



1992 Midwest Backgammon Championships

174 players gathered in Chicago for the **Midwest Championships** and a surprise spring snow fall (8 inches). \$1700 was raised for the *Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago*. Seven HBC players were in attendance with only Ken Bruck cashing in the Doubles with Greg Varbanov.

	<u>Championship (64)</u>	<u>Advance (64)</u>	<u>Novice (32)</u>
<u>Main Flight</u>	1st James Colen (MA) 2nd Mike Cyrkiel (IN) 3/4 Terry Kuchenbrod (KY) 3/4 Yamin Yamin (IL)	Femi Owiku (IL) Kurt Schurecht (IL) Fred Gehlhoff (IL) Marty Tatosian (IL)	Bill Cox (IL) Kim McCollom (IL)
<u>Consolation</u>	1st Howard Ring (IL) 2nd Ismet Demirel (AR)	Carl Severino (IL) Bobbie Shifrin (IL)	Glenn Swanson (IL) Beverly Loder (IL)
<u>Last Chance</u>	1st Jeff Henry (IL)	Larry Deckel (IN)	Mike Lawless (WI)
<u>Doubles (32)</u>	1st Herb Gurland/Jack Kissane (MA/NY) 2nd Norma Shyer/Ralph Levy (IL/IL) 3/4 Bob Ebbeler/Phyllis Smolinski(IL/IL) 3/4 Ken Bruck/Greg Varbanov (IN/IN)	<u>\$100 Open:</u> 1st Gary Fritzsche(MI) 2nd Bob Zavoral(IL) <u>Blitz:</u> Frank Talbot (MI) <u>Pig-Rolling:</u> Allen Levien(PA)	<u>Dice Jacks:</u> John McCabe(IL) <u>Nackgammon:</u> 1st Joe Sylvester(MI) 2nd Yamin Yamin(IL) <u>Rug Dice:</u> Al Jones (CAN) <u>Lady Luck:</u> Bobbie Shifrin(IL)
<u>Satellite Doubles(8)</u>	1st Ira Hoffberg/Les Witt(IL/CAN)	<u>Professor of Backgammon:</u> Joe Sylvester(MI) <u>BG Wheel of Forture:</u> Howard Ring (IL)	

Hoosier Pips: By popular demand, the entry fee for Thursday has changed - the new entry fee is \$10 with an optional \$10 sidepool....HBC again this year has donated an advance division entry fee for the **40th INDIANA Open** to Operation Feed.

40th INDIANA OPEN - April 24-26, 1992 - RAMADA INN *South*

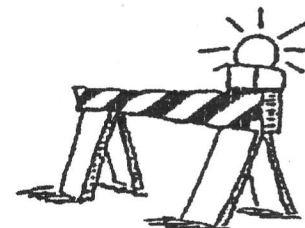
On your way to the **40th INDIANA Open**, you may encounter either Indiana's State Motto, State Flag and/or the State Animal. Maps are available on detours needed because of closed ramps between 165 and 1465. A map will be sent to those who have preregistered. So even if you are thinking about coming, call and we will send you a map. Please allow 15-30 minutes extra travel time.



Indiana State Motto



Indiana State Flag



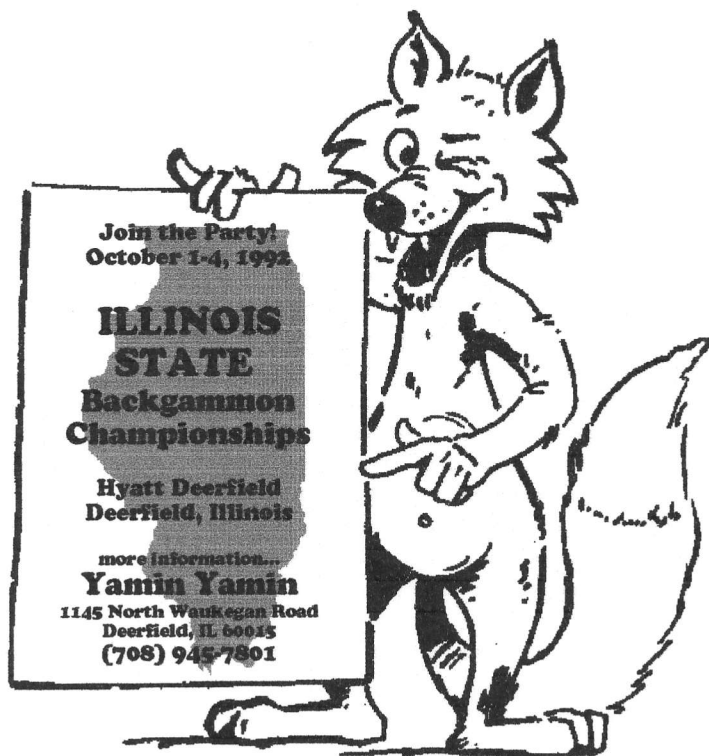
**Indiana State Animal:
The Barrier Horse**

