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STERLING HTS. 3500 VAN GYKE

It is excellent play, but let me try.

I suggest that white play his 4 from
the black 1 point to black 18 point and
his 2 from the black 12 point to the
white 11 point. This rather eccentriclooking play is an attempt to keep
maximum pressure on black. With a
man poised on black's 5 point, white
threatens to hit any loose men that
black might ordinarily like to bring
into his outer table to serve as builders
for his 4, 5 and 7 points.

SUCH A HIT would not only catch white up in the race but leave him with the much stronger position since he would have an extra builder in his own outer board and at the same time be threatening to complete the escape of the man with which he just hit. In addition, should black roll a num-

Thurdsy, Decomber 16, 1982 O&F.

ber that adds up to 8 or 9 and try to escape with his second back man, white will have two men bearing directly on the unfortunate piece. Note that if black rolls a number to make his own 5 point, he would do so in any event and consequently would have both a positional and a racing advantage.

It was not to be a support of the property of the pro

By making the suggested play, white inhibits black's freedom of movement and leaves him in a position where fewer than half of his possible numbers play well and almost all of these would have been good for black no matter how white played.

This 4-2 play is an often-overlooked example of a basic principle I have always tried to teach my backgammon students: i.e., "When the opponent has escaped a back man on the opening roil, you should advance one of your own back men to the opponent's 4, 5 or 7 point whenever feasible."





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