



Hoosier Backgammon Club

June 1998



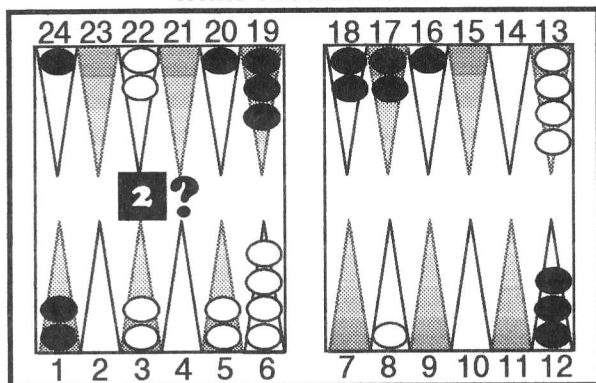
Got a Match? by Jake Jacobs

One nice thing about Butch (I've known him long enough to testify that there are others) is his proclivity for publishing complete games and matches. In this new, mini-magazine era, an entire match seems likely to strain the seams sewing up each issue. A single game, on the other hand, should fit. It happens that I have one, one that contains more than half the action of a 15-point match.

This match was in the quarter qualifier of the 1998 Nordic Open. Win two matches, and you shave 2700 Danish Krone off your entry fee. My opponent was World Champion Michael Meyberg of Germany. Michael has an unfortunate habit of saving his worst games for opponents who plan to write them up. Take my word for it, this game is not representative. He is a formidable opponent. As we enter this game, I lead 5-3 to 15.

Jake-5 (White)			Michael-3 (Black)		
1) 53	8/3 6/3	61	13/7	8/7	
2) 52	13/8 24/22	32	6/3x/1x		
3) 33	B/22(2) 8/5(2)	41	13/9	6/5	

White doubles to 2?



A cube provocation play. Not content to drop the gauntlet, Michael soaks it in brine, and slaps me in the face with it. JellyFish™ slightly prefers 6/1 to 13/8, but ranks both quiet plays far ahead of plays that leave blots. I have three times as many inner board points, and welcome the chance to slug it out. If I were going to make a bold play, I would have split, then slot the 9-point. The double slot play ranks pretty

far down the list. And speaking of doubles...

4)	doubles to 2?	take
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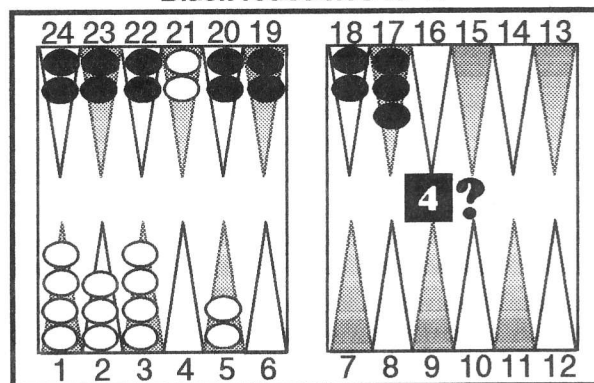
JellyFish evaluates this as a take, but a short rollout has it a drop. I would probably take, but it's close. I would not have doubled a play like 13/8.

5)	42	22/20x/16x	44	B/21(2)	21/17x	13/9x
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Now I understand his evil plot! I would anchor and make the four-prime. Michael's play looks too loose to me, especially with a blot in his home board, but JellyFish likes it.

6)	62	B/23	EF	63	9/3x	6/3
7)	64	B/21	EF	41	21/17	24/23
8)	42	B/21	23/21	53	23/15	
9)	42	13/7		32	24/21	15/13
10)	54	13/4x		62	B/17	
11)	31	7/4	21/20	51	13/7	
12)	32	6/1		31	17/13	
13)	53	20/15	6/3	62	13/7	3/1
14)	43	15/11	4/1	64	17/11	17/13
15)	32	11/8	4/2	31	13/10	11/10
16)	65	13/7	13/8	64	13/3	
17)	52	7/2	8/6	41	13/8	
18)	31	8/4		44	10/2(2)	
19)	33	6/3(3)	4/1	11	7/5(2)	
20)	21	3/1	3/2		redoubles to 4?	

Black redoubles to 4?



These sorts of positions are really static. Michael has stood better for a long time, but his advantage has grown by only the tiniest of increments, until now. The last two turns saw his position improve dramatically, while mine fell apart. Though I am only down two pips, my race is not good. I should have passed this one, but if I had, we'd have missed all the fun.

