

backgammon

Michael Kloian

of the American Backgammon Club

LEAVING THE SHOT

Very often during a game of backgammon it is necessary to leave your opponent a shot. Since there is almost always a choice, the question you should be asking yourself is "Where do I leave the shot and why?"

In the example, black has a 4-3 shot to play.

As far as I can see, black has two choices which have equal merit. The first move is to hit white by moving from the black 8 point to the 1 point. Although this move could be considered a "tempo play" (stealing half of your opponent's roll), the real purpose is to force him out on the 4 or 5 point so black may freely move behind white.

As long as white sits on the 1 point, black cannot be leaving loose shots in the home board. Of course, if you were white, you would prefer to stay on the 1 point to hinder your opponent's checker movement.

This first option for black leaves a simple direct one shot (11 out of 36 chances). Black's second option deals with the playing principle "run now, or later." If black moves a checker from

the white 9 to the black 9 point, he leaves a direct 4 shot (14 out of 36 chances). The odds of being hit with a 4 is greater than the 1. However, if black does not try to clear the 12 point now, he may not have as good of a chance later (unless he rolls 6-4, 5-5 or 3-3).

With either move, if white hits black, there is much trouble for black. Once black goes to the bar and re-enters with a one or two, black may be forced to move a checker from the 6 or 8 point and leave white a second shot — unless he rolls perfect dice.

The thing that concerns me is that white has excellent timing and good flexibility. I prefer hitting white on the 1 point and forcing him out behind me to allow some breathing room.

Also, if white offers the doubling cube from the bar because of this move or the other move, I would obligingly decline. This game is going nowhere fast.

Don't miss this Sunday's benefit backgammon tournament for the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan at the Plymouth Hilton Inn.



The Center Stage will be welcoming Shooting Star, which has a new album out. The members of the band are Steve Thomas, Gary West, Van McClain, Ron Verlin and Charles Waltz.

Pottery exhibit is planned for Pontiac Art Center

An exhibit featuring the pottery of Phyllis Aulph, owner of Pine Cone Pottery in Birmingham, will be held in the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building lobby, Sept. 16-30.

Aulph, a member of the Michigan Potters Association and the Creative Council, began making pots seven years ago. She studied pottery at Oakland Community College, Royal Oak, and now works full time in her home studio.

In August, Mrs. Aulph was the artist of the month for the Royal Oak Arts Council exhibit at the Royal Oak Public Library. She also has exhibited her work in the Michigan Potters exhibit at the Pontiac Art Center.

This free exhibit is open weekdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays until 5 p.m. For more information, call 354-4717.

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1 2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10 11 12	1 2 3 4 5 6



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