



# HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB

Hoosier Backgammon Club  
April 1989, Vol VI No. 4  
Editors: Butch & Mary Ann Meese



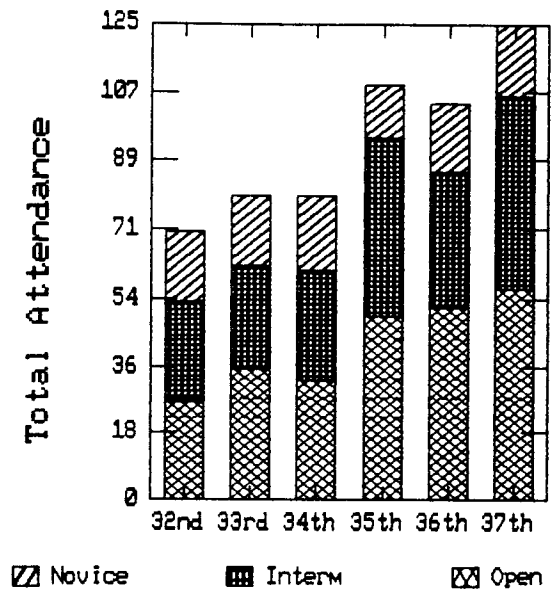
The Hoosier Backgammon Club and The Louisville Backgammon Club present  
**The National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament**  
featuring the **National Club Team Challenge**  
September 1-4, 1989 in Indianapolis directed by Butch Meese.

The Hoosier and Louisville Backgammon Clubs are joining forces to host the **National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament**. This year it will be held in Indianapolis and next year in Louisville. The featured event will be the **National Club Team Challenge**. Clubs will be receiving a special invitation some time in May with complete details. Butch Meese will direct both tournaments. Check in next month's newsletter for further details.

### 37th INDIANA OPEN - Radisson Hotel - Indianapolis

A record crowd, excellent hotel/shopping mall and lots of backgammon were some the comments received by the tournament staff about the **37th INDIANA Open**. Attendance was a record (see graph) over the last 5 years. The doubles event was almost a clean sweep for Michigan players: Mike Nelson (MA) teamed with Dean Adamian to finish second. Yamin Yamin (IL) won over Frank Talbot (MI) in the INDY500. The MicroBlitz events proved to be popular again with Bob Holyon (WI) capturing the Open MicroBlitz and Steve Hast (PA) winning the Limited. Red-hot Doug Roberts (won Reno) came through the main flight undefeated but went cold against streaking Gary Kay (Chicago). Gary lost his second round match in the main and proceeded to win 8 straight matches to capture the Open Division top prize. Ed King (OH) used his free entry, donated by HBC to benefit Operation Feed (raised \$650), to finish second in the Intermediate Division. He was the main undefeated but was defeated twice in the finals by Paul Franks (Chicago). In the novice division, both Louis Steiner (PA), winner, and Mary Franks (Chicago), finalist, graduated to the Intermediate Division in future tournaments. Congratulations to all the winners.

INDIANA OPEN



#### Open Division (56)

- 1st Gary Kay (Chicago)
- 2nd Doug Roberts (Mahopac, NY)
- 3rd Harry Cohn (Park Ridge, IL)
- C-1 Frank Talbot (Sterling Hts, MI)
- C-1 Ed O'Laughlin (NJ)
- C34 Jim Baroff (Washington, DC)
- C34 Gene Chait (Chicago)

#### Novice Division (19)

- 1st Louis Steiner (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 2nd Mary Franks (Chicago)
- C-1 Darcey Brady (Michigan City, IN)
- C-2 Fred American (Brooklyn, NY)

#### Indy \$500 (16)

- 1st Yamin Yamin (Deerfield, IL)
- 2nd Frank Talbot (Sterling Hts, MI)

#### \$50 Sunday Jackpot (16)

- 1st Ralph Stowell (Minneapolis, MN)
- 2nd Harold Branch (Louisville)

#### Intermediate Division (50)

- 1st Paul Franks (Chicago)
- 2nd Ed King (Plain City, OH)
- 3rd Steve Hast (Pittsburgh, PA)
- C-1 Carol Falk (Detroit, MI)
- C-2 Philip Barrett (Chicago)
- C34 Greg Varbinov (Ft Wayne, IN)
- C34 Larry Deckel (Louisville)



