



Hoosier
Backgammon
Club

May 2002



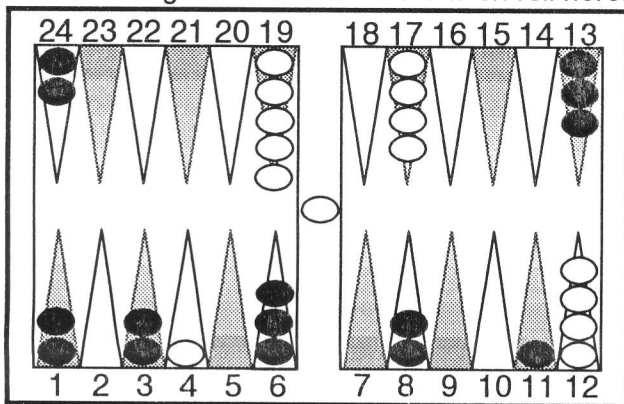
A Pithy Piece

by Uncle Jake (Jacobs)

It has been quite a while since I've written anything for this publication. I have all sorts of good excuses: I travel a lot, I moved, I cleaned my sock drawer. I'm afraid that if I delay much longer Butch and Mary Ann might think I don't love them anymore. The fact is that since Butch downsized the newsletter I have been afraid to write. I can barely clear my throat in less than two pages, and I feared I'd run overlong, and Butch would have to serialize me the way they use to publish Dickens. (*They* being Dickens himself - Butch and Mary Ann are nowhere near that old.)

I have a double to tell you about. Most times when a cube catches my eye I really need the space. **It was the best of cubes; it was the worst of cubes.** This time I think I can say something useful in a very pithy way. At least, I'll try.

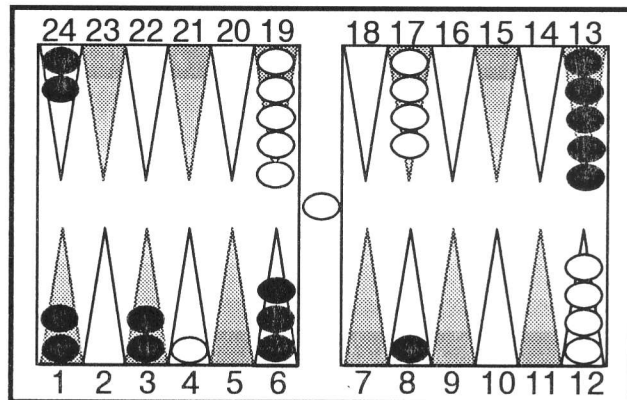
I was in Beverly Hills, playing at Pat Gibson's recent tournament. My first round opponent was Las Vegas poker expert Jeff Birdsall. Kibitzing was Games Grid guru Ken Arnold. I was on roll here.



Black (Jake) leads 6-3 to 11 and is on roll.

I thought briefly about doubling, so briefly that when I rolled it may have seemed I hadn't thought at all. My roll was 21: 11/10, 6/4x. When Jeff failed to either hit or enter both men I doubled and he passed. Jeff then restored the board to the position above, pulled out a little camera, and recorded the position.

You would have doubled? I asked him. It was clear Ken would have also. My thinking was this. I knew that this position.



Black on roll in a money game.

Was a borderline double/no double for money. You ALL should know this sequence 5-2, 5-5, 6-4 as a common early doubling situation. (Paul Weaver does a great lecture on this and the variants.) While I had improved by bringing down builders, assuring a solid money double, I was also leading in the match. Jeff needed exactly 8 points, a very dangerous situation to be doubling into if one's own gammon losses might be lurking about.

After a Snowie rollout I learned that I should have doubled. Jeff would have had a take, but the double is quite solid. Which means, simply stated, that those two extra builders are worth quite a bit more than a 3-point lead. Since this situation, and ones very much like it, rate to come up often in our backgammon careers, this is a very useful thing to know.

How was that? Pithy enough? There is almost nothing more to add. Recounting this has just reminded me that after cashing this game, I never scored another point in the match. That memory has put me in a pithy mood. Pardon me now while I go and thulk.

Editor Note: Thanks Uncle Jake. We always enjoy your articles. Do not worry about the size. We will always make room in our newsletter for you.

Pick Your Plays!!!

7-Point Match, Black-0, White-0 Black to Play 6-1?

Can you pick the top two plays?
Answer on back page.

HBCs Summer Sunday Tournament

Sunday - June 23rd, 2002

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

Registration: 12:00 Noon
Play Begins: 12:30 PM
Open Division: \$20 with \$10 Op SPool
Limited Div: \$8
Format: Main-Consolation

50th Indiana Open Backgammon Tournament

Labor Day Weekend
August 30-September 2, 2002

Featured Event:
Indiana Tournament of Champions

HBC 2002 Standings

The Player of the Month for April was **Jim Curtis** with 146 gammon points.

1	Jim Curtis.....	543
2	Butch Meese.....	534
3	Rick Steele.....	428
4	Larry Strommen.....	414
5	Woody Woodworth.....	389
6	Sean Garber.....	376
7	Mary Ann Meese.....	357
8	Chuck Stimming.....	211
9	Gabe Stiasny.....	210
10	Scott Day.....	168
	Al Gomez.....	133
	Terry Bateman.....	117
	Frank Scott.....	104
	Peter Kalba.....	69
	Alan Tavel.....	39
	David Schwind.....	36
	Kevin Heacox.....	32
	Stan Denski.....	26
	Jeff Baker.....	22
	Charley Haley.....	12
	Mark Swanson.....	10
	Roger Blaine.....	10
	Bob Weeks.....	8

Pick Your Play Answer

<u>Rack</u>	<u>Play</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Gammons</u>	<u>Equity</u>
#1	11/5, 6/5	56.3%	21.2%	0.218
#2	7/2x/1x	53.7%	26.0%	0.206
#3	13/7, 8/7	51.7%	17.5%	0.071

Play #1 wins the most games but Play #2 produces the most gammons.

The game equity drops after Play #2 to the point it would a blunder (error). A **blunder** is any play that is more than 0.100 less in equity over the best play. How did you do?

	<u>April 2nd</u>	<u>April 9th</u>	<u>April 16th</u>	<u>April 23rd</u>
1st	Woody Woodworth	Chuck Stimming	Jim Curtis	Butch Meese
2nd	Mary Ann Meese	Sean Garber	Rick Steele	Jim Curtis
2nd	Sean Garber	...	Butch Meese	...

May 24-27.....	23rd Chicago Open , Oakbrook Hills Resort, Oakland, IL.....	(702) 893-6025
Jun 11-16.....	9th Worldwide Twin Backgammon Championships , Las Vegas, NV.....	(702) 893-6025
July 4-7.....	Michigan Summer Championship , Novi Hilton, Novi, MI.....	(810) 232-9731
Aug31-Sep3..	50th Indiana Open , Sheraton Hotel and Suites, Indianapolis, IN.....	(317) 255-8902
Wednesdays..	7:00 PM at Neon Johnny's , 86th & Township Line Rd (Cellular 442-4065).....	HBC 255-8902