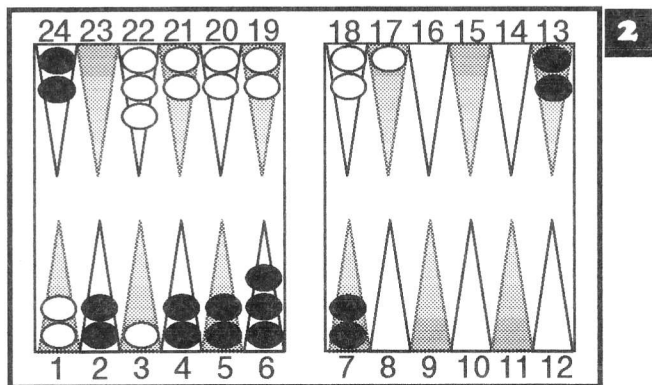


level-6 cubeless rollouts; three active plays: 24/23 with either 13/9, 6/2, or 7/3x. I also tried the passive 13/8 without the split. Surprisingly this group broke into two clear categories. The conservative *hold your anchor* move 13/8 did not do well. White is given two options: attack in the outfield or go slowly and watch Black's prime break first. The pure play, 13/9, 24/23 also fared poorly. White is given two options here as well: attack in the infield or attack in the outfield. In both of these cases, Black's prime holds but White usually has enough time to get the back checkers moving.

Money Game, Black to play 4-1?



Maximize your Options Minimize Opponent's by Chuck Bower

This problem is a prime vs. prime position for obvious reasons. Both sides have strong but incomplete full primes with opponent's checkers trapped behind them. The side that breaks first most likely will lose!

Before Black's roll, Jellyfish level-7 evaluates Black as a slight cubeless favorite (0.046 equity). There are certainly better rolls than 4-1, but that is what the dice gods have given us.

No matter what Black moves, there are good and bad things that can occur. Moving 24/23 is the direct approach to escape and maintain timing. But the split back checkers then become targets for White's attack. Not splitting the back checkers will work if White can't get his/her checker on Black's 3-point in motion, but probably will fail otherwise because Black will likely be forced to break his/her prime first.

I investigated four plays using Jellyfish v3.0

The best two plays both have ironic aspects. As a general rule in prime vs. prime positions, you want to avoid putting the opponent on the bar. As long as a player is on the bar, s/he can't break his/her prime. But a second important ploy is to put as many of your opponent's checkers behind your prime, thus forcing his/her prime to break. 7/3x, 24/23 attempts the latter at the expense of the former. If White enters Bar/22x or Bar/24/18x, the plan will have failed miserably. If Black can cover the blot on his/her 3-point, then s/he can win directly by escaping the back checkers while White stays on the bar OR indirectly when White enters with an one and then is forced to break within the next couple rolls.

Jellyfish rollouts prefer the ugly 24/23, 6/2 most of all, slightly beating out 7/3x, 24/23 by 0.025 equity units (and the other two plays by more than 0.1). This type of play--voluntarily killing a useful checker--was almost unheard of among expert players prior to the neural net robots entering the scene. Although one should use this kind of tactic sparingly, here it has the advantage of giving White the fewest opportunities while keeping Black's paths open--attack, escape, or win the timing battle.

HBC Award Tournament

Don Woods won the HBC Awards Tournament after being awarded the 1997 Player of the Year. Thanks to Chuck Stimming for MCing the awards ceremony.

