LUCK OR SKILL?
This example was sent in by Laura
P. of Livonia.
As black in this position, she rolled As black in this position, she rolled of obble twos and proceeded with one cherker from the 12 point, hitting white on the 8 point and continuing to the home board to safety the checker on the 4 point.

Her opponent, on the bar, rolled double sixes (a one out of 36 shot), hit her on the 12 point and continued on to win

the game.

Laura asks: "What went wrong? Is this game all luck?"

First of all, the element of luck in backgammon comes because you are playing with dice. As you become more skillful with making proper moves, you reduce the element of luck considerable but you explain a considerable of the considerable of

reduce the element of Juck considera-bly but you can never remove: It.

This game will never be all luck; also, it can never be all skill.

THE MOVE
The proper play in this position would be to move both checkers from the 12 to the 10 point, and one checker from the 3 to the 1 point.

Hitting white on the 8 point can do

Hitting white on the 8 point can do nothing but slow him down. Why slow

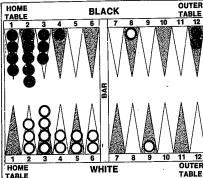
him down? There is no reason to.

Playing for the gammon in this position is elusive. Once hit, white will have no difficulty getting off the bar and racing home. Also, if black leaves a shot, white could hit it.

Consider the position.

racing home. Also, it black leaves a shot, white could hit it. Consider the position. If black is hit, he has a tough home board to contend with. White does not. Consider the race. Black is ahead in the race. Why hit? Black's home board checkers are ideally situated to begin bearing off. White's home board doesn't even come close. Consider the doubling cube. Black owns the cube. Before your next roll, you may have had a chance to redouble white to 4, forcing white to drop, thus winning two points. It would have been correct to hit and slow down your opponent — no matter what the consequences — if you had been way behind in the race. Fortunately, we learn from our mistakes.

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	EGGS BENEDICT 5,45 Conciden bacen and ocached eggs chian Find shimfth with abortogus. Teoped with no andase sauce. Served with Pesh fluid and hash brown postaces.	١
	CHICKEN AND ARTICHOKE CREPES 5.45 Body orticroke healts served alob credes of tender thicken smallhered with cheese source and sorth early to outside the server will be served to the control of the con	
	SPANISH OMELETTE Invee egg omelette filed with seasoned shreaded beet fopped with Spanis souce and cheator cheese. Served with friesh fruit and chaice of hash brown potatoes of testined beans.	1
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	EVERYTHING OMELETTE Iomaloses, multipoems abode to bell peeper and sea any and suffy omestifie covered with a creamy chosen souce and suffy omestified to the covered and abode seeds served with fresh fluid and phoce of high trown activities or reflered beautified.	-
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