



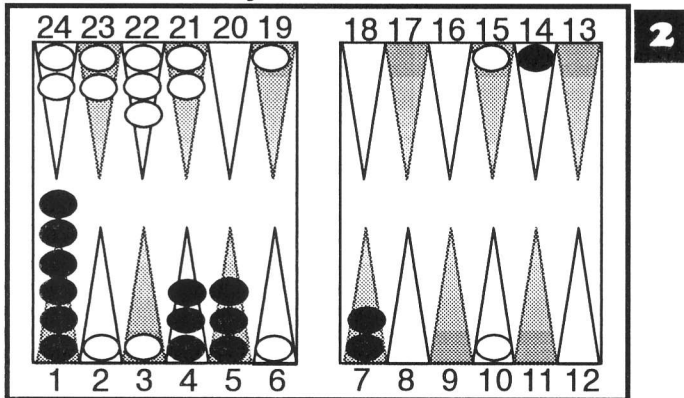
Hoosier
Backgammon
Club



February 2001

More Than Meets The Eye

by Chuck Bower



Money game. Black to play 4-2?

White's backgame had some timing problems, and even after hitting he's in big trouble. Black has a weaker board but is otherwise in the driver's seat with a gammon win a serious possibility. Still, this is no time to fall asleep. 42 is a good roll, but how does Black extract the maximum equity?

Four plays come to mind, all involving a hit. Pointing on White's head on the 3-point adds another homeboard point while sending one to the rail. 14/10x is the beginning of the other three candidates. Continuing (10/8) leaves no homeboard shots and only one blot. 5/3x and 4/2x send a second White checker to the bar.

It's always good when leaving shots to know how many. Interestingly, the two double hit plays, both which give direct shots in the homeboard, leave the fewest shots with 12 each. 14/10x/8 leaves 13 and the building play (7/3x, 5/3) leaves the most with 14.

Backgammon Wednesday March 14, 2001

Because of the NCAA March Madness that begins on Thursday, March 15th, backgammon will be held a day early on Wednesday, March 14th.

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

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What are the chances that White will remain on the bar? Not surprisingly, 14/10x/8 is the most forgiving, with White entering on 75% of his/her rolls. After making the fourth homeboard point (7/3x, 5/3), White enters 55% of the time. But the two double hit plays allow White to enter BOTH checkers only 25% of the time. The arguments in favor of the double hit are piling up.

Is there a tie breaking factor which allows us to choose between the two double hits? If White misses, 29 numbers allow Black to cover the homeboard blot after 4/2x, while only 23 cover the blot after 5/3x. Finally, if White fails to hit but anchors, Black strongly prefers that the anchor be as high in his homeboard as possible. So knocking White off the 2-point and leaving White's checker on the 3-point is better than leaving White a chance of anchoring on the 2-point.

Snowie rollouts say that 14/10x, 4/2x wins 4% or more total games than its competitors, and also wins the most gammons (46% compared to 44% for making the 3-point). Overall the best play is 0.1 equity units better than any of the other three candidates.

Leaving the fewest shots doesn't always indicate the best play, but if that candidate also keeps the opponent on the bar, is easy to clean up after, and pushes opponent's back most checker forward, it's going to be hard to beat. Simultaneously hitting and pointing (7/3x, 5/3) may look automatic here, but when other details of the position are taken into account, a different play emerges. Underlying factors can often present more options than initially meet the eye.

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2001 Hoosier Backgammon Club

The Player of the Month for January was Gabe Stiasny with 129 gammon points.

- 1) Gabe Stiasny..... 129
- 2) Jim Curtis..... 128
- 3) Sean Garber..... 122
- 4) Larry Strommen..... 101
- 5) Woody Woodworth..... 95
- 6) Ron Black..... 84
- 7) Scott Day..... 82
- 8) Mary Ann Meese..... 77
- 9) Chuck Stimming..... 76
- 10) Butch Meese..... 46
- Terry Bateman..... 40
- Dave Groner..... 39
- Jeff Flowers..... 8

Gammon Points Explained

Gammon points are used to determine the **Player of the Month** and **Player of the Year**. Gammon points are awarded for each match won depending on match length.

<u>Match Length</u>	<u>Gammon Point</u>
5	8
7	10
9	12
11	14

When a player wins first place, his accumulated match points won are multiplied by 2.0. When a player wins second place then the accumulated match points are multiplied by 1.5. No points are awarded for getting a bye or a forfeit.

Example: If a player wins three 7-point matches and finishes first, then he/she would receive 60 points for the event. If a player wins four 7-point matches and finishes first, then he/she would receive 80 gammon points.

When there is more than one division, as in a one-day tournament, there will be a divisional multiplier. The multiplier for the Advanced will be 0.8, Intermediate 0.5 and Novice 0.3. Any fraction is rounded up. No gammon points are awarded for the **Indiana Open** or the **Club Championship**.

New Players

HBC would like to welcome new players Diane Giese, Randy Floit, John Perkins and Robb Zeigler. We also want to thank the regulars in helping the new players and being patient as matches do take a little longer than average.

49th



**Labor Day Weekend
Sheraton Hotel & Suite**

Magriel Backgammon For \$ale

HBC has one copy of the Magriel book (original hardback version) for sale at \$49. The softcover version sells for \$45. For those who may not know, this is the bona fide book that alot of backgammon players read and re-reads once a year.

	<u>January 4th</u>	<u>January 11th</u>	<u>January 18th</u>	<u>January 25th</u>
1st	Ron Black	Sean Garber	Chuck Stimming	Gabe Stiasny
2nd	Scott Day	Dave Groner	Gabe Stiasny	Mary Ann Meese
2nd	Larry Strommen	Jim Curtis	Jim Curtis	Woody Woodworth

Feb 16-18.....	23rd Annual Pittsburgh Championships , Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh.....	(412) 823-7500
Mar 23-25.....	2001 Midwest Championships , Radisson, Lisle, IL.....	(773) 583-6464
May 25-28.....	22nd Chicago Open , Wyndham NW Chicago Hotel, Itasca, IL.....	(702) 893-6025
Jun28-Jul1.....	Michigan Summer Championships , Novi Hiton, Novi, MI.....	(810) 232-9731
Aug31-Sep3.....	49th Indiana Open , Sheraton Hotel & Suite, Indianapolis, IN.....	(317) 255-8902
Thursdays.....	7:00 PM at Neon Johnny's , 86th & Township Line Rd (Cellular 442-4065).....	HBC 255-8902