



39th INDIANA Open Backgammon Tournament - May 3-5, 1991

One of the players commented that it was just the "right size" even though attendance was down from years past due to conflicts with the Spain tournament, the Kentucky Derby and miscellaneous graduations. Tense and exciting matches were the order of the day to determine the winners. Undefeated Walter Trice jumped ahead 11-0 with an 8-cube game in a 13-point match against once-defeated Yamin Yamin but Yamin stormed back to win 13-11 to force a second deciding match. In the final match, Walter led 7-2 to 13 points with the cube again at 8. The fates turned in Walter's favor and he claimed his victory. Side note: Yamin reached the finals in the Doubles which was also decided by an 8-cube. HBC's Dave Cardwell won the Open Consolation. The Intermediate Division Final pitted HBC's undefeated Mick Dobratz against Peoria's Fouad Malouf. The first 11-point match went to the limit of double match point with Fouad winning. Not to be out done, the final match saw Mick winning the second double match point game of the day - quite a 4-hour final. Californian Glenn Theobald (former HBC member) won the Novice Division. Congratuatuons to all the winners.

Open Division (32)

- 1st Walter Trice(MA)
- 2nd Yamin Yamin(IL)
- C1st DAVE CARDWELL(IN)
- C2nd Dean Adamian(MI)

Intermediate Division (48)

- 1st MICK DOBRATZ(IN)
- 2nd Fouad Malouf(IL)
- 3rd Bobbie Shifrin(IL)
- C1st Cinda King(IL)
- C2nd Mike Charison(MI)
- C3/4 Dave Sandler(KY)
- C3/4 Steve Potashnick(IL)

Doubles Event (32)

- 1st Jack Kissane/Jonathan Bennetts(NY/CAN)
- 2nd Yamin Yamin/Jerry Unger(IL/OH)
- 3/4 Jim Smyth/Jane Lewandowski(MI)
- 3/4 Lenny Loder/Beverly Klene(IL)

Novice Division (4)

- 1st Glenn Theobald(CA)

Open MicroBlitz (32)

- 1st Mike Rezai(OH)

Limited MicroBlitz (64)

- 1st Peter Kalba(IL)

Limited MicroBlitz Overflow (32)

- 1st Jonathan Bennetts(CAN)

Open Jackpot (8)

- 1st Abbas Zaltash(PA)

Limited Jackpot (8)

- T1st Jonathan Bennetts(CAN)

Limited Jackpot (8)

- T1st Carol Falk(MI)

12th Annual Chicago Open - Memorial Day Weekend

HBC's Wendy Kaplan returned to her winning ways by capturing the Championship Division undefeated. Val Zimnicki won the Intermediate Division. The Intermediate players enjoyed the 10-match format.

Championship Division (39)

- 1st WENDY KAPLAN(IN)
- 2nd Linc Bedell(NH)
- 3rd Doug Roberts(NY)
- C1st Paul Franks(Chi)
- C2nd Mike Rezai(OH)

Intermediate Division (60)

- 1st Val Zimnicki(IL)
- 2nd Riley Harrison(MN)
- 3/4 George Barr(IL)
- 3/4 James Colen(MA)
- C1st Ernest Klein(TX)
- C2nd Lois Richards(AZ)

Doubles Event (32)

- 1st Drew Giovanis/Ed Petrillo(FL)
- 2nd Barry Steinberg/William Wilner(MD)
- 3/4 Marc Poe/Stu Hosen(TX)
- 3/4 Adam Kay/Gary Kay(Chi)

Jackpot(64)

- 1st Tak Morioka (IL)
- 2nd Constantine Kritsonis (CAN)
- 3/4 Tim Mabee (IL)
- 3/4 Howard Markowitz (IL)

\$500 Special

- 1st Stu Hosen (TX)

