and got many responses from people telling me not to send them things like this that will keep them awake at night. But, as I knew in advance, there are two people I can always count on to come up with "the right answer"—Gregg Cattanach and Jake Jacobs. (It's no coincidence that they are both world-class players.)

Gregg pointed out that part of the problem is that Snowie will never say "too good to double" and "take." It just doesn't

know how to do it. Here is what Gregg had to say:

"I don't have a position for you, but just be aware that Snowie's text description of the cube action never says 'Too good, take' (though it should). You'll only see 'No double/take.' What you want is the 'No double' equity to be above 1.000, and it still says take."

Jake went a step further, explaining the same thing about Snowie, but he also went on to give me the sample position I had been looking for and some insights into Match Equity calculations:

"From the attached you get to see the rare (but not unique to this position) phenomenon of Snowie's advice not matching its numbers. Since the equity from not cubing (1.002) is greater than the equity from double/drop it is by definition 'too good,' even if Snowie chooses not to say so.

"Also at issue is Snowie's high equity for the trailer at 7-away, 2-away: 16.8%. Kit, by contrast, makes it 15%. If the equity were lower, many related positions would qualify."—Phil Simborg Δ

Check out Phil's new gammon website: www.simborgbackgammonlessons.com. It's updated daily.

"GO-POTS" REPLACE BLITZ TOURNEY AT CSI

CSI: BACKGAMMON

GO-POTS will be introduced at next year's Central States Invitational (March 5-7 at the Wyndham Lisle). Go-Pots are intriguing Jackpots that offer the player four entry fee levels: \$20, \$50, \$100, and \$300. All matches are played to 5-points guaranteeing fast-paced action.

The concept is simple: Win a \$20, \$50, or \$100 4-player Go-Pot and continue to a higher level or stop and cash out. Player equity is always increased by going forward.

For example, if you win a \$20 Go-Pot, you can cash out for \$65 (81% return); but if you continue on, you receive \$20 cash up front and a \$50 entry credit into a future \$50, \$100, or \$300 Go-Pot. (You are not required to play the Go-Pots in order.)

Win a \$50 Go-Pot and get paid \$170 (85% return), or take \$80 cash and a \$100 entry credit.

Win a \$100 Go-Pot and you can cash out for \$360 (90% return), or be paid \$80 and receive a \$300 entry into the top level Go-Pot.

Players winning \$300 Go-Pots receive \$1140 (95% return) and a "CSI: Backgammon" Cap.

Tip: If you might play again, take the coupon because you can always exchange it for cash later.

Go-Pot!

Cash Coupon (non-transferable)

Name: _____

Go-Pot you won:	\$ 20	\$ 50	\$ 100
Paid to you in cash:	\$ 20	\$ 80	\$ 80
Coupon cash value:	\$ 45	\$ 90	\$ 280
Go-Pot entry credit:	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 300

I want the cash value _____ I want the entry credit _____

May be exchanged for cash or entry into any Go-Pot.
No cash value after March 7, 2010. Go-Pot # _____



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2009 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 10 NOV.

David Rockwell 30.92	Mike Wolock 9.32	Bill Keefe 3.80	Neil Kazaross 1.44
Rory Pascar 30.62	Oleg Raygorodsky 8.56	Dan Cox 3.36	Paul Baraz 1.16
Herb Roman 26.08	Ken Bond 8.24	Alexander Medvedev 3.20	Eric Johnson 1.08
Lucky Nelson 24.92	Mike Minkovski 7.88	Jacob Moreno 3.12	Sonja Peacock 0.88
Howard Markowitz 19.76	Christopher Shanava 7.52	Richard Stawowy 3.00	Henry Gray 0.88
Bob Steen 17.16	Albert Yakobashvili 7.36	Richard Pearlman 2.68	Roz Ferris 0.80
Bill Davis 15.60	Scott Casty 7.12	Steve Hines 2.48	Dustin Lindgren 0.80
Matt Cohn-Geier 14.84	Peter Kalba 6.96	Georgina Flanagan 2.40	Roy Cohen 0.68
Carter Mattig 13.74	Jerry Brooks 6.72	Mark Ostrovsky 2.36	Mark Murray 0.64
Steve Klesker 12.68	Dave Settles 6.60	John Jennings 2.24	Leslie Lockett 0.64
Wayne Wiest 11.20	Roger Hickman 6.52	Dan Weymouth 2.16	Elaine Kehm 0.64
Phil Simborg 11.04	Tim Mabee 6.00	Dajuan Meekins 2.00	Joe Rafson 0.64
Larry Goldstein 10.84	Adrian Rios 5.60	Royal Robinson 1.92	Bob Pondelicek 0.60
Alice Kay 10.36	Michael Ginat 5.52	Rob Maier 1.68	Lindsay Mattig 0.56
Tak Morioka 10.08	Alex Owen 5.00	Wendy Kaplan 1.68	Barry Miller 0.56
Nora Luna Righter 10.00	Gary Kay 5.00	Jeff Fischer 1.64	Rodney Gonzalez 0.48
Bill Bartholomay 9.52	Mike Pufpaf 4.48	Alex Aleyev 1.52	Jolie Rubin 0.32
Mike Sutton 9.32	David Rubin 4.08	Linda Rockwell 1.52	

DAVID ROCKWELL zoomed into first place collecting 6.48 October points to win top honors. Bill Davis (4.04) and Rory Pascar (3.68) placed second and third respectively.