

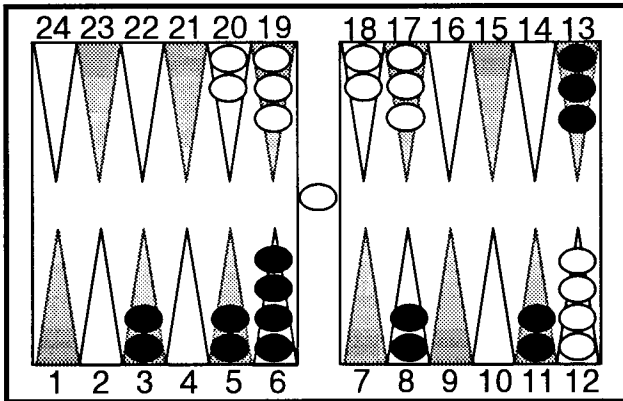


**Hoosier
Backgammon
Club**

January 1999



What do you mean...No Cube? by Butch Meese



5 Point Match (No Cube)
Black - 3 White - 2
Black on roll?

What is Black waiting for? In modern backgammon, we all have come accustomed to, Black would be considering doubling on every move. With no cube in a match like this, Black's strategy is very simple. Gammons are unlikely and with a 26 pip lead in the race, just play safely and win the race. But modern backgammon does include the cube which has spiced up the game and made backgammon what it is today.

With the cube centered, both players have to play knowing that the cube can come into play on any turn. The experienced players are weighing their game equity against their match equity before every turn.

With Black leading 3-2, Black should be careful with the cube because if the double is accepted, it will be coming back at 4. If White accepts, he will lose the match if he loses the game, regardless of whether the cube is on 2 or 4. By shipping it back, he guarantees winning the match if he wins the game.

But there is a point where White has a drop

at this score. The good news for White is that if he hits a checker, he would most likely win if he can maintain or build on his 4-point prime.

Sitting at the table, I felt comfortable doubling. My opponent pondered for a moment and took. His next turn, he redoubled to 4. I was able to win fairly easily.

Both robots, JellyFish and Snowie evaluated this as too good to double and a drop for White. What a surprised!! Both said that Black wins 80% of the time with a fourth of those wins as gammons. White's match equity if he drops is around 25%. Warning: if Black plays on, he plays on for a gammon but must keep an eye on the cube. If the position starts going south, he must turn the cube.

1998 HBC Player of the Year Don Woods

Another year, another **Player of the Year** Award for **Don Woods**. Don took over the lead in May and never looked back. Butch Meese did have a slim chance to over take Don as late as early December, but could not muster the needed wins. Butch finished second just above Jim Curtis in the final standings listed on Page 2.

1998 HBC New Player of the Year Al Gomez

Al Gomez started playing with the club in the middle of 1997. He was pretty green when he started but stuck with it and improved. He even won **Player of the Month** for January of this year and finished 8th in the final standings. This is a new award starting in 1998. Who will be the New Player of the Year for 1999?



**Happy
New
Year!!**

Party Likes It's 1999

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1998 Hoosier Backgammon Club Final Gammon Point Standings.
 The HBC **Player of the Month** for **December** was **Jim Curtis** with 212 gammon points.
 (#) times **Player of the Month**

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Don Woods (2)..... 1608 | Richard Heinz..... 108 | John Jennings..... 20 |
| 2) Butch Meese (2)..... 1490 | Kevin McLeaster..... 100 | Kay Beck..... 20 |
| 3) Jim Curtis (2)..... 1480 | Peter Kalba..... 80 | John Brussel..... 20 |
| 4) Sean Garber (2)..... 1340 | Jon Stephens..... 80 | Anita Griswold..... 20 |
| 5) Chuck Stimming..... 1082 | Bill Julian..... 72 | Mark Larios..... 20 |
| 6) Larry Strommen (2)..... 926 | Joe Miller..... 64 | Cindy Britten..... 20 |
| 7) Mary Ann Meese..... 848 | David Britten..... 50 | Wendy Kaplan..... 20 |
| 8) Al Gomez (1)..... 826 | Dave Fey..... 40 | Gabe Stiasny..... 20 |
| 9) Dave Groner (1)..... 724 | Femi Owiku..... 40 | Bobbie Shifrin..... 10 |
| 10) Gino Agresti..... 440 | Neil Ezell..... 40 | Alan Gartner..... 10 |
| Chuck Bower..... 434 | Cathie Benneth..... 40 | Scott Richardson..... 10 |
| Jan Gurvitz..... 244 | Rob Maier..... 30 | Lou Ramer..... 10 |
| Woody Woodworth..... 230 | Alan Haas..... 30 | Mary Franks..... 10 |
| Luke Clippinger..... 206 | Paul Franks..... 30 | Art Overbay..... 10 |
| Jim Mieske..... 140 | Frank Scott..... 20 | |
| Reggie Porter..... 128 | Larry Buckingham.... 20 | |

HBC Backgammon Sunday & 1998 Awards

Sunday, February 21st
 Registration 12:00-12:45PM
 Awards 12:45PM Play Begins 1:00PM

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

Gammon Points Reviewed

Gammon points are used to determine the **Player of the Month** and **Player of the Year**.

The winner receives 10 points for each match won. When a player wins first place, his match points win are multiplied by 2. When a player wins second place then the match points are multiplied by 1.6. No points are awarded for getting a bye.

Sample: If a player wins three matches and finishes first, then s/he would receive 60 points for the event. If a player wins four matches and finishes first, then s/he would receive 80 gammon points.

When there is more than one division, like a one-day tournament, the Open players receive 10 points for each match won, the Advance 8 points, Intermediate 5 points and Novice 3 points. Some events will award double gammon points which will be pre-announced in the notice or newsletter. No gammon points are awarded for the **Indiana Open** or the **Club Championship**.

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | <u>December 3rd</u> | <u>December 10th</u> | <u>December 13th</u> | <u>December 17th</u> |
| 1st | Don Woods | Butch Meese | Larry Strommen | Butch Meese |
| 2nd | Sean Garber | Mary Ann Meese | Chuck Bower | Jim Curtis |
| 2nd | Butch Meese | Chuck Stimming | Jim Curtis | --- |

Tournament Schedule

Feb 12-14... **21st Pittsburgh Backgammon Championships**, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA (412) 823-7500
 Mar 19-21... **1999 Midwest Backgammon Championships**, Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL..... (773) 583-6464
 Apr 20-25... **International Twin Championships**, Four Queens, Las Vegas, NV..... (702) 893-6025
 Thursdays..... 7:00 PM at **Wildcat Brewing Company** (872-3446) 92nd & North Michigan Road 255-8902