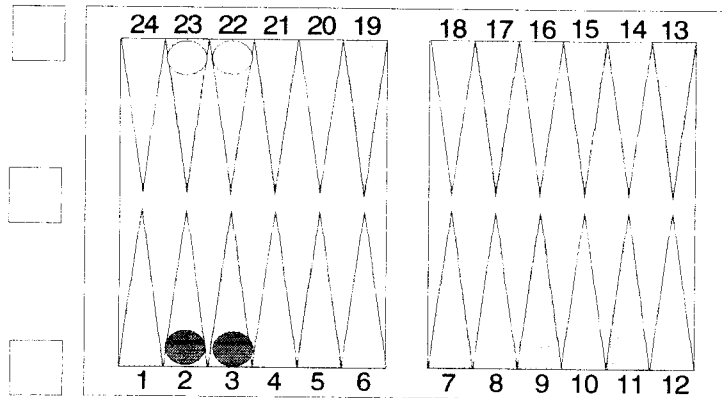
HBC's monthly newsletter for active HBC members and subscribers.

Subscription rate: \$10/year (Canada \$12 & overseas \$14). Let us know if your address changes.

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

SIMPLE ANSWERS TO SIMPLE QUESTIONS?

The Newcomer recently interrupted a mixed bag chouette, produced this bear-off position and asked what appeared to be a simple question: "White doubles - should Black accept?"



It was quite amusing when each of the five players had a different response! What follows is the meat of their answers and why:

NOVICE PLAYER said, **Pass** - *I can only win if White rolls a one, and I probably won't even get to roll at all.*"

WEAK INTERMEDIATE said, **Take** - *White misses with any ace, which is 11/36 rolls. I only need 9/36 rolls to reach the required 25% chance I need to accept this cube.*"

STRONG INTERMEDIATE said, **Pass** - *This is a two-roll proposition - White's misses times Black's winning rolls. $11/36 \times 25/36 = 275/1296$, or less than the 324 rolls in 1296 (25%) required to Take.*"

WELL-READ OPEN said, **Take**. *Kleinman's Rule of Excess Eighteens applies here, since ownership of the cube and subsequent redouble potential must be taken into consideration. Calculating this, the adjusted chances are $11/36 \times (25+7)/36 = 352/1296$, or greater than the 324 rolls in 1296 needed to justify a take.*"

MR. EXPERT said, "It is both a **Pass** and a **Take**."

Well, this really brought down the house! Hoots and hollers abounded, until finally the very confused Newcomer asked how it could possibly be both a **Pass** and a **Take** at the same time. To which MR. EXPERT replied:

"It could be either a proper Pass or a proper Take, depending upon the particulars of the position. Is this an initial double? If it is a redouble, what is the value of the cube? Is it a money game? Or is it a match? If so, what is the score? And which side is ahead? Are the players of equal strength, or is one considerably weaker than the other? These are the types of questions one must ask of the position before your question can even be answered!"

Of course, this position is usually a **Take** under most conditions. The moral of the story? There really isn't one, although a closer look at the different responses does give us some insight into the inner workings of the models that people use to make backgammon decisions. The responses indicate how players may be progressing on a learning curve, gaining more and more knowledge. But until they reach the top, armed with a little information may be dangerous and lead to mistakes in judgement **with confidence**. Of particular interest is how STRONG INTERMEDIATE makes an incorrect cube decision based on relatively sound but misapplied information, yet WEAK INTERMEDIATE gets the answer correct with incomplete knowledge of the position. This is somewhat typical of how the play of intermediate players usually gets worse before it ultimately gets better. And WELL-READ OPEN is so full of knowledge that in his haste to apply it, loses focus of some of the important aspects of this (or any) position. The true expert learns to ask questions before deciding - similar to any old wise man worth his salt.

THE GAMMON-MASTER



**1991 National Labor Day
Backgammon Tournament - Indianapolis
August 30 - September 2 , 1991**



Radisson Suite Hotels
Indianapolis
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Swiss Movement Format
Amateur and Master Jackpots
MicroBlitz and Fast Break Events
Meeses' (317) 845-8435

Ace Point Backgammon Club
(212) 753-0842

Open 3 PM to 2 AM Daily

Director: **Michael Valentine**

41 East 60th Street
New York, NY 10022

April Results	Apr 7th	Apr 14th	Apr 21st	Apr 28th
Open 1st	Butch Meese	Chuck Stimming	Butch Meese	Chuck Stimming
2nd	Wendy Kaplan	Judy McHale	Don Woods	Kevin McLeaster
2nd	Mary Ann Meese	Larry Strommen	David Smith	Dave Cardwell
2nd	- - -	Dave Cardwell	- - -	- - -
Intermediate	Holly Stowe	- - -	Peg Simsic	Peg Simsic

