



Hoosier  
Backgammon  
Club

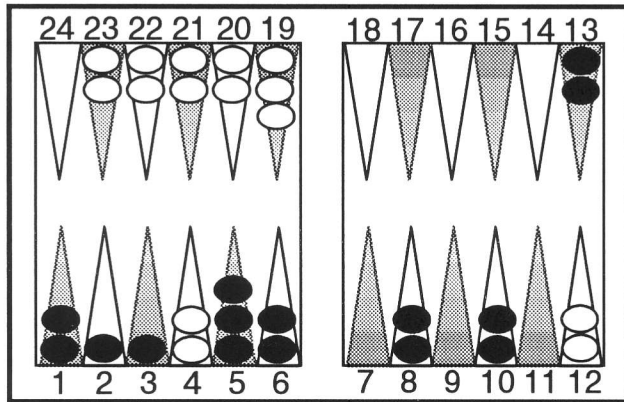


December 1998

## Anticipation

by Chuck Bower

64



7 Point Match  
Black - 5 White - 3  
Black to play 6-1?

The illustrated position is not such an unusual one. Similar situations come up frequently in our backgammon lives. But, what is the correct play here? Please choose your play AND the reasons for your choice before reading on.

The logical mind might perceive: there seems to be three candidate plays. Playing 13/6 clears an awkward point, but leaves 15 shots. Moving 8/2, 8/7 leaves the fewest shots: 11. Playing 10/3 is intermediate between the other options; a moderately awkward point is given up, and 14 shots result. It seems clear that the intermediate play is the worst, since one extra shot can hardly be worth leaving a more awkward position. Thus one must choose between leaving the fewest shots or clearing the most awkward point.

The seasoned player might continue: "Why give the opponent the extra four shots since, assuming the shot is missed, s/he is going to have to give up one of the defensive points (21 point or 13 point) VERY soon?" Leaving fewer

shots now (by playing 8/2, 8/7) allows Black to "have his/her cake and eat it, too". White will likely abandon the midpoint before Black has to leave an (indirect) shot on his/her midpoint. Thus fewer shots now and few (or no) shots later. It's obvious: 8/2, 8/7.

If this has been your thinking, then you need to work on your match play technique. What is the score? Where is the cube?? Those are the very first questions a match player should consider. At this match score, White is looking for any excuse to cube. And any excuse translates into moderate game winning chances combined with some anticipation of a gammon.

Black should quickly realize that, regardless of where the blot is left, White will see gammon chances (because of the blot) and double. Black should also realize that the subsequent position is a clear take, since gammon chances aren't overwhelming, and Black is not much worse than even in this game. So, assuming double/take after the current play, which choice should Black make?

If Black has taken all of the above into consideration, then s/he can't be faulted. In fact, the choice is pretty close. Jellyfish v3.0 cubeless rollouts say that Black will win 52.2% of games after 8/2, 8/7 and 50.7% after 13/6. (Joint standard deviation is less than 0.5% game winning chances.) However, that is only part of the story. By running from the midpoint, Black will lose only 7.7% gammons while the 8/2, 8/7 play loses 11.9% gammons. Which is more important: winning more games or losing fewer gammons?

Assuming the cube is on 2 at this score, gammon losses trade even money with wins. (This is different from money play where two gammon losses equals one win.) So the play that wins more games (52.2% vs. 50.7%, or 1.5% more wins) isn't worth the extra gammon losses (11.9% vs. 7.7% or 4.2% more gammon losses).

Certainly if the score were 6-6/7, the rollouts show that leaving fewer shots here would be best since, at that score, only game winning chances are relevant. At money play, the decision is quite close, so that either choice is reasonable. But at this match score (anticipating the imminent double), minimizing gammons dominates the close decisions. So, did you make the right play, AND for the right reasons? If so, you get to write next month's article!

# HBC Backgammon Sunday

December 13th

**Wildcat Brewing Company**  
92nd & North Michigan Road  
Sunday Brunch 11AM-4PM

**Open Div \$20...\$10** Optional Sidepool  
**Limited Division \$10**  
Double Gammon Points  
Format: Main (9pts) Consolation (7pts)

Pre-register and save the \$5 Late Fee  
255-8902 or meese@worldnet.att.net



## 1998 Hoosier Backgammon Club

Gammon Point Standings as of Nov 30, 1998.  
The HBC **Player of the Month** for **November**  
was **Dave Groner** with 140 gammon points.

