## Caesars Tahoe Backgammon Tournament

Gorgeous Lake Tahoe was the setting for NNBA hosted Caesars Tahoe Backgammon Tournament where over 330 players competed for prizes and trophies.
Six HBC players, Wendy Kaplan, Mary Ann Meese, Butch Meese, David Smith,
Chuck Stimming and Don Woods were in attendance with Wendy cashing in the Open Division.

Open Division (119)
Flight I
1st Drew Giovanis
2nd Howard Markowitz
3/4 Eliot Bean
3/4 Nathan Jones
5/8 Wendy Kaplan
5/8 Bill Barron
5/8 Peter Gala
5/8 Max Shapiro
Flight II
1st Vladimir Dobrich
2nd Doug Mayfield
3/4 Aram Koulyan
3/4 Hossein Zafaranian
Flight III
1st Yamin Yamin
2nd Ali Zaltash
3/4 Mike Senkiewicz
3/4 Doug Wilson
Colossus (45)
1st Mike Corbett
2nd Mike Senkiewicz
3/4 Joe Sylvester
3/4 Joe Russell
Colossus OverFlow (8)
1st Jim Pasko
2nd Stuart Dunkin

Doubles I (32)
1st Art Benjamin/Trish Hegland 2nd Hal Heinrich/Bill Scollard 3/4 Jona Alexander/Bob Glass
3/4 Ami Tennenbaum/Harriet Klein

## Intermediate Division (164)

 Flight I1st George Foster
2nd Duane Eshima
3/4 Thomas Hanlon
3/4 Mike Snow
5/8 Duane Boeck
5/8 Jonathan Bennetts
5/8 Richard Miles
5/8 Kathy Rudnick
Flight II
1st John Ritchie
2nd Peter Zacks
3/4 Wanda Mortuk
3/4 Richard Packard
Flight III
1st Mike Colgan
2nd Kevin McDonough
3/4 Dante Bains
3/4 Peter Panagotacos
Kickoff (512)
1st Yamin Yamin
2nd Hal Heinrich
3/4 Bill Robertie
3/4 Howard Robinson
Open Jackpot \#2 (16)
1st Gary Kay
2nd Tommy Thomson
3/4 Ismet Demirel
3/4 Bob Glass
Doubles II (16)
1st Azzam Masarani/Joe Harris
2nd Tom Leslie/Otis Chenault
Doubles III (8)

Novice Division (48)
Flight I
1st Sherry Lee
2nd Dan Wesley
3/4 Dennis Cupp
3/4 Mark Zak
Flight II
1st Nick Babakanian
2nd Marjorie Gibbs
3/4 Mansour Mashhadian
3/4 Carol Leatherman
Flight III
1st Alkis Pappas
2nd Barbara Liston
Novice Jackpot \#1 (16)
1st Barbara Fogerland
2nd Corlan Chinn
Novice Jackpot \#2 (8)
1st Diane Hoag
Open Jackpot \#1 (32)
1st Doug Mayfield
2nd Alan Steffen
3/4 Jim Gibbs
3/4 Bill Robertie
Interm. Jackpot (64)
1st Al Demirjian
2nd Kevin McDonough
3/4 Azzam Masarani
3/4 Jim Wark


## New Backgammon Publications

In the last month two new backgammon publications have surfaced. The first, LeadingEdge Backgammon, is offered by Roy Friedman. A one-year subscription (six issues) is $\$ 30$ in the USA and Canada, and US $\$ 45$ in other countries. Order from Roy Friedman, 18 Potter Pond, Lexington, MA 02173. The second, Inside Backgammon, is offered by Kent Goulding and Bill Robertie. It will be published six times a year beginning with Volume I, Number I, on January 1, 1991. A one-year subscription by first-class mail is $\$ 40$ in the US, US $\$ 45$ for surface overseas and US $\$ 60$ overseas air mail. Order from Inside Backgammon, P. O. Box 294, Arlington, MA 02174.

| HBC Fall One-Day Tournament |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Open(15) | 1st Butch Meese <br> 2nd Don Woods <br> 2nd Dave Cardwell (Atlanta) | Intermediate (6) | 1st Monte Bowman <br> 2nd Beverly Klene (Chicago) |

