

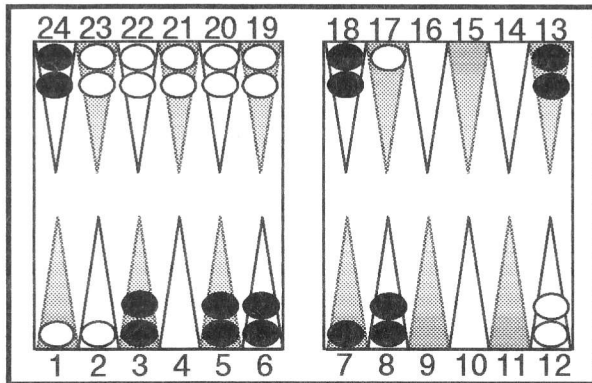
**Hoosier
Backgammon
Club**

June 1997



Watch & Learn on FIBS

**9-Point Match Black-4 White-4
Black to play 6-1?**



In early May, I was watching Mike Fujita (HI) and Rich Sweetman (VT) on FIBS when this Mike position came up. Mike commented this would be a good one for the newsletter. I had already taken down the position. I showed the position to our regular Thursday group and most were not sure which play they would make.

I emailed the position to an expert panel and on Page 2 are the responses.

**No Backgammon...No Backgammon...
No Backgammon...No Backgammon...
No Backgammon on Thursday, July 3rd
Enjoy The Fourth in Style**

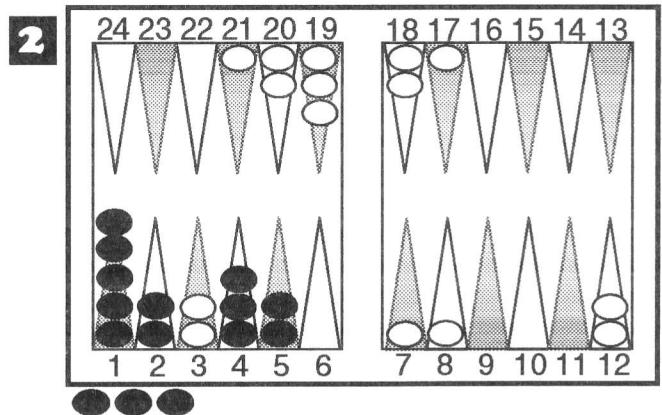
Hoosier Pips...HBC welcomes new players, brothers Brett and Bud Robey...Congratulations to the **1996 Club Champion: Sean Garber**. Sean captured the title with wins over Butch Meese, Larry Strommen (1994 and 1995 Champion), Dave Groner and in the Finals over Don Woods (1996 Player of the Year) 13-11 in 12 games.

**1997 HBC Gammon Point Standings.
Player of the Month for May was
Don Woods with 274 gammon points.**

- 1) Don Woods.....708
- 2) Butch Meese..... 676
- 3) Chuck Stimming.....650
- 4) Sean Garber.....460
- 5) Larry Strommen..... 444
- 6) Dave Groner.....430
- 7) Jim Curtis.....314
- 8) Mary Ann Meese.....294
- T9) Gabe Stiasny.....250
- T9) Jan Gurvitz.....250
- Kevin McLeaster.....246
- Woody Woodworth..... 198
- Alan Haas.....170
- J.A. Miller.....80
- Chuck Bower..... 78
- Brett Robey..... 48
- Frank Scott.....32
- Jim Painter.....30
- Peter Kalba.....30
- Brian Nelson.....20
- Bill Julian..... 10
- Reggie Porter.....10
- Luke Clippinger.....10
- Jim Clunie..... 10
- Jana Miller.....10
- Rod Hali.....10
- Lance Jenkins..... 10
- Rick Reahard..... 10
- Bud Robey..... 10

Jump for Joy!!

**7-Point Match Black-5 White-5
Black to play 2-2?**



Answer in the July Newsletter

	May 1st	May 8th	May 15th	May 22nd	May 29th
1st	Dave Groner	Dave Groner	Chuck Stimming	Butch Meese	Don Woods
2nd	Don Woods	Don Woods	Don Woods	Don Woods	Brett Robey
2nd	Gabe Stiasny	Butch Meese	Sean Garber	Chuck Stimming	Sean Garber

Hoosier Backgammon Club's Newsletter

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Watch & Learn on FIBS

Response #1

I would go quietly with 24/18, 7/6. There is no question that either of the hitting plays (24/17x or 18/17x, 13/7) are better tries to win.

However, both of these plays up the gammon danger considerably. WHITE has the five-point board, so if WHITE hits back it could be all over. Even if BLACK survives the first salvo the priming battle hasn't been won yet, since WHITE will still have two outfield checkers to play with and BLACK has the hole on the four point. After my play BLACK can still win, either by containing one of WHITE's back checkers or from a bar point holding game. BLACK's position will be reasonably comfortable to play (considering that he is staring at the best five-point board), with the spares on the 18 and 6 points and the back checker ready to spring with a six. WHITE, on the other hand, may find his rolls awkward immediately.