- 1st..... Don Woods
- 2nd..... Jim Curtis
- 2nd..... Chuck Bower

<u>January 8th</u>	<u>January 15th</u>	<u>January 22nd</u>	<u>January 29th</u>
1st Don Woods	Mary Ann Meese	Don Woods	Al Gomez
2nd Al Gomez	Al Gomez	Butch Meese	Dave Groner
2nd Mary Ann Meese	Dave Groner	Al Gomez	Sean Garber

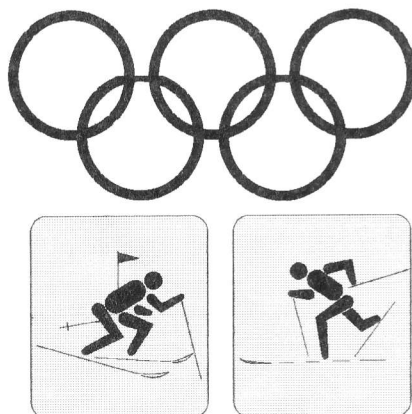
Hoosier Backgammon Club's Newsletter
 Butch & Mary Ann Meese 1008 Tuckahoe Street Indianapolis, IN 46260-2215
 (317) 255-8902 E-Mail: meese@worldnet.att.net Home Page: <http://home.att.net/~meese>

Hoosier Pips... Chuck Bower and Mary Ann Meese cashed in the Fall FIBS Backgammon Tournament. Chuck tied 3rd/4th in the Open Division while Mary Ann was a finalist in the Limited Consolation...One of Chuck Bower's matches from the last FIBS tournament is available on-line at <http://www.bkgm.com/matches>; It's the semifinal match against Charles Raichle (char)...Congrats to Al Gomez for winning **Player of the Month** for the first time...Don Woods has another notch in his backgammon gun: he won another 10 matches in a row on December 18, January 8 and January 15; Mary Ann Meese broke his streak...Condolences to Dave Groner on the death of his mother.

A new award starting in 1998!
 HBC has awarded the **TOP TEN Players** and the **Player of the Year** for the past 14 years.
HBC will award the Best New Player for the Year.
 The winner will be determined by the player with the highest gammon points for the full year. Players are eligible through their first full calendar year with the club. Must be a member of HBC.

1998 Hoosier Backgammon Club
 Gammon Point Standings as of January 31, 1998
 The HBC **Player of the Month** for **January**
 was **Al Gomez** with 224 gammon points.

1)	Al Gomez.....	224
2)	Don Woods.....	190
3)	Mary Ann Meese.....	148
T4)	Dave Groner.....	94
T4)	Sean Garber.....	94
6)	Butch Meese.....	84
7)	Jim Curtis.....	70
8)	Luke Clippinger.....	60
T9)	Chuck Stimming.....	40
T9)	Jim Mieske.....	40
	Jan Gurvitz.....	30
	Larry Strommen.....	20
	Gino Agresti.....	20
	Frank Scott.....	10
	Dave Fey.....	10



Winter Olympics in Japan

Backgammon Website of the Month: <http://www.fibs.com/>
 Dedicated to **F.I.B.S. (First Internet Backgammon Server)**
 maintained by Daniel (Raccoon) Murphy in Snekkersten, Denmark

Tournament Schedule

Mar 20-22.....	1998 Midwest Championships , Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL.....	(770) 583-6464
Feb 13-15.....	20th Annual Pittsburgh Backgammon Championships , Pittsburgh, PA.....	(412) 823-7500
Apr 14-19.....	5th Worldwide Twin Backgammon Championships , Four Queens, Las Vegas....	(702) 893-6025
May 8-10.....	41st Gammon Associates Invitational , A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles.....	(818) 901-0464
May 22-25.....	19th Chicago Open , Wyndham, Itasca, IL.....	(847) 674-0120
Jun 12-14.....	1998 Georgia Championship & Pench Cup , Atlanta, GA.....	(770) 333-1876
Jul 2-5.....	Michigan Summer Backgammon Championships , Novi Hilton, Novi, MI.....	(810) 232-9731
Aug 1-9.....	World Cup VI/Texas Open/US Open , Harvey's Hotel Addison, Dallas, TX.....	(301) 299-8265
Sep 4-7.....	46th INDIANA Open , Raddison Hotel, Indianapolis, IN.....	(317) 255-8902
Thursdays.....	7:00 PM at Wildcat Brewing Company (872-3446) 92nd & North Michigan Road	255-8902