



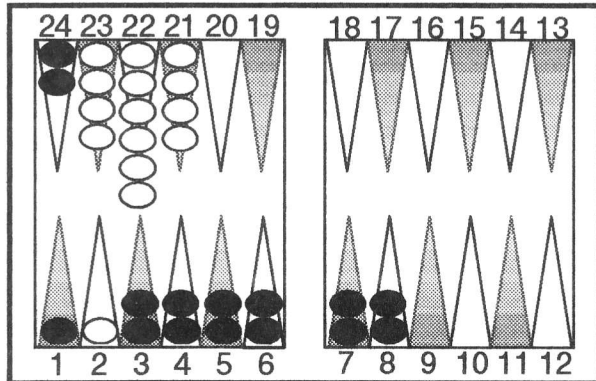
**Hoosier
Backgammon
Club**

May 1998



So, the Long Jump wasn't Your Best Event?

by Chuck Bower



Black to play 3-1?

- a) Money Game with White Owning the Cube
- b) Double Match Point

Just when you thought you had things under control, you have to roll THIS? Didn't your mother teach you how to jump a three prime? Still, you must "play the hand you are dealt". What's your move?

You must break your 6-prime but the key is to maintain a strong position on your side of the board. Clever plays like 5/2x/1 and 4/1, 4/3 don't make the grade according to Jellyfish rollouts. It likes keeping the best four home board points.

Three plays remain: 1) Clear the 8-point and keep your best 5-prime: 8/5, 8/7. 2) Clear the 7-point: 7/4, 7/6. This move gives your opponent only nine numbers to completely escape compared to 11 by Play #1. 3) Partially clear the 8-point by moving 8/4 and leave a blot at the back edge of the prime.

Jellyfish v3.0 level-6 cubeless rollouts say that at money play, 7/4, 7/6 is best. It wins 58.7% while losing only 6.3% gammons. (Standard deviations are 0.3% and 0.15% respectively.) Blocking the extra two numbers in combination

with having more pointing numbers when your opponent fails to escape makes this the clear choice over 8/5, 8/7 (56.3% wins with about the same number of gammon losses).

At double match point (when gammons are meaningless), playing 8/4 is clearly best, garnering 60.2% wins for Black. (13.0% gammon losses makes this a less desirable choice when gammons count, however.) Why is this?

I see two reasons. The first one is timing. With an extra checker back, Black has more time to hang around and wait for another shot. The second (related) reason has to do with maintaining an anchor on the 24-point. Without the third checker back, Black should split the back checkers now and try to pick up White's straggler. The third checker back can take on this task and leave the anchor intact. If Black is forced to split the anchor now, White will have a lot of chances to point on the single remaining checker on the 24-point which will kill most of Black's last gasp game winning chances.

Louisville Backgammon Club

announces Monthly Tournament

First One...Sunday May 31st

Beginning Sunday, May 31st, **Louisville Backgammon Club** will be running a monthly tournament on the last Sunday of the month. As of May 9th, details were not completely nailed down. Frank Frigo thinks one division will be run with a nominal entry fee between \$15-25 with an optional sidepool. The tournaments will be held at the Oldenberg Grill, 6201 Dutchmans Lane, Louisville (502) 893-2244. If you are interested, contact Frank by phone at (502) 458-9660 or by email at ffwc94@iglou.com. Louisville is on eastern time.

