



## backgammon

### Michael Kiolan

of the American Backgammon Club

#### • THE FULL PRIME

In the example, white has rolled a 4-2. Select a move for white best suited for this position.

The position appears to be strong for both sides but black's home board strength is a mirage. With black stuck behind a full prime, black's game will quickly deteriorate. Having those loose checkers, white has exceptional timing and can use it to his best advantage.

In this position, it would be correct for white to try to slot-hit black on the 1 point as long as white maintains the full prime. In this case, however, white needs a seven or 11 to slot-hit but has rolled a 4-2.

The important thing to note in a full prime position is that by slot-hitting black, white cannot lose. If black stays on the bar for a roll or two, white could cover the checker and close the home board. The best results would be for black to hit white.

Once white is hit, he must remain on the bar until black opens a point. In this position, black is surely going to open a point or two and most likely will leave white a shot. If white can't capture a checker it is what this play is all about. Then white could work on a potential

gammon.

This position is tricky, though, and can be handled in two ways. White could move the 12 point checker to the 6 and have for his next roll direct 6s and an indirect 7 (19 out of 36 chances) to slot-hit. Bringing the spare checkers home is common since they can be used as builders to hit or close points.

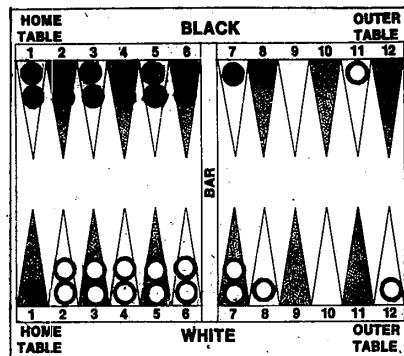
But the best play for white would be to move the 11 point checker to the 8, creating a seven-point prime. A seven-point prime generally is useless, but in this case it can be a strong asset.

Black will next be forced to bear in the last two checkers, and within another roll break his home board. If white rolls a one within two rolls, he can slot-hit black by splitting the 2 point — a bizarre play, but very effective since white would still hold a full prime after slot-hitting.

This play would force black off the bar with one and two, twice as many numbers (20 out of 36), and black would not be forced to leave a shot in his home board with many numbers working against him. If black stays on the bar, white could move his spare checker home and capture the 2 point first, then the 1 point. Either way, white is a

winner. But the suggested move allows white a chance for two men back and a bonus gammon.

For more information, contact the American Backgammon Club at 433-5774 or write to Box 359, Plymouth MI 48170.



## Boblo offers cruise

Boblo Island has added a new cruise and entertainment package, the "Friday Night Frolic," to its summer program.

The cruise will leave at 6:30 p.m. Friday from Boblo's downtown dock (next to Joe Louis Arena) in Detroit. A second "Friday Night Frolic" is scheduled for Aug. 7. On both evenings, Boblo Island will be kept open for Frolic participants.

At \$15 per person, the entertainment package includes the cruise to the island, music along the way by the Red Garter Band, a picnic buffet dinner, all shows and rides on the island, and a mid-night moonlight cruise and dancing en route home.

The Friday Night Frolic is in addition to the previously scheduled Friday Night Big Band cruises. Ticket information is available by calling 964-5775.



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