21)	take	61	7/1	7/6
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Play the six to the ace, then look for a one. I might have kept the prime, but Michael's play is a little more flexible, and a little better for the race.

22)	62	21/13	64	8/2	8/4x
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Hitting is clear. The race is by no means won, and since I have two open points, a return hit is not fatal.

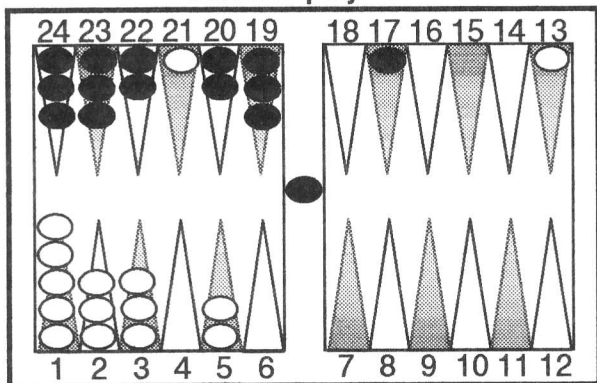
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23) 42 B/21x 3/1 61 B/19 5/4x

If my deuce looks peculiar, ask yourself where you would like that outfield blot after his 61. We don't have to ask where you'd like to have had it after his 65? Meanwhile, let's look at that 61 of his.

Black to play 61?



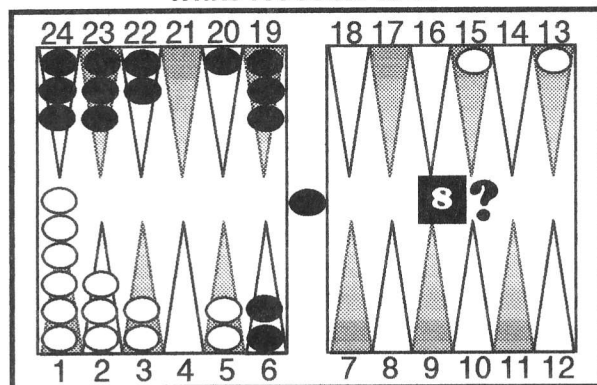
Board breaking plays are great for getting a write-up in the newsletters. Too bad they are so often wrong. They tend to be right when the situation is truly desperate. Here Michael has reasonable chances with the quiet B/19 8/7.

24) 42 B/21x 3/1 64 B/19 8/4x

No choice now.

25) 64 B/21x/15 .. EF
26) redoubles to 8? take

White redouble to 8?



Unfortunately, the broken board should have

prevented Michael from taking. He can only win this about 15% of the time.

27) 51 15/10 2/1 66 B/19/1

This time I was wrong. Better is 13/12 (according to JellyFish). However, I'm awfully glad I goofed.

28) 43 10/3 42 19/17 5/1

It is right to safety a checker, rather than buttoning up. From Michael's side, I would not split. He gains on a few small number, but loses on all fives.

29) 22 13/5 64 17/11 19/15

I won a plain game here and with that crushing lead, won the match.

1998 Hoosier Backgammon Club

Gammon Point Standings as of May 31, 1998.

The HBC **Player of the Month** for **May** was **Sean Garber** with 180 gammon points. A close second was **Jim Curtis** with 172 points.

- 1) Don Woods..... 786
- 2) Jim Curtis..... 656
- 3) Butch Meese..... 646
- 4) Chuck Stimming..... 608
- 5) Sean Garber..... 506
- 6) Al Gomez..... 498
- 7) Larry Strommen..... 458
- 8) Mary Ann Meese..... 416
- 9) Dave Groner..... 292
- 10) Chuck Bower..... 276
- Luke Clippinger..... 196
- Jim Mieske..... 140
- Reggie Porter..... 128
- Jan Gurvitz..... 120
- Kevin McLeaster..... 100
- Peter Kalba..... 60
- Richard Heinz..... 48
- Femi Owiku..... 40
- Gino Agresti..... 30
- Frank Scott..... 20
- Dave Fey..... 10

Hoosier Pips...After many months of speculation, congratulations go out to Don Woods who is engaged to Jennifer Hayes. An August 1999 wedding is planned...Chuck Bower placed second in the Louisville BG Club's first monthly tournament on May 31st.

	<u>May 7th</u>	<u>May 14th</u>	<u>May 21st</u>	<u>May 28th</u>
1st	Jim Curtis	Sean Garber	Sean Garber	Mary Ann Meese
2nd	Al Gomez	Jim Curtis	Chuck Bower	Jim Curtis
2nd	Don Woods	Chuck Stimming

Tournament Schedule

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