(# times **Player of the Month**)

- 1) Don Woods (2)..... 1498
- 2) Butch Meese (2)..... 1322
- 3) Jim Curtis (1)..... 1268
- 4) Sean Garber (2)..... 1202
- 5) Chuck Stimming..... 1034
- 6) Mary Ann Meese..... 758
- 7) Larry Strommen (2)..... 746
- 8) Al Gomez (1)..... 746
- 9) Dave Groner (1)..... 714
- 10) Gino Agresti..... 430
- Chuck Bower..... 306
- Jan Gurvitz..... 244
- Woody Woodworth..... 230
- Luke Clippinger..... 196
- Jim Mieske..... 140
- Reggie Porter..... 128
- Kevin McLeaster..... 100
- Jon Stephens..... 80
- Bill Julian..... 72
- Richard Heinz..... 68
- Joe Miller..... 64
- Peter Kalba..... 60
- David Britten..... 50
- Dave Fey..... 40
- Femi Owiku..... 40
- Neil Ezell..... 40
- Paul Franks..... 30
- Rob Maier..... 30
- Alan Haas..... 30
- Wendy Kaplan..... 20
- Frank Scott..... 20
- Larry Buckingham..... 20
- John Jennings..... 20
- Kay Beck..... 20
- John Brussel..... 20
- Anita Griswold..... 20
- Scott Richardson..... 10
- Lou Ramer..... 10
- Mary Franks..... 10
- Art Overbay..... 10
- Bobbie Shifrin..... 10
- Alan Gartner..... 10

	<u>November 3rd</u>	<u>November 11th</u>	<u>November 19th</u>	<u>November 26th</u>
1st	Gino Agresti	Dave Groner	Don Woods	Happy
2nd	Jan Gurvitz	Butch Meese	Dave Groner	Thanksgiving
2nd	Mary Ann Meese	---	---	---

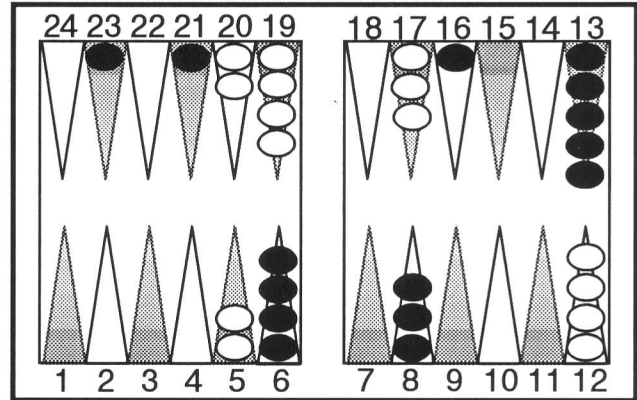
### Tournament Schedule

Feb 12-14.....	<b>21st Pittsburgh Championships</b> , Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA	(412) 823-7500
Mar 19-21.....	<b>1999 Midwest Championships</b> , Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL	(773) 583-6464
Thursdays.....	7:00 PM at <b>Wildcat Brewing Company</b> (872-3446) 92nd & North Michigan Road	255-8902

**Michigan Summer Championships - 11 Point Match**

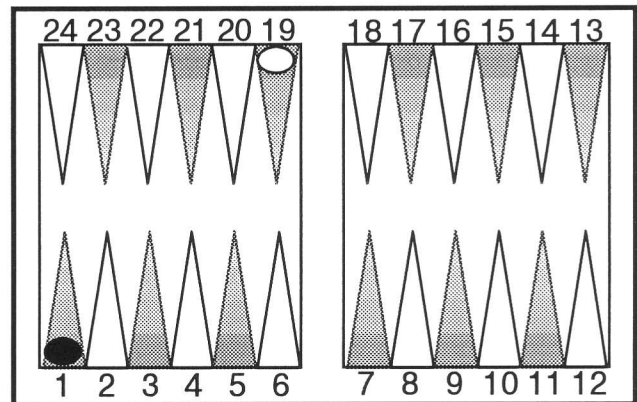
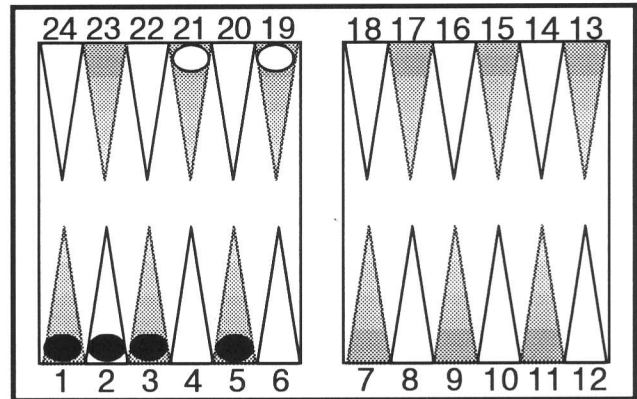
**Game 1**

