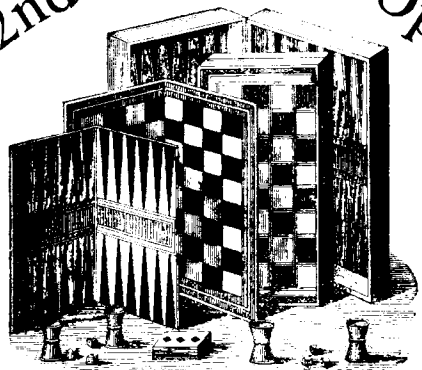## *Contest*: Win $20 off your Entry Fee for 42nd Indiana Open

After your opponent rolls 4-3 and plays 24-20, 13-10 you roll 4-1. Pick the best move from the 4 plays below:

- a) 13-9, 24-23
- b) 13-9, 6-5x
- c) 24-20, 6-5x
- d) 6-5x-1x.

Submit your answer by June 20th. Contest open to HBC members only. The answer will appear in the July-August newsletter. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing to determine the winner will be held on Thursday, June 23rd. The winner will be notified by mail.

42nd INDIANA Open

July 29-31, 1994

at

Radisson Hotel

Keystone at the Crossing

Hoosier Pips: Condolences to Gino Agresti on the death of his mother.

Proper Cube Action: 2-Away/2-Away

Definition of "2-away/2-away": *the match situation when the score is tied with both players needing 2 points to win.*

From open discussion on the Internet:

...that doubling on one's first turn is a version of optimal play when at 2-away/2-away match score. It supposes optimal play from opponent (otherwise one can possibly do better with technically incorrect play)...(rb)

...If, before the game starts, I promise you that I will always double at my first opportunity, then clearly my match winning chances are exactly 50%, assuming that we play equally well.

If you play perfect backgammon, then clearly 50% is the best that I can hope to do against you (!) So I can do no worse by doubling on the first move, then if I had decided to use some different doubling strategy.

To put it better: one should always(!) double on the first move of the 2-away/2-away game, unless either (1) he feels his opponent is more likely to make a doubling-error later in the game, or (2) his pride won't let him double, or (3) a combination of (1) and (2)...(cy)

...OK, let me present it in the following proposition: You and I are sitting down to play a 2-point match. Before we start, I will promise that I will turn the cube if there is any 2-roll sequence by which I can lose my market next turn.

My claim is that if you adopt any different strategy which involves risking losing your market, then you have the worst of it. Proof: It is clear that I will never lose my market -- i.e. no position can ever arise where I will double and you will (correctly) pass, since I have guaranteed that if this is at all possible I will have doubled on the previous turn. If it ever happens that you fail to double and lose your market then you have done less than optimally, since any time you lose your

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market you would have done better doubling the turn before.

Therefore, if you adopt any strategy which risks losing your market you will be at a disadvantage playing me when I adopt the strategy of never risking losing my market....(kw)

...I"m struggling with this argument of yours regarding the 2-away/2-away double. It seems to me that the illustration you describe here demonstrates only that, following your strategy, a player will never give up any "market-loser" equity, while his opponent who follows a different cube strategy risks some equity in this department. But doesn't a player following your strategy stand to lose another sort of equity by doubling so precipitously? I have in mind a scenario where instead of rolling his market loser (by which I intend "parlay") he rolls a merely average number and then gets beaned by a strong roll by his opponent. Now our man is on roll as an underdog playing for the match. If the scenario were reversed, with the other player NOT doubling on the strength of the remote market-losing parley, and rolling the same sequence, he would find himself an underdog, but happy not to have the match necessarily riding on this game. He now is on roll with a chance of equalizing. Surely in this sort of parley, it is the player who follows your advice that is "at a disadvantage" in comparison with a person who would have handled the cube differently.

It is not sufficient to say "If I don't roll my market loser, my opponent will double anyway because of his own market-losing sequences," because this thinking assumes that your opponent has adopted your cube strategy, and thus begs the question at hand...(aw)

...OK, I'll try again. Your argument is fine IF you assume that your opponent will err and not double when he has a potential market loser. However, if your opponent is playing properly you will never get the opportunity you suggest -- to avoid playing for the match when you get beaned by a strong roll by your opponent. The key is that your perfect opponent will always double if such a roll exists, so if you roll a so-so number you will be playing for the match anyway. You don't own the cube, so you can't stop him from doubling, and once he doubles then you haven't gained anything by not doubling. For example, suppose we are playing a 2-point match, I win the opening roll with 5-4 and play 24/20, 13/8. I now promise you that I will turn the cube next turn unless you roll 3-3 (and I mean to keep that promise). Aren't you better off doubling now rather than risking the sequence 3-3 by you, flunk by me, and (let us say) now you have lost your market. There can be NO advantage in waiting.

I will admit that in practice I don't always double if there is a possible market losing sequence. However I do this realizing that I am not playing theoretically correctly. My reason is that my opponent may not understand the concepts discussed here, so I think he is more likely to err and lose his market than I am. If I am playing someone whom I know understands the concepts, then I will always double at the sight of a market loser...(kw)

1994 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings.
HBC Player of the Month for May is Cyrus Mobed with 218 gammon points.

1)	Chuck Stimming.......1044	Jim Curtis.............................166	Steve Perlman................ 40
2)	Butch Meese..............880	Kevin McLeaster...................162	Frank Scott.................... 32
3)	Don Woods............... 692	Mick Dobratz.........................147	Wendy Kaplan................30
4)	Ellis Bray...................506	Alan Haas.............................100	J.A. Miller....................... 20
5)	Larry Strommen.........478	Rick Reahard.........................90	Jeff Baker....................... 20
6)	Neil Ezell.................372	Dave Cardwell........................ 84	John O'Hagan................20
7)	Cyrus Mobed.............352	Scott Richardson.................... 77	Sean Garber.................. 10
8)	Mary Ann Meese.......340	Craig Hampton...................... 68	Krystal Shaffer............... 10
9)	Woody Woodworth.... 332	Stu Sherman.........................60	Angie Jones.................... 10
10)	Jan Gurvitz.................284	Bill Julian.............................58	Bill Gheen...................... 10
	Dragan Stevanovic.... 207	Chuck Bower........................ 40	

	May 3rd	May 10th	May 17th	May 24th
1st	Chuck Stimming	Cyrus Mobed	Mick Dobratz	Don Woods
2nd	Butch Meese	Chuck Stimming	Butch Meese	Dave Cardwell
2nd	Cyrus Mobed	Neil Ezell	Jan Gurvitz	Cyrus Mobed

Backgammon Tournament Schedule

July 1-4.......Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI...(810) 232-9731
July 29-31.. 42nd INDIANA Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis...(317) 845-8435
Aug 14-17.. Las Vegas Open Backgammon Tournament, Stardust Hotel and Casino...................(702) 893-6025
Sep 5-10.... World Cup IV, Harvey's Addison Hotel, Dallas... (301) 299-8264

Thursdays... 7:00 PM at SPATS (842-3465) Castleton Square between J.C.Penneys & L.S.Ayres..........845-8435