May Results	May 2nd	May 9th	May 16th	May 23rd	May 30th
Open 1st	Don Woods	Chuck Stimming	Butch Meese	Judy McHale	Larry Strommen
2nd	Linc Bedell	Don Woods	Mick Dobratz	Howard Givel	Don Woods
2nd	Larry Strommen	Butch Meese	Chuck Stimming	Woody Woodworth	Butch Meese
2nd	Chuck Stimming	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Interm 1st	- - -	Bev Nelson	- - -	Dennis Schulte	Holly Stowe
Interm 2nd	- - -	Holly Stowe	- - -	- - -	- - -

League Results

This marks the 18th session (2 per year) of league play.
 Butch Meese won the Open Division for the first time by defeating Wendy Kaplan (winner of the last 3 league sessions), Mick Dobratz and Chuck Stimming (6-time league winner).
 In the Advance Division, winner Mike Norman scored his third victory in the past 10 sessions.

Division	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Open	Butch Meese	Chuck Stimming	Mick Dobratz	Wendy Kaplan
Advance	Mike Norman	Woody Woodworth	Bob Goodlett	Larry Strommen

1991 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings as of May 31st.

HBC Player of the Month for April: **Chuck Stimming** with 2.00 points.

HBC Player of the Month for May: **Butch Meese** with 2.34 points.

1)	Don Woods	7.96	Monte Bowman	0.92	Dennis Schulte	0.20
2)	Butch Meese	7.06	Gino Agresti	0.86	Frank Scott	0.20
3)	Chuck Stimming	6.22	Dave Sandler	0.80	Philip Degen	0.20
4)	Ken Bruck	5.56	Kay Beck	0.66	Frank DeSandre	0.16
5)	Judy McHale	5.52	John O'Hagan	0.64	Russ Osborne	0.16
6)	Mary Ann Meese	4.42	Linc Bedell	0.60	Glenn Theobald	0.12
7)	Larry Strommen	4.34	Scott Richardson	0.52	Doug Roberts	0.12
8)	Wendy Kaplan	4.24	Bev Nelson	0.40	Tom Hendryx	0.12
9)	Kevin McLeaster	4.16	Ves Johnson	0.40	Marc Gray	0.12
10)	David Smith	4.16	Jim Curtis	0.40	Tony Tapp	0.12
	Mick Dobratz	3.90	Donna Susens	0.36	Carolyn Doyle	0.10
	Dave Cardwell	3.04	Stu Sherman	0.32	Cyndi White	0.10
	Woody Woodworth	2.67	Cyrus Mobed	0.32	Amber Wiesler	0.10
	Terry Kuchenbrod	2.36	George Crawford	0.32	Triston Wilbrandt	0.10
	Peg Simsic	2.31	Lara Simsic	0.30	LeeAnn Dobratz	0.10
	Rick Reahard	2.28	Mark Mikolon	0.30	Bob Burkhalter	0.10
	Holly Stowe	2.06	John Danyluck	0.30	Tom Lucerno	0.10
	Howard Givel	1.82	Greg Varbanov	0.28	Scott Roberts	0.09
	Jeff Baker	1.76	Walter Trice	0.24	Russ Hoser	0.08
	Gabe Stiasny	1.72	John Stryker	0.22	Susie Henderson	0.08
	Don Desmond	1.60	Dave Fey	0.20	Stu Whitcomb	0.08
	June Werner	1.40	Mervin Berger	0.20	Bill Hodes	0.02
	Brian Nelson	1.26	Scott Kaplan	0.20		

Nevada Backgammon Association
presents

Las Vegas Open Backgammon Tournament
Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino
September 22-26, 1991

Howard Markowitz, Director

Travel Arrangements

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Hotel Accomodations

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1 (800) 634-3454

Be Sure to Mention That You
Are With the Backgammon
Tournament.

