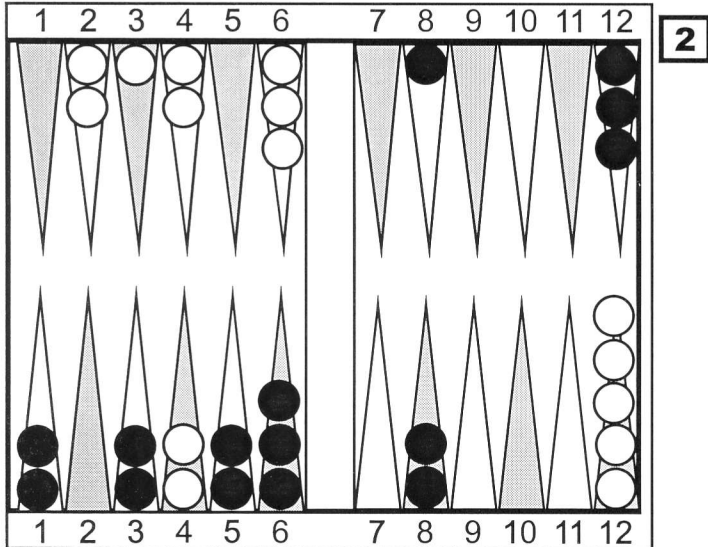




# Hoosier Backgammon Club

October 2004

## Making Hay by Chuck Bower



Position One. Score 0-0/7. Black to play 3-3.

White's game plan is clear: Wait for Black to leave a shot and hit it. Black's is the opposite: scramble home without leaving a shot. Seems simple, right?

17/5 is consistent with Black's game plan, yet is wrong by 0.05 equity on a 1-cube (or 0.10 with the cube on 2, as here). If 17/5 was your first choice, try again.

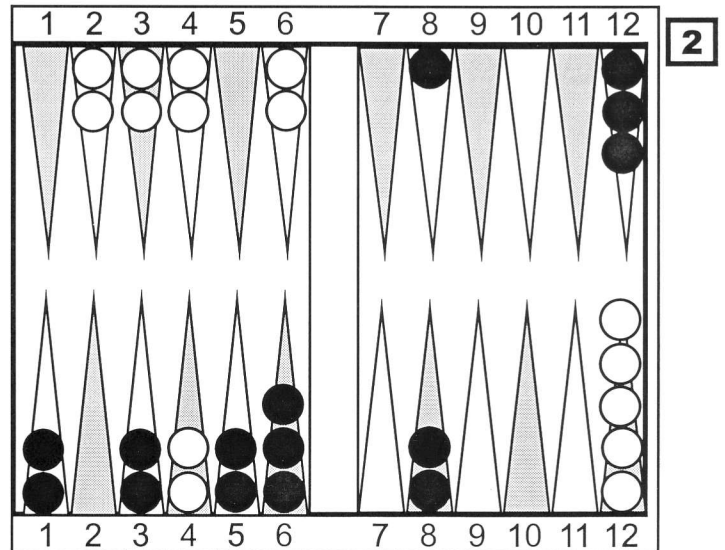
With a big race lead, Black doesn't need the 10-point to block White's back checkers. The point 6-away from an opponent's point is the best single blocking point, but it's also the most difficult to clear safely. Any play which makes the 10-point is worse than 17/5.

Further, plays which don't advance the back checker onto Black's side are twice as bad as 17/5. White wants to unstack the midpoint and getting to do that while hitting is a bonus. More importantly, if Black is going to leave shots, he'd like to get extra return shots which come if White hits on Black's side of the board.

The best play here according to both GNU-bg and

Snowie3.2 rollouts leaves two blots, one direct and one indirect: 13/7, 17/11. Black would very much like to build the barpoint here since it makes bringing the back checkers home much easier. The added blocking point is also of value if White later hits. Unlike the 10-point, the 7-point won't be particularly difficult to clear safely.

After the safe (for now) play of 17/5, Black must clear the midpoint with only the 8-point in direct landing range. That will be quite difficult with White's strong timing advantage. White can just wait around for Black to get squeezed off the midpoint, and that will occur in the next two or three rolls unless Black can roll doubles.



