

51st Indiana Open Backgammon Tournament Wrap-Up



September 2003

Over one hundred and forty gathered at the Crossroads of America for the **51st Indiana Open Backgammon Tournament**. The tournament is held at the **Sheraton Hotel/Keystone at the Crossing**. Some call it one of the best venues to host a tournament.

This annual Labor Day Weekend event was kicked off by a free Neil Kazaross lecture to an audience of over 75.

The main events started with the calcutta auction which was unique this year. Most of the players were wearing either a pink shirt, a pin or a ribbon to show support for one of the hosts, **Mary Ann Meese**. She is being treated for breast cancer and was quite surprised by the show of support. Although only a dollar donation was asked for a pin or pink ribbon, six hundred dollars was donated by the players for the American Cancer Society. Thanks to **Dave Cardwell**, who provided the pink t-shirts, and to **Carol Joy Cole**, who collected for the pins and ribbons.

The format for the main event is the Indy Swiss format. Review of how the format works. With three days to run the tournament, the format provides more play than other formats. Players first need to survive 8 rounds with no more than 4 losses. Players with 3 losses, contend for the consolation. Players with less than 3 losses, continue in the main flight.

After the 8 rounds, 11 players had 2 or less losses and all had a chance to win. **Neil Kazaross** (IL) was 8-0, **Steve Hast** (PA) was 7-1 while 9 players were 6-2. The players with the better records have advanced positioning in the play-offs.

Two of the players who were 6-2 made the finals:

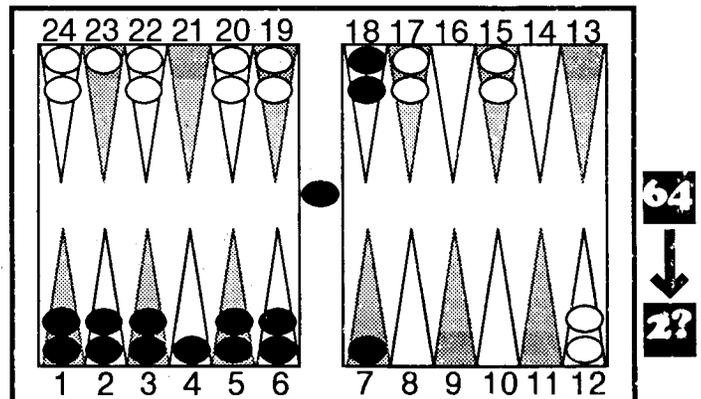
Ray Fogerlund (CA) and Adam Versaw (PA). Adam had won the Advanced Division last year and is a up and coming player to be reckoned with.

At one point, Ray's record was 1-2 and a real long shot to win. But sometimes those long shots happen. Besides winning 5 matches to become 6-2 and make the play-offs. Ray won 3 more straight matches to make the finals. Ray commented that he has changed his attitude about doubling.

In the 13 point final, Ray had a 10-0 lead after 6 games. But, young Adam did not show any signs of giving up. In the next 5 games, Adam closed in to trail only 10-11.

Ray thought the double in the next game was key.

13 Point Match Black-11, White-10 White doubles to 2?



Ray checked the position and determined it was a barely a double and a take. Adam dropped to go to the Crawford Game. Ray won the next game to capture the title.

There was another long shot that occurred for **Howard Markowitz** (NV). After 5 rounds, he was 2-3 and one loss away from elimination. After 8 rounds his was 5-3 and still a long shot. He needed 5 wins to make the finals of the consolation. He met **Neil Kazaross** in the finals and won his ninth straight matches to win the consolation.

The **52nd Indiana Open** with return to the Sheraton Hotel next year, September 3-6, 2004.

We listen. A few players were disappointed that they could not commit to play in both a Friday evening jackpot and the Doubles. Next year, we are looking into having a 2:00 PM start of the jackpots and Doubles.

*Thanks,
I always knew the backgammon family was supportive but I was overwhelmed by the love and support demonstrated at this year's Labor Day weekend tournament. A sincere Thank You to everyone for their kind words and prayers plus special Thank You to all who donated for breast cancer research. A \$650 check was presented to the American Cancer Society.*

*Sincerely,
Mary Ann Meeese*

Championship Division (69)

- 1st Ray Fogerlund (CA)
- 2nd Adam Versaw (PA)

Consolation

- 1st Howard Markowitz (NV)
- 2nd Neil Kazaross (IL)
- 3/4 Karen Davis (NY)
- 3/4 Chuck Bower (IN)

Advanced Division (50)

- 1st Petko Kostadinov (SC)
- 2nd Raymond Woo (NY)

Consolation

- 1st Betty Coppic (GA)
- 2nd Josh Riddell (IN)
- 3/4 Greg Merriman (MI)
- 3/4 Lee Pflugrad (WI)

Intermediate Division (13)

- 1st Wanda Roberts (MA)
- 2nd Rica Tarnoff (NY)

Consolation

- 1st Claudia Imatt (IL)

Novice Division (8)

- 1st Mary Downing
- 2nd Laura Pinkerton (CAN)

Thursday Open Warm-Up (27)

- 1st Terry Leahy (IL)
- 2nd John O'Hagan (IN)
- 2nd Dave Groner (IN)

Thursday Limited Warm-Up (8)

- 1st Claudia Imatt (IL)
- 2nd Rica Tarnoff (NY)

Tournament Of Champions JP (16)

- 1st David Marcus (IL)
- 2nd Carol Joy Coie (MI)

Indy300 Jackpot (32)

- 1st Stuart Thomson (GA)
- 2nd Sean Garber (IN)
- 3/4 Steve Brown (MN)
- 3/4 Bob Glass (CA)

Amateur Jackpot (32)

- 1st Tom Meyer (IL)
- 2nd Denny Leatherman (CO)
- 3/4 Larry Liebster (NJ)
- 3/4 Tami Jones (ID)

Doubles (32)

- 1st Betty Coppic/Abbas Zaltash (GA/PA)
- 2nd Wanda & Doug Roberts (MA)

Directors' Cup (22)

- 1st Roger Hickman (IL)
- 2nd Dr Bob Hill (NY)

MicroBlitz (16x4): Matt Rekaitis (PA)

Quickie #1 (64): Sho Sengoku (CA)

Quickie #2 (32): Sho Sengoku (CA)

\$200 LD Jackpot (8): Paul Franks (NV)

LD Amateur Jackpot (8): Bill Hodes (IN)

51st Jackpot (32): Wally Wolf (MI)