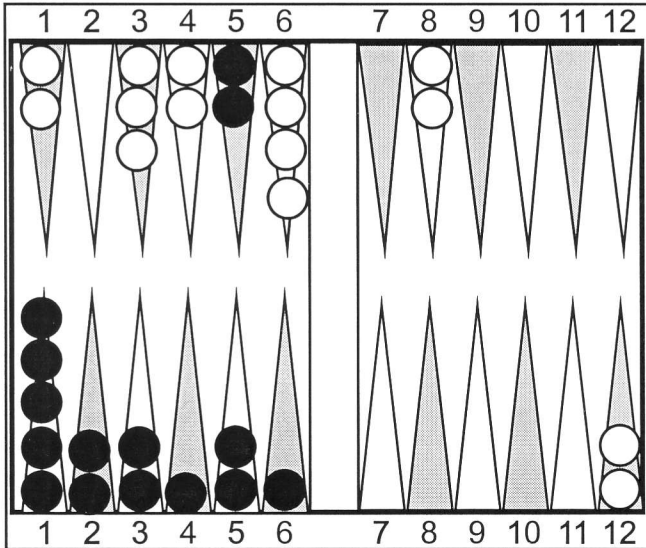




Hoosier Backgammon Club

November 2004

Small Changes Make A **BIG** Difference by Chuck Bower



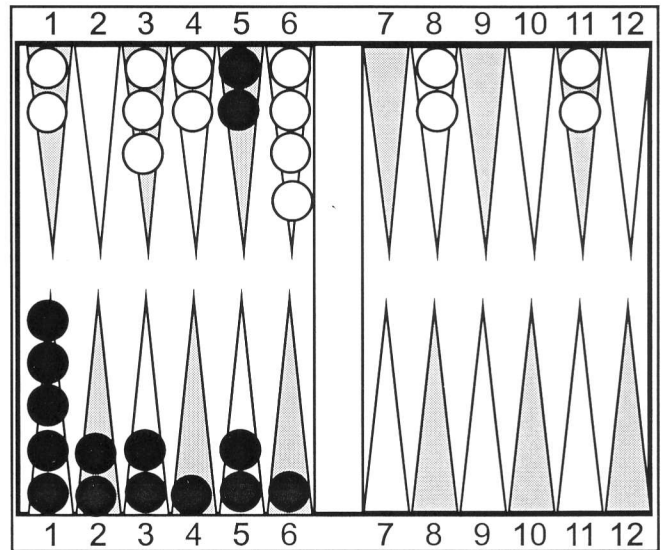
Position One. Score 6-6/7. Black to play 5-4?

Three candidate plays come to mind in Position One. Black can run one checker 20/11, run two checkers 20/15, 20/16, or stay put with 6/1, 5/1. Although the score makes gammons and backgammons of no more value than simple wins, the lesson here and in the following modified positions apply to money play as well. Which approach is correct?

If Black runs one, White will attack the back checker if the dice allow, even if that means leaving a direct shot in the process. With Black leading by 19 pips after completing his play, a passive White is throwing in the towel. Running two into White's outfield leaves fewer shots but also less retaliation (fewer return shots) if hit. Staying put leaves Black only a three point board with two blots, making future offensive tactics difficult.

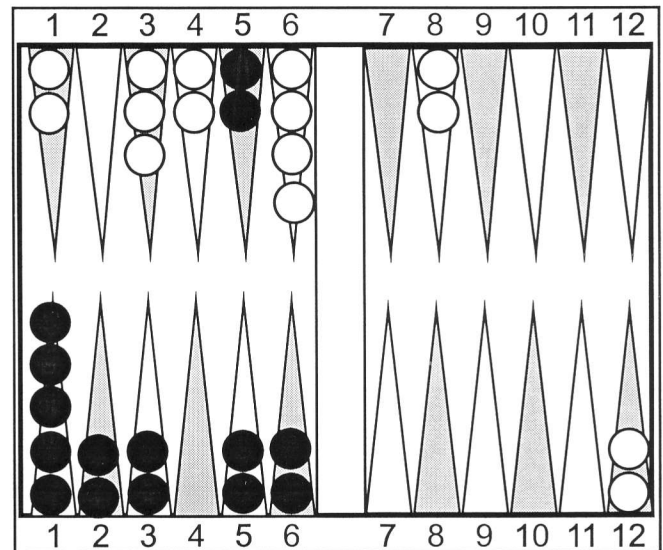
GNU-bg rollouts favor running one (20/11) by 3% game winning chances over staying put (6/1, 5/1) and 4% over bringing both into the outfield. In retrospect, it seems as though attempting to turn this into a race while keeping a four point board as backup is pretty clear. However, let's see what happens when we move the checkers around a bit.

