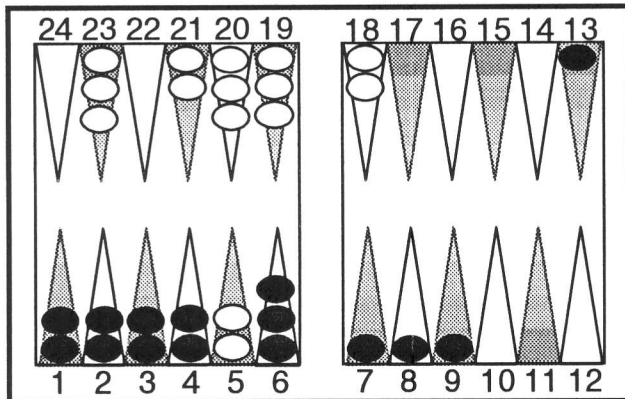


Hoosier
Backgammon
Club

February 2000



**U.S. Backgammon's Women
Take Center Court**
by Chuck Bower



64

Black leads 4-1/7. Black on roll.
Cube decisions both sides.

One of the highlights of the ABT backgammon tournament circuit is Bill Davis's **Midwest Championships**. This year's tournament runs from Friday through Sunday, 17-19 March at the Radisson Hotel in Naperville (western suburb of Chicago). This year's veteran staff includes Peter Kalba, Carol Joy Cole, Dru Heggen, Elaine Kehm, and Mike Fujita. Bill and friends keep the entrants entertained all weekend, not only with several backgammon events, but lots of non-backgammon contests as well. The auction is typically spiced with a quiz-show style competition and lots of prizes and 10% goes to The Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago.

Last year the weekend was highlighted by the **Lady's Treasure**, a female only event where four players anted a whopping \$9000 each for a 97% payout, \$35,000 winner-take-all prize. The finalists were no strangers to big-time tournament backgammon, New Yorkers Mika Lidov and Antionette Marie

Williams. The other contestants were formidable backgammon gladiators Laila Leonhardt and Clarine.

The format was best 2-of-3 9-point matches. In the final, the rubber 9-point match reached 6-3 when the above decision occurred. Thanks to HBC's own Larry Strommen for recording the match, and to Carol Joy Cole's **Flint Area Backgammon News** for reporting this position. I've taken the liberty to convert the score to a 7-point match--familiar to HBC regulars!

Antoinette (Black in the position) was working on an undoubled gammon when Mika entered two checkers from the bar with a fortunate 5-5 roll. What would you do at this score in Black's position? And, if doubled, how should White respond?

Match play can often lead to cube decisions considerably different from money play. Most players get conservative with a lead and loose when behind. Match scores with the leader needing exactly 3 points for the victory typically involve cube handling that is considerably different than money play. But in the illustrated position, with neither player likely to score a gammon, the doubling decision for the leader and drop/take decision for trailer are surprisingly close to money play.

Black has four blots and White will be hitting a shot nearly 20% of the time on her next roll! How could this be a double?? Well, if Black can survive this next couple of rolls, she is unlikely to leave more shots although certainly not guaranteed.

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Free Lessons...

Starting in March, HBC will provide free lessons once a month. The first date will be Thursday, March 6th starting at 6:00PM just before weekly play.

Welcome Back Night...

Once a month, HBC will have **Welcome Back Night**. Any player who has not played with HBC in the past year, will receive a \$20 bonus if they cash. The first date will be March 13th, play begins at 7PM.

Hoosier Backgammon Club
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Women Take Center Court

At tournament play, as at money, a close take decision often requires the proper follow up recube. Suppose Black leaves a direct shot after this roll which happens nearly 2/3 of the time. Should White send it back immediately? Unfortunately for White, the answer is NO. White needs a minimum of 33% clueless winning chances to rewhip. A single shot typically gives a player only about 33% chance to hit, and White must not only hit, but then win the subsequent battle.

Even if you assume White wins all of the 20% immediate hits by subsequently turning the cube there still are not enough winning chances to take. Tossing in all of White's winning equity, Snowie rollouts indicate that the drop/take is a borderline decision. Technically either a pass or a take will lead to about the same match winning chances. If White had a recube when receiving a direct shot the take would be clear, but here the cube efficiency (ability for White to make good use of the cube) is rather poor.

In the actual match, Larry and CJC report that Antoinette quickly found the pressure cube and Mika agonized for quite a while before deciding to pass. Top level decision-making worthy of a \$35,000 prize! In the following game Mika doubled early. Antoinette took and proceeded to win game, set, and match.

HBC Moved Again...

HBC has be welcomed back to the **Wildcat Brewing Company** located at 9111 North Michigan Road (just south of I465 & Mich Road).

**HBC Awards Tournament
February 13 2000**

The Top Ten Players were awarded engraved doubling cube trophies and \$150 in prizes.

- 1st...Sean Garber
- 2nd...Dave Smith (IL)

**Gammon Points Explained
New in 2000**

Gammon points are used to determine the **Player of the Month** and **Player of the Year**. Gammon points are awarded for each match won depending on match length.

<u>Match Length</u>	<u>Gammon Point</u>
5	8
7	10
9	12
11	14

When a player wins first place, his match points won are multiplied by 2.0. When a player wins second place, the match points are multiplied by 1.5. No points are awarded for getting a bye or forfeits.

Sample: If a player wins three 7-point matches and finishes first, then he/she would receive 60 points for the event. If a player wins four 7-point matches and finishes first, then he/she would receive 80 gammon points.

When there is more than one division, like a one-day tournament, there will be a division multiplier. The multiplier for the Advance will be 0.8, Intermediate 0.5 and Novice 0.3. Any faction will be rounded up. No gammon points are awarded for the **Indiana Open** or the **Club Championship**.

	<u>January 6th</u>	<u>January 13th</u>	<u>January 20th</u>	<u>January 27th</u>
1st	<i>Gino Agresti</i>	<i>Butch Meese</i>	<i>Gino Agresti</i>	<i>Larry Strommen</i>
2nd	<i>Larry Strommen</i>	<i>Sean Garber</i>	<i>Larry Strommen</i>	<i>Butch Meese</i>

Feb 18-20...	22nd Pittsburgh Championship/ABT Awards , Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh, PA.	(412) 823-7500
Mar 17-19...	2000 Midwest Backgammon Championships , Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL.....	(773) 583-6464
May 26-29..	21st Chicago Open , Wyndham NW Chicago Hotel, Itasca, IL.....	(847) 674-0120
Jun30-Jul3.	Michigan Summer Championships , Novi Hilton, Novi, MI.....	(810) 232-9731

Thursdays..... 7:00 PM at **Wildcat Brewing Company** (872-3446) HBC 255-8902