



Hoosier
Backgammon
Club

September-
October 2002



Dreamin' In Indy

by Jim Curtis

Indy300 Jackpot

Perry Gartner vs Karen Davis

The **50th Indiana Open Backgammon Tournament** is now history. The big sigh of relief you heard came from the Meeses' after another 5-days event with a record crowd of over 160 players. We must give credit where credit is due. The staff of Ellen Schremp, Rob Maier and Woody Woodworth did their job like true professionals.

The tournament offers many events with the **Indy300 Jackpot** providing the biggest prizes of the weekend. A full field of 32 included some of the strongest players in the country. One of the first round matches saw **Perry Garter** (NJ) against **Karen Davis** (NY). Karen won 8-points on the first game of the 13-point match with a redoubled gammon. Some 9 games later, Perry had made a come back to tighten the score 8 to 12 post Crawford. Backgammon can be a dull game sometimes and other times it can be very exciting and Game 10 is one of those games. This game produced over 30 hits and has more turns than a maze. The graph on Page 6 shows how the winning percentages for Perry varied as the game progressed.

Perry has already escaped elimination by winning the Crawford Game. Now he must win this game to continue. First, six positions from the game will be presented. Secondly, Game 10 will be presented. You will need a board to follow along. When Perry moves, the board is numbered 1-24 moving from larger numbers to smaller numbers. When Karen moves, the board is numbered 1-24 from her point-of-view. The 25-point is the bar.

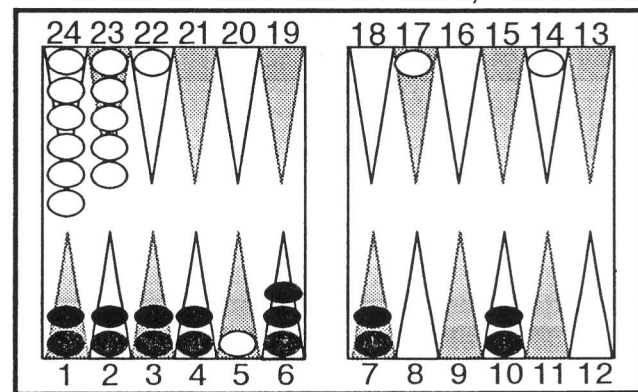
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Some people like to vacation at fantasy sports camps, other go for the extreme endeavors like swimming the Amazon with the smiley fish. I prefer to combine these adventures by playing in the Championship Division of the **Indiana Open Backgammon Tournament**.

The Thursday night warm-up tournament was a precursor for the weekend. I played reasonably well and rolled even better, eventually losing in the semi-finals on double match point. Friday I started out playing **Jake Jacobs** in the **Tournament Of Championship**. Win or lose, I always enjoy my matches with Jake, and they usually put me in a good frame of mind. In this case, I won which made the match even better and got me off to a good start. Jake's usual good humor did show a crack when he made some remark about making me eat my dice.

In truth, most of the weekend was a blur. I would go into a trance and wake up to find myself ahead in a match. At that point, I would try and hang on for dear life before losing my advantage. The one exception to this procedure was my combat with **Neil Kazaross**. Unfortunately, I was wide-awake for the entire thrashing. Losses always dominate my memories, but there are better ones to recall.

Position 1 13-Point Match,
Black(Jim)-10 White (Karen)-8
Black on Roll? Cube Action, Both Sides?



I played **Karen Davis** in the semi-finals of the **Indy300 Jackpot**. Karen is one of those delightful people who add class to the weekends. Somehow I had gotten ahead 10 to 8 (Position 1), going to 13. I was holding the cube at two.
...Continues on Page 4