More Information:

Contact NBA, Howard Markowitz

(708) 470-9491

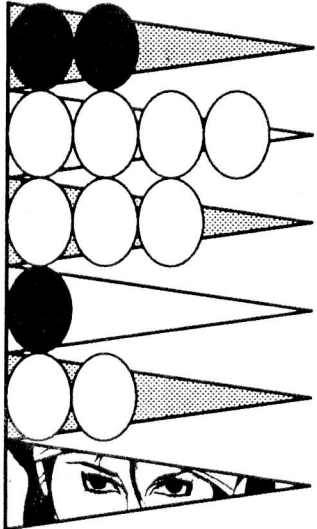
Invitations available June 30, 1991

HOOSIER PIPS: Howard Markowitz announced an added tournament to the 1991 schedule - the **Las Vegas Open** will be held at the **Golden Nugget**, September 22-26...On a stormy Thursday night in May, Intermediate player Holly Stowe was gently pushed into the Open Division for lack of other Intermediates that evening. Holly proceeded to the money round in the main and in the consolation. Congrats to our faithful newcomer who proved that you shouldn't be afraid to spread your wings...Players joining the ranks of the non-smokers are Gino Agresti, Wendy Kaplan and David Smith...Thanks to the staff at **SPATS** for the warm reception in our new meeting place...Congrats to Cyrus Mobed on the arrival of his first grandchild May 3rd...HBC welcomes new players Tom Lucerno and Stu Sherman...Out-of-town visitors for the month of May were Linc Bedell (NH), Doug Roberts (NY), Walter Trice (MA), Marc Gray (NY), Mervin Berger (FL), Glenn Theobald (CA), Tony Tapp (AZ) and Scott Roberts (AZ)...Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Alex Somerville who died on May 14th.

NLD - Slight Format Change

The format for the NLD is a Swiss Movement; in each round, players with similar win-loss records play each other. The format has evolved from the 10-match format used by Howard Markowitz in Chicago. Everyone will play 8-rounds or until 3 losses in the Swiss Movement portion of the format. Those surviving 8-rounds without 3 losses compete for the final 4 according to their win-loss record. All players who do not make the main final-4 will get another chance in the consolation flight. This guarantees everyone 4 matches. There is no time limit. This format is different than the 9-match format used at the NLD two years ago.

Michigan Summer



Backgammon Championships

July 5-7, 1991

Carol Joy Cole
(313) 232-9731

Ramada - Flint, MI
(313) 732-0400

Illinois State Backgammon Championships

August 1-4 , 1991

A Player's Tournament

Hyatt Deerfield
Deerfield, IL

(708) 945-3400 or (800) 233-1234

Information:
Yamin Yamin (708) 945-7801
or Cinda King (309) 694-2947

New Book from Danny Kleinman

"...but only the hogs win backgammon"

244 pages of articles and matches

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Los Angeles, CA 90016

**Lake Tahoe Colossus Event
Neil Kazaross vs Mika Lidov
15 Point Match**

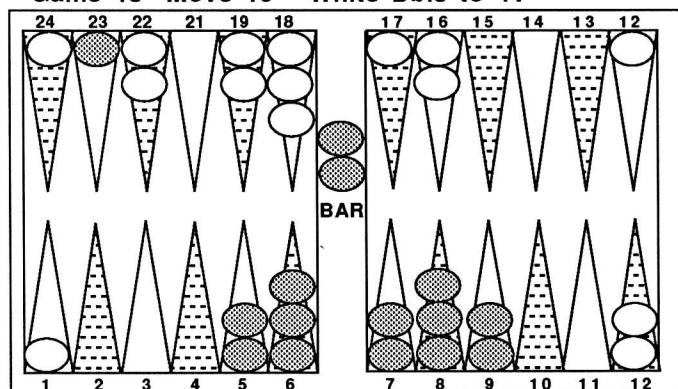
The HBC Newsletter presents a match from the 1990 Colossus Event at the Lake Tahoe Tournament between Neil Kazaross and Mika Lidov.

Instructions: You will need a backgammon board to follow along. The board is numbered 1 to 24 based on the view of the player on roll. Each player will always be moving from a higher to lower point with only the point(s) moved to used. The home portion of the board is numbered 1-6. Bearing off is noted as moving to the zero "0" point. To make it easier to follow, the larger number rolled is noted 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.

