

backgammon

Michael Kiolan

of the American Backgammon Club

AFTER THE HIT

White, in this example, has possession of the doubling cube at the 2 level. To arrive at this position, white was fortunate to hit black during the bear-off.

White now has a 6-1 to play. What is your suggested move?

In order to determine the correct play for this position, you need to discover white's ultimate goal. Naturally, white could begin to run his checkers toward home by moving from the black 1 to the 8 point, or from the black 7 point to the white 11 point. The problem with either of these moves is that if black gets off the bar with a 6 and anything, he could hit white with 6-1, 6-5 or 6-6) or he could roll 6-2, 6-3 or 6-4 and white could easily miss the indirect long shot.

White was definitely losing this game and now can turn it into a winner. How?

If white is willing to take the chance of being hit in the outer board with a long shot or take the risk of black running past without being able to hit back, white should be willing to move from the black 7 to white's 12 point and slot a checker from the white 7 to the

white 6 point. Now only a double six would be a catastrophe.

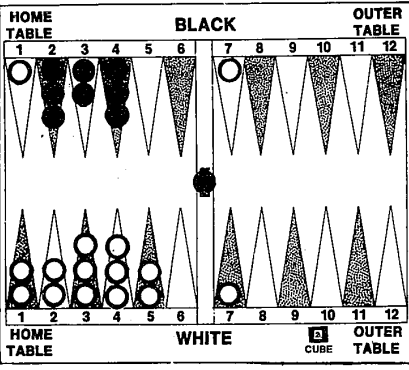
This is where you toss away the book on odds and probabilities. Although the odds are greater to hit (11 out of 36 vs. 5 out of 36), white is a favorite to cover that blot on his next roll, thus closing his home board.

The important criterion is that black has a 33 percent chance of getting off the bar on his next roll. If he fails to re-enter, white could redouble the cube (in tournament play) to 4 and black should drop.

Normally, you should never slot on your vacant home board points — unless you can hit, of course. But in this case, white's best hope of winning would be to create a positive position that would force black out of the game.

On the very next roll, if white is hit on the 6 point, he may still retaliate later as black races home. Best of all, white would still retain possession of the cube.

Kiolan will be giving free beginner backgammon lessons 1-3 p.m. Saturday at 3139 S. Wayne Road in Westland. For more information, call the American Backgammon Club at 459-5776.



New Year's party slated

Michigan Inn is throwing a big New Year's Eve bash in its Great Lakes Ballroom. The party starts at 9 p.m. and lasts until 3 a.m.

The price is \$115 per couple. This includes a prime rib buffet dinner (beginning at 10 p.m.), champagne, party favors, door prizes and an open bar with unlimited drinks for the night.

Entertainment will be provided by the Steve Moore Orchestra, featuring 10 pieces and a singer.

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