#### Doubles (32)

- 1st Mike Charison/Joe Sylvester (MI)
- 2nd Mike Nelson/Dean Adamian (MA/MI)
- C-1 John Carrico/Carol Joy Cole (Flint)
- C-2 Len Loder/Wanda Mortuk (MI)

**Open MicroBlitz (64):** Bob Holyon (Milwaukee, WI)  
**Limited MicroBlitz (64):** Steve Hast (Pittsburgh, PA)

#### \$25 Sunday Jackpot (16)

- 1st Fouad Malouf (Peoria, IL)
- 2nd Scott Arche (Louisville)

**HBC Hotline** ☞ Butch & Mary Ann Meese, 7620 Kilmer Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46256 (317) 845-8435

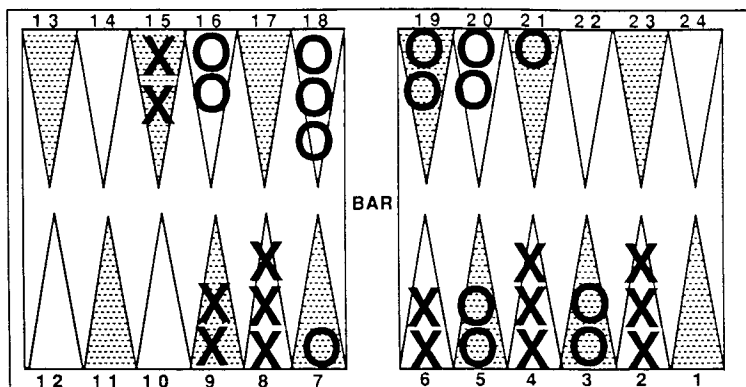
HBC's newsletter subscription rate \$6.00/year (overseas \$10/year). Let us know if your address changes.

## National Rules

The new **U. S. Backgammon Rules and Procedures** have now been used at two tournaments, the Bluegrass Regional and the 37th Indiana Open and will continue to be used at other tournaments throughout the year. The present rules are considered the first working draft and changes will be made every 6 to 12 months. It is up to you, the players, to give these rules serious consideration and send in your impressions, comments and suggestions to one of the newsletters. If you do not yet have a copy and want one, mail a self-addressed stamped envelope to HBC to receive a copy.

### Estimation of the Winning Chances -- Beating the Double Shot

The 9th Annual Chicago Open hosted by Howard Markowitz was a very enjoyable tournament for this writer because of its somewhat unusual format that provides the intermediate player with a minimum of 10 matches in the main tournament plus a shot at the consolation if his/her won-lost record does not qualify for the main finals. The experience in match play is extremely valuable and the ability to recoup part of the entry fee for each match won retains some incentive throughout main bracket play. Though my fortune in the main tournament was less than good, in the single-elimination consolation flight, I reached the semi-final and was at double-match point in the match; the winner advancing to a guaranteed payout spot. The game started as a hitting duel and reached the position shown below:



After a brief pause to wish for the dots on the dice to change to something a bit more favorable, I (X) played 15-6 and hoped for the best. No such luck. My opponent threw one of 5 good 8's and hit. Although my opponent could also hit with 10 (3 additional numbers), those hits would actually be to my benefit on balance either by leaving additional blots or by the total vacation of my 5-point and forfeiting future double shot probability. My next roll of 6-3 missed his open targets and the rout was on. I soon had two checkers flying behind a 5-prime and was easily defeated. C'est la backgammon.

Normally I would have cursed my luck, packed up the checkers and looked for a chouette but the tournament was winding down and action was sparse. So I reset the position and asked a few of the open division players about the position. All agreed that the 15-6 play was the only reasonable play, but they also estimated O's winning chances at no better than slightly over 50% because of X's excellently timed two point backgame and my awkward bear-in situation. Being somewhat surprised at this low estimate, I later rolled out the position after the 15-6 play 100 times. The play of subsequent rolls is relatively straightforward assuming that O's priority is to maintain his 5-3 backgame and establishment of a 5-prime in or near his home board. X's moves are largely forced with some variation if he immediately gets the return hit(s) from the bar. How often does X win? Would you believe 61% of the time. And with twice the gammons that O gets (though in this case, gammons were irrelevant). So, what's the point, you ask? There are a few. First, estimation of winning chances can be tough, even for the best of players. Second, double shots are overrated. O will average about 1.4 per game from this position, hitting a little over half of those and yet winning only a moderate percentage of those games. The earlier the hit, the less often O wins, a substantial contribution to O's winning chances. O won no games in which he did not get the hit at all, around 25% probability. A minor learning point for the less experienced player gained from this relatively tedious exercise is that "stacking" checkers on points, if possible, is a partially effective defense against the double-point back game as such a tactic can "kill" at least one number and help destroy the timing of the opponent's back game, thereby often reducing the double shot probability to one of a single shot. Sawdust

Note: The **10th Chicago Open** again this year will use the 10-match format. It will be held at the Westin Hotel O'Hare, Memorial Day Weekend. Call Joann Feinstein (312) 674-0120 or HBC for further details.

Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)		
Apr 14-16	Midwest Championship - Chicago	(312) 338-6380
Apr 15	College Park Open Backgammon Tournament - Bethesda, MD	(301) 530-0604
May 05-07	10th Granite State Open & 7th New England Team - New Hampshire	(603) 924-7076
May 07	Central Illinois BG Club Backgammon Tournament - Sly Fox Pub	(309) 692-6909
May 18-21	Backgammon & Blackjack Tournaments - Douglas, Isle of Man	(0624) 851045
May 26-29	10th Annual Chicago Open - Westin Hotel O'Hare, Chicago	(312) 674-0120
Jul 28-30	Michigan Summer Championship - Flint, MI	(313) 232-9731
Sep 01-04	<b>National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament - Indianapolis</b>	<b>HBC Hotline</b>
THURSDAYS	7PM at <b>Dooley O'Toole's</b> - Behind Castleton Sq on 86th St	849-7355

<b>HBC Weekly Results for March</b>					
	March 2nd	March 9th	March 16th	March 23th	March 30th
1st	<i>Woody Woodworth</i>	<i>Jeff Baker</i>	<i>Butch Meese</i>	<i>Howard Givel</i>	<i>Howard Givel</i>
2nd	<i>David Smith</i>	<i>Mary Ann Meese</i>	<i>Mick Dobratz</i>	<i>Larry Strommen</i>	<i>Greg Varbinov</i>
3rd		<i>Frank Scott</i>	<i>Int 1st Cyrus Mobed</i> <i>Int 2nd Frank Scott</i>		<i>David Smith</i>

**Hoosier Pips...**Bring in a new player and receive a free entry to weekly play...HBC welcomes new player, Bob Kemerly...HBC welcomed out-of-town visitors on March 16: John Brussel(NY), Linc Bedell(NH), Wendy Kaplan(NY) and Walter Trice(MA)...Congrats to Mick Dobratz, who was married on March 25th...Thanks to Ron Whitney (NY), Jamie Curtis (Indy) and Glenn Theobald (Indy) for their assistance during the 37th INDIANA Open...Lots of get well wishes to Carol Joy Cole who is recovering from her March 23rd surgery.

1989 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings as of Mar						
1)	Chuck Stimming	5.40	Brian Nelson	1.80	Jim Mieske	0.16
2)	Woody Woodworth	5.36	Ken Bruck	1.76	Ves Johnson	0.16
3)	Mick Dobratz	4.23	Marty Lindenmayer	1.14	Amber Wiesler	0.16
4)	Butch Meese	3.55	Jim Curtis	0.98	Larry Buckingham	0.16
5)	Larry Strommen	3.06	Don Burton	0.94	Donna Susens	0.16
6)	Howard Givel	2.79	Bill Gheen	0.80	Gino Agresti	0.16
7)	Mary Ann Meese	2.60	Michael Shanas	0.80	Jay Nelson	0.10
8)	Jeff Baker	2.40	Ron Black	0.48	John Ritzert	0.08
9)	Cyrus Mobed	2.30	Kevin McLeaster	0.42	Mike Hellmer	0.08
10)	David Smith	2.24	John Brussel	0.32	Walter Trice	0.08
	Frank Scott	2.24	Cassie Curtis	0.32	Bob Calhoun	0.04
	Greg Varbinov	2.10	Don Trapp	0.32	Bob Kemerly	0.02
	Kay Beck	1.92	George Crawford	0.32	Tom Hendryx	0.02
	Glenn Theobald	1.90	Jamie Curtis	0.24	Linc Bedell	0.02
	Rick Reahard	1.88	Cassidy Dobratz	0.18	Wendy Kaplan	0.02

**WORLD CUP Match**

**Joe Sylvester versus Alan Steffen**  
**37 Point SemiFinal Match**



During 1989, this match will be presented in its entirety in this newsletter, 1 to 4 games each month. This month games 10 and 11 are on the next page. Along with the 34 games, all the doubling positions will be presented. There are some both interesting and exciting games in this match between two of the best.