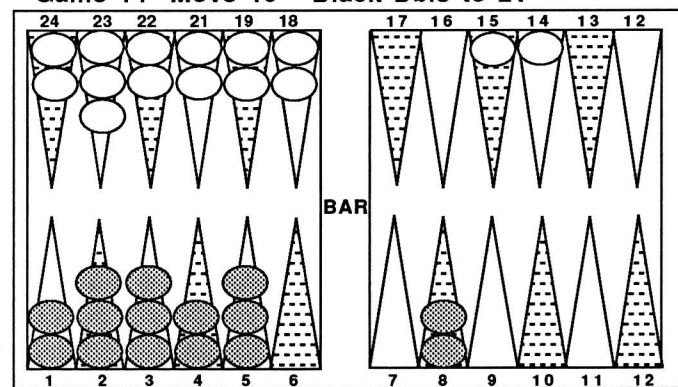
Abbreviations used are CB - Closed Board, EF - Entry Failure, MP - Misplay, NP - No Play Possible, x - opponent's piece was hit, 5² - superscript denotes 2 or more pieces moving to the same point; this example has 2 pieces moving to the 5 point.

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

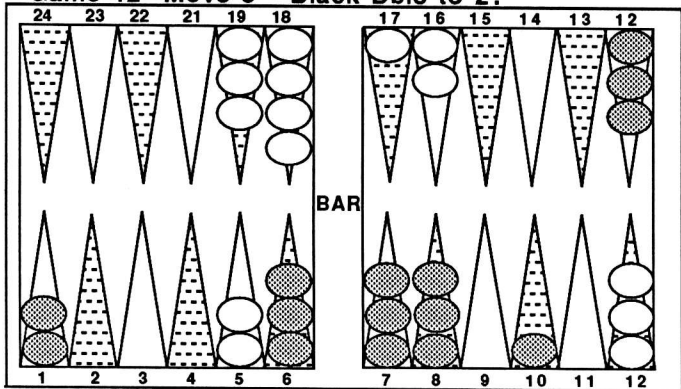
Game 13 Move 10 White Dbls to 4?



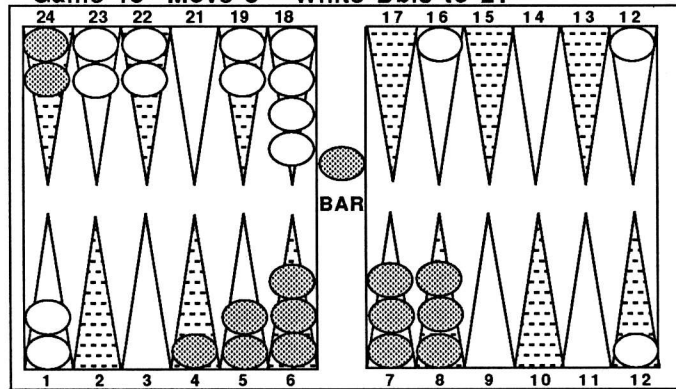
Game 14 Move 16 Black Dbls to 2?



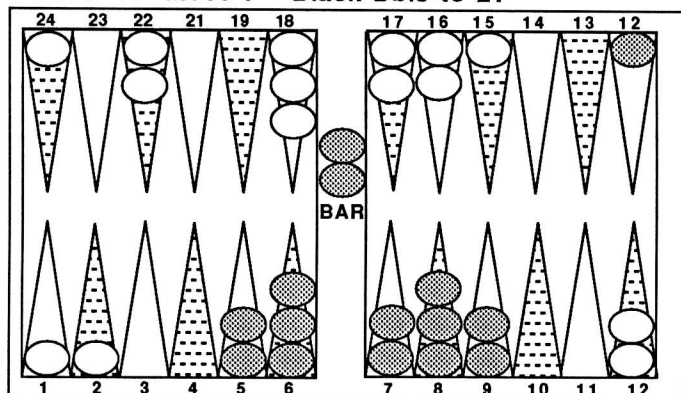
Game 12 Move 5 Black Dbls to 2?



Game 15 Move 5 White Dbls to 2?



Game 13 Move 7 Black Dbls to 2?