HBC's monthly newsletter for active HBC members and subscribers.

| Weekly Results | Oct 4th | Oct 11th | Oct 18th | Oct 25th |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Open 1st | Mary Ann Meese | Larry Strommen | Don Woods | Larry Strommen |
| 2nd | Wendy Kaplan | Don Woods | Cyrus Mobed | Ken Bruck |
| 2nd | Woody Woodworth | Dave Smith | Chuck Stimming |  |
|      <br> Weekly Results Nov 1st Nov 8th Nov 15th Nov 29th <br> Open 1st Jeff Baker Wendy Kaplan Ken Bruck Don Woods <br> 2nd Wendy Kaplan Woody Woodworth Teri Ivey Long Monte Bowman <br> 2nd Don Woods Kevin McLeaster Wendy Kaplan David Smith |  |  |  |  |

Hoosier Pips: Thanks to the flu bug that bit in November, this month's newsletter is a double issue.... R.I.P. Sincere condolences to Chuck Stimming and his family on the death of his wife November 11th.... We hope Lincoln Bedell will soon be back in good health after a severe fractured left arm and lengthy bout with laryngitis.... Yamin Yamin has been winning events all over the country this year but most recently won his biggest prize of the year - the heart of Darcy Brady; they were married on November 23rd, Congrats.... The lone visitor to HBC for October was Bob Zavoral (Chicago).... HBC welcomes new player Judy McHale.... Congratulations and best wishes to Quint and Tippi McTyeire (Louisville) on their October 13th wedding.... Congratulations to Larry Strommen who won the Cavendish North Sunday Tournament in Michigan, November 11th.... Louisville Backgammon Club invites you to the 1st Annual D. I. Long Memorial/Invitational Backgammon Tournament, Saturday, January 19th at Holiday Inn, Rivermont in Louisville - call Scott Arche (502) 429-0153 for information....Condolences to our friend Dave Cardwell on the death of his father November 14th.

1990 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings as of November 30, 1990

| 1) | Don Woods | 15.77 | Bob Goodlett | 1.08 | Bev Nelson | 0.20 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $2)$ | Butch Meese | 15.20 | Howard Givel | 1.04 | Christoper White | 0.20 |
| 3) | Chuck Stimming | 15.14 | Pete Ryder | 1.00 | Amber Wiesler | 0.20 |
| 4) | Ken Bruck | 14.16 | Bill Hodes | 1.00 | Mark Mikolon | 0.20 |
| 5) | Wendy Kaplan | 13.16 | Chuck Winters | 0.92 | Harold Branch | 0.16 |
| 6) | Larry Strommen | 11.30 | Bill Gheen | 0.84 | Judy McHale | 0.16 |
| $7)$ | Woody Woodworth | 10.41 | John Brussel | 0.80 | Lenny Loder | 0.16 |
| $8)$ | Mary Ann Meese | 10.26 | Ralph Roberts | 0.72 | Ben Elliott | 0.16 |
| 9) | David Smith | 9.36 | Christine Riha | 0.72 | Marc Gray | 0.16 |
| 10) | John Cinatl | 7.87 | Teri Ivey Long | 0.70 | Dave Fey | 0.16 |
|  | Cyrus Mobed | 7.56 | Ellis Bray | 0.64 | Doug Johnson | 0.16 |
|  | Gabe Stiasny | 5.97 | Linc Bedell | 0.60 | Tom Hendryx | 0.12 |
|  | Kevin McLeaster | 5.94 | Scott Roberts | 0.60 | Don Watkins | 0.12 |
|  | Frank Scott | 5.88 | Rick Bieniak | 0.60 | Gloria White | 0.10 |
|  | Mick Dobratz | 5.45 | Carolyn Doyle | 0.60 | John Stryker | 0.08 |
|  | Jeff Baker | 4.64 | Preston Breunig | 0.60 | Larry Lesniak | 0.08 |
|  | Kay Beck | 4.22 | Bill Julian | 0.56 | Greg Tomlin | 0.08 |
|  | Sharon Lennon | 4.06 | Larry Buckingham | 0.56 | John O'Hagan | 0.08 |
|  | Brian Nelson | 3.98 | Bob Burkhalter | 0.48 | Ed King | 0.08 |
|  | Jim Curtis | 3.68 | Jay Ward | 0.42 | Mark King | 0.08 |
|  | Dave Cardwell | 3.38 | Margaret Roberts | 0.40 | Jack Esselman | 0.08 |
|  | Philip Degen | 2.77 | Beverly Klene | 0.40 | Jeane Eggenberger | 0.08 |
|  | June Werner | 2.72 | Jay Mershon | 0.40 | Kevin Garrison | 0.06 |
|  | Glenn Theobald | 2.65 | Bob Zavoral | 0.36 | Ismet Demirel | 0.04 |
|  | Peg Simsic | 2.35 | Quint McTyiere | 0.32 | Jim Smyth | 0.04 |
|  | Monte Bowman | 2.30 | Doug Roberts | 0.32 | Eric George | 0.04 |
|  | Cyndi White | 1.99 | Lara Simsic | 0.30 | Scott Arche | 0.04 |
|  | Fred Brooks | 1.73 | Cassie Curtis | 0.28 | Jim Knauer | 0.04 |
|  | Gino Agresti | 1.50 | Jamie Curtis | 0.28 | George Crawford | 0.04 |
|  | Scott Richardson | 1.42 | Dennis Schulte | 0.28 | Peter Kalba | 0.04 |
|  | Terry Kuchenbrod | 1.30 | Stu Whitcomb | 0.26 | Lou Ramer | 0.02 |
|  | Marty Lindenmayer | 1.28 | Randall Witt | 0.24 |  |  |
|  | Jim Gatesman | 1.25 | Rick Reahard | 0.24 |  |  |