Jake Jacobs - 0		Art Benjamin - 0	
1)	..	...	54 13/8 24/20
2)	41	24/20 6/5x	54 B/20x 24/20
3)	11	B/22 24/23	31 8/5x 6/5
4)	64	B/21 22/16	Doubles to 2
5)		Takes	31 13/9x
6)	55	EF	54 9/4x 8/4
7)	41	B/24 EF	21 13/11 6/5
8)	53	B/22 13/8	53 8/3x 6/3
9)	54	EF	65 13/2x
10)	31	B/24 EF	51 8/2
11)	42	EF	55 20/10(2)
12)	43	EF	32 13/8
13)	21	B/24 13/11	65 8/2 11/6
14)	65	11/5 13/8	32 10/5
15)	32	8/5 6/4	32 10/5
16)	65	24/18 13/8	66 6/0(3) 5/0
17)	31	8/4	55 5/0(4)
18)	21	18/16 8/7	54 4/0(2)
19)	43	16/12 6/3	53 3/0(2)
20)	43	24/17	51 2/0 2/1x
21)	32	B/23x 17/14	22 B/23 NP
22)	62	13/7 23/21	41 23/22x NP
23)	54	B/21 8/3x	51 B/24 NP
24)	43	21/17 12/9	61 24/23 NP
25)	31	17/13	54 NP
26)	11	13/9	62 NP
27)	54	14/9 21/17	62 NP
28)	55	17/2x 9/4	43 B/22x NP
29)	53	B/17	66 NP
30)	52	17/10	66 NP
31)	51	10/5 4/3x	62 B/23x NP
32)	62	B/17	54 NP
33)	52	17/10	53 NP
34)	32	5/2x 10/8	55 EF
35)	42	9/3	54 EF
36)	64	9/3 8/4	54 EF
37)	22	8/2 3/1	63 EF
38)	41	8/3	11 B/24x NP
39)	42	B/21 3/1x	61 B/24x NP
40)	31	B/24x 4/1x	61 B/24x EF
41)	52	B/20 7/5	53 EF
42)	63	7/1x 20/17	64 EF



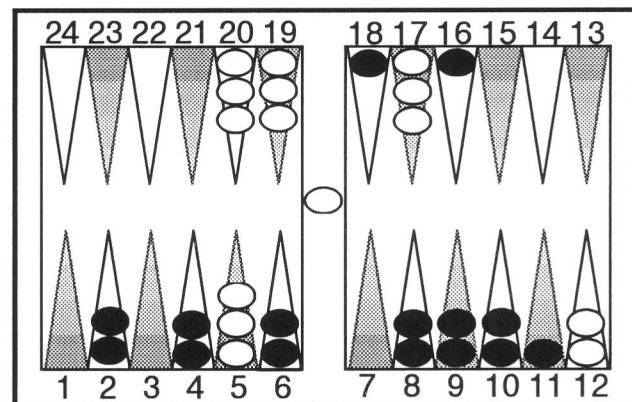
**Michigan Summer Championships - 11 Point Match**

43)	31	5/1	..	CB
44)	54	24/15	..	CB
45)	41	21/16	..	CB
46)	42	17/11	..	CB
47)	32	15/10	..	CB
48)	64	16/6	..	CB
49)	41	10/5	..	CB
50)	32	11/6	..	CB
51)	64	6/0 6/2	..	CB
52)	31	5/1	..	CB
53)	62	6/0 6/4	61	B/19 EF
54)	31	4/0	63	B/16
55)	21	2/0 1/0	43	16/9
56)	32	3/0 2/0	21	19/16
57)	54	5/0 4/0	61	16/10 9/8
58)	41	4/0 1/0	62	10/4 8/6
59)		Doubles to 4		Takes
60)	51	5/0 1/0	11	4/0
61)	11	3/0 2/1		Doubles to 8
62)		Takes	22	game