Hoosier Backgammon Club's Newsletter for active HBC members and subscribers.
Subscription rate: \$10/year (Canada \$12 and overseas \$14). Let us know if your address changes.
Butch & Mary Ann Meese: (317) 845-8435. 7620 Kilmer Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46256-1634

1992 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings as of March 31st.
HBC Player of the Month for March is Kevin McLeaster with 164 gammon points.

1) Chuck Stimming..... 486	Woody Woodworth..... 152	Scott Richardson..... 62
2) Ken Bruck..... 438	Mick Dobratz..... 148	Tom Helt..... 30
3) Don Woods..... 392	Mary Ann Meese..... 146	Gino Agresti..... 20
4) Kevin McLeaster..... 292	Dave Cardwell..... 142	David Smith..... 20
5) Gabe Stiasny..... 282	Jeff Baker..... 128	Rick Reahard..... 20
6) Larry Strommen..... 242	Frank Frigo..... 128	Mike Marr..... 20
7) Jim Curtis..... 230	Brian Nelson..... 124	Donna Susens..... 10
8) Stu Sherman..... 204	John O'Hagan..... 120	Judy McHale..... 10
9) Holly Stowe..... 178	Peg Simsic..... 100	Shimi Dadon..... 10
T10) Cyrus Mobed..... 174	Terry Kuchenbrod..... 80	June Werner..... 10
T10) Butch Meese..... 174	Jan Gurvitz..... 70	
Wendy Kaplan..... 170	Ed Koolish..... 70	

	March 5th	March 12th	March 19th	March 26th
1st	<i>Kevin McLeaster</i>	<i>Jim Curtis</i>	<i>Stu Sherman</i>	<i>Gabe Stiasny</i>
2nd	<i>Stu Sherman</i>	<i>Larry Strommen</i>	<i>Chuck Stimming</i>	<i>Woody Woodworth</i>
2nd	<i>Chuck Stimming</i>	<i>Woody Woodworth</i>	<i>Kevin McLeaster</i>	<i>Butch Meese</i>



Take the NLD Challenge at the
National Labor Day
Backgammon Tournament
 For Qualifying Players, Information in
 Tournament Flyer Available in June.

National Labor Day
Backgammon
Tournament

1992 - Indianapolis
Radisson Hotel

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

Apr 5th.....	HBC Spring One-Day, SPATS, Indianapolis.....	HBC Hotline
Apr 8-12.....	1st International Backgammon Tournament of Costa Rica, Costa Rica.....	(312) 338-6380
Apr 24-26.....	40th INDIANA OPEN, Ramada Inn South, Indianapolis.....	HBC Hotline
May 1-3.....	13th Granite State Open, Woodbound Inn, Jaffrey, NH.....	(603) 863-4711
May 22-24.....	13th Chicago Open, Westin O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont, IL.....	(708) 674-0120
Jun 17-21.....	Las Vegas Open Backgammon Tournament, Sands, Las Vegas.....	(708) 470-9491
Jul 24-26.....	Michigan Summer Backgammon Championships, Holidome, Flint MI.....	(313) 232-9731
Aug 3-9.....	World Cup III & U.S. Open, Dallas, TX.....	HBC Hotline
Sept 4-7.....	National Labor Day Backgammon Tournament, Radisson Hotel, Indpls..	HBC Hotline
Oct 1-4.....	Illinois State Backgammon Championships, Hyatt Deerfield, Deerfield, IL..	(708) 945-7801
Thursdays.....	7:00 PM at SPATS-Castleton Square between J.C.Penneys & L.S.Ayres.....	842-3465

In Remembrance of Howard Givel

On March 4th, HBC lost a close friend, Howard Givel. Howard moved to Indianapolis from Chicago in the spring of 1987 and was a club regular until his battle with leukemia slowed him down. He won the Intermediate Division at the 4th INDIANA Classic in 1987 and won the Fall Intermediate League in 1989. Below, friends contribute their thoughts in remembering Howard.

