



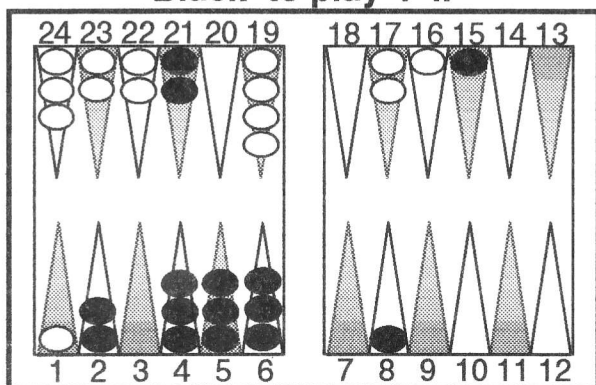
Hoosier
Backgammon
Club

April 1998

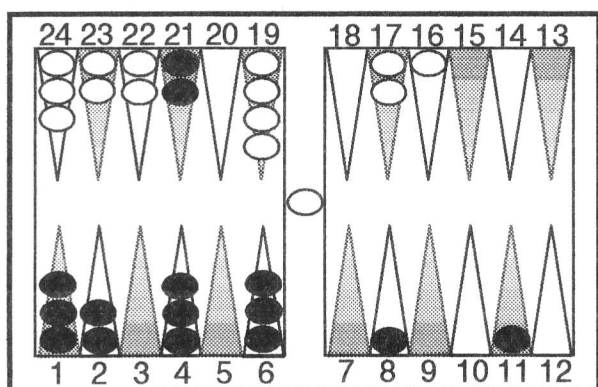
Beauty is Truth

by Chuck Bower

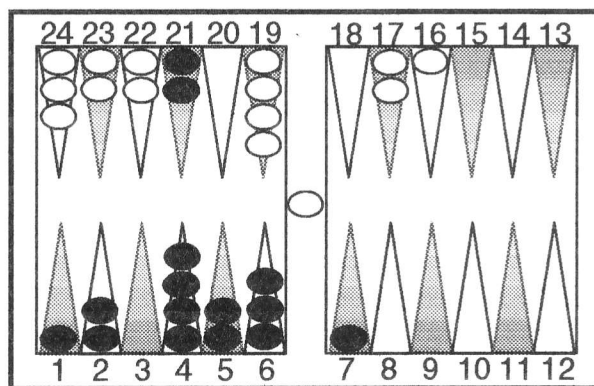
Double match point.
Black to play 4-4.



Doublets usually offer lots of options, but here seven of our checkers cannot move legally. Two plays stand above the rest: 15/11, 5/1x(3) leaves only 4 shots while moving 15/7, 8/4, 5/1 leaves 11 single and 2 double shots but looks best if White stays on the bar. Here are the two positions after each of these plays with White on roll:



Position after Black moves 15/11, 5/1x(3).



Position after Black moves 15/7, 8/4, 5/1x

Which of these positions has more elegance from Black's viewpoint? Black's home board looks much nicer in the second position: no wastage and the three best points made. Is this worth the extra nine shots?

Ugly plays are sometimes right. Usually, though, it is because the game will end **very soon**. Either the ugly side will break contact, end the game with the cube, or take advantage of the opponent's timing problem. Sometimes *ugly* works best when trying to avoid a gammon. Here none of those conditions are present.

At double match point, you don't need to concern yourself with cubes or gammons. **Just win, baby!** Jellyfish v3.0 level-6 cubeless rollouts say that the prettier play 13/7, 8/4, 5/1x wins 59% of the time while the ugly 13/11, 5/1x(3) garners only 56% victories.

When this position came up in real play, I talked myself into making the ugly play, thinking *if my opponent stays out, I can go after his blot on the 16-point. If he enters, then I'm likely to be better off with this play since 13 of his 20 entering numbers put me on the bar after the pretty play.* This sounded logical at the time. Here beauty triumphs over (shaky) logic.

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>

1998 Hoosier Backgammon Club
Gammon Point Standings as of March 26, 1998
The HBC **Player of the Month** for March was **Don Woods** with 188 gammon points.

1)	Don Woods.....	536
2)	Butch Meese.....	516
3)	Chuck Stimming.....	320
4)	Mary Ann Meese.....	296
5)	Jim Curtis.....	278
6)	Al Gomez.....	274
7)	Sean Garber.....	266
8)	Dave Groner.....	244
9)	Larry Strommen.....	234
10)	Jim Mieske.....	140
	Luke Clippinger.....	100
	Jan Gurvitz.....	90
	Chuck Bower.....	68
	Richard Heinz.....	48
	Frank Scott.....	20
	Kevin McLeaster.....	20
	Gino Agresti.....	20
	Dave Fey.....	10

* * * * *

HBC Spring Tournament
Sunday April 26 1998
Wildcat Brewing Company
9201 North Michigan
872-3446

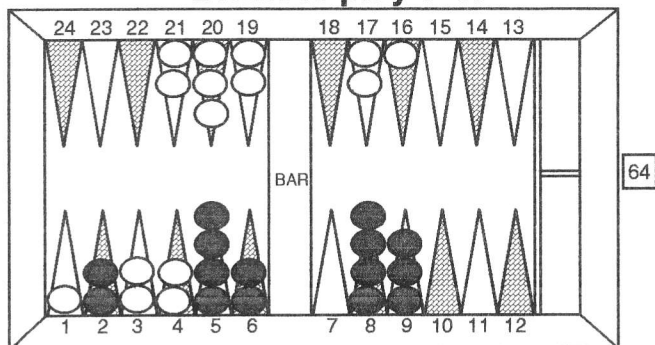
* * * * *

Competative Events
Open Division: \$20
(\$20 Optional Sidepool)
Limited Division: \$8

Double Gammon Points.
Format: Main-Consolation.
Final Registration: 12 Noon-12:45PM
Play Begins: 1:00PM

19-Point Match
White-3 Black-8

Black to play 1-1?



What is your answer?

* * * * *

Fun Free Events
Format: Round-Robin
Prizes Awarded
Final Registration: 12:00-1:00PM
Play Begins: 1:15PM

* * * * *

Registration
Please call to pre-register by
phone 255-8902 or
email: meese@worldnet.att.net.

<u>March 5th</u> 1st <i>Don Woods</i> 2nd <i>Sean Garber</i> 2nd <i>Butch Meese</i>	<u>March 12th</u> <i>Chuck Stimming</i> <i>Don Woods</i> <i>Larry Strommen</i>	<u>March 19th</u> <i>Don Woods</i> <i>Butch Meese</i> <i>Mary Ann Meese</i>	<u>March 26th</u> <i>Chuck Stimming</i> <i>Larry Strommen</i> <i>Richard Heinz</i>
--	---	--	---

Tournament Schedule

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 & Peach 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