Wendy Kaplan Opens THE TRADING LIBRARY - Offers free BG Lessons.
Wendy Kaplan opened THE TRADING LIBRARY on November 5th. It deals in used books, CDs, games and puzzles. Wendy says "There is a demand for used backgammon sets and out-of-print backgammon publications". Those items can be traded for store credit. There is a larger demand for used CDs (compact discs) which can be traded for store credit. Wendy has volunteered her time to teach beginning backgammon lesson as well as any specific aspect of the game (ie. backgames, holding games, etc). The store is located at 1912 Broad Ripple Avenue (62nd Street) and can be reached at (317) 255-5852.

## Reno Masters Tournament

 Joe Sylvester vs Ed O ${ }^{\circ}$ Laughlin 21 Point MatchThe HBC Newsletter presents the remaining games of a match from the Masters Event at the Reno Tournament between Joe Sylvester and Ed O'Laughlin.
Instructions: You will need a backgammon board to follow along. The board is numbered 1 to 24 with all points numbered based on the view of the player on roll. The home portion of the board is numbered 1-6. Bearing off is denoted as moving to the 0 'zero' point. Each player will always be moving from a higher to lower point with only the point(s) moved to used. To make it easier to follow, the larger number rolled is denoted first. In some situations where the smaller number rolled is forced, it will be presented first. An example: being on the BAR with a roll of 52 with the 5 -point made and the 2-point open.
Abbreviations used are CB - Closed Board, EF - Entry Failure, NP - No Play Possible, x - opponents piece was hit, $5^{2}$ - superscribe denotes 2 or more pieces moving to the same point; this example has 2 pieces moving to the 5 point.

In the doubling positions, Joe is the dark checkers and Ed the light checkers and are shown from Joe's side of the board. Study the doubling positions first before going through the games.

Game 7 Move 10 Black Dbls to 2 ?


## SEASGIS GREETINGS



Game 8 Move 8 Black Redbls to 47


Game 9 Move 6 White Dbls to 2?


Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)

JAN 13th
Jan 19th
Jan 30-Feb3
FEB 10th
JAN 10th
Mar 22-24
Apr 19-21
THURSDAYS $\quad$ 7:00 PM at Grisanti's - Northside of Castleton Square on 86th St

HBC Hotline
(502) 429-0153
(702) 826-1984

HBC Hotline
HBC Hotline
(312) 338-6380

| Game 7 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Joe Sylvester - 2/21 |  |  | Ed O'Laughlin - 14/21 |  |
|  | Roll | Play | Roll | Play |
| 1) | -- | -- - | 42 | $4^{2}$ |
| 2) | 43 | 910 | 31 | $5^{2}$ |
| 3) | 31 | $5^{2}$ | 41 | 8 |
| 4) | 55 | $543^{2}$ | 31 | 21 x 23 |
| 5) | 51 | 241 | 31 | 9 |
| 6) | 32 | $4 \mathrm{x}-1$ | 62 | 237 |
| 7) | 63 | 18x 10 | 66 | EF |
| 8) | 64 | 186 | 51 | EF |
| 9) | 32 | 10 16x | 61 | EF |
| 10) |  | dbl to 2 ? |  | pass |


| Game 9 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Joe Sylvester - 7/21 |  |  | Ed O'Laughlin - 14/21 |  |
|  | Roll | Play | Roll | Play |
| 1) | -- | -- - | 31 | $5^{2}$ |
| 2) | 54 | 89 | 65 | 13 |
| 3) | 21 | $7^{2}$ | 55 | $3^{2}$ |
| 4) | 44 | $4^{2} 2^{2}$ | 53 | 810 |
| 5) | 62 | 5 | 44 | $20 \mathrm{x}-164^{2}$ |
| 6) |  | 243 |  | dbl to 2? |

Game 8

| Joe Sylvester - 3/21 |  |  | Ed O'Laughlin - 14/21 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Roll | Play | Roll | Play |
| 1) | -- | -- - | 31 | $5^{2}$ |
| 2) | 51 | 85 | 52 | 84 |
| 3) | 41 | 95 | 31 | 4 |
| 4) | 63 | $3^{2}$ | 61 | $7^{2}$ |
| 5) | 64 | 74 |  | dbl to 2? |
| 6) |  | take | 64 | $18 \mathrm{x}-14$ |
| 7) | 33 | $221 \mathrm{x} 5^{2}$ | 65 | EF |
| 8) |  | dbl to 4? |  | take |
| 9) | 41 | 123 | 43 | 215 |
| 10) | 42 | 4 x 11 x | 41 | 21x EF |
| 11) | 55 | EF | 31 | EF |
| 12) | 31 | 224 x | 65 | EF |
| 13) | 41 | 722 | 31 | EF |
| 14) | 54 | 4 | 53 | EF |
| 15) | 66 | 416 | 41 | EF |
| 16) | 51 | 1715 | 65 | EF |
| 17) | 42 | 1122 | 63 | EF |
| 18) | 32 | 815 | 21 | 23 EF |
| 19) | 65 | $2 \mathrm{x}^{2}$ | -- | CB |
| 20) | 33 | $3^{2} 2^{2}$ | 43 | EF |
| 21) | 33 | $1^{3} \mathrm{NP}$ | 11 | EF |
| 22) | 32 | 10 | 32 | EF |
| 23) | 53 | 14 | 61 | 19 EF |
| 24) | 52 | 3 | 54 | 218 |
| 25) | 65 | 3 | 61 | 156 |
| 26) | 65 | $0^{2}$ | 32 | 106 |
| 27) | 31 | $0^{2}$ | 54 | $6^{\mathrm{F} 15}$ |
| 28) | 21 | $0^{2}$ | 52 | 6 |
| 29) | 21 | $0^{2}$ | 22 | 6175 |
| 30) | 31 | $0^{2}$ | 22 | 9 |
| 31) | 42 | $0^{2}$ | 41 | 53 |
| 32) | 32 | game |  |  |


