



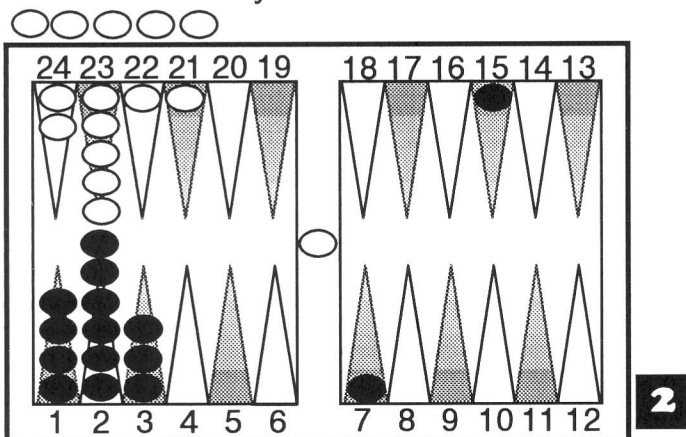
Hoosier
Backgammon
Club

December 2000



A Miss Is As Good As A Mile

by Chuck Bower



Money Game, Black to play 6-2?

Ten years ago next month Bill Robertie and Kent Goulding began what became one of the best backgammon periodicals of all time: **Inside Backgammon**. Forty-four issues were printed over eight years. Nearly every area of backgammon was addressed from the intermediate level through cutting edge theory. The quality was so high that virtually everything published is still accurate and applicable--a rare happenstance in this fast evolving game.

In their first issue, Goulding wrote an article titled *The Road to Better Backgammon*. There he made a statement which he credited to Paul Magriel, but which I have ever since remembered as Goulding's wise advice: *Many (possibly most) inferior moves are made not because the best play was considered and then rejected, but because the best play was completely overlooked.*

When the illustrated position occurred in one of my matches, I was strapped with a dilemma: play efficiently with 15/7 or waste some pips but set up for a return shot. If opponent quickly enters, keeping a checker outside could be key, playing 7/1, 15/13. If only Goulding's teachings

had resurfaced then.

We're *Moving!!!* Starting December 28th, HBC will be playing at

NEON JOHNNY'S

Sport Bar & Grill

86th & Township Road
(between Bravo and Kroger)

FYI: Wildcat was bought out by Texas Road House and closed on December 23rd.

Playing 15/7 may look efficient, but it wastes a crossover. Next turn Black is likely to play at least one of those checkers deeply into the home board, and will need doubles to bear off that turn. 7/1, 15/13 not only wastes pips and crossovers now, but doesn't give Black that many shots if White enters. Only 7/36 White rolls (65, 64, 54, and 55) force a direct shot. 15/9, 3/1 gives Black enough double shots to make it better than the previous two moves, but crossovers are wasted here as well.

The best play according to Snowie rollouts (and one I overlooked) is the brazen 15/9, 7/5. If White fans (9/36 rolls), Black has the advantage of an extra crossover and will likely take a checker off with his/her next roll. If White enters and flies past Black (6/36 rolls), Black will need some lucky dice, but again s/he will require only 16 crossovers. If Black enters without hitting and without escaping (10/36 rolls), Black will get a single shot. The remaining 11/36 rolls (4-1 and all 5's except 6-5) hit but give Black an average of 17 return shots.

The total chances of Black hitting a shot next turn are: 30% after 15/9, 3/1; 23% after 15/9, 7/5; 14% after 7/1, 15/13, and 11% after 15/7. The best play comes in second in return shots but more than makes up for this with the extra crossover. Note that if Black gets a shot but misses it, that game turns into a race and the extra crossover matters then, too.

In backgammon, the word **miss** is usually associated with a player getting a shot at his opponent but failing to hit. However, we can't control the dice. Much worse is 'missing' a play by failing to consider it. That occurrence is a real shame, because the equity was there for the taking and only human error kept one from collecting it.

