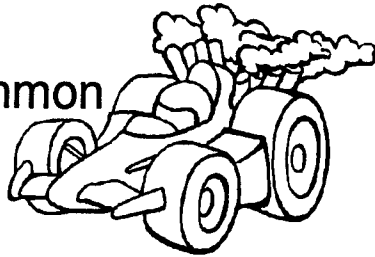




**Hoosier
Backgammon
Club**

May 2003



HBCs 1st Full Day Of Summer Tournament

Sunday - June 22nd, 2003

Registration: 12 noon

Play Begins: 12:30 PM

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

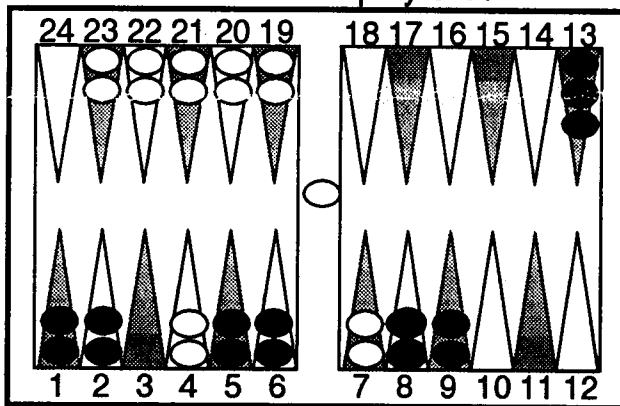
Open Div: \$20 with \$10 Op SPool

Limited Div: \$8

Format: Main-Consolation

Forsight

Black leads 7-1 in a 9-point match.
Black to play 5-1?



This position comes from the Pittsburgh Tournament. Black has a big lead in this 9-point match. White has a nice defensive posture except for the checker on the bar. How important is the position of the cube in this position? A panel was asked what they would do.

Bill Robertie

I play 13/8 and 13/12.

Bob Zavoral

I play 13-8 and 13-12 clearing the troublesome 13-point while White is on the roof leaving one more shot and one more blot than 13-8, 9-8 and keeping the structural landing 9-point.

Mary Hickey

This is a good time for Black to break the midpoint, since it's no longer an asset to him whether White enters or not. All Black wants to do is sneak home quietly, and while White is already preoccupied trying to re-enter is as good a time as any. The fact he has to leave two blots is unfortunate, but since he can get gammoned regardless of which play he makes, and this play also leaves the fewest shots of any of the reasonable alternatives (I don't think clearing the 6 is reasonable), he should just do it and hope to clean up the position next roll.

Jake Jacobs

I move the 13/8 and 13/12.

John O'Hagan

I see 3 plays. First, we could break the 6-point with 6-1 6-5. It's safe for now but bringing this mess home is going to be really tough. On average, I would estimate that we'll have to leave around two direct shots as we dismantle our outfield points which means we win the game about half the time.

Next is paying now with 13-8, 9-8. This leaves 10 shots at our blot on the 9 point. If he hits, 70% of the time we fan and it goes double, drop. So we lose 7 of these 10 right away. On the other three, we enter and mostly do something constructive with the other number giving us reasonable chances. Say we win 1 of these 3 games. So far we've got 1 win and 9 losses. How are we doing after his 16 dancing numbers? We are clearly favored and giving us 11 of these 16 looks about right to me. 12 wins and 14 losses so far. That leaves the other 10 numbers that enter but don't hit. 6 of these 10 (6-4, 4-4, 4-1, 3-3) are bad for him since they force him to leave a direct shot or break a key point. 4-3 and 3-1 allow him to keep everything together. Giving us 4.5 of these 6 and 2.5 of these 4 gives us looks about right to me. The totals for this play are therefore 19 wins and 17 losses. Very few of our losses rate to be gammons after this play and our gammon win rate is higher than after breaking the 6 point so I rate 13-8, 9-8 better than 6-5, 6-1.

There's another pay now play to look at in this position. And that is to clear the midpoint with 13-8, 13-12. The midpoint is the point we really need to clear to bring this position home. This play leaves the opponent with 9 rolls that hit one of our 2 blots. The 2nd blot makes this a riskier play than the other pay now play which left 10 hitting rolls but just one blot. But it also gains more when it works since clearing the midpoint is a much bigger accomplishment than clearing the 9 point. Is this improvement worth the added risk?

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HBC 2003 Gammon Standing

The **Player of the Month for April** was **Sean Garber** with 173 points.