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Game 10

Perry Gartner - 8		Karen Davis - 12	
1) 62	24/18 13/11	43	13/9 24/21
2)	Doubles => 2		Takes
3) 32	18/16x/13	61	25/24 13/7
4) 55	13/3(2)	53	13/8 24/21
5) 21	13/11 24/23	54	7/2x 6/2
6) 52	25/18	51	8/7x/2
7) 64	25/15	43	13/9 13/10x
8) 65	25/14	55	21/11x(2)
9) 51	25/24 6/1x	11	25/24x 6/5(2) 11/10
10) 54	25/16x	62	25/23 11/5
11) 22	6/4(2) 3/1x(2)	65	25/20 8/2
12) 61	11/5x/4	42	25/23 5/1x
13) 11	25/24x 13/11 13/12	43	25/18
14) 62	24/16	31	8/5 8/7
15) 65	16/10 12/7x	32	25/22 7/5
16) 51	8/3x 4/3	51	25/20 10/9x
17) 51	25/24 10/5x	53	25/20x 23/20
18) 42	25/21 24/22	32	23/18x
19) 32	25/22 4/2	64	10/4x 9/5
20) 64	25/21x 8/2	65	25/20 18/12
21) 51	21/16 8/7	53	20/15 12/9x
22) 64	25/21 22/16x	64	25/21x 15/9x
23) 21	25/24 EF	61	9/3x/2
24) 64	25/21 EF	32	21/18x/16
25) 62	EF	55	16/6 20/15(2)
26) 31	25/22 25/24	61	15/8
27) 51	22/17x 11/10x	41	25/21 EF
28) 44	21/13 21/17 10/6	41	25/21 5/4
29) 42	13/9 11/9	43	6/2 5/2
30) 62	17/11 17/15	32	6/3 6/4
31) 53	11/6 15/12	53	21/13x
32) 43	25/22x/18	53	25/20 13/10
33) 52	9/4x 6/4	53	25/20 10/7x
34) 64	25/15	64	20/16x/10x
35) 32	25/22 EF	53	20/15 10/7
36) 65	25/19 22/17	63	15/6x
37) 43	25/22 17/13	65	7/2 NP
38) 65	24/18x 24/19x	32	EF
39) 62	19/11	43	EF
40) 42	13/9 18/16	64	EF
41) 21	16/13	64	EF
42) 64	11/5 9/5	..	CB
43) 64	22/16 13/9	..	CB
44) 63	16/10 9/6	..	CB
45) 51	10/5 6/5	..	CB
46) 31	5/1	..	CB
47) 33	6/0 3/0(2)	42	EF
48) 32	5/0	53	25/22 EF
49) 41	6/2 6/5	31	25/22 5/4
50) 42	5/1 2/0	53	22/14
51) 44	5/1(2) 4/0(2)	61	22/16 14/13
52) 55	2/0(2) 1/0(2)	61	13/6
53) 33	gammon		

Snowie 3-Ply Evaluation on the Six Positions.
Play moved is marked as **Bold**.

Move 9 White to Play 1-1?

Rank	Play	Equity
1.	25/24x 10/9 6/5(2)	0.268
2.	25/24x 6/5(2) 2/1x	0.252 (-0.017)
3.	25/24x 6/5(2) 11/10	0.200 (-0.068)
4.	25/24x 9/8 6/5(2)	0.146 (-0.122)
5.	25/24x/23 10/9 2/1x	0.142 (-0.126)

Move 15 Black to Play 6-5?

Rank	Play	Equity
1.	16/10 12/7x	0.667
2.	12/7x/1	0.616 (-0.051)
3.	12/7x 11/5	0.557 (-0.110)
4.	16/11 12/6	0.529 (-0.138)
5.	12/6 8/3	0.490 (-0.177)

Move 18 White to Play 3-2?

Rank	Play	Equity
1.	10/7 9/7	-0.432
2.	23/18x	-0.502 (-0.070)
3.	20/18x 9/6	-0.546 (-0.116)
4.	9/4x	-0.557 (-0.125)
5.	9/6 5/3x	-0.581 (-0.149)

Move 19 Black to Play 3-2?

Rank	Play	Equity
1.	25/22 8/6	0.220
2.	25/22 4/2	0.101 (-0.119)
3.	25/22 3/1	0.037 (-0.183)
4.	25/22 6/4	0.014 (-0.206)
5.	25/22 11/9	0.011 (-0.209)

Move 28 Black to Play 4-4?

Rank	Play	Equity
1.	21/13(2)	0.343
2.	21/17(2) 17/9	0.332 (-0.011)
3.	21/9 10/6	0.330 (-0.012)
4.	21/17 17/13(2) 10/6	0.324 (-0.019)
5.	21/17(2) 17/13 10/6	0.318 (-0.025)

Move 30 White to Play 3-2?

