

In this position white has a 5-1 to play. His 5 is forced as he must take a man off his 5 point, for his 1 white has the two obvious alternatives.

In order to know which play is superior, we must first understand the dynamics of throwing 2 dice. In other words, what are our chances of throwing the various combinations of numbers?

To begin with, when we throw 2 dice there are 36 different ways they may come to rest. There are 6 sets of doubles which cach occur one time in 35, and there are 15 combinations of different ways the dice may land upside down.

To satisfy yourself of this last fact, take 2 dice and place them with a 6-1 showing. This is one way the dice may land upside down.

Now turn the dice over and you will have 1-6. This is certainly a second way the dice could land and yet as far as the game of backgammon is concerned both casts would be played the same.

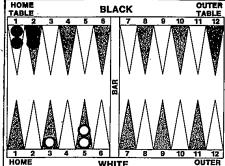
Let's see how this lundamental understanding of probabilities can be a

Let's see how this fundamental un-derstanding of probabilities can be ap-plied to our problem. First of all, we must assume that our opponent will not

bear off all 4 of his men on his roll and that we will have one last chance to take our last 2 men off.

Let us first consider the case where we play our 7 from the 5 to the 4 point and leave our second man on our 3 point. We will fail to take these last 2 men off whenever we roll any of the following 9 combinations: 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5 and 2-6 last 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5 and 2-6 last 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 2-3 last 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 2-3 last 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 2-3, 2-4 and 3-4 all fail to hear off our last 2 men. These 6 combinations account sy to 6 of the 35 possible hour beave our second man on the 5 point. Now the numbers 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 2-3, 2-4 and 3-4 all fail to hear off our last 2 men. These 6 combinations account sy to 6 of the 35 possible ways the count of 5 of the 35 possible ways the difference between being a 19-17 than the difference between being a 19-17 the Milkerence between being a 19-17 the full terrance of the contract of the street of the 20 possible ways the count of the street of the 35 possible ways the count of the 35 possible than the two the one on and 19 than the Milkerence between being a 19-17 the Milkerence the two the second and the second and 19 the second

The dillerence between being a 19-17 more games out of 38 than the aiterna-favorite and a 19-17 underdog may not tive. To a good backgammon player an seem like a lot but the superior play of increase of 11 percent in his equity is moving to the 2 point figures to win 4 well worth a little figuring.



Questions about backgammon can be directed to Mike Giordano, c/ o the Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mi., 48150.

Michigan soprano is featured on 2 albums

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tion was enacted in the cathedrals of the Middle Ages. It should be played again and again so he swored and chershed, for it is a sound trip into the past. Even though all of the pagentry is aural, it is nevertheless real enough to set of all the seaver 2,7 was born and raised in this area. She attended Interlochen Academy for four years of high school and is now on contract with the Waverly Consort. The group has its own concert series at Lincoln Center and re-

cords exclusively with Columbia Re-cords. It will perform in Grosse Pointe and East Lansing in March. BENSMAN COMPLETED her bach-

BENSMAN COMPLETED her bachelor's and master's in musle at Boston University. She made her debut last fall with the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Zubin Mehta, doing Reich's "Tehillim," the original Hebrew word for Psalms, is secored for four women's voices and a variety of instruments.







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