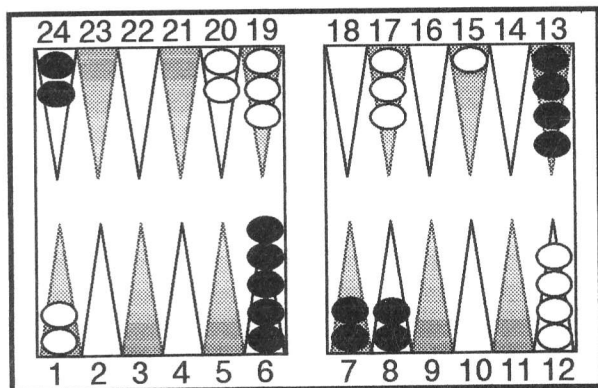




**1996 HBC Gammon Point Standings.
Player of the Month for July was
Sean Garber with 176 gammon points.**

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----|
| 1) | Butch Meese..... | 936 |
| 2) | Don Woods..... | 876 |
| 3) | Sean Garber..... | 842 |
| 4) | Jim Curtis..... | 774 |
| 5) | Larry Strommen..... | 762 |
| 6) | Dave Groner..... | 714 |
| 7) | Chuck Stimming..... | 506 |
| 8) | Mary Ann Meese..... | 420 |
| 9) | Jan Gurvitz..... | 330 |
| 10) | Gabe Stiasny..... | 312 |
| | Woody Woodworth..... | 294 |
| | Ellis Bray..... | 288 |
| | Kevin McLeaster..... | 224 |
| | Chuck Bower..... | 218 |
| | Neil Ezell..... | 114 |
| | Kevin Bastian..... | 110 |
| | Jamie Curtis..... | 90 |
| | Janice Newman..... | 80 |
| | Bill Gheen..... | 64 |
| | Bill Julian..... | 40 |
| | Shimi Dadon..... | 30 |
| | Brian Nelson..... | 20 |
| | Keith Jackson..... | 20 |
| | Bob Cassell..... | 20 |
| | Alan Haas..... | 20 |
| | Stan Gurvitz..... | 10 |
| | John Nelson..... | 10 |

Money Game - Black to play 4-4?



...answer on Page 2...

Wall-to-Wall Backgammon



**44th INDIANA Open
Backgammon Tournament**



**Labor Day Weekend
Aug 30-Sept 02, 1996**

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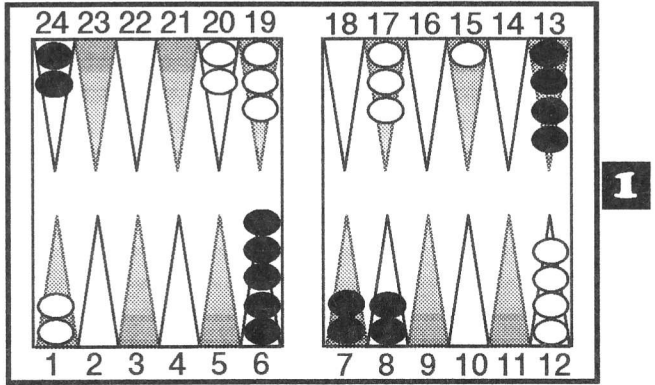


KG

On August 29th, Thursday Evening
backgammon will be at the
Radisson Hotel, Suite 16!

Backgammon is Full of Axioms
by Chuck Bower

Money Game - Black to play 4-4?



Backgammon is full of axioms:
 "When in doubt, hit!"
 "Don't slot and split."
 "Keep your last two points even in the bearoff."
 and there are many others.

The illustrated position represents conflicting principles. The 44 roll isn't Black's best, but it's close. How do you play this number to maximum advantage? Doubles generally offer more opportunities than non-doubles. And since only one is likely to be best, it is important to look EXTRA carefully for ALL candidate plays.

In the given position, Black has no choice but to leave the two checkers on the 24-point alone for now. But the other 13 checkers are free to move.

Several choices surface. Three plays make two inner board points, but of these, only 8/4(2),

6/2(2) establishes four blocking points. Three plays leave four consecutive points: 13/5(2) 13/9(4) and 13/9(2) 6/2(2). Giving up the midpoint looks like a bad idea. The last of these three plays has the weakness of holding two points seven apart. That is, points that cannot be part of the same six-prime: the 2-point and the 8-point. Playing 13/9(2) 7/3(2) also has this shortcoming and gives up the bar point besides. Finally, playing 13/9(2) 8/4(2) is a reasonable candidate, making four bricks of a six prime.

What does Jellyfish think? At level seven (three ply evaluation), 13/5(2) is best by 0.08 in equity and the only play which leaves Black as the favorite. My feeling (though I can't prove it) is that generally level 6 rollouts are more reliable than simple evaluations. The rollout results ALSO favor 13/5(2) by 0.11 in equity. Play 4(2) 2(2) was second in both cases with all other plays trailing by at least 0.19. (Rollout standard deviations were 0.03 for each case.) Play 8/4(2) 6/2(2) has the advantage of making two inner board points instead of one and of leaving a more flexible position with two spares on the midpoint. And yet it comes in a distant second.

Jellyfish believes that the 5-point is so valuable that it more than makes up for the inflexibility. Four consecutive points is also better than the sieve resulting from making the 4-point and 2-point. These two factors (four consecutive points including the 5-point) outweigh the flexibility and extra inner board point of the second best play.

JellyFish was written by *Frederick Dahl* of Norway and is available from *Larry Strommen* [317-544-0224], diceman@indy.net or *Carol Joy Cole* [810-232-9431], CARLCOLE@alumni.sils.umich.edu

Give us your problems...

Every week we hear someone say "how would you play this?" Position cards will be available Thursday evening. We will select **Problem of the Month** from your submissions.

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>July 4th</u> | <u>June 13th</u> | <u>June 20th</u> | <u>June 27th</u> |
| 1st | <i>Happy</i> | <i>Butch Meese</i> | <i>Dave Groner</i> | <i>Chuck Bower</i> |
| 2nd | <i>Birthday</i> | <i>Jim Curtis</i> | <i>Sean Garber</i> | <i>Sean Garber</i> |
| 2nd | <i>U S A</i> | <i>Sean Garber</i> | <i>Don Woods</i> | <i>Don Woods</i> |

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Backgammon Tournament Schedule | |
| Aug 11-18.... World Cup V , Harvey Hotel Addison, Dallas, TX..... | (301) 299-8265 |
| Au30-Sep2... 44th Indiana Open , Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN..... | (317) 255-8902 |
| Sept 20-22... Minnesota State Backgammon Championships , Minneapolis MN..... | (612) 378-1536 |
| Oct 3-6..... 6th Illinois BG Championships & American Cup , Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL. (847) 945-7801 | |
| Thursdays..... 7:00 PM at Bombay Bicycle Club (872-3446) 9111 North Michigan Road | 255-8902 |