**Game 2**

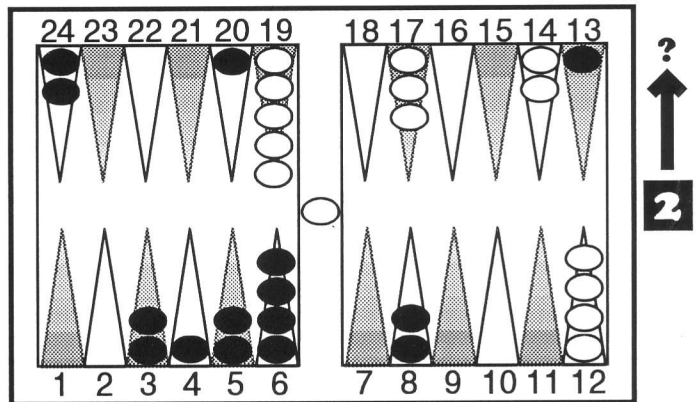
Jake Jacobs - 0		Art Benjamin - 8		
1)	..	...	54 13/8 24/20	
2)	62	13/5x	54 B/20x 24/20	
3)	33 B/22	24/21 13/10(2)	65 13/7 8/3x	
4)	64	B/21 24/18x	63 B/22 13/7x	
5)	11	B/22x/21	54 B/20 7/3	
6)	32	21/16	61 20/13	
7)	44	13/9(2) 6/2(2)	11 22/20 6/5(2)	
8)	65	21/15 21/16	32 13/10x/8	
9)	11	B/22x/21	64 B/21 20/14	
10)	43	8/4x 21/18	53 B/20 8/5	
11)	52	16/11x 6/4	44 EF	
12)		Doubles to 2		Drops



**Michigan Summer Championships - 11 Point Match**

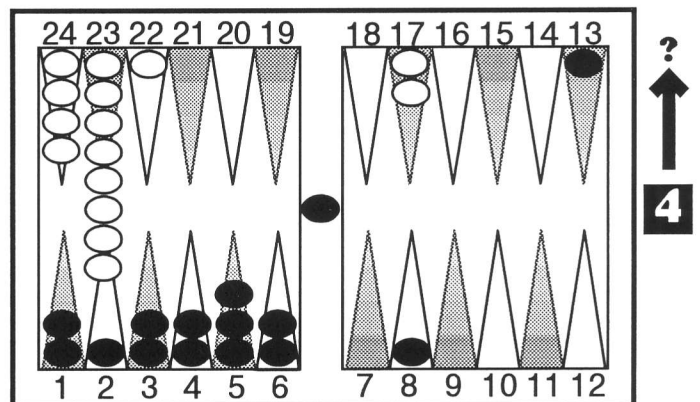
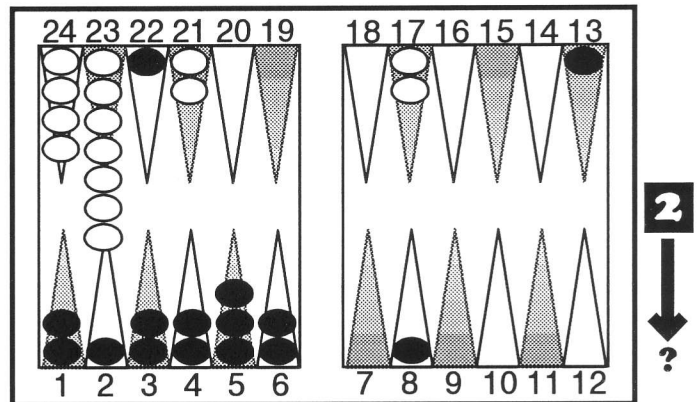
**Game 3**

Jake Jacobs - 1		Art Benjamin - 8	
1) 31	8/5 6/5	62	24/18 13/11
2) 42	13/7x	64	B/21 24/18x
3) 55	B/20 13/3 13/8	43	18/11
4) 33	13/4x 6/3	65	EF
5)	Doubles to 2		Drops



