



**Story of prejudice**

Anthony Lucas (left) and Dennis Wrosch are the leading characters in "Mulatto," Langston Hughes' story of racial prejudice in the troubled South of the 1930s. The drama will be presented at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and March 12-15 at Wayne State University's Studio Theatre in Detroit. A matinee performance will be given at 4:30 p.m. March 13. For further information, call 577-2972.

**backgammon**  
**Michael Kloian**  
of the American Backgammon Club

**FORMING A PRIME**  
One basic objective while playing backgammon is to form a prime (a blockade of closed points) in front of your opponent — preferably a six-point (full) prime; as in the example.

A five-point prime is also very good. Depending on the overall position, the game is not entirely lost if you are stuck behind a prime.

When both players have a full prime, however, the only way to win is to force your opponent to break his prime first. You can do this by moving your free men slowly around the board, hoping your opponent moves at a quicker pace.

Given the proper situation, it would not be wise then to slow your opponent by hitting. In some cases, however, hitting may speed him up.

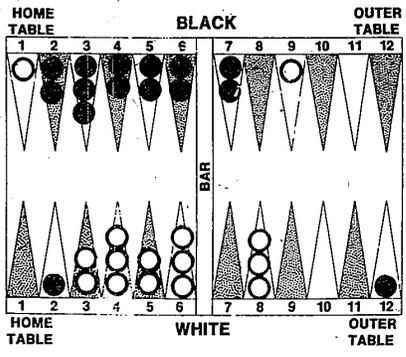
Timing — maintaining free checker movement — is therefore critical. Also important are the number of men trapped and the length of the prime.

White rolls six-four in this position. How would you play it?

**INSTINCT IMMEDIATELY** spots a hit and a closed 2 point. This move may defeat your purpose, however, if black gets off the bar and covers the blot on the 12 point. White cannot afford this risk. Passing over black with the six-four is not very constructive.

Hitting black on the 2 point is a sure bet with the builder (extra checker) on the 8 point. Also a good move is hitting black with the four roll on the 12 point.

Why? White wants to be hit. This will slow him down, especially if he remains on the bar. But when black finally re-enters his second checker from the bar, he is a strong favorite to break open his bar point with the remaining half-roll.



No one is saying white will win this game hands down, but he has excellent prospects.

The American Backgammon Club can be contacted by calling 459-5776.

**New area backgammon chapter organized**

The American Backgammon Club of Plymouth will launch a new chapter in Waterford Township at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, at the Old Mill Restaurant, 5838 Dixie Highway (near Andersonville Road).

At the first meeting, information about the group's functions, dues and playing schedule will be given out. An evening of casual play will follow.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in backgammon. There is no admission fee. A light lunch buffet will be offered, without charge, by the Old Mill Restaurant.

The American Backgammon Club of Plymouth has been in existence since January 1973, and presently has more than 100 members. Some 40 percent of the club's members live in Oakland and Macomb counties.

The American Backgammon Club of North Oakland's director is Nancy Biehl. Further information is available by calling Ms. Biehl at 623-9375 or the American Backgammon Club of Plymouth at 459-5776.

Backgammon is a game of skill and chance, dating back to the days of the pharaohs. The game of kings is now played world-wide, and backgammon buffs claim it is the only "socially-in" game in the world where language differences are not a barrier to success in competing.

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