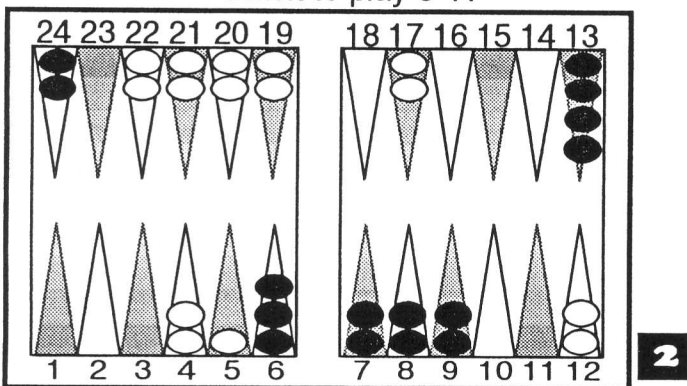
Rank	Play	Equity
1.	5/2 4/2	-0.402
2.	6/3 6/4	-0.484 (-0.082)
3.	6/4 5/2	-0.528 (-0.126)
4.	6/3 5/3	-0.532 (-0.130)
5.	6/3 4/2	-0.646 (-0.244)

Karen Davis won the DMP game and won four more matches to win the Indy300 Jackpot. She played Neil Kazaross in the finals. Perry made it to the semifinal in the Main Event and lost to Steve Sax to finish 3rd/4th. Steve Sax won the Championship Division over HBC's own Jim Curtis.

Dreamin' In Indy

Obviously the game had not gone well for Karen (my miracle double 5s off the bar). Her board had crashed and I had several of her checkers trapped on my 5-point. I was trying to force her checkers out one at a time. At that point I woke up. I had a 5-point board with all my checkers in play. Karen had her 1- and 2-points with several blots as her checkers had been forced out. Karen had moved her second to last checker out, leaving a blot on my 5-point. I had ones, twos and fives to hit her. Karen was well ahead in the race, but I intended to blast away. Before rolling, I did have some inclination to double her back and take my two points. A rule of thumb that got me through the weekend is **WWSD (What Would Sean [Garber] Do?)**. I studied the situation momentarily and decided even Sean would not double. With a hit and re-hit I could see myself picking up several of Karen's blots for a gammon and match. Although behind in the pip count, Karen had a lot of wastage. I was ahead in crossovers (four to five), plus the roll. After a vigorous shake (in honor of Larry), double threes came spitting out of my cup. I kept looking at how I could hit Karen, but there seemed to be no legal way. I opted to keep two checkers five pips away in case she had a bad roll. In retrospect, I am not sure this is correct. I might have done better to take three checkers in for the race (see Position one). The bearoff was actually pretty close, but Karen eked it out. Tie score at 10.

Position 2 13-Point Match,
Black(Jim)-10 White (Karen)-10
Black to play 6-1?



In the next game, Karen had an advantage and doubled me to two. I had a 6-1 to play (Position Two). I opted to play a six from the midpoint and split off the 24-point. Karen then rolled a 6-1 herself. She looked at every legal play and after

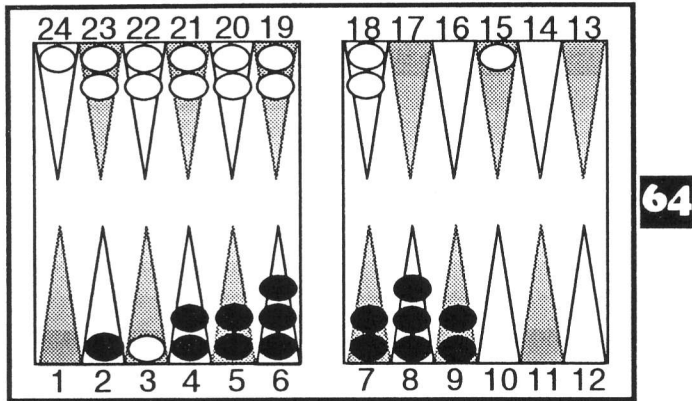
much hesitation opted to hit both my checkers on her 2- and 1-point. I had been rolling pretty well and had visions of a gammon with double ones. I was surprised when I found one of the 16 rolls to stay out. Even at that point, I was not overly concerned because Karen had no direct covers. I should not have been so cavalier because she rolled double sixes. I am sure it is only my imagination that she played six of them in that one turn to close me out, but eventually that was the result. She gammoned me for the match. I cried and wondered if I was meant to be a bridesmaid (semi-finalist) all weekend.

Many years ago I remember telling Butch I liked to play in the Championship so I could do battle with the best players (I think I was drunk at the time). I certainly got my wish over Labor Day. Among others, I had the privilege of playing **Bill Robertie** twice in the Championship Division. In the first match to nine points, I was ahead 8 to 7 in the Crawford Game. The action did not go well for me, and I was scurrying to get off the gammon. I got all my checkers in my home board and Bill had three checkers on his ace point. He rolled double ones to gammon me and win the match.

