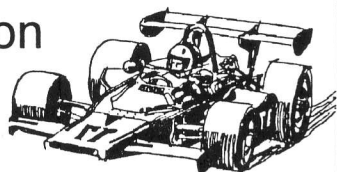


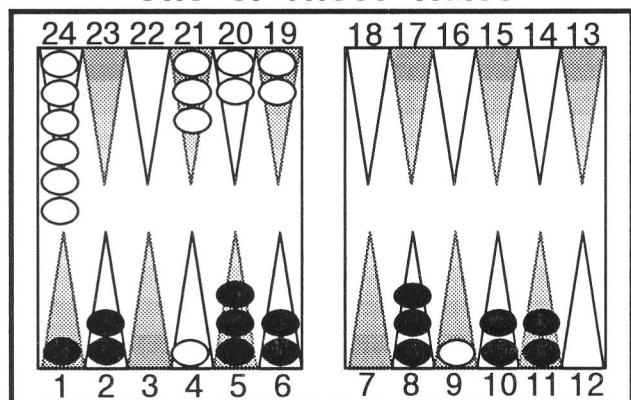


Hoosier Backgammon Club

May 2000



One of Those Rules



7 Point Match, Black-6 (Crawford) White-3
Black to play 5-1?

Black has reached the Crawford Game with a 3-point lead. One of the rules of backgammon is **Don't get gammoned on the Crawford Game**. This position is a prime example where the player can play safe and not get gammoned or take the extra risk. But is it worth the extra risk to increase the chances to win? A panel of experts were asked for their play across the board without the aid of a robot.

Arthur Benjamin

I play 11/10, 11/6 since the 11-point is not blocking anything. If Black were a little further down in the race I would hit. The racing lead of White is not as high as her pip count indicates.

Jake Jacobs

I know the gammons are one-way here, but look at White's board. Anyone who doesn't hit two checkers here should be sent to backgammon boot camp! 10/9x, 9/4x.

Harald Johanni

By risking a gammon loss, Black risks 17% match winning chances. Black gains 31.5% by winning the game. I think the high gain is worth the risk. White's board doesn't improve any more and Black is able to win the game even after a hit by White. Hitting twice (10/9x 9/4x) is the direct way to win the game. No hit is no game plan to win, its only a game plan not to lose a gammon.

Ray Foglerlund

I would hit both checkers 10/9x, 9/4x. White's position is horrible with all the killed checkers. While it might be uncomfortable to get hit and stay out for a turn or two and get a couple of checker hit, I think Black is a prohibitive favorite to anchor on the 2 or 3 points, and be a threat in the bearoff even if he is unable to anchor up. During the Crawford game, the gammon-penalty is not as large as it would be post Crawford. I think it would be too chicken to play scared here. The best way **not to lose** is to play to win, and looking at White's homeboard, I wouldn't even mind having 3 checkers hit. If I get gammoned, I will beat him in the next game for the match! Most likely, White will encounter a problem entering, or coming around, and Black will win this game easily unless he lets White turn this game into a race!

Doug Mayfield

Losing a gammon is huge so I want to make a quiet play. I cover my ace point. My opponent leads in the race and if he gets a four and escapes his back checker, I could lose but he is not a favorite to get the four. Also notice that he has a LOT of wastage with those extra checkers on his ace. Using the way I evaluate wastage, the race is a lot closer than the raw pip count suggests (I make me a little behind after playing 5-1). You could point on the trailing checker and duplicate aces but this leaves two blots and the gammon risk (considering the match score) seems unacceptable to me. I build my board and wait.

Doug Roberts

Double hit play 10/9x 9/4x. You're down in the race so you have to hit.

Walter Trice

Whack 'em both. You're losing the race, so you can't afford to play passively. If you just hit one, you're going to leave a pretty loose position anyhow, so you might as well whack the other one. You don't really want to let even one checker get away. Plus, the initiative you gain with the double hit more than compensates for leaving a double-direct vs. a direct-plus-indirects. The fact that White has been so kind as to stack six checker on his ace point allows you to thumb your nose at his home board.

Summary

Chuck Bower ran the position with Snowie and Jellyfish. Making 1 of the 3 non-hitting plays gives you on average 52.6% wins with getting gammoned 7.2%. Hitting 10/9x, 10/5 increase winning changes to 57.7% but also increases getting gammoned to 14.8%. Slightly better hitting play 10/9x 10/5 with 60.7% wins and losing 7.3% gammons. The aggressive hitting twice wins out with 68.5% wins and getting gammoned at 10.6%. In this position, the extra risk pays in extra victories.

Hoosier Backgammon Club

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Woody Wins Club Championship

Woody played just enough in 1999 to make the Club Championship both as a Player of the Month and the HBC Top 10 of the Year. With his Player of the Month entry, Woody lost to Chuck Stimming 13-12 in 16 games. With only his Top 10 entry left, he won four matches in a row including defeating last years Club Champion and Player of the Year Don Woods 13-9 in 12 games. In the 2-hour final against Butch Meese, the match was close all the way. In game 13, Woody doubled in a position that turned into a race down to the last roll. With a checkers on the 4 and 3 points, he rolled double 5s to send it to Crawford. The next game, Woody beared off against the ace-point and won the game and match without leaving a shot. This is Woody's first Club Championship. Congratulations!



Hoosier Pips...

The date for the next free lesson is Thursday June 8th at 6:00 PM....HBC will not meet on June 29th due the **2000 Michigan Backgammon Championships**. This annual event draws the largest crowd east of the Mississippi River including a number of players from Indianapolis.

2000 Hoosier Backgammon Club

Gammon Point Standings as of April 2000.

The **Player of the Month for April** was **Gino Agresti** with 142 gammon points.

- 1) Larry Strommen..... 534
- 2) Butch Meese..... 408
- 3) Dave Groner..... 364
- 4) Gino Agresti..... 349
- 5) Don Woods..... 303
- 6) Mary Ann Meese..... 299
- 7) Sean Garber..... 286
- 8) Chuck Stimming..... 216
- 9) Terry Bateman..... 161
- 10) Ron Black..... 106
- Woody Woodworth..... 67
- Jim Curtis..... 57
- Richard Larsen..... 52
- David Smith..... 45
- Philip Degen..... 38
- Gabe Stiasny..... 36
- Luke Clippinger..... 36
- Al Gomez..... 36
- David Schwind..... 26
- Ross Ratzov..... 16
- Jan Gurvitz..... 10
- Lance Jenkins..... 10
- Frank Hanley..... 8

HBC Sunday Tournament

May 7 2000

- 1st...Jim Curtis
- 2nd...Woody Woodworth
- 2nd...Gabe Stiasny

The **Cluster Counting** article by Jack Kissane where he shares his pip counting techniques is available on the web. The article is on Kate McCollough's backgammon page at <http://www.northcoast.com/~mccool/cluster.html>. Another article **Beginners Tips: Top 5 Most Common Errors** is also available on the web at <http://www.isg-vsg.de/backgammon/Tips.htm>.

	<u>April 6th</u>	<u>April 13th</u>	<u>April 20th</u>	<u>April 27th</u>
1st	<i>Gino Agresti</i>	<i>Butch Meese</i>	<i>Don Woods</i>	<i>Ron Black</i>
2nd	<i>Mary Ann Meese</i>	<i>Chuck Stimming</i>	<i>Gino Agresti</i>	<i>Larry Strommen</i>
2nd	...	<i>Dave Groner</i>

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