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Special K Club --- 10 Matches in a Row

The last time HBC had a player win 10 matches in a row was 1997. It happened this year from October 19th to November 2nd. Butch Meese won first place for those three nights and his name is added to the list of the **Special K Club** compiled in December 1997.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. Won</u>	<u>String Breaker</u>
Rick Reahard	Jun 16-30, 1988	11	Butch Meese
Ken Bruck	Nov 29-Dec 1, 1988	10	Mick Dobratz
Larry Strommen	Dec 8-23, 1988	11	Butch Meese
Chuck Stimming	Dec 29-Jan 12, 1989	11	Glen Theobald
Butch Meese	June 8-15, 1989	14	David Smith
Butch Meese	Sept 28-Oct 12, 1989	12	Brian Nelson
Jim Curtis	Jun 25-July 2, 1992	10	Don Woods
Chuck Stimming	Oct 22, 29-Nov 5, 1992	12	Wendy Kaplan
Don Woods	Dec 9-Jan 6, 1994	17**	Butch Meese
Chuck Stimming	Apr 20-May 11, 1995	10	Woody Woodworth
Sean Garber	Jul 25-Aug 15, 1996	12	Larry Strommen
Don Woods	Oct 31-Nov 21, 1996	10	Mary Ann Meese
Chuck Stimming	Oct 30-Nov 20, 1997	13	Sean Garber
Butch Meese	Oct 19-Nov 2, 2000	10	Charley Haley

** Club Record - 17 in a row (1 in 131072)

2000 Hoosier Backgammon Club

Gammon Point Standings as of October 2000.
The **Player of the Month for November** was

Butch Meese with 150 gammon points.

- 1) Butch Meese..... 1367
- 2) Larry Strommen..... 991
- 3) Jim Curtis..... 884
- 4) Gino Agresti..... 779
- 5) Dave Groner..... 729
- 6) Sean Garber..... 693
- 7) Mary Ann Meese..... 669
- 8) Chuck Stimming..... 545
- 9) Gabe Stiasny..... 429
- 10) Woody Woodworth..... 406
- Al Gomez..... 342
- Ron Black..... 342
- Terry Bateman..... 329
- Don Woods..... 303
- Scott Day..... 176
- Jeremy Bagai..... 100
- Butch Bates..... 96
- Richard Larsen..... 70
- John Jennings..... 54
- David Smith..... 45
- Philip Degen..... 38

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|----------------------|----|
| Curtis Lucas..... | 38 |
| Alan Haas..... | 36 |
| Luke Clippinger..... | 36 |
| Chuck Bower..... | 32 |
| Jeff Flowers..... | 28 |
| David Schwind..... | 26 |
| Bob Zavoral..... | 26 |
| John Brussel..... | 24 |
| Charley Haley..... | 22 |
| Paul Horstman..... | 20 |
| Cathie Benneth..... | 20 |
| Bill Robertie..... | 20 |
| Jim Roston..... | 20 |
| Jon Stephens..... | 18 |
| Greg Tomlin..... | 16 |
| Ross Ratzov..... | 16 |
| Jake Jacobs..... | 10 |
| Jan Gurvitz..... | 10 |
| Lance Jenkins..... | 10 |
| Frank Hanley..... | 8 |
| Bill Julian..... | 8 |
| Betty Coppic..... | 8 |
| Austin Bennett..... | 8 |
| Mary Franks..... | 8 |
| Ray Foglerlund..... | 8 |

	<u>November 2nd</u>	<u>November 9th</u>	<u>November 16th</u>	<u>November 23rd</u>
1st	<i>Butch Meese</i>	<i>Sean Garber</i>	<i>Butch Meese</i>	<i>Gabe Stiasny</i>
2nd	<i>Jim Curtis</i>	<i>Chuck Stimming</i>	<i>Woody Woodworth</i>	<i>Sean Garber</i>
2nd	<i>Larry Strommen</i>

Feb 16-18.....**23rd Annual Pittsburgh BG Championships**, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh..... (412) 823-7500

Mar 23-25.....**2001 Midwest Championships**, Radisson, Lisle, Illinois..... (773) 583-6464

Thursdays..... 7:00 PM at **Neon Johnny's**, 86th & Township (Mary Ann's cellular 442-4065)HBC 255-8902