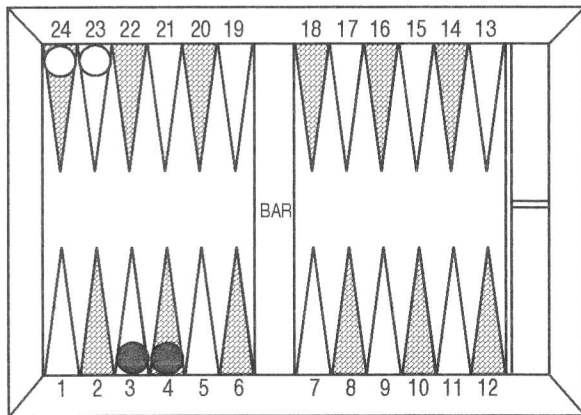




7-Point Match with Black on roll!

Case 1: Black trails 0-4.

Case 2: Black leads 4-0.



I often hear people say something like "I had to take the double at that match score, even though for money it's a clear pass." It is true that many times the score in the match leads to different cube handling than money, but the principle "drop early when ahead, take late when behind" is sometimes incorrect. The above paradoxical position is an example.

Most players know (or can calculate) that Black is a slight underdog to win the above game, with all rolls containing a 1 or a 2 (except 22) resulting in a loss. (11 + 9 - 1 = 19 losers.) In Case 1, Black is trailing by a significant amount. Many would be tempted to send the cube, feeling that a 0-6 score isn't much worse than 0-5 in the event that Black's bad luck continues. Likewise, most players in Case 2 would simply roll. Double in a game where you're an underdog with a substantial match lead? Who do you think you are, Jim Curtis?

The correct answers are:

Case 1: **no double**

Case 2: **double**

Both positions are clear takes. Calculations are based on the *Woolsey-Heinrich* doubling table

which shows that in Case 1, Black's doubling window is 60% to 80% and in Case 2, the window is 43.5% to 75%. The **doubling window** is the range of game winning chances over which a player should double. The lower number is the minimum game winning chance for doubling on the **last roll** -- where the cube has no value to the receiver. The larger number is the highest point where the opponent still has a take. Since $17/36 = 47.2\%$, we see that this is in the window for the player leading 4-0 but too low if trailing 0-4. Note that trailing 0-4, Black should not double even if his/her last two checkers were on the 5 and 2 points which is a benchmark position for a last roll money double/redouble.

How is one supposed to know all this? My suggestion is to take that money you receive for Christmas and buy Kit Woolsey's **How to Play Tournament Backgammon**. It's available from Carol Joy Cole, 3003 Ridgecliffe Drive, Flint MI 48532-3730, phone (810) 232-9731. The knowledge contained within is mandatory for every serious advanced/expert level player and well worth the \$20 (plus \$3 shipping) price.

Chuck Bower, Bloomington, IN

HBC Note: **Chuck Bower** currently leads the stiff competition in the this year's *Quiz Contest* conducted by **Inside Backgammon**.

Club Championship to start in January
\$200 to the Winner

As in past years, HBC awards the **Players of the Month** and **Top 10** with the **Club Championship**. Below are the **Players of the Month**. The current **Top 10** is on page 2 subject to change due to December play.

Month..... **Player of the Month**

- Jan..... Gabe Stiansy
- Feb..... Don Woods
- Mar..... Chuck Stimming
- Apr..... Chuck Stimming/Larry Strommen (tie)
- May..... Woody Woodworth
- Jun..... Woody Woodworth
- Jul..... Mary Ann Meese
- Aug..... Larry Strommen
- Sep..... Mary Ann Meese
- Oct..... Jim Curtis
- Nov..... Jan Gurvitz
- Dec..... T.B.D.

1995 HOOSIER BACKGAMMON CLUB Gammon Point Standings.

HBC Player of the Month for November was Jan Gurvitz with 160 gammon points.

1) Butch Meese..... 1406	Mick Dobratz..... 260	J.A. Miller..... 80	David Smith..... 20
2) Chuck Stimming..... 1399	G.L. Harvey..... 168	Philip Degen..... 68	Jim Bowman..... 20
3) Larry Strommen..... 1120	Kevin McLeaster.. 150	Steve Perlman..... 64	Elijah Miller..... 16
4) Ellis Bray..... 950	Bill Hodes..... 130	Bill Julian..... 60	Richard Heinz..... 16
5) Woody Woodworth.... 912	Bill Gheen..... 126	Wendy Kaplan..... 60	Lance Jenkins..... 16
6) Don Woods..... 896	Janice Newman... 126	Dave Cardwell..... 50	Jamie Curtis..... 15
7) Mary Ann Meese..... 776	Peter Kalba..... 116	Bob Koca..... 48	Ralph Stowell..... 10
8) Sean Garber..... 682	Rick Reahard..... 110	Reggie Porter..... 32	Paul Ruterma..... 10
9) Dave Groner..... 636	Scott Richardson... 96	Bud Maniac..... 30	Stephen Maas..... 10
10) Gabe Stiasny..... 608	Brian Nelson..... 88	Tom Helt..... 30	Alice Gerard..... 10
Jan Gurvitz..... 483	Stan Gurvitz..... 86	Fred Badagnani..... 30	Dave Williams..... 10
Neil Ezell..... 320	John Brussel..... 84	Jon Stephens..... 20	Dave Fey..... 10
Chuck Bower..... 318	Karen Davis..... 84	Jim Painter..... 20	Carol Falk..... 10
Jim Curtis..... 278	Randall Witt..... 80	Bob Cassell..... 20	Art Overbay..... 10

**HBC
Awards
Tournament**

February 25th, 1996

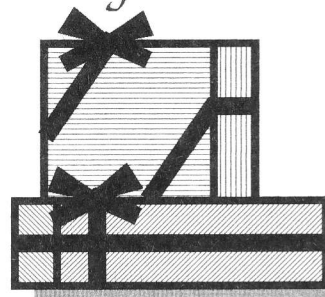
SPATS, Castleton

Details later!!

We will be playing thru the holiday.

Weekly play has moved, but not far. We are now playing out in the sun room. Less noise and traffic...same game...join us.

Merry Christmas



and Happy New Year.

	<u>November 2nd</u>	<u>November 9th</u>	<u>November 16th</u>	<u>November 30th</u>
1st	Dave Groner	Jan Gurvitz	Jan Gurvitz	Mary Ann Meese
2nd	Chuck Stimming	Larry Strommen	Woody Woodworth	Jim Curtis
2nd	...	Stan Gurvitz	Chuck Stimmiing	Sean Garber

Backgammon Tournament Schedule

Feb 16-18....	18th Annual Pittsburgh Championships , Greentree Mariott, PA.....	(412) 823-7500
Mar 24-26....	Midwest Backgammon Championships , Drake Oakbrook, Oak Brook, IL.....	(312) 583-6464
Apr 24-28....	Nevada State Championships , Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV.....	(702) 893-6025
Jul 4-7.....	Michigan Summer Championships , Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI.....	(810) 232-9731

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