

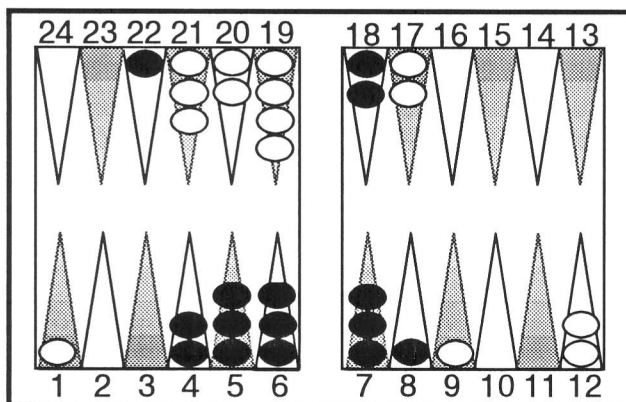


**Hoosier
Backgammon
Club**



April 2000

Future Shock



64

7 Point Match, Black-5 White-0
Black to play 5-4?

In college, a required book to read was called **Future Shock**. One of the premises was that, in the future, we would be be faced with too many choices. Sometimes in backgammon we are faced with the choice of several good plays. In this position, 3 choices come to mind. 1) hitting and making the 1-point, 2) hitting on the 9-point and 3) making the 3-point creating a 5-point prime. A panel of experts were asked for their play across the board without the aid of a robot.

Arthur Benjamin

I hit 18/9x. Notice that many of Blacks good return shots (like 6-2, 6-3) are duplicated. A great problem.

Jake Jacobs

Despite reviewing a match from Cancun against Malcolm where I failed to hit several times, and was thoroughly chided by Snowie, I would make the five-prime. Especially at this score I cannot imagine inviting a hitting contest where we both have three-point boards, and I have four blots. While I would gain on his 9 fans, it isn't clear to me that on 1-4, 2-4, 3-4, his only non-hitting entries, I am better off than before I rolled! Certainly I'd be sweating if he entered, hitting. In fact, it may be correct for him to double from the roof. Probably not, but I know if the score were 5-3 I'd be thinking long and hard about the cube if I were him. So, 8/3, 7/3 is my play.

Harald Johanni

I simply make the prime by moving 8/3 7/3. The most effective game plan to win against White's back checker is to form a 6-prime and/or to run with the back checker by keeping the opponents bar-point.

Ray Foglerlund

The score may be something of a trap for Black in this situation if he tries too hard to win an undoubled gammon. Of course that would be nice because it would wrap up the match exactly, but Black has to play like he is going to win the match no matter what happens this game. I just make the 3-point and a 5 point prime. No fancy hitting plays for me. I want to squeeze White until there is no more life left; not try to murder her and make a big mess out of the deal. Why risk waking up the neighbors? Solid and strong positional play and let White find a way to win this match now! Use the cube as a weapon to end the game later, never use it to escalate the stakes with a sizable lead.

Doug Mayfield

At this match score, you have almost no access to the cube (i.e., you probably will never turn the cube in a contact position/you may end up holding a 2 cube or playing with it centered). I would make the next point in my prime on my side of the board (the 3-point). I would NOT give up the anchor to hit. Nor would I bring the trailing checker out (or to the opponent's bar forcing me to blot on my side.

Doug Roberts

I play 8/3 7/3. Hitting 18/9x is too loose.

Walter Trice

I play 8/3 7/3. It's a 5-prime that White is not at the edge of, and it's a home board point which enhances future attacking options. The other plays are way too optimistic. 18/9* leaves 4 blots and many unhappy returns. Playing 6/1* 5/1 wrecks your chances of winning with a pure prime -- it would be an option if you didn't have such a great alternative, or you didn't have so much freight to haul around the board, or possibly (since a gammon would be good) if you had a secure outfield position plus a direct shot at the second blot.

Summary

Chuck Bower ran the position with Snowie and Jellyfish. Making the 5-prime play is on average 4% better than hitting on the 9-point and almost 10% better than making the 1-point. Hitting on the 9-point does produce more gammons but only 1.7% on average. The less experienced player may feel the urge to hit because of the blot on the 22-point. And yes, White will attack but in most cases, Black will be shooting a blot. As the roll-outs indicate, having the 5-prime is structurally better going forward.

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**2000 Hoosier Backgammon Club
Gammon Point Standings as of March 2000.**

The **Player of the Month** for March was
Dave Groner with 234 gammon points.

- 1) Larry Strommen..... 405
- 2) Sean Garber..... 286
- 3) Butch Meese..... 284
- 4) Dave Groner..... 273
- 5) Mary Ann Meese..... 241
- 6) Gino Agresti..... 207
- 7) Don Woods..... 187
- 8) Terry Bateman..... 127
- 9) Chuck Stimming..... 114
- 10) Woody Woodworth..... 67
- Jim Curtis..... 57
- Richard Lester..... 52
- David Smith..... 45
- Philip Degen..... 38
- Luke Clippinger..... 36
- Gabe Stiasny..... 36
- David Schwind..... 26
- Al Gomez..... 18
- Ross Ratzov..... 16
- Jan Gurvitz..... 10
- Lance Jenkins..... 10

HBC Sunday Tournament May 7 2000

Registration: 12:00-1:00 PM
Play Begins: 1:00 PM
(Central Time)

Wildcat Brewing Company (317) 872-3446
9111 North Michigan Road

Open Division \$30 (optional \$10 Sidepool)
Format: Main - Consolation
Limited Division \$10
Format: Main - Consolation
90% Return

Pre-registration by phone (317) 255-8902
or by email: meese@worldnet.att.net

New Players & Thanks...

In the last month, a half dozen players have started playing with the club. The new players are Michael Chasnn, Bill and Gail Standhardt, Richard Larsen, Josephine Banks and Frank Hanley. We have always welcomed new players and we would like to thank the regulars for making the new players feel welcomed. We also would like to thank those who share their time and experiences. HBC is providing lessons and will continue as long there is interest. The date for the next free lesson is Thursday May 4th at 6:00 PM.



	<u>March 2nd</u>	<u>March 9th</u>	<u>March 16th</u>	<u>March 23rd</u>	<u>March 30th</u>
1st	Mary Ann Meese	Dave Groner	Butch Meese	Dave Groner	Dave Groner
2nd	Dave Groner	Dons Woods	Richard Larsen	Luke Clippinger	Terry Bateman

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
Sept 1-4.....	48th Indiana Open , Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel and Suite.....	(317) 255-8902

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