

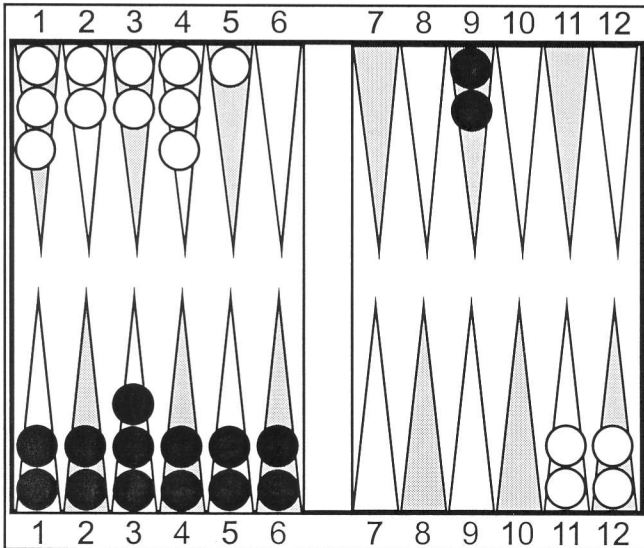


Hoosier Backgammon Club

July 2004

Find The Features That Really Matter

by Chuck Bower



Position One. 11 Point Match.
Black leads 6 to 2. Black to play 5-3?

64

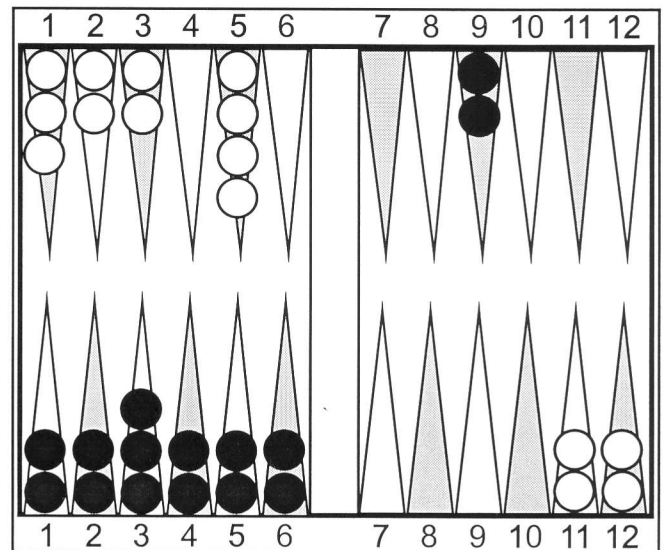
Position One generated considerable commentary on Kit Woolsey's **GammOnLine** internet magazine. How would you play this decisive roll?

Today we are fortunate to have powerful tools to help us learn the game of backgammon. Here I show how to use one of these tools to maximum effect. Surprisingly, most players (including two of the current Giant 32) missed this badly. A GNU-backgammon rollout indicates running off the back point, volunteering a double shot, is correct by 0.09 units of cubeful equity.

What about Position One makes it correct to volunteer a double shot? Shuffling the checkers around provides the answer.

Beat The Pro...

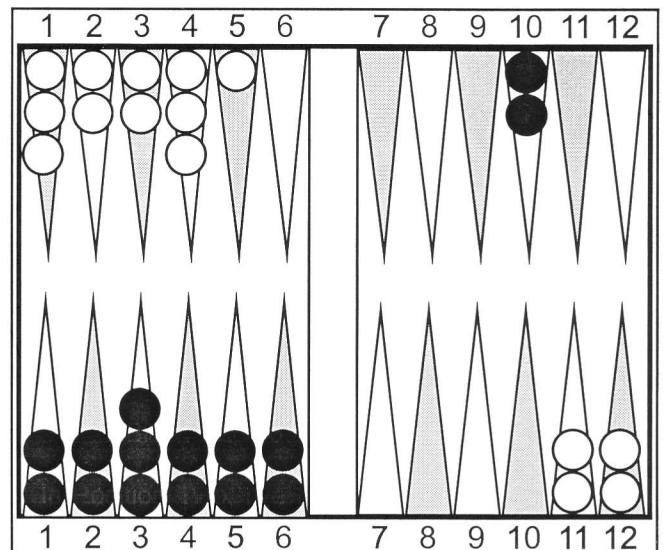
Beat the Pro and win a drink. Starting at 6 PM any Wednesday. Come in and challenge **Jim Curtis** (Club Champion) or **Sean Garber** (2003 Player of the Year) to a game. If you win, you win a drink. This is open to all takers. Good luck!!!



Position Two. 11 Point Match.
Black leads 6 to 2. Black to play 5-3?