Howard joined my Backgammon Club at Maxim's many years ago. He never missed a session. The last time I spoke with him he told me how much he enjoyed the Hoosier Backgammon Club. We will all miss this sweet, gentle friend.
Valerie Valentine, Chicago

Howard always impressed me with his straight forward approach to his own problems. We all know that we are finite creatures, the question is not IF but WHEN. Howard more than most didn't even have much flexibility in that question and yet he was always upbeat and looking ahead. In his own way he set an example for us all.

Bill Julian

I'm glad I was privileged to have known Howard. He became a part of my life the first night I joined the Hoosier Backgammon group at Dooley O'Toole's. As I was playing a game with another novice, Howard came over to give us some pointers. At the time I was ahead in the game, and with Howard's help, I lost. Despite this dubious beginning, I listened to Howard and began to learn much about the intricacies of this diverse game. He was always willing to spend some time giving me some new pointers. He was a character - - a unique personality. He had a lot of Irish blarney for a man with the name Givel. Howard had a wonderful way of encouraging, coaching, and complimenting new players, while teasing, challenging, and perhaps irritating the experienced players. Who can forget Howard's chatter as he played a match! I will miss him.

Peg Simsic

My funniest memory of Howard while playing backgammon was his singing of "You've got me under your skin". However, the funniest Howard story I heard was relayed by a friend that worked with him at the brokerage firm. Howard would ask one of the younger brokers in the office something like: "What did Lilly close at yesterday"?

(Reply) "I don't know". (Howard): "You don't know!? Well, who should I ask? Maybe I should ask a stock broker! Do you know a stock broker? How about that Charles Schwab guy? Yea, lets call ole Charlie, he'll know!

Apparently, Howard pulled this one on most every new broker he encountered.

Kevin McLeaster

I have many fond memories of Howard. Howard, more than any other player encouraged me to believe in myself and not be intimidated by the more experienced players. Howard was a masterful "psychologist". If he could not beat you playing a holding game, he would switch the game to an attacking or racing game, etc.. To use a golf analogy, Howard would challenge a player to use all the clubs in his bag. Howard enjoyed a challenging match and tested his opponents' skill to the utmost. Probably, Howard's favorite antidote was that you cannot play both sides of the board at the same time. "Is your game on this side of the board or is it on the other side of the board?" As long as I play backgammon, I'll frequently ask myself this question. And when I do, I will always think of Howard pondering the same question. Also, I'll always remember Howard's competitiveness and friendship. Howard gave my teen-age son, who never played golf, free golf lessons and issued a challenge to me that I would not win the golf match. As a newly wed, my wife accompanied me to a backgammon tournament and Howard graciously treated us to a fancy brunch - his wedding present to us. LeeAnn and I both enjoyed Howard's conversation that morning. We will always remember his congeniality.

Mick Dobratz

For most of us life is a roller coaster ride where we are constantly struggling and striving. How we handle the hills and valleys of life usually determine our happiness. Howard had his share of downs, but he usually found a humorous side to life's wrath. This served him well and made him a pleasure to be around. He will be missed.

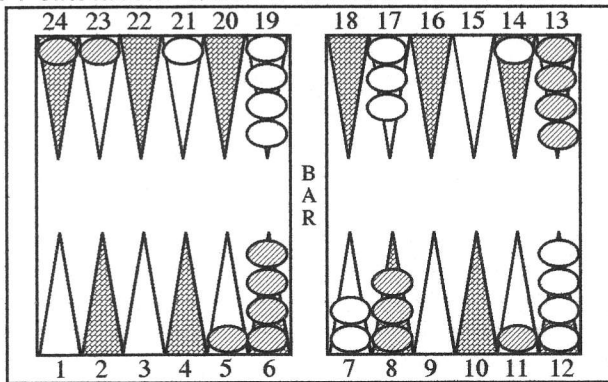
Jim Curtis

Reader Suggestion - Open Forum

It has been suggested by a reader that space be provided for open discussion on the doubling positions presented in this newsletter. The editor will be glad to provide the space if the readers contribute write-ups. Knowing that some readers can be shy in presenting their arguments, the editor will be glad to except aliases. The alias can be anything from **Dr Cube** to **One Pip Short of a Prime**. So is there a doubling position in this month's or any past issues that has caught your attention?