1	Sean Garber.....	487
2	Rick Steele.....	450
3	Chuck Stimming.....	418
4	Larry Strommen.....	416
5	Jim Curtis.....	381
6	Butch Meese.....	332
7	Josh Riddell.....	262
8	Scott Day.....	237
9	Gabe Stiasny.....	211
10	Mary Ann Meese.....	210
	Woody Woodworth.....	172
	Terry Bateman.....	168
	Dan Moore.....	130
	Jon Viotor.....	76
	Katya Beshparova.....	38
	Jack Scofield.....	22
	Dave Groner.....	20
	Kevin Heacox.....	20
	Bill Gheen.....	12
	Alan Tavel.....	12

He hits with 9 rolls and we dance on 6.3 of these. He is then too good to double and let's say he wins 5 singles and 1.3 g's (he's got no checkers in the zone so we mostly should be able to anchor and run off the gammon). On the other 2.7, we mostly enter and save the other blot with around 30% chances. These 9 therefore break down to 0.8 wins, 6.9 losses, and 1.3 gammon losses.

On his 16 dances, we are doing very well. Around half of our numbers either safety both outside blots or make the 3-point and everything else safeties at least one of them. I would conservatively estimate 12 wins and 4 losses in this category making our running total 12.8 wins, 10.9 losses, and 1.3 gammon losses so far.

The last category to look at are his 11 numbers that enter but don't hit. Seven of these damage his game in some way (4-4, 4-2, 4-1, 3-2) while 4-3 and 3-1 allow him to keep all his assets. Our chances are really good

in these sequences as well. I would give us 5.6 of these 7 and 3 of these 4. The grand total for breaking the midpoint is therefore 21.4 wins, 13.3 losses, and 1.3 gammon losses.

Breaking the midpoint therefore gains 2.4 extra wins while losing 1.3 more gammons and probably wins more gammons as well. Unless my estimates are way off the mark, it looks like 13-8 13-12 is the best play and by a healthy margin.

The only other consideration is that leaving 2 blots might cause the opponent to double from the roof. I don't think he's supposed to and I'm certainly not going to avoid making what I think is the best play because the opponent might incorrectly double.

Jim Curtis

I move 8/3/2 which leaves only one blot. White's 6-3 forces him off the 4-point. White's 5-4 forces White to break home board or leave the bar point.

Chuck Bower

It took me a while to find a second serious candidate, which means over the board I likely would have played 13/8, 9/8 without much contemplation. After that I count 10 shots and one blot. 13/8, 13/12 leaves only 9 shots (that I see) but two blots. Better yet, it is much more flexible. Possibly best of all, White's hits probably blow way past Black's takepoint, making the cube very inefficient. I've been dinged a lot by Snowie recently for making inflexible plays. I may get dinged for 13/8, 13/12, but for a fresh reason this time!

Roll-out By Chuck Bower

1.	13/8 13/12	Equity: 0.295
	0.3% 17.0% 62.8%	37.2% 10.6% 0.3%
2.	6/1 6/5	Equity: 0.144 (-0.150)
	0.2% 14.2% 57.4%	42.6% 10.1% 0.3%
3.	13/8 9/8	Equity: 0.122 (-0.172)
	0.2% 17.2% 58.1%	41.9% 10.3% 0.2%
4.	8/2	Equity: 0.043 (-0.252)
	0.3% 20.2% 55.5%	44.5% 13.5% 0.5%

The roll-out rates breaking off the 13-point best and all other plays as blunders (greater than 0.80 in last equity).

	<u>April 2nd</u>	<u>April 9th</u>	<u>April 16th</u>	<u>April 23rd</u>	<u>April 30th</u>
1st	Butch Meese	Woody Woodworth	Chuck Stimming	Mary Ann Meese	Sean Garber
2nd	Chuck Stimming	Sean Garber	Jim Curtis	Rick Steele	Josh Riddell
2nd	---	---	Sean Garber	Jim Curtis	---

May 23-26.....	24th Chicago Open , Oak Brook Hills Resort Oak Brook, IL.....	(847) 674-0120
Jun 6-8.....	51st Gammon Associates Invitational , A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA.....	(818) 901-0464
Jul 3-6.....	Michigan Summer Championships , Hilton, Novi, MI.....	(810) 232-9731
Jul 25-27.....	1st Wisconsin State Championships , Radisson Inn, Madison, WI.....	(608) 267-8144
Aug29-Sep1..	51st Indiana Open Backgammon Tournament , Sheraton Hotel, Indianapolis, IN...	(317) 255-8902
Wednesdays..	7:00 PM at Neon Johnny's , 86th & Township Line Rd (Cellular 442-4065).....	HBC 255-8902