| Joe Sylvester - 7/21 |  |  | Ed O'Laughlin - 15/21 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Roll | Play | Roll | Play |
| 1) | -- | -- - | 53 | $3^{2}$ |
| 2) | 32 | 1011 | 33 | $21^{2} 5^{2}$ |
| 3) | 44 | $9^{3} 6$ | 64 | 79 |
| 4) | 51 | 18x | 51 | 24 1x |
| 5) | 51 | 24x 1x | 54 | 2021 |
| 6) | 21 | 16x 5x | 55 | $20 \mathrm{x}^{2} 1 \mathrm{x} 15$ |
| 7) | 31 | 24x EF | 32 | 20 |
| 8) | 42 | 219 | 32 | 1813 |
| 9) | 41 | 16 | 42 | 1411 |
| 10) | 61 | 323 | 22 | 811 |
| 11) | 22 | $7^{3} 1$ | 51 | 812 |
| 12) | 53 | 18 13x | 11 | EF |
| 13) | 54 | 1312 | 21 | 2310 |
| 14) | 53 | $3^{2}$ | 43 | 420 |
| 15) |  | dbl to 2? |  | take |
| 16) | 53 | 73 | 53 | 158 |
| 17) | 66 | $7^{2} 2^{2}$ | 63 | 412 |
| 18) | 32 | $1{ }^{\text {F6 }}$ | 53 | 75 |
| 19) | 54 | 13 | 63 | $2^{2}$ |
| 20) | 52 | 21 | 51 | $15^{\text {F21 }}$ |
| 21) | 11 | $6^{4}$ | 54 | 6 |
| 22) | 31 | $0^{2}$ | 41 | 35 |
| 23) | 63 | $0^{2}$ | 62 | 12 |
| 24) | 31 | 30 | 43 | 5 |
| 25) | 62 | 04 x | 31 | EF |
| 26) | 31 | $0^{\text {F4 }}$ | 43 | 2117 |
| 27) | 62 | $0^{2}$ | 21 | 18 |
| 28) | 43 | $0^{2}$ | 33 | 6 |
| 29) | 33 | gammon |  |  |


| Game 11 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Joe Sylvester - 11/21 |  |  | Ed O'Laughlin - 15/21 |  |
|  | Roll | Play | Roll | Play |
| 1) | -- |  | 32 | 2111 |
| 2) | 61 | $7^{2}$ | 52 | 1622 |
| 3) | 53 | $3 \mathrm{x}^{2}$ | 43 | 2113 |
| 4) | 21 | 4 x 23 | 44 | $21 \mathrm{x}-17 \mathrm{x} \quad 2 \mathrm{x}^{2}$ |
| 5) | 32 | 22 EF |  | dbl to 2 ? |
| 6) |  | take | 65 | 73 x |
| 7) | 51 | 2420 | 41 | 35 x |
| 8) | 42 | 21 EF | 31 | $5^{\mathrm{F8}} 10$ |
| 9) | 31 | $21^{\mathrm{F}} \mathrm{Bar}$ | 54 | $8^{\mathrm{F} 17}$ |
| 10) | 22 | $95^{2}$ | 53 | 810 |
| 11) | 21 | 10 | 63 | $7^{2}$ |
| 12) | 62 | $15 \times 8$ | 32 | 23 10x |
| 13) | 66 | EF | 52 | 16x |
| 14) | 43 | 21 EF | 11 | $7^{\mathrm{Fl0}} 15$ |
| 15) | 43 | 21 10x | 52 | 18 |
| 16) | 22 | 7 x 8 | 53 | EF |
| 17) | 64 | 11 | 64 | 15 |
| 18) | 63 | 24 | 54 | 6 |
| 19) | 33 | $2^{\text {F11 }} 5$ | 41 | $3^{\text {F8 }}$ |
| 20) | 41 | 24 | 51 | 25 |
| 21) | 52 | 14 | 41 | $4{ }^{2}$ |
| 22) | 53 | EF | 63 | 24 |
| 23) | 55 | EF | 21 | $4^{\text {F7 }}$ |
| 24) | 63 | EF | 42 | 24 |
| 25) | 51 | $19^{\text {F Bar }}$ | 53 | 02 |
| 26) | 63 | 1311 | 33 | $0^{3} \mathrm{NP}$ |
| 27) | 53 | 610 | 53 | 0 NP |
| 28) | 33 | $1^{\text {F10 }} 3$ | 41 | 03 |
| 29) | 62 | 1822 x | 64 | EF |
| 30) |  | dbl to 4 ? |  | take |
| 31) | 54 | 9 | 61 | $24 \mathrm{x}-18$ |
| 32) | 51 | 208 | 31 | $17 \mathrm{x}-14$ |
| 33) | 22 | EF | 61 | 7 |
| 34) | 63 | 2214 | 32 | 40 |
| 35) | 65 | 11 | 22 | $20^{3}$ |
| 36) | 54 | 610 | 65 | $0^{2}$ |
| 37) | 52 | 15 | 32 | $0^{2}$ |
| 38) | 21 | gammon |  |  |
|  |  | JS - 13 |  | $\text { EO - } 21$ <br> Match |

