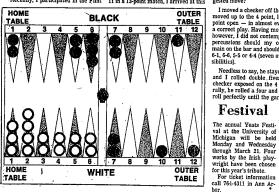
THE POWERLESS DOUBLING CUBE
Open backgammon tournament. Having reached the finals and a score of 1211 in a 13-point match, I arrived at this



position playing white

With one point needed to win the match, the Crawford Rule applied, preventing either player from using the cube for this game only.

Once the cube loses its power, it is important that each move be executed with caution. With the cube in play in this position, I could have easily forced my opponent out of the game.

White rolls a 5-1. What is your suggested move?

gested move?

I moved a checker off the 5 point and moved up to the 4 point, leaving the 5 point open — in almost every position a correct play. Having moved too fast, however, I did not contemplate the re-percussions should my opponent remain on the bar and should I roll a 5-1, 6-1, 6-6, 5-5 or 4-4 (seven out of 36 possibilities).

Needless to say, he stayed on the bar and I rolled double fives, leaving a checker exposed on the 4 point. Natu-rally, he rolled a four and continued to roll perfectly until the game was won.

Festival

Having lost the game and the match, I placed second.

Analyzing this position, there was a definite error. Moving a checker to the I and 5 point from the 6 point would have been best for one reason. By leaving the 5 point open, you allow black to escape behind you, thus getting him out of your hair.

If black does not roll a six, white would be hard-pressed to roll perfectly onwoid leaving a shot. Since black had to awoid leaving a shot. Since black had to awoid leaving a shot. Since black had have been a were on the bar, this would have been a were not the bar. The timove would then have been proper.

Also, it is important to note that while moving to the 5 and 1 point gives white several more bad rolls — 6-6. 5-5, 4-4, 6-3, 5-3, 6-5, 5-4, 6-4, or 13 out of 3 rather than 7 out of 35 combinations — it is theoretically correct with one checker on the bar.

For more information, contact the American Backgammon Club at 459-5776 or write to Box 599, Plym-outh 48170.

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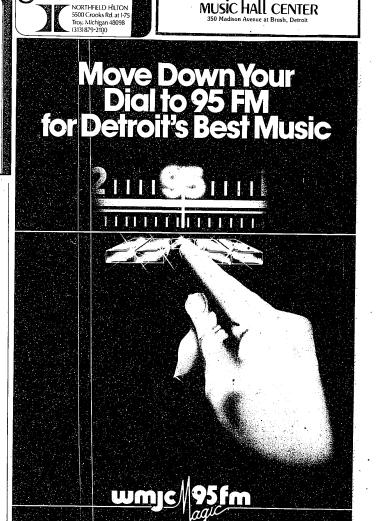
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