

**Caesars, Tahoe Backgammon Tournament**

HBC was well represented at the CAESARS Tahoe Backgammon Tournament hosted by the Northern Nevada Backgammon Association. Along with the Meeses, Wendy Kaplan, Rick Reahard, David Smith, Chuck Stimming, Larry Strommen and Donna Susens experienced one of the friendliest hotel/casinos in the country. Only Butch Meese was able to show results by winning the gourmet dinner for 4 in the Durkee Travel event. Northern Indiana's and sometimes HBC player John O'Hagan placed second in the Open Division. The attendance was over 310 and would have been higher if the hotel had not over booked.

<p><b>Octavius' Open (126)</b></p> <p>1st Richard Cather 2nd John O'Hagan(IN) 3/4 Mike Carson 3/4 Jim Baroff 5/8 Malcolm Davis 5/8 Marc Gardner 5/8 Chuck Giallanza 5/8 Bob Ciaffone</p> <p>Consolation</p> <p>1st Antionette Williams 2nd Bill Davis 3/4 Joe Russell 3/4 Wilcox Snellings</p> <p>Last Chance</p> <p>1st Cliff Pappas 2nd Frank Frigo 3/4 Munchkin 3/4 Paul Pavlides</p>	<p><b>Antony's Intermediate (146)</b></p> <p>1st Mike Colgan 2nd Kevin McDonough 3/4 Jeffrey Hu 3/4 Steve Lentz 5/8 David Williams 5/8 Bill Glavin 5/8 Arnold Zousmer 5/8 H. R. Faucon</p> <p>Consolation</p> <p>1st Sam Ahmed 2nd Buddy Ashmore 3/4 Kati Pratt 3/4 Stu Katz</p> <p>Last Chance</p> <p>1st Ed Chambers 2nd Mario Sequeira 3/4 Murray Work 3/4 Marc Ingenoso</p>	<p><b>Nero's Novice (39)</b></p> <p>1st Martin Donabedian 2nd Laura Nugent 3/4 Jim Roston 3/4 Tony Zandonatti</p> <p>Consolation</p> <p>1st Alicia Abud 2nd Rudi Markovich 3/4 Mehdi Faraji 3/4 Judy Tower</p> <p>Last Chance</p> <p>1st Beverly Sandler 2nd Scott Tilson 3/4 Christine Saito 3/4 Marjorie Gibbs</p>
<p><b>Cleopatra's Kickoff (512)</b></p> <p>1st Alan Steffen 2nd Howard Robinson 3/4 Dick Cather 3/4 Stuart Hosen</p>	<p><b>Open Jupiter's Jackpot (32)</b></p> <p>1st Ismet Demirel 2nd Dr. Bob Hill</p>	<p><b>Int Jupiter's Jackpot(64)</b></p> <p>1st Joe Harris 2nd Beth Skillman 3/4 Buddy Ashmore 3/4 Al Senter</p>
<p><b>Romulus and Remus' Doubles (64)</b></p> <p>1st Alice Kay/Wilcox Snellings 2nd Dick Cather/Ismet Demirel 3/4 Kay Baker/Bob Glass 3/4 Al Senter/Doug Wilson</p>	<p><b>Caesars Colossus (45)</b></p> <p>1st Ed O'Laughlin 2nd Mike Carson 3/4 Mika Lidov 3/4 Shimon Kagan</p>	<p><b>CAESARS TAHOE</b></p>

**International Rating List**

The International rating list has been updated through **The World Cup**, August 1988. This means that the new hardware and software is up and running. Although the new list comes with a top 100, all the players in the top 100 have a wide range of experience. The list below includes only players with 1000 or more experience points and a rating over 1700.

