

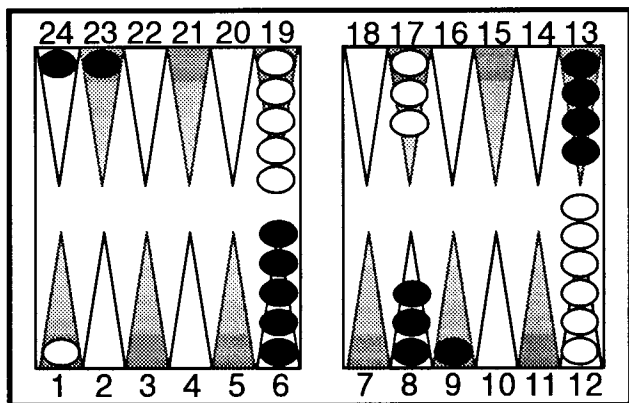


**Hoosier  
Backgammon  
Club**



April 1999

## **Offense or Defense** by Butch Meese



Black to play 4-3?

Black started the game with 4-1 moving 13/9, 24/23. White answered with 6-5 moving 24/13. Black then rolls 4-3!! Two great plays to choose from: either make the 20-point (defensive play) or the 5-point (offensive play). Picking from two great plays is a common occurrence in backgammon.

If Black makes the 5-point, White has few rolls to make home board points and most likely will bring down builders from the midpoint. Black will have hitting opportunity with the two back checkers.

If Black makes the 20-point, White will have a hard time making any kind of prime in front of Black. While White waits to escape the last back checker, White will start playing behind Black hoping to make home board points. If White does hit any checkers, Black will have a great point to re-enter and get the checkers back in play. Making the 20-point now let's Black make home board points in the up-coming rolls.

But there is another factor that comes into play in picking the best play: the score of the match. There are times when making the 5-point is

better than making the 20-point.

The position was run on Snowie Version 2.0 as a 3-ply evaluation at all scores in a 5-point match and in a money game. The cube was centered in all situations except when the leader had 4 points in a non-Crawford game.

The results show that either making the 20-point or the 5-point as the top two plays in all situations. Only in 3 situations did the third play come close to the top two plays.

Best Play in a Money Game: 20<sup>2</sup>

		Black's Score					
		0	1	2	3	4C	4
W h i t e' s S c o r e	0	20 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	X
	1	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>
	2	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>
	3	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>
	4C	20 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	X	X
4	X	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	20 <sup>2</sup>	X	20 <sup>2</sup>	

The defensive play dominates the results (over 70%). If you are a sports fan, it's been said many time during the big games that defense wins championships. In most cases, the same works for backgammon.

## **HBC Sunday Tournament** May 16 1999

Wildcat Brewing Company  
9111 North Michigan Road, (317) 872-3446  
\$14.95 All you can eat buffet, 11AM to 4PM

Registration: 12 Noon & Play Begins: 1:00 PM  
Open \$20 (optional \$10 sidepool)  
Limited \$8

Format: Main-Consolation  
Double Gammon Points  
Please pre-register by email  
or phone (317-255-8902).

Hoosier Backgammon Club  
Home Page: <http://home.att.net/~meese>  
E-Mail: [meese@worldnet.att.net](mailto:meese@worldnet.att.net)

Butch & Mary Ann Meese  
1008 Tuckahoe, Indianapolis, IN 46260-2215  
(317) 255-8902

## Recommended Reading for the Serious Backgammon Player

by Chuck Bower

Backgammon is not a simple game. If it were, most of us wouldn't be playing it. Here is my list of books to read if you are serious about backgammon:

- 1) **Backgammon** by Paul Magriel. Definitely read this first!!
- 2) **Advanced Backgammon** by Bill Robertie.
- 3) **How to Play Tournament Backgammon** by Kit Woolsey.
- 4) **Vision Laughs at Counting, with Advice to the Dicer** by Danny Kleinman.
- 5) **New Ideas in Backgammon** by Kit Woolsey and Hal Heinrich.
- 6) **Winning: The Psychology of Competition** by Stuart H. Walker.

Don't ramrod through these books. To do a decent job, you need to spread this reading out over about a year or longer period of time and one year assumes you devote a HUGE amount of your time to backgammon. Also, read them multiple times not consecutively. There are advanced players who reread Magriel's **Backgammon** every few years and continue to learn from it!

Call or write Carol Joy Cole (810-232-9731  
or cjc@flint.org) to find out about  
purchasing these books.

This is reprint from rec.games.backgammon July 1997.

### 1999 Hoosier Backgammon Club

Gammon Point Standings.

The HBC **Player of the Month** for March was **Butch Meese** with 152 gammon points. **Sean Garber** was a close second with 148 gammon points.

- |     |                     |     |
|-----|---------------------|-----|
| 1)  | Don Woods.....      | 484 |
| 2)  | Sean Garber.....    | 336 |
| 3)  | Butch Meese.....    | 284 |
| 4)  | Larry Strommen..... | 264 |
| 5)  | Mary Ann Meese..... | 262 |
| 6)  | Jim Curtis.....     | 230 |
| 7)  | Chuck Stimming..... | 218 |
| 8)  | Dave Groner.....    | 216 |
| 9)  | Gino Agresti.....   | 160 |
| 10) | Al Gomez.....       | 146 |
|     | Alan Tavel.....     | 64  |
|     | David Smith.....    | 60  |
|     | Bill Julian.....    | 40  |
|     | Randy Foster.....   | 30  |
|     | John Peek.....      | 20  |
|     | Kevin Ward.....     | 20  |
|     | Roman Karbiak.....  | 20  |
|     | Kathy Benneth.....  | 10  |
|     | Jan Gurvitz.....    | 10  |
|     | John Henn.....      | 10  |
|     | Rick Reahard.....   | 10  |

### New Players Welcomed

HBC welcomes new players: Randy Foster, John Henn, Roman Karbiak, Kelly Sandefur, Jan Withers and Bill Yancey.

	March 4th	March 11th	March 18th	March 25th
1st	Sean Garber	Jim Curtis	Don Woods	Don Woods
2nd	Mary Ann Meese	Al Gomez	Butch Meese	Butch Meese
2nd	Al Gomez	---	---	Sean Garber

### Tournament Schedule

Apr 20-25....	International Twin Championships, Four Queens, Las Vegas, NV.....	(702) 893-6025
May 28-31...	20th Chicago Open, Wyndham NW Chicago Hotel, Itasca, IL.....	(847) 674-0120
Jun 11-13....	1999 Georgia State Championships & Peach Cup, Atlanta, GA.....	(770) 333-1876
July 2-5.....	Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI.....	(810) 232-9731
Aug 13-15....	Minnesota State Championship, Location TBA, MN.....	(612) 378-1536
Sept 3-6.....	47th Indiana Open, Sheraton-Westin Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN.....	(317) 255-8902
Oct 8-10.....	Illinois Championships & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL..	(847) 945-7801
Thursdays... 7:00 PM at	Wildcat Brewing Company (872-3446) 92nd & North Michigan Road 255-8902	