



backgammon

Michael Kioian
of the American Backgammon Club

CUBE TIME

The end of a backgammon game usually comes when the use of the doubling cube becomes most evident — when the outcome of a game will be determined in a few rolls and various consequences can be more precisely calculated.

In this position, white is on roll. Should white double? If white doubles, should black accept?

The answer to both questions is yes. White has 23 out of 36 possible rolls that will bear off both checkers on the next roll, winning the game. There are 13 out of 36 possible rolls that will lose the game for white — all the ones, plus two-three and three-two. White has a strong advantage to win and must double in order to not allow black a free ride to see if he will hit one of those 13 unlucky rolls. This is called making black "pay to play."

Black should "pay to play" in this case and accept the double. Those 13

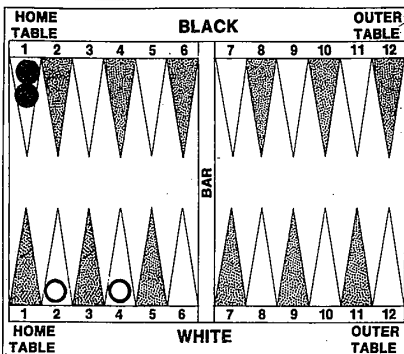
unlucky rolls for white work out to about a 36 percent chance of black winning.

The rule of thumb on accepting a double (called a take) is that you should have at least a 25 percent chance (3-to-1 odds) of winning the game. Using this rule, you should win slightly more points in the long run than if you were to play safe and decline the cube in these cases.

The biggest problem with the 25 percent take rule is that except for well-defined end game situations like this one, it is very difficult — and sometimes impossible — to calculate a win percentage in the mid-game or early game.

Proper take situations are often very opinionated, just like the game of backgammon itself.

For more information and instructions, contact the American Backgammon Club at Box 599, Plymouth, Mich. 48170, or call 459-5776.



Backgammon club hosts 1st outdoor tournament

The American Backgammon Club of Plymouth and North Oakland County will host Michigan's first outdoor Backgammon Tournament on June 28 at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth (Main Street at Ann Arbor Trail).

All proceeds, less expenses, will be donated to the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.

The American Backgammon Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of backgammon play in the area. All those participating in the tournament must bring their own

board. Registration begins at noon; the elimination tournament begins at 1 p.m. Nine point matches will be played with an 11-point final. First through eighth place prizes will be awarded, with the first place prize being a custom-made backgammon table.

The tournament will be limited to the first 128 players to register. Entry fee is \$12.50, which includes complimentary food and beverage. For further information regarding advance registration, call 459-5776.

Cleo Lane sings at the Music Hall

Cleo Lane, called "the best singer in the world" by the London Times, arrives Tuesday for eight performances at Detroit's Music Hall Center.

Accompanied by husband John Dankworth and his ensemble, Cleo Lane embarks on her 10-city North American tour (she makes her home in England) just as her lat-

est album is being released in America.

Titled "Sometimes When We Touch," the album co-stars James Galway, flutist.

Free films shown at Cinema Canada

Two Cinema Canada programs of films produced and/or distributed by the National Film Board of Canada will again be part of this Detroit/Windsor International Freedom Festival.

Presented in Ford Auditorium in cooperation with the Consulate of Canada, the films have been selected because of their diversity and their appeal to family audiences.

"Cinema Canada I," a two-hour program of short films, will be presented at 2 and 7 p.m. June 27. Highlighting

film

the program is "Cities: Glenn Gould's Toronto," a gold medal winner of the International Film and TV Festival. Viewers are taken on a tour of Toronto, under the guidance of the renowned pianist. Two documentaries, one a year with a Lapp family and their reindeer herd and the other show-

ing the birth of a whale, are scheduled. "Log Driver's Waltz" and "John Law and the Mississippi Bubble," two animated films, and a film on stained glass making with Robert Jekyll complete the program.

"Cinema Canada II" at 2 and 7 p.m. July 2 will be "Has Anyone Here Seen Canada?" and "The Brownie Affair." The first is a feature-length documentary tracing the history of film-making in Canada from 1939-53. The second is described as a "very funny and deadly

serious film" about consumerism. Admission is free to both programs.

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