Player	Rating	Exper	Player	Rating	Exper	Player	Rating	Exper
Bill Robertie	1823	3766	Mike Corbett	1740	3152	Bob Holyon	1725	1512
Joe Sylvester	1776	6044	Bob Bishop	1738	1798	Harry Zilli	1723	1028
Paul Weaver	1775	1208	Mike Senkiewicz	1732	2671	Frank Talbot	1720	2133
Kent Goulding	1764	2393	Alan Steffen	1729	1982	Tak Morioka	1720	2913
Kit Woolsey	1754	1726	Joe Russell	1728	1746	Mike Labins	1716	1489
Ray Glaeser	1754	3206	Ed O'Laughlin	1727	4066	Lee Genud	1711	1397
Malcolm Davis	1741	1326	Al Tesoro	1725	1679	Billy Horan	1702	1839

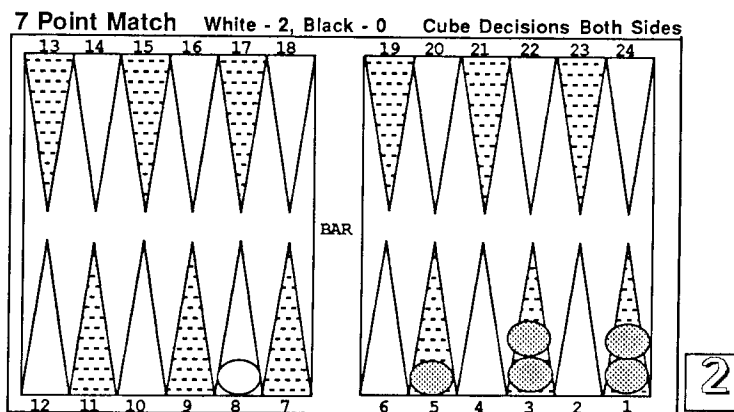
HBC's monthly newsletter for active HBC members and subscribers.

Subscription rate: \$6/year (Canada \$7 & overseas \$10). Let us know if your address changes.

**HBC Hotline:** Butch & Mary Ann Meese: (317) 845-8435. 7620 Kilmer Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46256-1634

## Problem Corner

In a recent club match, a somewhat common situation arose in which Sawdust (black) was defending with a massive back game against La Tigresse (white). La Tigresse safely bore off down to her last checker which Sawdust hit, avoiding beegee and exit stage left. After a prolonged escape and recapture battle, La Tigresse's checker was closed out and she proceeded to dance long enough for Sawdust to bearoff off 10 checkers. White then entered with a 6-2, providing the position shown. To redouble or not to redouble; that is the question. If black redoubles, does white take? For the response to both questions and analysis, see Page 4.



## HBC September Weekly Results

	Sept 7th	Sept 14th	Sept 21st	Sept 28th
1st	Chuck Stimming	Wendy Kaplan	Butch Meese	Don Woods
2nd	David Smith	Larry Strommen	Gino Agresti	Chuck Stimming
3rd	Eric George	Frank Scott	Jim Curtis	Kay Beck
Hoosier Quad				Butch Meese

**Hoosier Pips**....HBC entered new names into the winners' circle on September 25th, Don Woods and dedicated Kay Beck....Who can be heard saying the following during Thursday evening play 1) "Sure!" 2) "I understand." 3) "He's killin' me." 4) "Come on Butch." 5) "I hate it when that happens!" 6) "It's only a game." 7) "Give me your money." 8) "Hell if I know how to play it!" 9) "Good Shot"....Thanks to Woody Woodworth for running Thursday evening, October 6th, while the Meeses' were in Tahoe...Sincere condolences to Ken Bruck in the loss of his son, daughter-in-law and their unborn child October 5th.