**Game 4**

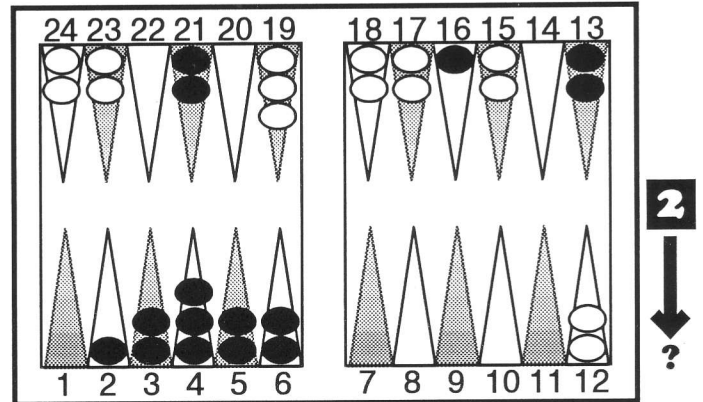
Jake Jacobs - 2		Art Benjamin - 8	
1) 31	8/5 6/5	66	24/18(2) 13/7(2)
2) 52	13/8 24/22	64	8/2 6/2
3) 54	13/8 24/20	54	13/8 6/2
4) 61	20/13	65	13/7 13/8
5) 51	22/16	51	6/1 2/1
6) 21	16/13	54	8/3 7/3
7) 11	13/12(2) 6/4	21	7/4
8) 31	8/4	63	8/2 7/4
9) 51	8/3 13/12	64	8/2 6/2
10) 65	8/2 8/3	65	8/2 6/1
11) 53	12/4	21	3/1 3/2
12) 53	6/1 4/1	65	NP
13) 61	12/5	55	18/13x/8(2)
14) 53	B/22 13/8		Doubles to 2
15)	Takes	21	4/2 4/3x
16)	Doubles to 4		Takes
17) 53	B/22x 13/8	62	B/23x 8/2
18) 33	8/2x(2) misplay	..	CB
19) 32	B/20	..	CB
20) 64	20/10	..	CB
21) 32	22/17x	..	CB
22) 52	17/12 10/8	..	CB
23) 33	12/6 8/2	..	CB
24) 53	5/0 6/3	..	CB
25) 21	3/0	..	CB
26) 43	6/2 6/3	43	EF
27) 53	5/0 5/2	65	B/19 B/20
28) 41	4/0 1/0	66	20/8 19/7
29) 31	3/0 1/0	44	8/0 7/0
30) 31	3/0 2/1	53	2/0(2)
31) 43	4/0 3/0	65	2/0(2)
32) 43	2/0(2)	54	2/0(2)
33) 53	2/0(2)	21	2/0 1/0
34) 21	game		



**Michigan Summer Championships - 11 Point Match**

**Game 5**

Jake Jacobs - 6		Art Benjamin - 8	
1)	.. ...	63	24/18 13/10
2)	31 8/5 6/5	21	13/10
3)	53 6/1x 24/21	31	B/24x 18/15
4)	41 B/21 6/5	43	15/8
5)	43 13/9 13/10	53	24/16x
6)	44 B/21 13/9x 8/4(2)	43	B/18
7)	54 21/16 10/6	64	18/8
8)	42 9/3	64	8/2 6/2
9)	51 16/10	61	13/7 8/7
10)	42 6/2 5/3	41	6/2 8/7
11)	52 10/5 24/22	61	7/1 2/1
12)	61 22/16 5/4		Doubles to 2
13)	Takes	42	13/9x/7
14)	31 B/22 13/12x	63	EF
15)	63 22/16 12/9	22	B/23x 7/5(3)
16)	31 B/21	65	23/12x
17)	11 EF	54	10/5 10/6
18)	61 EF	53	6/1 12/9x
19)	53 B/22 EF	54	6/1 9/5
20)	51 EF	33	8/5(2) 6/3x(2)
21)	42 B/21 EF	51	5/0 1/0
22)	55 EF	11	3/0 3/2
23)	54 B/16	11	2/0 1/0(2)
24)	61 21/14	31	5/1
25)	42 16/12 9/7	62	5/0 2/0
26)	31 21/18 14/13	41	5/0
27)	61 13/7 18/17	63	5/0 5/2
28)	54 17/8	32	gammon



**Final Score**

Jake Jacobs - 6	Art Benjamin - 11
-----------------	-------------------