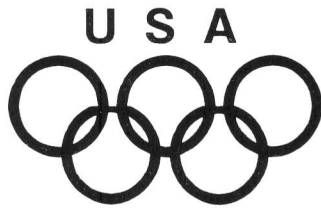


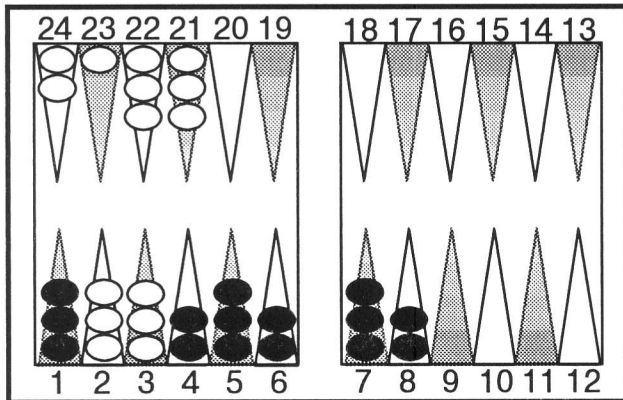
Hoosier
Backgammon
Club

September
2000



Play in the *Present* for the *Future*

by Chuck Bower



Money Game, Black to play 3-1?

The influence of computer programs, Jelly Fish and Snowie (robots), has had an impact on many areas of the game, including the once revered backgame. Whereas the robots can peer a few rolls in the future very accurately, the backgame player must be able to anticipate the flow many rolls ahead. As a result, neural nets often play backgames at an inferior level to their human opponents.

Robots prefer to avoid backgames, and thus seldom get training in their intricacies. Modern human players who have otherwise been the beneficiaries of the robots' tutoring often mimic their mentors' weakness as backgame players.

The robots' vulnerability as backgame players doesn't necessarily spill over to their technique at defending against them. The illustrated position is informative when the robots play the Black checkers.

Although White's backgame has crashed, even a 4-point board combined with the best defensive points (Black's 2- and 3-points) is a position to be respected. Black's roll of 3-1 appears to be a choice between a couple **obvious** moves, but Snowie sees some subtle choices as particularly powerful.

The *Last* HBC Sunday One-Day of the *Millennium*

Sunday November 5th 2000
Wildcat Brewing Co.

Open \$20 (optional \$10 sidepool)
Limited \$8

Registration 12 Noon - 12:30 PM
12:30 PM Play begins.
Pre-register at 255-8902
or meese@worldnet.att.net

Many players, including the author, quickly converge on a decision between maintaining the strong prime (7/4, 5/4 or 4/1) and apparent safety clearing the 8-point. Snowie rollouts indicate these plays miss the mark by 0.1 units of cubeless equity or more. An error so great in magnitude that they've been coined **whoppers** by Kent Goulding.

Snowie recognizes that White's position isn't likely to deteriorate in the next roll or two, so Black should be looking for FUTURE safety. In particular, fives are going to be difficult to play for quite a few rolls. 7/6 puts a spare on the 6-point where a comfortable five can be played in the future. After that, Snowie says the second best move is 8/5, holding the solid 4-prime. But best by 0.05 units of cubeless equity is the even more diverse 7/4. Now threes also become more playable in the future.

A second advantage of clearing the 7-point early is that Black will no longer have sixes to play. This helps Black's timing as well as leading to more rolls which pile the outside checkers on the 4-, 5-, and 6-points where they can be more safely and efficiently played once the bearoff begins.

Both of Snowie's preferred plays leave a double shot, but note that currently White's board is not imposing. In a few rolls, White may be able to bring two checkers around and make either the 5- or 6-point and THEN blots could be very dangerous for Black. In addition, if White hits now, the timing of the game could shift more towards Black's advantage.

Snowie says the best play (7/6, 7/4) makes future fives and threes easier, and has the double timing advantage of killing future sixes and slowing things in the event that White hits. All of these components improve Black's future chances of bringing home the win, or even the gammon.

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

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

2000 Hoosier Backgammon Club
 Gammon Point Standings as of August 2000.
 The **Player of the Month for August** was
Butch Meese with 156 gammon points.