**HBC Gammon Point System
New Proposed Policy**

The new proposed policy is to award gammon points for only weekly evening play and one-day tournaments. Therefore league play and any weekend tournaments such as the INDIANA OPEN and NLD will not be included. HBC feels this is the fairest method for determining the TOP TEN PLAYERS of the YEAR. ANY and ALL comments are welcomed. The gammon points listed on Page 2 do not include league play or results from the 39th INDIANA Open.

**Lake Tahoe Colossus Event
15 Point Match**

Game 12				
Neil Kazaross - 9/15			Mika Lidov - 8/15	
	Roll	Play	Roll	Play
1)	43	20 10	32	5x 11
2)	61	24 7	42	5
3)	66	18 ² 7 ²	22	20 ²
4)	55	13 ² 1 ²	61	7 5
5)		dbl to 2?		pass

Game 13				
Neil Kazaross - 10/15			Mika Lidov - 8/15	
	Roll	Play	Roll	Play
1)	41	9 5	42	20x 11
2)	55	5x	64	15
3)	61	18 5	41	7x ²
4)	43	21 10x	52	23 8
5)	51	16 9	53	3 ²
6)	33	7 ² F13(2)	54	1x 9x
7)		dbl to 2?		take
8)	33	EF	22	21 5 ² 7
9)	63	EF	63	12x
10)	52	23 EF		dbl to 4?
11)		pass		

Changes to Weekly Play		
1)	July 4th	No Play
2)	August 29th	Play at Radisson Hotel

1) On July 4th, several players will be going up early to the **Michigan Summer Backgammon Championships** - including three HBC players who will be on staff for the tournament: Dave Cardwell, Mary Ann Meese and Woody Woodworth.

2) On August 29th, HBC will hold play at the **Radisson Hotel** to accommodate the early arrivals for the **National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament**.

Game 14				
Neil Kazaross - 10/15			Mika Lidov - 10/15	
	Roll	Play	Roll	Play
1)	63	18 10	32	21 11
2)	54	1x 14x	21	23 24x
3)	53	20 10	53	18 ²
4)	31	20	11	20
5)	42	10 4	63	11
6)	51	5 ²	61	4
7)	63	4	65	2 ^{F13}
8)	33	2 ² F8(2)	43	2 3
9)	51	3 ²	43	4 3
10)	55	10 ²	44	5 9 ²
11)	64	4 1	63	3 5
12)	41	1 ^{F6}	62	1 ^{F9}
13)	32	5	42	2 ^{F6} 1
14)	42	2 3	44	10 ²
15)	55	8 ² 5 ²	21	6 9
16)		dbl to 2?		take
17)	51	3 4	65	4 ²
18)	62	0	31	0 ²
19)	51	0 ²	52	0 ²
20)	51	0 ²	64	0 ²
21)	55	0 ⁴	52	0 ²
22)	31	0 1	54	1 0
23)	62	0 ²	32	0 ²
24)	52	0 ²	43	game

Game 15				
Neil Kazaross - 12/15			Mika Lidov - 10/15	
	Roll	Play	Roll	Play
1)	31	5 ²	62	5
2)	61	7 ²	55	3 ² F13(2)
3)	52	8 4	61	2 5
4)	65	7 8	61	2 12x
5)	32	EF		dbl to 2?
6)		pass		

Schedule of BACKGAMMON Events (Information and entry forms available thru HBC)		
Jul 5-7	Michigan Summer Championships - Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	(313) 232-9731
Aug 1-4	Illinois State Championships - Hyatt Deerfield, Deerfield, IL	(708) 945-7801
Aug 13-19	Vermont Backgammon Festival - Ascutney Mt. Resort	(305) 527-4033
Aug30-Sep2	National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament, Indianapolis	HBC Hotline
Sep 22-26	Las Vegas Open - Golden Nugget, Las Vegas	(708) 764-0120
Oct 25-27	1st Chicago Fall Classic - Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont, IL	(708) 764-0120
Nov 01-03	Granite State - New Hampshire	(603) 863-4711
THURSDAYS	7:00 PM at Spats-Castleton Sq between J.C.Penneys & L.S.Ayres	842-3465