## 1989 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings as of September 30th.

1) Butch Meese	14.92	Bob Goodlett	1.77	Amber Wiesler	0.16
2) Woody Woodworth	14.52	Don Burton	1.66	Larry Lesniak	0.16
3) Chuck Stimming	14.06	Gino Agresti	1.56	Rick Bianiak	0.16
4) Larry Strommen	12.97	Bill Gheen	1.40	Mark Mikolon	0.16
5) Howard Givel	12.30	Don Woods	1.28	Jim Smythe	0.16
6) Mick Dobratz	10.01	Ralph Roberts	1.02	Scott Richardson	0.14
7) Brian Nelson	7.86	Herb Roman	0.98	Ron Becker	0.14
8) Mary Ann Meese	7.51	Michael Shanas	0.80	Bob Calhoun	0.14
9) Frank Scott	6.91	Ellis Bray	0.78	John Cinato	0.12
10) Cyrus Mobed	6.62	Bill Julian	0.76	R. C. Robbins	0.12
David Smith	6.62	Catfish Bryan	0.72	Jay Nelson	0.10
Eric George	6.38	Cassie Curtis	0.64	Dan Batts	0.10
Jim Curtis	5.62	Fred Badagnani	0.60	Scott Arche	0.08
Ken Bruck	5.20	Mervin Berger	0.60	John Ritzert	0.08
Glenn Theobald	4.38	Ves Johnson	0.50	John Leusing	0.08
Kevin McLeaster	4.08	Ron Black	0.48	Mike Hellmer	0.08
Kay Beck	3.76	Jamie Curtis	0.40	Walter Trice	0.08
Wendy Kaplan	3.54	Bill Hodes	0.36	Scott Musser	0.06
Jeff Baker	3.30	Don Trapp	0.32	Jim Wilson	0.02
George Crawford	3.12	John Brussel	0.32	George Barr	0.02
Marty Lindenmayer	2.84	Donna Susens	0.24	Stu Whitcomb	0.02
Rick Reahard	2.36	Dick Nelson	0.24	Bev Nelson	0.02
Jim Knauer	2.20	Cassidy Dobratz	0.18	Tom Hendryx	0.02
Greg Varbinov	2.12	Larry Buckingham	0.16	Linc Bedell	0.02
Mike Norman	2.08	Jim Mieske	0.16	Bob Kemerly	0.02



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

Oct 14th	College Park Open BG Tournament - Maryland	(703) 620-3239
Oct 27-29	7th New Hampshire Fall Classic	(603) 863-4711
Nov 10-12	Backgammon Co-op Fall Championships - Highland, NJ	(201) 833-2915
Nov 17-19	Children's Hospital Benefit - Sheraton-Commander Hotel, Boston	(617) 547-4800
Jan 17-21, 1990	7th Nevada State - Peppermill Hotel, Reno	(702) 852-1221
Aug 07-12, 1990	WORLD CUP II - Sheraton-Commander Hotel, Boston	(301) 299-8264
<b>Sep 01-04, 1990</b>	<b>National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament - Louisville</b>	<b>HBC Hotline</b>
THURSDAYS	7PM at <b>Dooley O'Toole's</b> - Backside of Castleton Sq on 86th St	849-7355