- 1) Butch Meese.....926
- 2) Larry Strommen.....814
- 3) Gino Agresti.....673
- 4) Jim Curtis.....596
- 5) Dave Groner.....566
- 6) Mary Ann Meese.....535
- 7) Sean Garber.....444
- 8) Chuck Stimming.....441
- 9) Al Gomez.....342
- 10) Gabe Stiasny.....309
- Don Woods.....303
- Ron Black.....252
- Terry Bateman.....225
- Woody Woodworth.....213
- Jeremy Bagai.....100
- Richard Larsen.....70
- John Jennings.....54
- David Smith.....45
- Philip Degen.....38
- Curtis Lucas.....38
- Alan Haas.....36
- Luke Clippinger.....36
- David Schwind.....26
- Bob Zavoral.....26
- John Brussel.....24
- Paul Horstman.....20
- Bill Robertie.....20
- Jim Roston.....20
- Jon Stephens.....18
- Scott Day.....18
- Jeff Flowers.....18
- Greg Tomlin.....16
- Butch Bates.....16
- Ross Ratzov.....16
- Jake Jacobs.....10
- Jan Gurvitz.....10
- Lance Jenkins.....10
- Austin Bennett.....8
- Mary Franks.....8
- Bill Julian.....8

Don Woods greatest double yet!!

Alexandra Southerland Woods 5 lbs - 3 oz
 Samantha Claire Woods 6 lbs - 0 oz
 Born on September 15th. Don, Jennifer (wife) and
 twins doing fine.



Thursday Warm-up to the Indiana Open
 1st Jeremy Bagai (PA)
 2nd Butch Meese
 2nd Sean Garber
 2nd (split) Woody Woodworth/John Jennings (IL)

**48th Indiana Open
 Backgammon Tournament**

Championship Winner: **Paul Weaver** (AL)
 Advanced Winner: **Leon Dangremond** (MI)
 Intermediate Division: **Vince Frigo** (MI)

Directors Cup Winner: **Bill Davis** (IL)
 Indy300 Jackpot: (split) **Walter Trice** (MA)
 and **Jeremy Bagai** (PA)
 Amateur Jackpot: **Bill Versaw** (PA)
 MicroDoubles: **Hugh McNeil/Chester Warzel**
 OverFlow Doubles: **Mary Ann Meese/Ray
 Fogelund** (IN/CA)
 \$200 Labor Day Jackpot: **Bob Zavoral** (IL)
 Labor Day Amateur Jackpot: **Larry Taylor** (GA)
 Open MicroBlitz: **Ted Kirit** (NY)
 Limited MicroBlitz: **Brian Barber** (NY)
 \$20 Quickie #1: **Kate Elmore** (GA)
 \$20 Quickie #1: **Jan Carlstrom** (PA)

Complete results with a story and pictures
 can be seen at www.Gammonville.com
 at [http://www.gammonvillage.com/
 news/article_display.cfm?resourceid=430](http://www.gammonvillage.com/news/article_display.cfm?resourceid=430)

Championship winner **Paul Weaver**
 wrote a story with pictures
 about the **48th Indiana Open**
 that can be seen at www.Gammonville.com
 at [http://www.gammonvillage.com/
 news/article_display.cfm?resourceid=466](http://www.gammonvillage.com/news/article_display.cfm?resourceid=466)

	August 3rd	August 10th	August 17th	August 24th
1st	Mary Ann Meese	Butch Meese	Gino Agresti	Chuck Stimming
2nd	Jim Curtis	Larry Strommen	Jim Curtis	Gino Agresti
2nd	...	Woody Woodworth

Oct 13-15.....	Illinois State Championships , Springfield Hilton, Springfield, IL.....	(217) 528-0117
Nov 17-19.....	Minnesota State Championships , Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, MN.....	(612) 378-1536
Nov 24-26.....	Ohio State Championships , Akron Holiday Inn, Arkon, OH.....	(330) 966-2811
Thursdays.....	7:00 PM at Wildcat Brewing Company (872-3446)	HBC 255-8902