To get us started, the editor noticed what seemed to be an easy take in the **Neil Kazaross/Mika Lidov** match (see below) that turned into a gammon for Black. What do you think?

15 Point Match Black-3 White-2 White doubles to 2?



I like the idea of four divisions at Backgammon tournaments. By offering tournaments with four divisions, Butch and Mary Ann Meese and other promoters of Backgammon are providing for growth..

I feel there are plenty of players beyond the novice level that want to play in tournaments but can't justify dropping \$100+ and a whole weekend, only to be slain by advanced players in two or three matches. If these players get discouraged too early in the learning process, they may just quit playing all together.

Some players opposed to four divisions have gone as far as suggesting that tournaments should "evolve" to a single division and that those players that don't aspire to compete at the championship level "shouldn't be allowed to play, period".

This is ridiculous, that's like saying someone that doesn't aspire to qualify for the Indy 500 shouldn't be allowed to drive. Perhaps a better analogy would be : "People who can't afford Porches shouldn't be allowed to drive." Absurd! All sports, hobbies, interests, and avocations, have various levels.

Some players will never achieve the level of skill of the open division players. The reasons for this are simple. Some open division players have told me they spend 20 to 40 hours per week playing or studying the game. As much as some players love the game, due to other interests and commitments, they will never be able to devote this level of attention to Backgammon.

Another concern raised by the opponents of four division format is "sandbagging". Strangely, I've seen this mentioned most frequently by open players. How does a player sandbag in the open division? By "throwing" his first match, so he can go beat up the weaker players in the consolation bracket? I think the real issue here is the open player's concern for a "leaking of the prize pool" into lower divisions. I'm told the payout sheets for the upcoming Indiana Open will show that this isn't happening.

By providing four divisions of competition, I think Backgammon stands a better chance of retaining the players recruited in Novice tournaments and maintaining player interest by providing an education path.

I say we support Butch and Mary Ann by giving the four division format a try. A genuine, year-or-two try. If for some reason this doesn't stimulate interest in backgammon tournaments, I'm sure these diplomats of the game will be among the first to propose changes.
Kevin McLeaster, Indianapolis

Sorry I can not join you for the **Indiana Open**, but the classes I am teaching do not end until 12:30 PM on Saturday, which is the last day of the semester.

However, I want to thank you providing non-smoking preference, as it is one of the things I look for before considering any other aspect of a tournament. I hope others give you the same favorable comments.

I am also glad you are going to try the 4 division format. I understand part of the complaints from others about this. Unfortunately there is a lot of suppressed anger on this point and this is one way of testing the waters. I also liked Ken Bruck's suggestion of creating A and B players in the Open. I don't mind and would enjoy playing the open players, but I don't want to invest that much money in it. I'm not that big a gambler. If I happened to do well, and miracles still happen, I would be happy with prize money that was 50-60% less than that of a star player. I play for the fun of it and would be as pleased as punch to break-even at the end of the year.

Keep experimenting and give equal weight to both sides, we don't want to lose the fun aspect of the game. Think of me as one of your invisible 'advanced players' on that Saturday, as I do my final lecture of the semester and settle down to doing final grades.
Judy Field, Northville, MI

