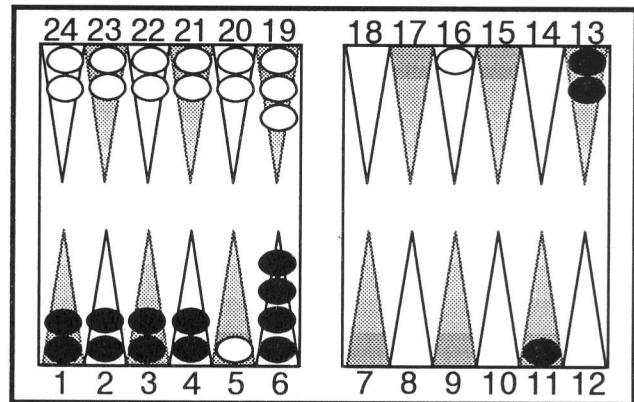


**Hoosier  
Backgammon  
Club**



**January 2001  
Happy New Year  
Happy New Millennium**

**Intermediate Corner**  
**7-point Match, Black-0 White-0**  
**Black to play 5-3?**



## 2000 In Review

HBC's **Player of the Year** for 2000 is **Butch Meese**. The Player of the last Decade, **Don Woods** is missing due to spending all his time starting a new business and a family (twins girls in August). After last year's recount to determine the top player in the closest standings ever, this year's race was a blow-out. Through May, Butch was down over 120 points to Larry Strommen. Butch took over the lead by the end of July and never looked back as he won **Player of the Month** four times in the second half of 2000. Larry Strommen held on to finish second. The complete list is on Page 2.

## HBCs Awards Tournament

**Sunday - February 25th, 2001**

**Arni's Restaurant (875-7034)**  
**3443 West 86th Street**  
**(west of WalMart)**

**Registration: 12:00 PM**  
**Awards: 12:45 PM**  
**Play Begins: 1:00 PM**

**Open Div: \$20 with \$10 Op SPool**  
**Limited Division: \$8**  
**Format: Main-Consolation**  
**Pre-register: 255-8902 or**  
**meese@worldnet.att.net**

This is the first game of the match and the cube has not been turned. This game should not decide the match but like any close game, you want to make the best moves that win the game. The first thing most players will notice is that they are playing against a closed board. Any checker that gets hit would mean losing this game. Some players would look for the safest play of either 11/3 or making the 8-point.

The 11/3 move is safe this roll but Black still has to get two more checkers home. Playing 13/8, 11/8 makes the 8-point but leaves 8 return shots.

The race is close. Black will be only 4 pips ahead after this move and therefore the game will be a tossup if White is given the freedom to race.

Is there a move that can swing the game into Black's favor? Yes, playing 13/5x does but that play leaves three blots.

Since it takes time to figure out whether this play is better than the others, learn to write down the position and look at it later.

If you make any of the safer plays and you do not get hit, you are only 45 to 55% to win.

Now let's look at the riskier 13/5x play. The first downside is 11/36 rolls (30.6%) hit and White will win. If White picks up one extra checker, White will win a gammon about 60% of the time. If White picks up both checkers, White should win a gammon about 95% of the time.

On Black side, White will dance 25/36 or 69.4% of the time. Now Black needs to know how many covers he has. Black covers with 29/36 rolls, lifts with 6 more rolls with only double 5's not covering or lifting (see 6 by 6 grid below). Knowing this, some players would play on for a gammon but gammon chances are very

**Hoosier Backgammon Club**  
**Home Page: <http://home.att.net/~meese>**  
**E-Mail: [meese@worldnet.att.net](mailto:meese@worldnet.att.net)**

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

**2000 Hoosier Backgammon Club**

Final Gammon Point Standings.

The **Player of the Month for December** was

**Sean Garber** with 136 gammon points.

- 1) Butch Meese..... 1463
- 2) Larry Strommen..... 1067
- 3) Jim Curtis..... 914
- 4) Sean Garber..... 829
- 5) Gino Agresti..... 779
- 6) Dave Groner..... 768
- 7) Mary Ann Meese..... 705
- 8) Chuck Stimming..... 545
- 9) Woody Woodworth..... 474
- 10) Gabe Stiasny..... 429
- Terry Bateman..... 404
- Ron Black..... 368
- Al Gomez..... 362
- Don Woods..... 303
- Scott Day..... 192
- Jeremy Bagai..... 100
- Butch Bates..... 96
- Jeff Flowers..... 88
- Chuck Bower..... 79
- Richard Larsen..... 70
- John Jennings..... 54
- David Smith..... 45
- Curtis Lucas..... 38
- Philip Degen..... 38
- Alan Haas..... 36
- Luke Clippinger..... 36
- 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
- Richard Heinz..... 10
- Bill Julian..... 8
- Betty Coppic..... 8
- Austin Bennett..... 8
- Mary Franks..... 8
- Ray Fogelund..... 8
- Frank Hanley..... 8

small. It's much easier to cash-out by doubling. Always remember where the cube is.

<del>11</del>	<del>21</del>	<del>31</del>	<del>41</del>	<del>51</del>	<del>61</del>
<del>12</del>	<del>22</del>	32	<del>42</del>	52	<del>62</del>
<del>13</del>	23	<del>33</del>	<del>43</del>	<del>53</del>	<del>63</del>
<del>14</del>	<del>24</del>	<del>34</del>	<del>44</del>	54	<del>64</del>
<del>15</del>	25	<del>35</del>	45	55	<del>65</del>
<del>16</del>	<del>26</del>	<del>36</del>	<del>46</del>	<del>56</del>	<del>66</del>

X = covering number  
O = non covering lift number

Game equity can be used to determine the best play. With the safe plays, the equity will be around +/- 0.05.

If White hits (30.6%), Snowie says about 60% of those games will end in gammon losses and 40% will end in simple losses.

With Black's play of the hitting 13/5x:  
When White hits:

$30.6\% \times 60\% \times -2 = -0.37$ (Wins gammon) $30.6\% \times 40\% \times -1 = -0.12$ (Wins simple game) <b>Total = -0.49</b>
---

When White misses and Black cashes

$Black\ 69.4\% \times +1 = +0.69$
-----------------------------------

The sum of these is the total equity of the hit play:  $0.69 - 0.49 = +0.20$ . It was stated earlier that the race was even with a safe play and the game was a tossup, which corresponds to an equity of zero. So the risky hitting play is 0.20 units of equity better than the non-hitting safe plays. Since a win is +1.00 unit of equity, +0.20 is quite a bit and this indicates that the hitting play is clearly better.

	<u>December 7th</u>	<u>December 14th</u>	<u>December 21st</u>	<u>December 28th</u>
1st	Larry Strommen	Butch Meese	Jeff Flowers	Woody Woodworth
2nd	Sean Garber	Sean Garber	Chuck Bower	Dave Groner
2nd	...	...	...	Terry Bateman

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 Line Rd (Cellular 442-4065)..... HBC 255-8902