



backgammon

A new weekly column

Our new weekly column on backgammon is prepared by Mike Kloian, president of the American Backgammon Club. The column will present a certain situation — one which was actually faced by an ABC member in tournament play — and explain the best move to make.

ABC has meetings and tournaments around Detroit and provides lessons through area educational institutions.

Kloian, who competed in a recent tournament in Las Vegas, started playing at age 15 but got bored after a few years. Then he discovered the doubling cube.

"It's a whole new world," he says. "That's where the entire game is. No doubt about it."

Backgammon was played in ancient Egypt, according to archaeologists; evidence of the game has been found in tombs and some historians believe that decisions were based on the outcome of a game. The doubling cube was invented by a traveling salesman during the Depression.

HOME TABLE						BLACK						OUTER TABLE					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

WHITE						BLACK						OUTER TABLE					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
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BEARING OFF

Very often during the bearing-off (end) stage of a game, critical decisions have to be made. Players can either bear off checkers at the expense of the resulting board position or pass up a chance to bear off men in order to maximize the distribution of remaining checkers.

In the finals of an ABC championship tournament, this board position appeared. Three rolls earlier, white had a definite advantage and doubled the cube.

Shortly after accepting, black rolled double fives, appears to have captured a slight lead in the bear-off race, and is contemplating redoubling the cube. In this position, white has rolled double ones.

How would you play it?

First temptation might be to bear off both checkers from the 2 point, leaving the 1, 2 and 4 points open. This move, however, could prove disastrous in the next few rolls. Removing two men still leaves five checkers (requiring

three rolls) to bear off. Black also needs three good rolls but has the 3 and 4 points open.

With several interesting playable options, white recognizes the removal of one man is a must and that proper distribution is important.

White removed one man from the 2, leaving six checkers to bear off and moved two checkers from the 5 to the 4 point. Now the only bad number is one, and the distribution potential has increased 100 percent.

White could have moved one checker from 5 to 4, and one from 3 to 2 or one from 2 to 1 (which is not as terrible), but white chose the proper play.

IN THE GAME . . .

During the final bear-off, black never redoubled. After stripping the 1 and 2 point, black missed on two rolls. White was the winner.

The American Backgammon Club can be contacted by calling 459-5778.

Buddy Greco heads show at db's in Hyatt Regency

Buddy Greco has brought his combination of a strong voice with a relaxed, jazzy approach to lyric and song for a week-long stay beginning at 8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 9 and 11:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday at db's Club in the Hyatt Regency Dearborn.

Noted for his piano work with Benny Goodman, Greco plays a total of seven instruments but plays only one — his piano — during his current stint at db's.

GRECO is a gold-record star, with such hits as "The Lady Is a Tramp," "Around the World" and "Oh, Look-A-

There, Ain't She Pretty." He is backed by two young women called the Visions.

One of these songstresses is the wife of Buddy Greco, the former Jackie Sabatino, Playboy Bunny of the Year for 1974.

Further information may be obtained by calling the Hyatt Regency Dearborn at 593-1234 and asking for db's Club. Cover charge includes two drinks and tax.

Following Buddy Greco will be Tina Turner on Feb. 18-23 and Melba Moore, from Feb. 25-March 1.

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Orchestra, soloist give peak performance

By ERIC PETERS

The Toulouse Chamber Orchestra, one of the world's finest, gave a perfectly extraordinary performance last week at Varner Recital Hall on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

Conductor-first violin Georges Armand and his wonderful ensemble delivered an exciting program of flawlessly accomplished artistry at the highest levels. Eleven Frenchmen on violins, violas, bass violins, and a woman at the harpichord comprised the team.

The brilliance of their technical refinement was such that one couldn't tell where one instrument left off and the next began. It was a sustained, complete precision, smoothness and complete unity of sound.

Violins played as one man in every detail and nuance without variation, whether pizzicato or pure and unflawed melodic lines.

Legislation assists gift-giving to Channel 56

Legislation recently passed by the state of Michigan allows contributions to WTVS/Channel 56 to qualify for the same kind of 50 percent state income tax credits as gifts to universities and libraries.

According to Jack Calwell, the public TV station's president and general manager, under Public Act 199, contributions to Channel 56 of up to \$200 (\$400 if a joint return is filed), made since Jan. 2, 1980, can be reported to

the state for a 50 percent credit to be applied against one's state income tax liability. Gifts may also be deducted on federal income tax forms.

For instance, a couple with a taxable income of \$25,000 could give \$100 at a net cost of only \$14. (Individual cases differ.) Individuals should check with their tax advisor for details covering their personal situation.

AGNES SCOTT, director of development, is enthusiastic about the benefits

scudding and dipping, now soaring and spinning, wandering, searching, striking or whispering.

A pair of early Baroque works began the program with dignity and exemplary taste: The Corelli Concerto Grosso Op. 5, No. 3, and the Albinoni Sonata a Clave Op. 2, No. 6. The orchestra's superb timing and complete unity of collaboration was evident at once and one could become lost in the simply beauty of music.

Soloist Debost was introduced with a pair of Vivaldi programmatic pieces for flute and orchestra. "La Notte" evokes a mood of night. Its second movement is a transposition from the "Four Seasons." Vivaldi's most famous program piece of nature, "Il Gardellino" actually imitates the song of the cardinal. There are long, soaring unaccompanied passages flute where the instrument is the prima donna and the orchestra is forgotten.

The second half of the program broke free with a modern work by

Frenchman Jean Rivier. It is a mixture of impressionist, expressionist and dissonant music spun together in a loose and colorful weave.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY Benjamin Britten's stunning and exciting "Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge." It premiered at the 1937 Salzburg Festival when the English composer was becoming recognized as a brilliant talent. The 11-part piece is full of great variety, invention and humor.

The blood of the audience was stirred to such enthusiasm that Georges Armand was moved to bring his orchestra back for four encores and evoked a standing ovation at the end — made all the more remarkable for the fact that the hall was barely a third full that great night.

Should this orchestra and Debost ever come again, let us hope to see it sold out with fans lining the walls.

to station donors as well as Channel 56.

"We think it (the new law) will help us take our next big fund-raiser, Festival '80 (March 1-16) over its very ambitious goal of \$50,000," she said.

The amendment to the legislation enabling the tax credit to station contributors was introduced to the state legislature by State Sen. Jack Paxton of Detroit, a strong supporter of public television and the arts in Michigan.

Until the passage of this act, Channel 56 was the only public television station in the state not able to take advantage of the state tax credit. All other Michigan PBS stations are licensed to state universities and thus contributions to them have been considered contributions to state universities.

WTVS/Channel 56, as a community licensee, is the only public television station in the state not licensed to an institution of higher learning. The station is licensed to the Detroit Educational Television Foundation.

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