Position Two. Score 0-0/7. Black to play 3-3.

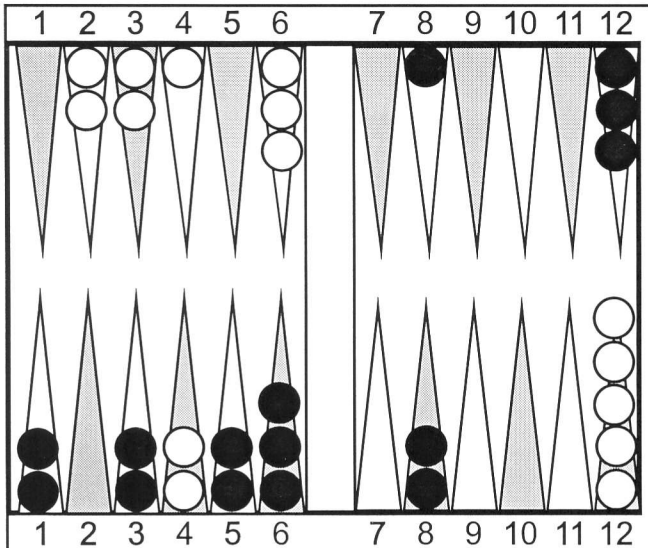
In Position Two, White's home board blot in Position One has been covered by the spare on White's 6-point. Now the safe play is right by a lot. A GNU-bg rollout says anything that leaves a blot is at least an 0.15 equity error. We now see that it is White's home board blot that allowed Black to make the bold play of slotting the bar point.

### 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!!!

Hoosier Backgammon Club  
Butch & Mary Ann Meese  
1008 Tuckahoe, Indianapolis, In 46260-2215

Home Page: <http://www.hoosierbgclub.org>  
Email: [indybg@comcast.net](mailto:indybg@comcast.net)  
Phone: 317.255.8902



2

Position Three. Score 0-0/7. Black to play 3-3.

You may have noticed that in Position One, White's hitting number (3) was also White's covering number. Does this duplication of 3's make a difference? Surprisingly not. In Position Three, White's blot has been shifted one pip to his 4-point. But a GNU-bg rollout still says 17/11, 13/7 is best by 0.05 units of equity. It's simply the chance to make the 7-point with guarded risk (White's home board blot) that leads to the correct move in Position One.

Appropriate for the harvest season, this position reminds one of the old saying **make hay while the sun shines.**

HBC Standings As of September 2004			
Butch Meese	121	John Hill	58
Jim Curtis	954	Mark King	54
Rick Steele	840	Terry Leahy	48
Sean Garber	833	Paul Franks	48
Chuck Stimming	747	Jeff Flowers	46
Larry Strommen	738	Al Gomez	36
Woody	611	Lucky Nelson	36
Mary Ann Meese	565	Mark Swanson	30
Scott Day	498	Karen Chung	30
Terry Bateman	349	Geoff Arnold	30
Dan Moore	284	Peter Kalba	24
Scott Johnston	267	John Baron	24
Gabe Stiasny	144	Randy Foster	20
Merle Feldman	127	Mark Drabing	18
Josh Riddell	120	Derrick Swanson	12
Frank Scott	109	Jack Scofield	12
Eric Luecking	83	Kevin Heacox	10
Mary Franks	60	Chuck Bower	8

Player of the Month of September was Butch Meese with 146 gammon points.					
	September 2	September 9	September 16	September 23	September 30
1st	Chuck Stimming	Butch Meese	Scott Johnston	Rick Steele	Butch Meese
2nd	Mary Franks	Eric Luecking	Larry Strommen	Jim Curtis	Scott Day
2nd	Terry Leahy	...	...	Sean Garber	Rick Steele

Regional Tournament Schedule	
Oct 15-17	Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.....(954) 564-0340
Oct 29-31	2004 Minnesota Open, Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, Minnesota .....(651) 699-6758
Nov 10-14	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada .....(702) 893-6025
Weekly 7 PM	Neon Johnny's (86th & Township Rd)..... (Cells) 317.442.4065 or 317.430.7862