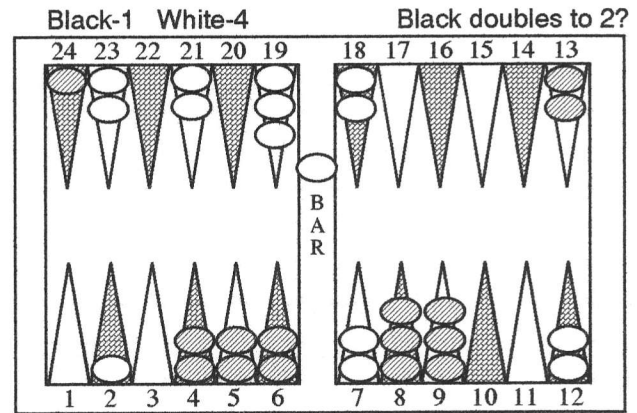
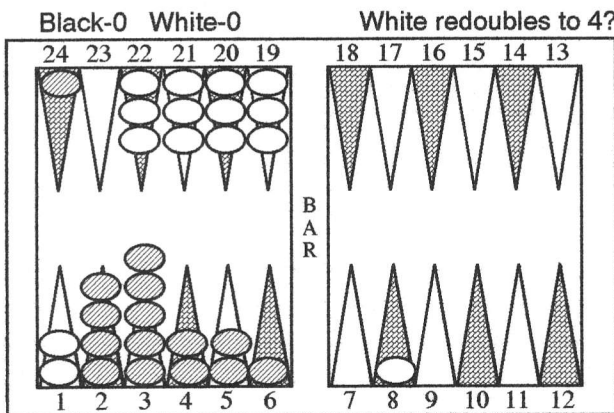
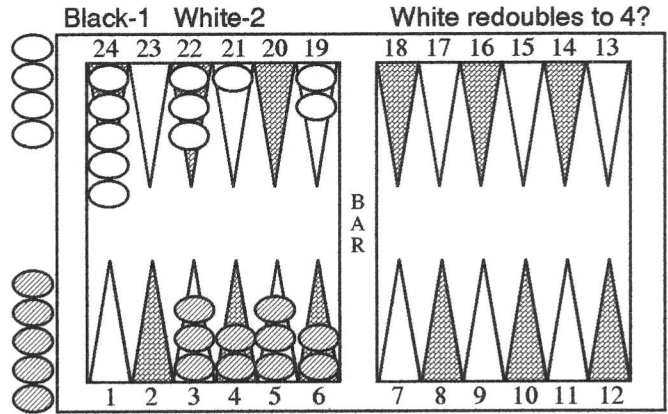
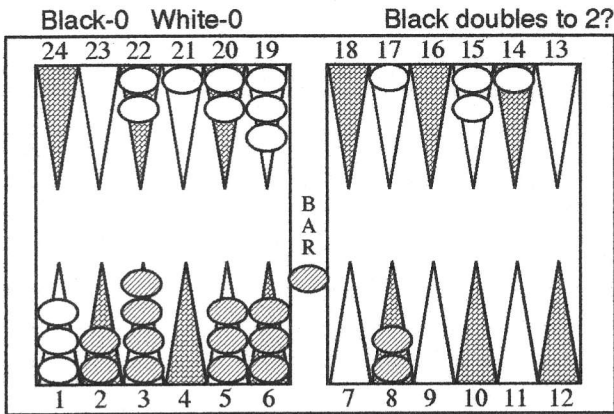
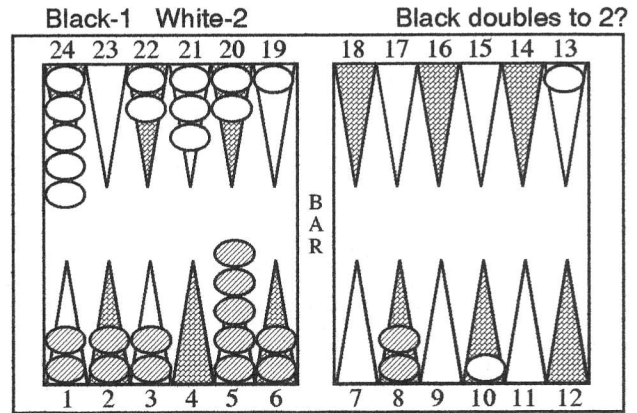
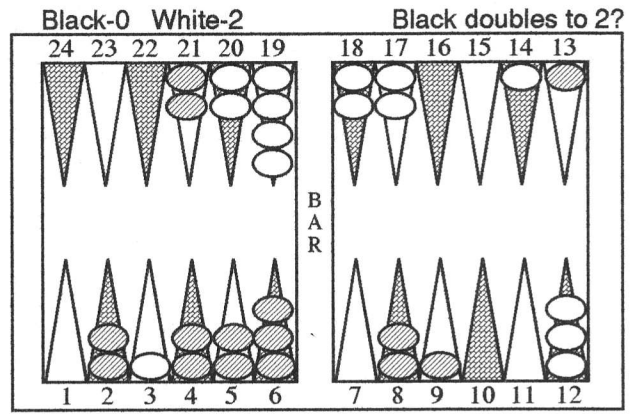
Master's Invitational
Nack Ballard vs Bill Robertie
21 Point Match