**WORLD CUP Match**  
**Joe Sylvester vs Alan Steffen**  
**37 Point SemiFinal**

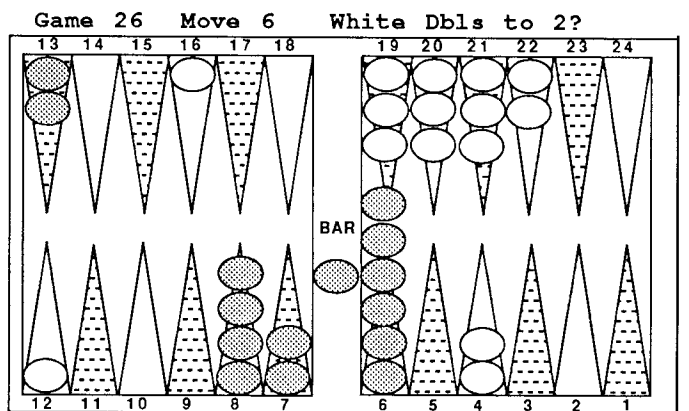
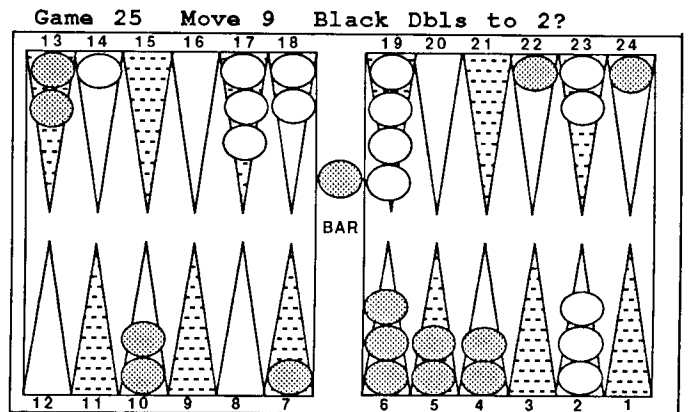
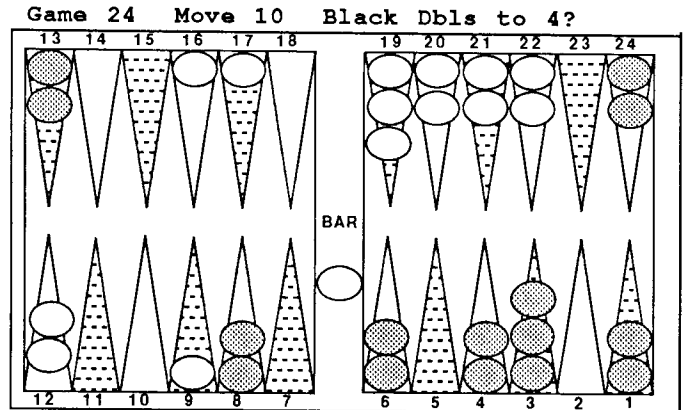
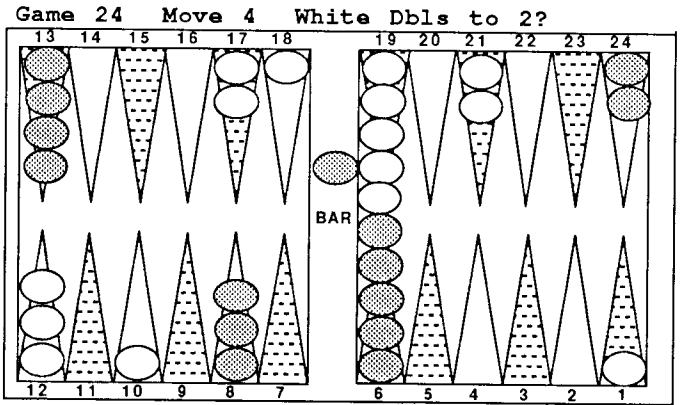
During 1989, this match is being presented in this newsletter, 1 to 4 games each month and this month games 24 thru 26 are presented. Along with the 34 games, all the doubling positions will be included. There are some both interesting and exciting games in this match between two of the best.

**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 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<sup>2</sup> - 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 will be dark checkers and Alan the light and are shown from Joe Sylvester's side of the board. Study those first before going through the games.

**NLD - Mail Feedback**

Just thought I would let you know I really enjoyed the Labor Day Tourny. The Radisson Hotel was fabulous! If you could get the same hotel, I'd vote to have all Labor Day tournaments in Indy - even though I didn't win! I also like the 9-match format. Sue Will, Peoria, ILL.



## World Cup 37 Point Match

### Game 24

<b>Joe Sylvester (23)</b>		<b>Alan Steffen (32)</b>		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	63	18 10	64	7x 20
2)	66	EF	65	7 15x
3)	64	21 EF	43	4x <sup>2</sup>
4)	41	24 EF		dbl to 2?
5)		take	43	3 <sup>2</sup>
6)	55	20-10x 8	42	23 9
7)	64	4 <sup>2</sup>	31	5 <sup>2</sup>
8)	53	3 <sup>2</sup>	52	16
9)	55	3 <sup>F13</sup> 1x <sup>2</sup>	41	EF
10)		dbl to 4?		pass