 ★ **HBC One-Day Tournament** ★
 ★ *Sunday, December 12, 2004 at Arni's* ★
 ★ More Detail on Page 2!!! ★



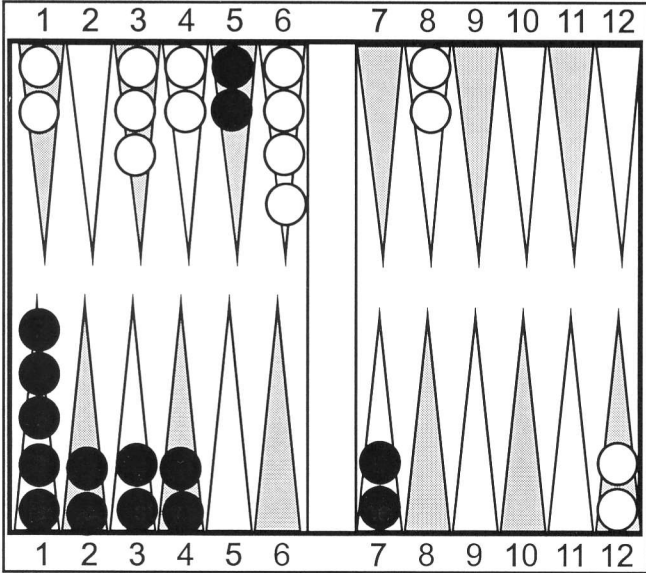
Position Two. Score 6-6/7. Black to play 5-4?

In Position Two, White's two checkers on the midpoint in Position One have been moved into range, to White's 11-point. Now which play is best? The rollout results are even more separated now, but the best play has changed. Bringing BOTH back checkers out (20/15, 20/16) is now best by 4% over staying put, with the top play in Position One coming in more than 7% worse for the situation in Position Two. White's extra builders bearing down on his 5-point mean Black's option of leaving one behind doesn't work anymore. Black should just pay off to the 20 shots knowing that the 16 misses usually allow him to get away cleanly.



Position Three. Score 6-6/7. Black to play 5-4?

How important is Black's home board? In Position Three, Black can stay behind, clear the 6-point, and still maintain a four point board. Is it now right to stay? "No" says GNU-bg, with a rollout showing running (20/11) is even better here than in Position One, by 4.5% over staying put. Now White's loose hits are considerably more precarious, given Black's strong board.



Position Four. Score 6-6/7. Black to play 5-4?

Finally, take a look at Position Four. Black now has two checkers on the 7-point instead of in the home board. Black would still like to hit the road, yet a GNU-bg rollout favors staying put and clearing the 7-point by 1% game winning chances. The two crossovers, which will have to be addressed sooner or later, turn the tables in favor of hanging around one more roll, but only by a small amount. Position Four is the exception when it comes to money play or early in a match. At 0-0 in a 7 point match and a centered cube, 20/11 wins about 1% more gammons and loses nearly 3% fewer gammons, so even though 7/3, 7/2 wins a few more games, running is correct at scores where gammons matter.

HBC One-Day Tournament
Sunday, December 12, 2004
at Arni's (86th & Mich Rd) Next to Wal-Mart
 Registration 12:00-12:30 PM
 Play Begins 12:30 PM
 Format: Main (9 pts) & Consol (7 pts)
 Open \$20 (optional SP \$10) & Limited \$8
 Call: 317-255-8902 or
 Email: indybg@comcast.net

HBC Standings As of October 2004			
Butch Meese	1344	John Hill	58
Jim Curtis	998	Mark King	54
Sean Garber	995	Terry Leahy	48
Rick Steele	932	Paul Franks	48
Chuck Stimming	789	Jeff Flowers	46
Larry Strommen	777	Al Gomez	36
Woody Woodworth	611	Lucky Nelson	36
Mary Ann Meese	565	Mark Swanson	30
Scott Day	544	Karen Chung	30
Terry Bateman	403	Geoff Arnold	30
Scott Johnston	345	Peter Kalba	24
Dan Moore	284	John Baron	24
Gabe Stiasny	164	Randy Foster	20
Eric Luecking	129	Mark Drabing	18
Merle Feldman	127	Chuck Bower	18
Josh Riddell	120	Derrick Swanson	12
Frank Scott	109	Jack Scofield	12
Mary Franks	60	Kevin Heacox	10

Player of the Month of October was Sean Garber with 162 gammon points.				
	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
1st	Sean Garber	Sean Garber	Rick Steele	Scott Johnston
2nd	Chuck Stimming	Butch Meese	Terry Bateman	Larry Stommen
2nd	Butch Meese

Regional Tournament Schedule	
Nov 10-14	Las Vegas Open , Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada(702) 893-6025
Dec 3-5	California State Championship , Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA..... (818) 901-0464
Jan 14-16	5th Carolina Invitational , Charlotte, NC.....(704) 814-0850
Weekly 7 PM	Neon Johnny's (86th & Township Rd)..... (Cells) 317.442.4065 or 317.430.7862