



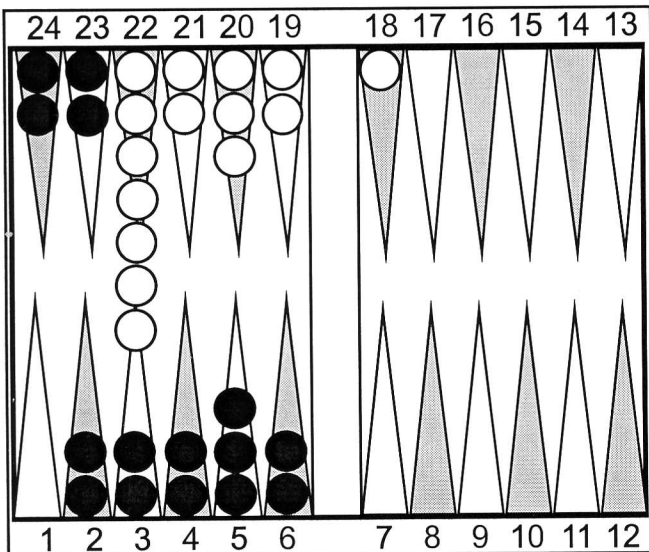
Hoosier Backgammon Club

February 2005

Out With The Thai'd by Jake Jacobs

My punning title may be in very bad taste. Thailand, after all, suffered a terrible loss in the recent tsunami. My own loss in the semifinals of the Last Chance was not nearly so terrible. But my loss also happened in Thailand, and **tasteful pun** is probably an oxymoron anyway, so **out with the Thai'd** it is.

Jake (Black) doubles trailing 3-4 to 7.



My opponent was *English Tom*. Tom Grant has lived in Thailand for quite some time, but he was born in England, and is *English Tom* to distinguish him from *German Tom* and *Swiss Tom* and any other Toms who might pass through Pattaya sowing nomenclatural confusion in their wake.

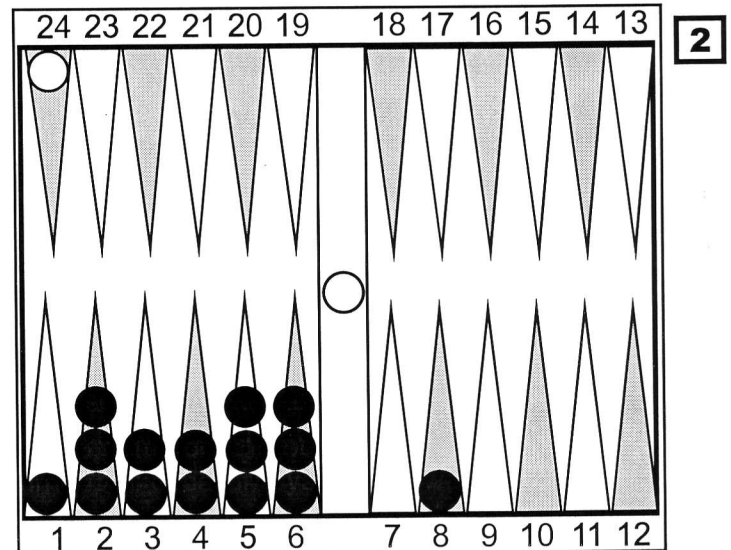
I lecture on this score, and am presumed to know something about it, but my cube handling this game proves I need to stay awake next time I give the lecture. In the old days, using JellyFish, I might have justified (to myself) my double here. The cubeless num-

bers from Snowie find me winning 56.4%, with 7.9% being gammons, while losing 1.7% backgammons and 15.8% gammons. If our options were only cube never turned, or cube always turned we would much prefer doubling – cubing wins close to 1% more matches under those conditions. We also note that 20 numbers are very, very good for us, non-hitting aces are bad but not THAT bad, and only nine numbers range from THAT bad to TERRIBLE. So, we are winning the game, we have a majority of market losers, and when we lose we lose a high proportion of gammons; all are indicators of a cube turn at this score.

Snowie disagrees, and believes cubing to be a significant blunder. The key is in our first condition in the last sentence above: we don't have a **majority** of market losers. What we have is a lot of numbers that lead to market loss if White rolls poorly, but if you plug in our twenty hitting numbers, to see how Snowie evaluates them, you'll find that the best play's aggregate equity usually approaches market loss without achieving it. Said more clearly: if we hit this roll, we may or may not lose our market, but the average result of all our hits is nearly, but not quite, a double out, i.e. and efficient cube. It is better to wait than to double.

Part of my mistaken double was based upon the unlikelyhood of a recube.

White redoubles to 4?



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Not only was I recubed, but I was even more wrong about this one than I was about the first. I was probably off on my estimate of my winning chances without hitting a second blot, and also on my chances of obtaining a second man. I guessed perhaps 10% for the former, and added around 6% in extra chances from successfully picking up the second man. Sixteen percent is short of the eighteen percent needed to take, so I passed. Actually, I win almost twenty-eight percent here! Even if the builder on the deuce has closed the acepoint Snowie says this would not be a double, that I would still win slightly over twenty percent. (I would reopen the acepoint if possible during the bearoff.) I would even have a slim take if White had two men on his acepoint (no chance of picking up another man, but only twelve men born off by White).

I'd like to tell you that I overcame my errors, and went on to win the Last Chance. I'd like to tell you that, but I didn't. Tom won the Crawford game and advanced to the final, losing to Marvin Khattar of Sweden.

HBC Standings February 2005	
Sean Garber	196
Rick Steele	155
Scott Johnston	142
Terry Bateman	122
Larry Strommen	100
Butch Meese	56
Chuck Stimming	52
Scott Day	36
Jim Curtis	24
Mary Ann Meese	18
Woody Woodworth	16
Dan Moore	10
Eric Luecking	8

53rd Indiana Open
Free Lecture by Joe Sylvester
Labor Day Weekend 2005

HBCs 2004 Awards Tournament
 Sunday - February 27th, 2005
Arni's Restaurant (875-7034)
 3443 West 86th Street (west of Walmart)

Registration: 12 Noon Awards: 12:30 PM Play Begins: 12:45 PM

Open Division: \$20 with \$10 Optional Sidepool
 Limited Div: \$8
 Format: Main-Consolation

Player of the Month of January 2005 was Sean Garber with 196 gammon points.

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
1st	Scott Johnson	Sean Garber	Terry Bateman	Sean Garber
2nd	Rick Steele	Terry Bateman	Scott Johnson	Larry Strommen
2nd	...	Chuck Stimming	Rick Steele	Rick Steele

Regional Tournament Schedule	
Feb 18-20	27th Pittsburgh Championships , Holiday Inn, Pittsburgh, PA..... 412.823.7500
Mar 18-20	Midwest Championship , Wyndham Lisle, Lisle, IL 773.583.6464
Wed 7 PM	Neon Johnny's (86th & Township Rd)..... (Cells) 317.442.4065 or 317.430.7862