### Game 25

<b>Joe Sylvester (25)</b>		<b>Alan Steffen (32)</b>		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	--	---	62	18 11
2)	32	10 4	65	18 8
3)	21	4 23	21	10 <sup>F13</sup>
4)	61	4 22	66	7 <sup>2</sup> 2 <sup>2</sup>
5)	33	10 <sup>2</sup> 5 <sup>2</sup>	31	3x 17x
6)	31	22x 24	54	EF
7)	44	20-8x	62	23 EF
8)	21	2x 7x	22	23x <sup>3</sup> 8
9)		dbl to 2?		take
10)	61	24 7	65	12x
11)	53	22 5	55	6 2 <sup>2</sup> F12,7
12)	32	3 <sup>2</sup>	41	2 7
13)	65	16 5	66	11 <sup>2</sup>
14)	32	11	65	2 3x
15)	32	22x-20	61	24 5x
16)	65	20x-14x	52	23 EF
17)	32	2x 9	43	EF
18)	55	2 <sup>2</sup> 4 <sup>F14</sup>	62	EF
19)	41	20 1x	53	EF
20)	52	15 7	66	EF
21)	55	5 1 <sup>2</sup>	42	EF
22)	33	21 1 <sup>F7</sup> 2	31	EF
23)	64	11	63	19 EF
24)	51	6x-5	51	EF
25)	31	2 3	65	19 EF
26)	51	0 4	62	19 EF
27)	53	0 <sup>2</sup>	22	EF
28)	11	3 <sup>2</sup> 0 <sup>2</sup>	64	15
29)	41	0 <sup>2</sup>	53	14 12
30)	31	0 <sup>2</sup>	63	6 16
31)	33	gammon		

### Game 26

<b>Joe Sylvester (29)</b>		<b>Alan Steffen (32)</b>		
Roll	Played	Roll	Played	
1)	54	8 9	42	4 <sup>2</sup>
2)	62	7 <sup>2</sup>	33	21 <sup>2</sup> 5 <sup>2</sup>
3)	65	13	63	4
4)	43	6	41	9 5
5)	61	17	55	8x <sup>2</sup> -3 <sup>2</sup>
6)	44	EF		dbl to 2?
7)		pass		

JS - 29

AS - 33

## Solution - Problem Corner

Analysis of this type of problem is relatively routine for most open players and is a necessary skill for the intermediate players to achieve in order to improve their success rate. In most tournament matches, 4, 6 or 8 point swings are singularly decisive. One must be ready to seize (or avoid) the opportunities. In this particular position, it is fairly obvious that black is a heavy favorite to bear off his remaining five checkers in three rolls, regardless of a worthless 2, 4, or 4-2 on his next roll. In fact, only the joker 2-2 is a real crusher. White bears off in one roll with either 5s or 6s, but is actually not favored to get off in either one or two rolls. It appears, therefore, that black has an excellent chance to not only get back into the match, but also to become the favorite with a redoubled win.

Examination of the possible sequences of rolls shows:

Roll	Black wins	White wins
1st	0.00%	5.56%
2nd *	20.99%	22.84%
3rd *	47.10%	3.41%
4th *	0.10%	----
Total	68.19%	31.81%

(\*) Percentages are net of preceding rolls, not cumulative.

In a money game, perhaps not a double, but how about being down 0-2 in a 7-point match? Dig up those match equity tables and let's take a closer look. If black plays on without redoubling, his match equity is 68.2% to be 2-2 and 31.8% to be 0-4 in the score or  $(0.682 \times 0.50) + (0.328 \times 0.21) = 0.408$  or 40.8%. However, if he redoubles to 4, he is 68.2% to go up 4-2 and 32.8% to be down 0-6 (Crawford) or  $(0.682 \times 0.68) + (0.328 \times 0.10) = 0.496$  or 49.6%. The gain is about 9% in match equity to redouble, so black redoubles.

What about white? Does she drop because of black's potential gain or equity? Her decision is based upon her equity gain or loss, not black's. If she declines the redouble, the match goes to 2-2 or 50% match equity. Her equity by taking is the remainder from 100% of black's equity (100.0-49.6) or 50.4%. Close but still a take.

Admitting, these calculations are very difficult to do accurately while sitting at the board in the heat of the battle, but even a ball park estimate would give black his redouble decision. White's acceptance may be a result of careful calculation, experience, or possibly extreme annoyance at black, having escaped her rightful gammon, boldly returning the cube and putting salt on the wound.

In the match played, Sawdust redoubled and La Tigresse took. Sawdust got the normal rolls to get off in the likely three; but La Tigresse got double 3s followed by 5-1 to win the this game and match and went on to win the weekly tournament. From Sawdust's perspective, the operation was a success, but the patient died. You can't win them all, even if you do analyze well, but you'll almost surely win more than you lose if you are unwilling or unable to make those analyses.