The HBC Newsletter presents a 21-point match between **Nack Ballard** and **Bill Robertie** from the **Master's Invitational, 4th Nevada State Championships, June 1987.**

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 thru 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 5-2 with the 5-point made and the 2-point open.

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

In the doubling positions, Nack is the dark checkers and Bill the light. The positions are shown from Nack's side of the board; study them first before going through the games.



Master's Invitational
Nack Ballard vs Bill Robertie
21 Point Match

Game 1

Nack Ballard - 0			Bill Robertie - 0		
	roll	played	roll	played	
1)	31	5 ²	64	14	
2)	52	8 11x	31	24 10	
3)	55	3 ³ F8(2),13	32	10 11	
4)	65	13	32	10 11	
5)	55	8 ² 3 ^{F13}	63	5 ²	
6)	21	22 5	53	3x ²	
7)	61	24 5	54	1x ^{F10}	
8)	31	24x-21	53	EF	
9)	63	2 ²	21	24 4x	
10)		dbl to 2?		Take	
11)	64	21x 2	51	24 3	
12)	21	4 ²	52	4x ^{F11}	
13)	43	21x-18	61	18	
14)	43	14 5	52	11x	
15)	42	21 3	52	4x ^{F11}	
16)	63	EF	64	4 6	
17)	54	EF	64	14	
18)	54	EF	42	10 4	
19)	33	EF	62	18 8	
20)	64	EF	31	5 17	
21)	41	24 2		dbl to 4?	
22)		pass			

Game 2

Nack Ballard - 0			Bill Robertie - 2		
	roll	played	roll	played	
1)	32	21 11	61	7 ²	
2)	31	5 ²	63	7 21	
3)	33	21 10 ² 8	65	13	
4)	65	4x 5	63	16	
5)	63	2 ²	21	5 ²	
6)	42	9x 4	32	22 11	
7)		dbl to 2?		pass	

Game 3

Nack Ballard - 1			Bill Robertie - 2		
	roll	played	roll	played	
1)	21	11 5	62	5	
2)	21	9 5	62	5	
3)	53	3 ²	66	18 ² 7 ²	
4)	61	12x-6	65	EF	
5)	11	22 ²	51	24 1	
6)	33	2 ² F8(2)	62	16x ^{F24}	
7)	64	15	43	9	
8)	62	16x-14	41	21 5	
9)	51	16	52	1 ^{F8}	
10)	53	10 ²	31	18 7	
11)	43	10 13	43	11	
12)	31	10 5	42	4 ²	
13)	41	6 4	52	6 3	
14)	31	1 5	64	1 3	
15)	11	1 ^{F5}	51	1 5	
16)	41	5	61	1 4	
17)	55	8 ² 5 ²	63	12 15	
18)		dbl to 2?		take	
19)	54	3 4	22	6 13	
20)	51	0 ²	55	3 0 ²	
21)	21	0 ²	22	0 ²	
22)	21	0 4		dbl to 4?	
23)		pass			

Game 4

Nack Ballard - 1			Bill Robertie - 4		
	roll	played	roll	played	
1)	64	14	62	18 11x	
2)	65	14x	65	20 18	
3)	22	11 ² 4 ²	44	4 ² 2 ²	
4)	22	9 ³	41	1x	
5)	42	EF	63	11x	
6)	62	EF	65	7 6	
7)	31	22 24x	62	23 7	
8)	65	17x-11	66	EF	
9)	61	5 ²	64	EF	
10)		dbl to 2?		pass	



Custom Wooden Dice Cups

RAN

Robert A. Neumann
Craftsman (313) 733-2406