**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 and the 5-point make and the 2-point open.

Abbreviations used are CB - Closed Board, EF - Entry Failure, NP - No Play Possible, x - opponents piece was hit, 5<sup>2</sup> - superscribe denotes 2 or pieces moving to the same point; this example has 2 pieces moving to the 5 point.

In the doubling positions, Joe will be 'X' and Alan 'O' and are shown from Joe Sylvester's side of the board. Study those first before going through the games.

Vintage Performances.

1989 MIDWEST  
 BACKGAMMON  
 CHAMPIONSHIPS

APRIL 14-16, 1989

HOLIDAY INN  
 OAKBROOK TERRACE, IL

INFORMATION: 312/338-6380

Game 10

Joe Sylvester - 5		Alan Steffen - 14		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	53	3 <sup>2</sup>	53	8 10
2)	62	7 11	31	5 <sup>2</sup>
3)	61	5 <sup>2</sup>	42	4 <sup>2</sup>
4)	11	23 <sup>2</sup> 7 <sup>2</sup>	22	7 8
5)	53	18x-15	65	EF
6)		dbl to 2?		take
7)	64	5	42	23 2x
8)	52	23x 2x	32	23x EF
9)	51	24 18	63	EF
10)	63	18 2x	63	EF
11)	53	2 10	63	EF
12)	21	10	54	21 EF
13)	64	4x 9	64	21x EF
14)	52	23 4x	31	24 EF
15)	54	14 <sup>F23</sup>	54	21x-16
16)	51	24 9x	54	16x
17)	43	18	52	1x <sup>F8</sup>
18)	31	24x 7	51	24 11
19)	41	14x-13	43	21 <sup>2</sup>
20)	55	3 <sup>F18</sup> 13	51	7
21)	62	18x-16	64	21 7
22)	61	7 15	52	3 6
23)	63	6	31	21 5
24)	33	7 3 <sup>2</sup>	62	15 3
25)	61	6 NP	51	16 14
26)	32	3 <sup>F6</sup> 5	11	12 <sup>F16</sup>
27)	63	2 NP	61	7
28)	42	3 5	21	9
29)	61	0 5	21	6 <sup>F9</sup>
30)	54	0 NP	32	16
31)	33	2 <sup>3</sup> 0	51	16 6
32)	53	0 <sup>2</sup>	52	11 14
33)	65	0 <sup>2</sup>	41	7 5
34)	43	0 <sup>2</sup>	61	17
35)	43	0 <sup>4</sup>	64	gammon

Game 11

Joe Sylvester - 9		Alan Steffen - 14		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	21	11 5	66	18 <sup>2</sup> 7 <sup>2</sup>
2)	63	5 <sup>F11</sup> 21	54	4x <sup>F13</sup>
3)	31	21x	22	21 4x <sup>2</sup>
4)	51	20 5	42	5x-1x
5)	21	23 24x	31	21
6)	63	18x 20	63	16
7)	55	5 13	32	5 11
8)	42	9x 11	11	24 7 <sup>2</sup> 5
9)	61	5 8	52	6 <sup>F13</sup>
10)	51	1x 12	33	22 8 4 3
11)	65	1 <sup>F13</sup>	63	1 <sup>2</sup>
12)	42	1 6	53	10
13)	61	7x <sup>2</sup>	61	EF
14)		dbl to 2?		take
15)	54	2 <sup>2</sup>	41	21 9
16)	63	7 2	31	5 <sup>F9</sup>
17)	54	1 2	44	2 <sup>2</sup> 4 1
18)	61	2 7	66	3 <sup>F21</sup> 15
19)	51	1 <sup>F7</sup>	32	10
20)	61	1 6	51	5 21
21)	21	0 5	11	1 <sup>F5</sup>
22)	33	2 <sup>4</sup>	66	game

JS - 11

AS - 14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
O		O	O	O	O			O		O	X
O			O	O	O						
X					X						
X					X	X		X	X		
X		O	O	X	X			X	X		
X		O	O	X	X			X	X		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Os PC=142

Game 11 0:14  
Move 14 X: 9  
X dbls to 2?

Xs PC=84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	X		O	O	O				X	X	X
			O	O	O	O					X
											X
O		X		X	X						O
O		X		X	X						O
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Os PC=159

Game 10 0:14  
Move 6 X: 5  
X dbls to 2?

Xs PC=132