HBC Spring Tournament

Sunday April 26 1998

- 1st Chuck Bower (Bloomington, IN)
- 2nd Reggie Porter (Chicago, IL)
- 2nd Luke Clippinger (Jeffersonville, IN)

Don Woods wins Club Championship

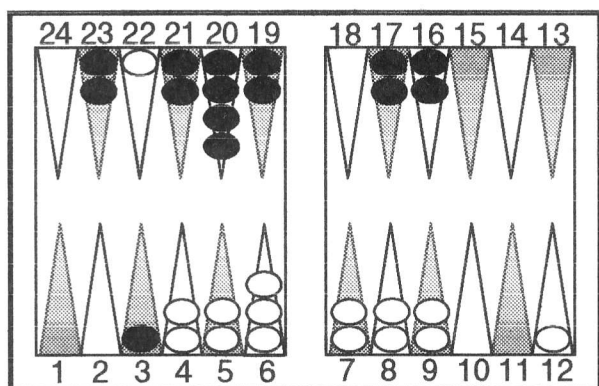
Don Woods captured another Club Championship by defeating **Jim Curtis** in a 13-point final. Players can qualify for the *Club Championship* by either being **Player of the Month** or finishing in HBC's **Top Ten**.

Hoosier Backgammon Club
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Prime Objective

by Butch Meese



Double match point. White to play 6-5?

A full 6-point prime with a single checker behind it usually means victory. The only way to lose is to have the prime break letting your opponent escape. The problem with keeping a full prime is that there are only three extra checkers to play with. If one (or more) of those spare checkers is itself behind a prime then keeping your golden prime could be in jeopardy. This position is a great example. White is behind a 5-prime and only needed a four to get out and win the match. But instead, White rolled 6-5!

For most rolls, White simply moves without breaking the prime. But with 6-5, White has two or three choices. The first play 12/1 does not break the prime but buries a checker on the 1-point. All other logical plays involve hitting on the 3-point putting White on the bar and leaving a 5-point prime.

I was Black in this position and as White was pondering his move, I was thinking to myself, *HIT ME...BREAK THE GOLDEN PRIME...HIT ME.* This position was presented to the local players and they were split between pointing on the 3-point and 12/1.

Let's look at this position from Black's point of view. If White hits, Black will dance with 16 numbers keeping the 5-prime intact. Of the other 20 numbers, only 6-1 and 5-2 force Black to break his prime. Double 2's causes Black to think which play is best.

Now if White plays 12/1, Black must play his whole roll on his side of the board. Double 2's makes a golden prime but puts White on the bar. A few small rolls keep the 5-prime. But most rolls force Black to break his prime.

So, what does JellyFish say? JellyFish look-ahead level-7 evaluation likes the non-hitting 12/1 play best, over the hitting and making the 3-point. JellyFish roll-out like the making the 3-point by 1%. None of the other plays are even close.

1998 Hoosier Backgammon Club	
Gammon Point Standings as of April 30, 1998.	
The HBC Player of the Month for April	
was Larry Strommen with 214 gammon points.	
A close second was Jim Curtis with	
206 gammon points.	
1)	Don Woods..... 718
2)	Butch Meese..... 596
3)	Chuck Stimming..... 514
4)	Jim Curtis..... 484
5)	Larry Strommen..... 448
6)	Al Gomez..... 374
7)	Mary Ann Meese..... 346
8)	Sean Garber..... 326
9)	Dave Groner..... 292
10)	Chuck Bower..... 228
	Luke Clippinger..... 196
	Jim Mieske..... 140
	Reggie Porter..... 128
	Jan Gurvitz..... 110
	Kevin McLeaster..... 90
	Peter Kalba..... 60
	Richard Heinz..... 48
	Femi Owiku..... 40
	Frank Scott..... 20
	Gino Agresti..... 20
	Dave Fey..... 10

April 2nd	April 9th	April 16th	April 23rd	April 30th
1st <i>Kevin McLeaster</i>	1st <i>Larry Strommen</i>	1st <i>Butch Meese</i>	1st <i>Al Gomez</i>	1st <i>Jim Curtis</i>
2nd <i>Don Woods</i>	2nd <i>Jim Curtis</i>	2nd <i>Larry Strommen</i>	2nd <i>Jim Curtis</i>	2nd <i>Chuck Stimming</i>
2nd <i>Dave Groner</i>	2nd <i>Don Woods</i>

Tournament Schedule

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