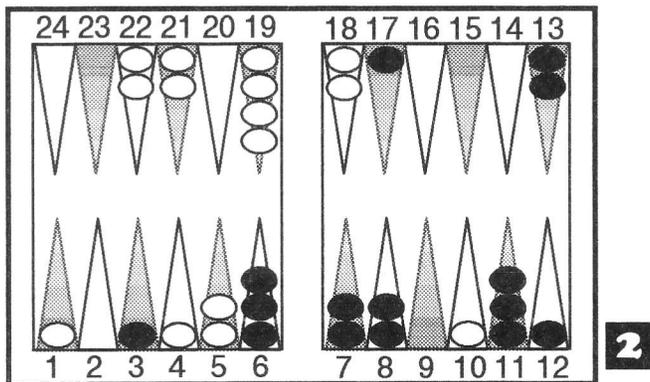




7 Point Match (Post Crawford)

Black-6 White-4
Black to play 6-2?



I jumped ahead in this match 6-0 and had an even chance to win 7-0. But White made a come-back. A couple games later, I reached this position. White has a better home board and I have three blots. And no matter how I play this, I'm still going to have two blots. So what is the best play? I asked a panel of experts and they came up with three plays:

- 1) the simple play of 11/3,
- 2) the minimum return shots play of 12/6 3/1x and
- 3) the aggressive play 12/10x/4x.

Here are some of their comments:

My immediate hunch was 12/6, 3/1x and I will stick with it. This play minimizes shots and leaves only two blots (which can be said of some other choices such as 11/3). In other match circumstances some of the other more clever plays would run a closer second (7/1x, 3/1 and 12/10x/4x, and who knows, maybe even 13/7, 13/11 is worth a look), but here I think the answer is clear. You have a big lead in the race and you are simply trying to minimize contact while walking this thing home. It is also very important that Black minimizes White's chances for a counter offensive which could prove fatal.

Frank Frigo, KY

I would play 12/6, 3/1x, but am rolling it out on Jellyfish to get another opinion. Will let you know if I change my play.

Malcolm Davis, TX

What an ugly position. Under the theory that ugly positions require ugly plays; I would play the craven 12/6 3/1x. Seriously, this does minimize White's shots (11) and has the added (albeit dubious) benefit of possibly getting White's straggler on the 1-point out of our way for future ugly dump plays. Making the 3 point with 11/3 is reasonable, but the extra 6 hits for Black are big. Making the 1-point leaves 12 hits and 3 blots to clean up next roll; so this can be ruled out. I think White's strategy here is to totally wimp it up and hope to limp home and maintain his small racing lead.

Harry Cohn, Chicago

It's late at night, so I may not be giving this my best, but I would hit twice, playing 12/10x, 10/4x. I don't think that score considerations are enough to override the strengths of this play.

Jake Jacobs, Chicago

In any event, I am inclined to play 12/10x/4x. This play yields far and away the biggest gains when it works. While you will often have one or both checkers hit, for now the outfield is in your control and you should be able to reenter and come around again. If you make a **safer** play, like 11/3 or 12/6 3/1x, your opponent will have a good chance to grab your ten point and with it a bridge to the entire outfield. Besides, your racing edge isn't all that big. I don't think there is much gammon danger, at least not yet. I wouldn't let the match score dissuade me from making the **bold** play.

Kent Goulding, MD

Kit Woolsey, Karen Davis and Art Benjamin choose 11/3 play while *Chuck Bower, Doug Roberts and Mike Fujita* liked 12/6 3/1x. Play 12/6 3/1x received the most votes. After the match, I liked 11/3 which I did not play across the board. I also checked with JellyFish as one more source.

JellyFish Version 2.0 Level 7 Evaluation

	Play	Black wins	White wins simple	G's	Money Equity	Match Equity
1.	11/3	59.8	28.2	12.0	+0.181	73.9%
2.	12/10x/4x	56.2	27.1	16.7	+0.096	69.8%
3.	12/6 3/1x	60.3	29.1	10.6	+0.181	74.9%

For money, the two most popular plays are dead even but for this match score the panel's play is best. This is easy to see that in the numbers because Black has two goals: 1) win this game and 2) if he loses the game, at least do not get gammoned.

1996 HBC Gammon Point Standings.

Player of the Month for October was a tie between **Sean Garber** and **Butch Meese**

with 188 gammon points. A close third was **Don Woods** with 184 points.