## 1991 HBC Tournament Schedule

HBC has been unable to secure a quality hotel in the spring for the annual INDIANA Open Backgammon Tournament so at this time there will not be a spring week-end tournament in Indianapolis. Stay tuned next month for further developments on a fall weekend tournament. HBC has scheduled a series of monthly one-day tournaments. The first three are set for January 13th, February 10th ( 1990 Awards Tournament) and March 10th and will be held at Grisanti's in Castleton. Stay tuned for more dates for 1991.

Game 10 Move 15 Black Dbls to 2 ?


Game 11 move 5 White Dbls to $2 ?$


Game 11 Move 30 Black Redbls to 4 ?


## Smaller Precision Dice

A new smaller size ( $9 / 16^{\prime \prime}$ ) precision dice are now available. They come in four transparent colors; red, green, dark blue and amber. These dice provide a more random roll with a limited amount of shaking. These are especially nice for the popular smaller cups. You can order from Larry Strommen (317) 545-0224 at \$5.25 each.


| HBC ratings thru November 30, 1990 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Name | (High-Low) | Expr | W-L(\%Win) |
| 1) | Mick Dobratz | 1869 (1872-1640) | 560 | 51-19(72.9\%) |
| 2) | Wendy Kaplan | 1855 (1909-1711) | 1165 | 98-53(64.9\%) |
| 3) | Don Woods | 1799 (1799-1449) | 1397 | 105-86(55.0\%) |
| 4) | Chuck Stimming | 1733 (1891-1644) | 1460 | 112-77(59.3\%) |
| 5) | Ken Bruck | 1711 (1739-1524) | 1086 | 89-65(57.8\%) |
| 6) | Howard Givel | 1650 (1813-1609) | 481 | 29-34(46.0\%) |
| 7) | Jeff Baker | 1605 (1643-1496) | 400 | 31-23(57.4\%) |
| 8) | Bob Goodlett | 1599 (1675-1563) | 493 | 28-27(50.9\%) |
| 9) | Woody Woodworth | 1597 (1751-1551) | 1378 | 93-87(51.7\%) |
| 10) | Dave Cardwell | 1586 (1623-1586) | 240 | 16-13(55.2\%) |
| 11) | Butch Meese | 1576 (1853-1551) | 1538 | 107-95(53.0\%) |
| 12) | George Crawford | 1567 (1709-1567) | 234 | 10-16(38.5\%) |
| 13) | Mary Ann Meese | 1551 (1658-1405) | 1210 | 83-83(50.0\%) |
| 14) | Rick Reahard | 1540 (1562-1511) | 63 | 5-4(55.6\%) |
| 15) | Frank Scott | 1538 (1605-1455) | 509 | 46-35(56.8\%) |
| 16) | Sharon Lennon | 1533 (1553-1530) | 260 | 17-15(53.1\%) |
| 17) | Larry Strommen | 1528 (1641-1461) | 1296 | 87-91(48.9\%) |
| 18) | Ralph Roberts | 1522 (1522-1412) | 246 | 17-11(60.7\%) |
| 19) | Ellis Bray | 1519 (1523-1418) | 486 | 23-31(42.6\%) |
| 20) | Gaby Stiasny | 1517 (1572-1482) | 534 | 38-40(48.7\%) |
| 21) | Bill Hodes | 1504 (1538-1409) | 261 | 12-17(41.4\%) |
| 22) | Eric George | 1502 (1526-1502) | 14 | 0-2( $0.0 \%$ ) |
| 23) | David Smith | 1492 (1544-1297) | 1246 | 72-92(43.9\%) |
| 24) | Bill Gheen | 1483 (1572-1437) | 252 | 10-18(35.7\%) |
| 25) | Cyrus Mobed | 1469 (1571-1433) | 855 | 59-68(46.5\%) |
| 26) | Philip Degen | 1444 (1519-1444) | 316 | 19-21(47.5\%) |
| 27) | Jim Curtis | 1430 (1553-1371) | 618 | 30-37(44.8\%) |
| 28) | Kevin McLeaster | 1422 (1455-1338) | 746 | $52-58(47.3 \%)$ |
| 29) | Brian Nelson | 1410 (1607-1388) | 724 | 41-57(41.8\%) |
| 30) | Glenn Theobald | 1381 (1398-1322) | 264 | 22-22(50.0\%) |
| 31) | Gino Agresti | 1362 (1394-1291) | 154 | 12-10(54.5\%) |
| 32) | Bill Julian | 1331 (1387-1319) | 328 | 15-25(37.5\%) |
| 33) | John Cinatl | 1326 (1480-1326) | 751 | 50-65(43.5\%) |
| 34) | Jim Knauer | 1326 (1326-1270) | 230 | 9-17(34.6\%) |
| 35) | Marty Lindenmayer | 1320 (1344-1270) | 132 | 12-10(54.5\%) |
| 36) | Scott Richardson | 1288 (1344-1269) | 231 | 14-25(35.9\%) |
| 37) | Kay Beck | 1240 (1312-1187) | 879 | 48-79(37.8\%) |