It should be noted that the match score is an argument for the more conservative play. If BLACK loses a gammon he is behind 5-away, 1-away (Crawford), with 15% winning chances. If he loses a single game he is behind 5-away, 3-away, with 34% winning chances, and if he wins a single game he is ahead 5-away, 3-away, with 66% winning chances. Thus, if we look at what BLACK gains (from going from a loss to a win) compared with what he loses (from going to a single loss to a gammon), we see that the odds are 32 to 19. This is less than the normal 2 to 1 money odds, meaning that it is more costly than usual for BLACK to be gammoned. This makes 24/18, 7/6 even more attractive.

Kit Woolsey, CA

Response #2

I'd probably wuss out and play 24/18, 7/6 and try to get out alive. But it may be that 18/17x, 13/7 is the way to go. So half the time you get hit, but you can still roll a one and hit right back somehow. I guess you already know what Jellyfish says?

=e (Elliott Winslow, CA)

Response #3

I play 24/18, 7/6. Art Benjamin, CA

Response #4

I play 18/17x, 13/7. Best, Jake Jacobs, IL

Response #5

My play is 13/7, 18/17x. That was my play BEFORE I asked JF to roll it out. JF rollouts supported this play. This position has an uncanny resemblance to Problem 96 in Kit's latest book, **New Ideas in Backgammon**. I'm sure the fact that I had just read Kit's analysis to Problem 96 had a STRONG influence on my choice.

Chuck Bower, IN

Response #6

I play 24/17x. It is good to catch up in the race. There are 14 return hitters and double 1's and double 2's as good returns. I think aggressiveness is good here. YOU have the pesky cube.

Linc Bedell, NH

Response #7

Maybe dougie is a total wuss, but I think I would reluctantly play 24/18 jump; 7/6 pickupstix... I think 18/17x; 13/7 cover is crazy, and 24/17x is too dangerous. Let me know, how many other wusses there are slinking around...

Doug Roberts, NY

Response #8

Without looking at it with Jellyfish, it seems pretty clear to play 24/17x. A very interesting problem. I will analyze it later, but I figured you just wanted an *across-the-board opinion*. Will be in touch and am always delighted to hear from you.

Malcolm Davis, TX

Just looked at 6-1 play on JF and I may have a clue as to why I haven't been winning. It appears that 18/17x, 13/7 is about 28% better, utilizing the double look-ahead analysis, than 24/17x. Will roll it out later.

Malcolm Davis, TX

Hi Again! Included are the results of definitive no-cube rollouts of the 4 top plays with 6-1. White is always on roll and the equity calculation is always from White's point of view, so we want to choose the play which minimizes White's equity. Hope this is helpful - it was done utilizing the new Jellyfish (version 3.0), which can spot the old version about 2 points in 100 games. Let me know what you think, or if you have any questions.

Thanks - Malcolm

Play	13/7	24/17x	18/17x/11	24/18
	18/17x			7/6
White's Equity	0.147	0.394	0.438	0.389
Black's Wins/Gs/BG	50.1%	42.9%	40.9%	42.0%
Black's Gs	13.0%	11.8%	10.4%	10.8%
Black's BGs	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%
White's BGs	2.7%	2.1%	4.2%	0.7%
White's Gs	25.8%	35.5%	32.2%	33.5%
White's Wins/Gs/BG	49.9%	57.1%	59.1%	58.0%

Editor's Note: By playing 13/7 18/17x, the game turns into a volatile prime versus prime. About half of White's wins are gammons but note that other plays by Black produce even more gammon wins for White. A lot of Black's wins are by re-double/drop when White cannot escape Black's prime. Since JellyFish rollouts are cubeless, this double/drop scenario argues even more strongly for 13/7, 18/17x.

Thanks for your responses.

Backgammon Tournament Schedule

Jun 20-22.....	1997 Georgia Championships & Peach Cup , Holiday Inn Select, Atlanta, Ga.....	(770) 333-1876
Jul 3-6.....	Michigan Summer Championships , Novi Hotel, Novi MI.....	(810) 232-9731
Aug 29-Sep 1...	45th Indiana Open , Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis IN.....	(317) 255-8902
Sep 19-21.....	2nd Minnesota State Championships , Minnesota Athletic Club, MN.....	(612) 378-1536
Oct 02-05.....	Illinois State Champs and American Cup , Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL.....	(847) 945-7801
Thursdays.....	7:00 PM at Wildcat Brewing Company (872-3446) 92nd & North Michigan Road	255-8902