1) Butch Meese.....	1312	Kevin McLeaster.....	292	Jeff Acierno.....	30
2) Sean Garber.....	1280	Jim Painter.....	207	Julie Overbeck.....	30
3) Don Woods.....	1263	Neil Ezell.....	144	Brian Nelson.....	20
4) Larry Strommen.....	1179	Mary Franks.....	130	Keith Jackson.....	20
5) Jim Curtis.....	1146	Jon Stephens.....	120	Martha Ghio.....	20
6) Dave Groner.....	1032	Janice Newman.....	110	Oules Martene.....	20
7) Chuck Stimming.....	830	Kevin Bastian.....	110	Artie Kamien.....	20
8) Mary Ann Meese.....	616	Bill Gheen.....	109	Bob Cassell.....	20
9) Jan Gurvitz.....	598	Alan Haas.....	108	John Nelson.....	10
10) Chuck Bower.....	458	Jamie Curtis.....	90	Howard Shirey.....	10
Woody Woodworth.....	418	Paul Franks.....	64	Stan Gurvitz.....	10
Paul Magriel.....	400	Jon Vietor.....	40	Randall Witt.....	10
Gabe Stiasny.....	312	Bill Julian.....	40	Mike Graham.....	10
Ellis Bray.....	298	Shimi Dadon.....	30	Pam Sadlo.....	10

Hoosier Pips

Louisville Backgammon Club's fall tournament is set for November 9-10, back again at the Captains Quarters. Call Quint McTyeire (502) 587-3672 for further details.

The Club's move to **Holiday Inn's Bench Warmers** was quick and necessary due to the remodeling of the **Bombay Bicycle Club**. We realize that the noise and smoke levels are above what we would like. We welcome any suggestions for a new location.

HBC welcomes new players *Mike Graham, Pam Sadlo* and *Jeff Turner*. To welcome new players, the first night they play, they pay the normal \$10 entry fee. If they do not win a match, they can play free until they do.

Dave Groner took a bite out of the **Big Apple Backgammon Tournament** in Hackensack NJ held October 25-27, 1996. He won three events.

October 3rd

- 1st Sean Garber
- 2nd Mary Ann Meese
- 2nd Jim Curtis

October 10th

- 1st Sean Garber
- 2nd Woody Woodworth
- 2nd Don Woods

October 17th

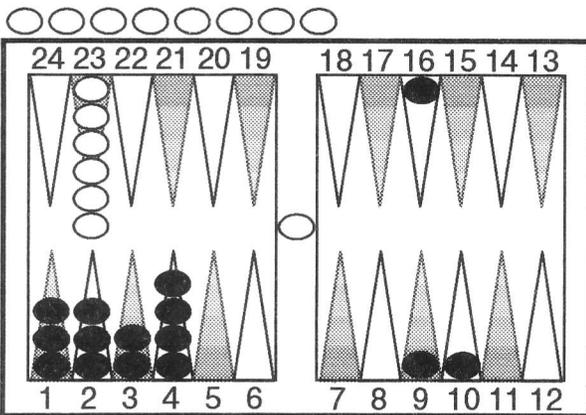
- 1st Butch Meese
- 2nd Sean Garber

October 24th

- 1st Chuck Bower
- 2nd Butch Meese
- 2nd Kevin McLeaster

October 31st

- 1st Woody Woodworth
- 2nd Don Woods



7 Point Match
 Black - 0 White - 0
 White Doubles?

Although I dropped this during the match, I still wanted to know more. I ran the position thru JellyFish (I used Level 6). White wins 88.8% in this position. I ran it by adding checkers to White's 2-point with the following results.

<u>Checkers Off</u>	<u>White Wins</u>
8	88.8%
7	84.7%
6	80.0%
5	74.1%

Backgammon Tournament Schedule

Nv 29-Dc01..	2nd Thanksgiving Tournament , Best Western Hotel, Arkon, OH.....	(330) 966-2811
Dec 6-8.....	37th Gammon Assoc. Holiday Invitational , Holiday Inn, Woodland Hills, CA.....	(818) 901-0464
Feb 14-16....	19th Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA.....	(412) 823-7500
Apr 22-27....	4th Worldwide Twin Championships, Four Queen Hotel, Las Vegas, NV.....	(702) 893-6025
Thursdays.....	7:00 PM at Holiday Inn North (872-9790) 92nd & North Michigan Road	255-8902