I was fortunate to play Bill again in the semi-finals. The match was to 11 points. Again I got to the Crawford game 10 to 8 but lost a single point. Bill doubled me on the next game and I took for the match. On the bearoff, I had one checker left and Bill was on roll with two checkers on his 2-point. I didn't actually see his roll because my hands were over my eyes. However, as I peaked through my fingers, I saw a one on the board. I was elated to see the other die did not match it. The match was recorded and analyzed thru Snowie. According to that analysis based on our play, Bill was an 87% favorite to win the match. I knew I was lucky.

The prize for beating Bill was that I got to play **Steve Sax** in the Final. As I recall he had not lost a match, and I soon learned why. After giving me a couple points, he backgammoned me. Fortunately the cube was only at one. In the next game, he doubled me, I took, and he won. The following game I doubled him, he took, and he won. I was now down 2 to 7 going to 13. Steve took pity on me and gave me a point. We then had a crucial game where from the bar I doubled him back to four. I was fortunate to win. Score tied 7 to 7. He doubled me the next game and I was able to turn it around going ahead 9 to 7. He dropped the next game and I remembered his article about starting to prepare the victory speech. I should have paid more attention to what followed.

Position 3 13-Point Match,
Black(Steve)-7 White (Jim)-10
Black on Roll. Cube Action, Both Sides?



The tenth game of the match was interesting. It was prime against prime (Position Three). Unfortunately, I did not have any of his checkers behind my prime while he had one of my checkers captured. He doubled me and I gave some consideration to dropping. I determined that Steve had 12 rolls that either gave me a chance to escape or to put his loose checker behind my prime. I took and Steve found one of those 12 rolls. He seemed to know what I had in mind and cleverly gave me an escape route rather than giving me a shot at his loose checker. I had two chances to escape, but failed and lost the game. Now it was 10 to 9. Steve doubled me and then gave me a taste of my own medicine by rolling joker double fives. I never recovered and was gammoned to lose the match.

I didn't have much time to feel sorry for myself (my usual mode) because I had to play **Paul Magriel (X-22)** in the consolation of the

Tournament of Champions. Paul obviously felt sorry for me and offered his condolences by letting me win.

Usually, the blitzes and quickies are my forte for a backgammon weekend. However, this holiday I was fodder for others. In any event, I made it to the semi-finals in the Indy300 Jackpot and Tournament of Champions and got to the finals in the Championship Division. Obviously, I wish I could have done better (I hear Abbas saying **Jim, you're being greedy**). Nevertheless, it was a weekend to remember. I had many close matches that I could have lost (i.e. Sean twice, Jake, Doug Roberts and the list goes on). Many people congratulated me on my success and in retrospect I am pleased. However, I was brought back to reality the following Wednesday when I didn't win a match at our weekly tournament. Obviously, I had used up all my luck over Labor Day, which is fine with me.

Editor Note: *Jim has been active in Indy tournaments for over 24 years. I do not think he has missed one tournament. As his kids were growing up, he would play doubles with them and won a few times. Jim is a true gentleman of the game, always adding to the enjoyment of a tournament. In the last year his game has stepped up. He won HBC's **Play of the Year** last year and easily leads the club to win again this year. Congratulations Jim on your fine showing this year. Could not happened to a nicer guy.*

