

**Hoosier
Backgammon
Club**



February 1996

What are you doing on
Sunday February 25 1996?

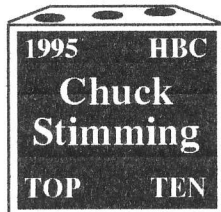
No *Super Bowl*
No *NBA All-Star Game*
No *Skins Game*

so **No Excuses** for not attending the

HBC Awards Tournament

A Little Backgammon? Sure!

**Awarding
the
Best of
1995**



SPATS at Castleton Square
842-3465

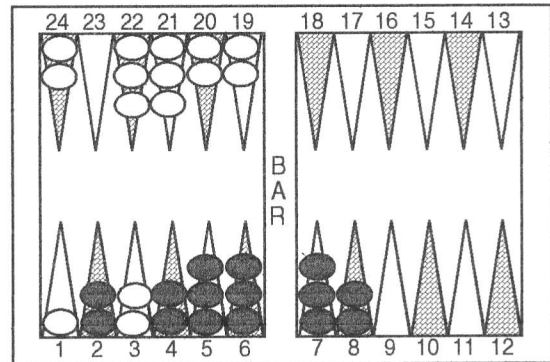
Open \$20 (optional \$10 sidepool)
Advanced \$10 Novice \$6

Registration 11:00-11:45AM
Awards presented by Chuck 11:45AM
Play begins at Noon

Please Pre-Register by phone (317) 845-8435
Day of Tournament 442-4065
or email hbc@ix.netcom.com

Position #1

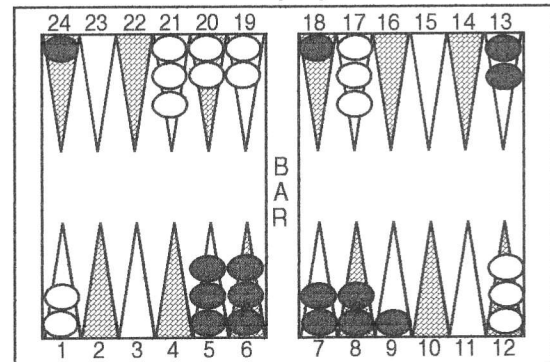
3-Point Match Black-0 White-0
Black to play 6-4?



2

Position #2

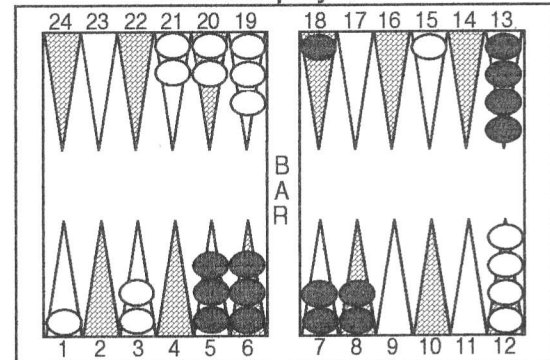
Money Game
Black to play 5-1?



64

Position #3

Money Game
Black to play 2-1?



64

Answers on Page 2

Hoosier Backgammon Club's Newsletter for HBC members and subscribers.

Subscription rate: \$12/year (Canada \$14 and overseas \$16). Let us know if your address changes.
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Problems of the Month

by Butch Meese

Position #1

I encountered this position while playing on FIBS. My first reaction...was to hit and make the 1-point. Simple enough...put your opponent on the BAR with a 5-point board hoping he dances while you bring in your other 4 checkers. If that works, White remains on the BAR which keeps his home board intact. Rarely do you have other good choices at this point in the game...most are automatic.

Another good play is 8-4, 8-2. Now what does this do that the other play does not? If White rolls 6-5, 6-4, 6-3, 6-1, he is forced to vacate one checker off the 3-point with a good chance of putting 2 checkers in the air and going for the gammon. If White rolls 5-4, 5-3, or 5-1, White most likely will break his board instead of coming off the 3-point and that's good. Of course, you are making double 5's and 6's good. You probably will not get a gammon with those rolls but there is still a good chance to win. And you make 5-2 a real nice roll for White.

There are always tradeoffs between 2 good moves. To get a better feel for how much of a difference there is, I ran both plays by JellyFish.

7/1x, 5/1			8/2, 8/4		
Win/G/BG	G/BG	BG	Win/G/BG	G/BG	BG
14.4%	0.4%	0.0%	10.3%	0.4%	0.0%
85.6%	19.3%	0.6%	89.3%	19.3%	0.6%
Equity: +0.907			+0.990		

Positions #2 and 3

These two positions are similar and reappear from time to time. The choice is between making a 5-point prime (my goal in life) or making another good play. Both positions were made against me during weekly play (names of opponents will not be divulged to save any egg remaining on face). Even though these positions were during match play, to simplify the write-up, I made them both money games. I'm sure if the cube had been turned in either position during our ever

friendly weekly chouette, a lengthy discussion would occur on which is the preferred play.

In Position #2, Black can make the bar point or make a 5-point prime. In Position #3, Black must choose between hitting and priming. There is enough difference between the 2 positions where priming is right in one position but not for the other.

In Position #2, as pointed out to me by Mr. Don Woods, if Black makes the prime, White could win without too much problem by playing forward. This means White's plan is to trap the two blots and escape the back checker. If Black makes the bar point, he has taken that threat away from White. And Black can make the prime most likely on the next couple of rolls.

But in Position #3, if Black does not make the prime on this roll, it may be some time before the opportunity occurs again. Since Black has only one back checker, it may be harder for White to trap a single checker. And White has 3 checkers back instead of two as in the other position.

So 24-18 is correct in Position 2 and making the prime is correct in Position 3. Both plays were verified with JellyFish.

1996 HBC Gammon Point Standings. Player of the Month for January was Woody Woodworth with 154 gammon points.

- 1) Woody Woodworth..... 154
- 2) Larry Strommen..... 84
- 3T) Jim Curtis..... 80
- 3T) Gabe Stiasny..... 80
- 5) Chuck Stimming..... 74
- 6) Jan Gurvitz..... 70
- 7) Mary Ann Meese..... 68
- 8T) Don Woods..... 58
- 8T) Sean Garber..... 58
- 10T) Butch Meese..... 50
- 10T) Jamie Curtis..... 50
- 12) Dave Groner..... 48
- 13) Shini Dadon..... 30
- 14) Keith Jackson..... 20
- 15) Alan Haas..... 20
- 16) Stan Gurvitz..... 10

	January 4th	January 11th	January 18th	January 25th
1st	Jan Gurvitz	Jim Curtis	Woody Woodworth	Gabe Stiasny
2nd	Larry Strommen	Mary Ann Meese	Chuck Stimming	Don Woods
2nd	Woody Woodworth	...	Dave Groner	Sean Garber

Backgammon Tournament Schedule

Feb 16-18....	18th Annual Pittsburgh Championships , Greentree Mariott, PA.....	(412) 823-7500
Mar 22-24....	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
Au30-Sep2...	44th Indiana Open , Radisson Hotel.....	(317) 845-8435
Thursdays.....	7:00 PM at SPATS (842-3465) Castleton Square (between J.C.Penney's & L.S.Ayres)....	845-8435