64

In Position Two, I've moved White's three checkers on his 4-point back to the 5-point. This preserves White's ability to play 4's and 3's, but now there is no blot. How much does this matter? GNU-bg asks **a ton**. Playing 6/3, 6/1 is now correct by 0.14 cubeful equity units. Black's ability to pick up gammons when White hits but can't safety or cover the blot makes a huge difference. Is that all?



Position Three. 11 Point Match.
Black leads 6 to 2. Black to play 5-3?

64

Now I've taken Position One and moved Black's back point up one spot. Should Black volunteer the double shot now? Nope. 6/3, 6/1 is correct by 0.06.

Another question: is it the size of Black's race lead that matters in these decisions? Position Four answers that.

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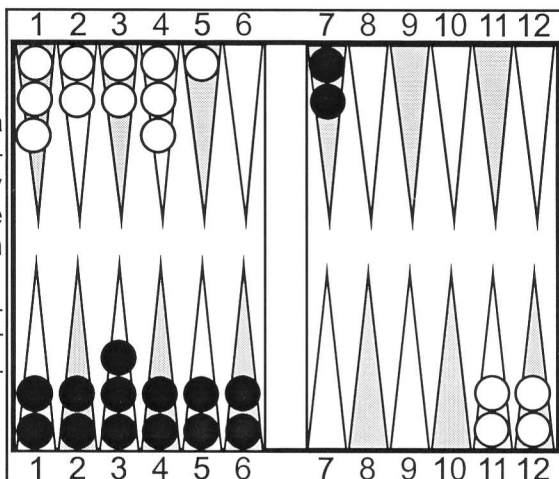
Position Four. Money game.
Black to play 5-2?

Black's race lead is now a mere 3 pips yet leaving here is correct by a lot: 0.27 cubeful equity units. Fewer shots for White makes the decision to depart even stronger than in Position One.

Here is a list of the best decisions (and equity differences) for the location of Black's back checkers:

- 18-point (diagram pt 7) run [0.27].
- 17-point (diagram pt 8) run [0.02].
- 16-point (diagram pt 9) run [0.09].
- 15-point (diagram pt 10) stay [0.06].
- 14-point (diagram pt 11) stay [0.28].

With all this data, we can now summarize why running in Position One is correct. Black is likely to be leaving a shot next turn and he doesn't want to give White a chance to lift the homeside blot. Even giving the opponent a double shot is worth it in Position One. If Black were as far forward as the 15-point then he could afford to hang back and have a good chance of getting away next time, possibly after White comes down to a single back point.



HBC Standings As of June 2004	
Butch Meese	813
Jim Curtis	693
Sean Garber	607
Larry Strommen	575
Rick Steele	473
Chuck Stimming	446
Scott Day	370
Woody Woodworth	353
Mary Ann Meese	347
Terry Bateman	237
Dan Moore	158
Gabe Stiasny	128
Frank Scott	109
Josh Riddell	94
Merle Feldman	85
Mark King	54
Jeff Flowers	46
Scott Johnston	44
Al Gomez	36
Mark Swanson	30
Peter Kalba	24
Randy Foster	20
Derrick Swanson	12
Jack Scofield	12
Kevin Heacox	10

Player of the Month of June was Larry Strommen with 148 gammon points.				
	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23
1st	Larry Strommen	Chuck Stimming	Larry Strommen	Rick Steele
2nd	Dan Moore	Jim Curtis	Scott Johnston	Sean Garber
2nd	Merle Feldman	...	Jim Curtis	...

Regional Tournament Schedule			
Jul 30-Aug 1	Wisconsin State Champ.	Madison, WI	Tom Machaj 608.516.9109
Aug 12-15	Georgia Championships	Atlanta, GA	Dave Cardwell 770.333.1876
Sep 3-6	52nd Indiana Open	Indianapolis, IN	Butch & Mary Ann Meese 317.255.8902
Weekly 7PM	Neon Johnny's	(86th & Township Rd)	(Cells) 317.442.4065 or 317.430.7862

Bonus Position: Money Game.

Question #1: Black on roll, cube action?

Question #2: Black to play 6-6?

Answer #1

Even though Black has only 20 hitting number, if he does hit, there are enough gammons to justify a redouble. Equity for not doubling is +0.5464 and +0.7525 for doubling. Now for White!! If White drops, the equity is -1.00 and it is -0.7525 for taking so it an easy take for White.

Answer #2

Double 6's is Black's best non-hitting number but the question is what is the best play? Moving 20/8 (2) come in first followed very closely by 20/8, 20/14, 10/4. Both of those are the running plays. Moving 20/2, 10/4 comes in third but a little more risky compared to the other plays.