HBC's Fall One-Day Tournament

Sunday - December 8th 2002

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

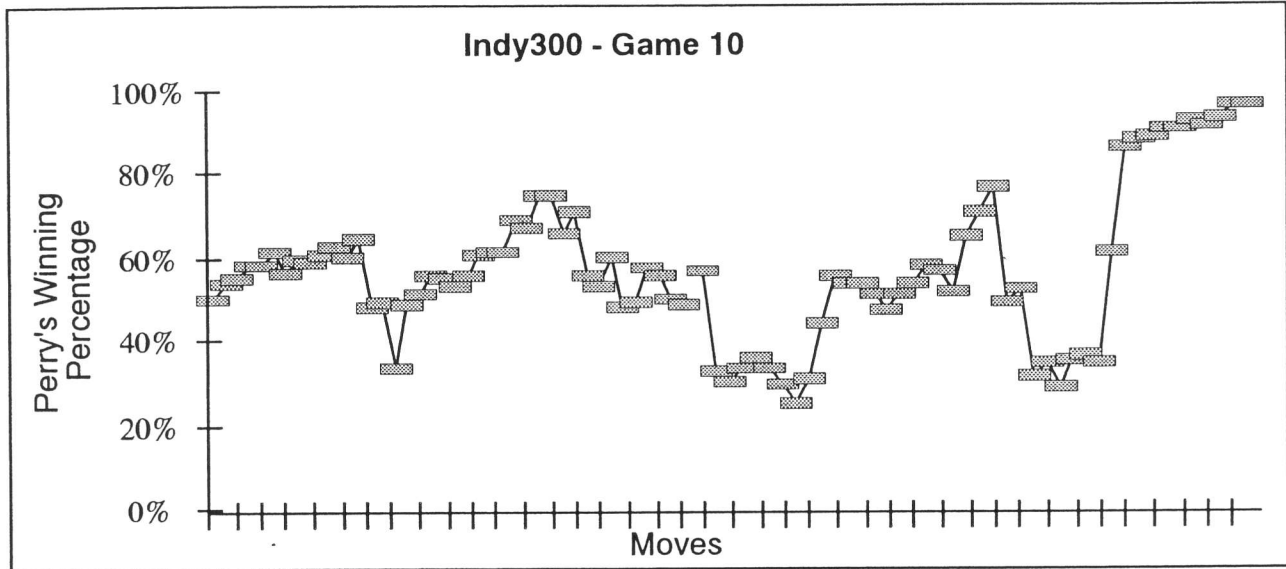
Registration: 12 Noon

Play Begins 12:30 PM

Open Division: \$20 (Optional \$10 Sidepool)

Limited Division: \$8

Format: Main (9-points) - Consolation (7-points)



HBC 2002 Standings

The **Player of the Month** for **August** was **Terry Bateman** with **101** gammon points.

The **Player of the Month** for **September** was **Rick Steele** with **204** gammon points.

1	Jim Curtis.....	1249
2	Rick Steele.....	1018
3	Butch Meese.....	950
4	Sean Garber.....	762
5	Larry Strommen....	731
6	Woody Woodworth.	613
7	Chuck Stimming....	590
8	Mary Ann Meese....	587
9	Gabe Stiasny.....	541
10	Terry Bateman.....	476
	Scott Day.....	390
	Al Gomez.....	133

Chuck Bower.....	120
Frank Scott.....	104
Kevin Heacox.....	100
Walter Trice.....	100
Dan Moore.....	96
Jeff Flowers.....	90
Luke Clippinger.....	80
Josh Riddell.....	80
Peter Kalba.....	69
Dean Adamian.....	60
Jon Victor.....	60
Joe Miller.....	51
Mark Swanson.....	42
Alan Tavel.....	39
David Schwind.....	36
Dragan Stevanovic..	36
Shaw Dogan.....	36
Paul Franks.....	36
Doug Roberts.....	36
Terry Leahy.....	36
Diane Varner.....	36
Katya Beshparova...	34
Rob Adams.....	30

Rob Maier.....	28
Stan Denski.....	26
Mary Franks.....	26
Jeff Baker.....	22
Dave Groner.....	18
Dion Hogan.....	18
Mike Kelley.....	16
Carl Sorg.....	16
Ken Inman.....	16
Charley Haley.....	12
Roger Blaine.....	10
Butch Bates.....	10
Fred Kalantari.....	10
Bill Wilner.....	10
Karen Davis.....	10
Andy Liebenthal.....	10
Bob Weeks.....	8
Cathie Benneth.....	8
Jim Roston.....	8
Rudy Silich.....	8
Jon Stephens.....	8
Jerry Godsey.....	8

<u>August 7th</u>	<u>August 14th</u>	<u>August 21st</u>	<u>August 29th</u>
1st Butch Meese	Josh Riddell	Dan Moore	Walter Trice (MA)
2nd Sean Garber	Larry Strommen	Terry Bateman	Dean Adamian (MI)
2nd Chuck Stimming	Chuck Stimming	...	Jon Victor (CA)
2nd	Joe Miller (OH)

<u>September 4th</u>	<u>September 11th</u>	<u>September 18th</u>	<u>September 25th</u>
1st Rick Steele	Rick Steele	Jim Curtis	Terry Bateman
2nd Butch Meese	Larry Strommen	Rick Steele	Rick Steele
2nd Sean Garber	Woody Woodworth