## Title: A Lesson Learned Again!

I was Black in a match to 7 with the score tied at 3 . White doubled me and I took. A kibitzer almost fell off his chair. I said, "Wouldn't you take that?" and he said "I wouldn't take it in a match or for money at any time or under any circumstances!"

7-Point Match, Score tied 3-3.


Well, he can be subtle if he wants, I got the drift anyway. He was dubious about my judgement in taking the cube. He would probably have dropped, I gathered.

So, what happened? Not very good - I got gammoned - match over. Could I have possibly made a cube error? Again?
After rolling off some ten or so, I got the clear message - it was a wipeout! I stubbornly completed the entire 200, partly to get the numbers, but mostly for the discipline. Read punishment. It was my way of telling myself not to do it again.
Back early in reform school, I was taught that when the whole army faces blots - bet on the army! What was I "thinking" about? I believe I rationalized somehow like - white's position is "inflexible". Would leave some shots - would sustain some hits. And didn't I have a better board? I don't think I even counted the race, which was as you can plainly see, 100 to 83 (unadjusted).
So how bad was it? It was BAD! Instead of losing 200 or less to justify a take in 200 samples, the roll out showed a loss of 332 net points. 332 ! 332 !!
I decided while still in Remedial Backgammon to work some more with this position. I made a small adjustment. Move one blot back from white's 4 -point to his 3 -point to form an anchor. The other blot remains on the bar. That doesn't figure to be a take either, of course, but how bad can it be? It worked out to look like a rather close drop with black losing 236 net points. So we see that an anchor made a great difference. A take here would at least have been a more respectable error.

Now let's try something else. Let's put all three stragglers on white's 3 -point making an anchor with a spare and leaving nothing on the bar. That roll-out showed black losing 186 net points and apparently, that would be a close take.
In looking at the breakdown below, notice in addition to the total points, the difference in wins by underdog black and the difference in gammons:

|  | Net | White | Black |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Var. | Points | plain-gmms-bgs | plain-gmms-bgs |
| I | -332 | $108-50-1$ | $37-3-1$ |
| II | -236 | $132-18-0$ | $50-0-0$ |
| UلI | -186 | $142-3-0$ | $55-0-0$ |

Hey, where did the gammons go? For the underdog, we notice the beneficial effect of each little improvement. So I relearned something. Never again!
Now, whenever I get a little expansive and start to think of myself as something of a backgammon player, maybe I can get the right mix of confidence and humility by directing my thoughts back to Variation I.
Harold Branch, Louisville

