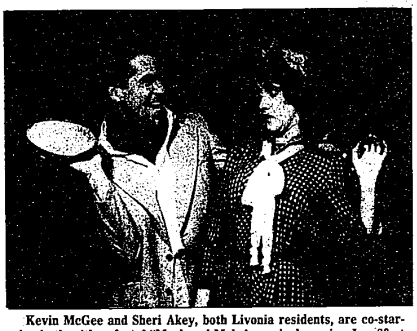
Bonstelle offers 'Mack and Mabel'



Kevin McGee and Sheri Akey, both Livonia residents, are co-starring in the title roles of "Mack and Mabel, musical opening Jan. 23 at the Bonstelle Theatre.

"Mack and Mabel," a musical love-story by Michael Stewart and Jerry Herman, will open at the Bonstelle Theatre on Jan. 23 for two weekends. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Feb. 1.

The story, billed as "the musical romance of Mack Sennett's funny and fabulous Hollywood," traces the careers of Mack Sennett, legendary director of comedy, and his greatest star, Mabel Normand.

Sennett is best known for creating the Keystone Cops and discovering Charlie Chaplin. Hollywood during the silent film era is the setting for the production, which includes such musical numbers as "Movies Were Movies" and "Tap Your Troubles Away."

Heading the Bonstelle cast is Kevin McGee of Livonia as Mack Sennett, Sheri Akey of Livonia as Mabel Normand, Deborah Barwinski of Dearborn Heights as Lottie and Bob Lambert of Detroit as Frank Wyman.

"MACK AND MABEL" is directed by Russell Smith, with costumes by Marilyn Renaud, settings by Jules Tonus and lighting by Marc Riske.

The production first opened Oct. 6, 1974, at the Majestic Theater in New York City. Starring were Robert Preston as Mack and Bernadette Peters as Mabel. The show was directed and choreographed by Gower Champion.

Clive Barnes in in the New York Times praised the play for its "tuneful music" and called it "a splashy musical." The Associated Press rated it as "a delightful, affectionate and tuneful salute to the era of silent movies."

Tickets and information for "Mack and Mabel" are available from the Wayne State University Theatre box office, Cass and Hancock, Detroit 48202. Reservations may be made by calling 577-2960. Tickets also are available at most Detroit-area colleges and universities.

backgammon

Michael Klolan
of the American Backgammon Club

GOOD OR BAD?

T.D. of Southfield asks: "In this position, my husband (playing black) doubled the cube to 2 and I accepted. Was that a dumb double? Since I lost the game and a gammon (4 points), did I accept a bad double?"

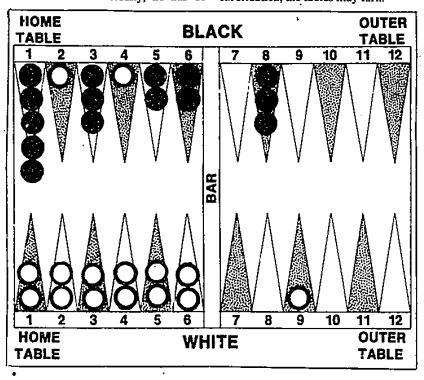
The answer is no, no.

He certainly had every right to double you in this position, although his good rolls are limited. Any 6 he may have rolled without the 1 would have left you a good shot. A 4-6 would have been disastrous. Actually, he has 16 good rolls and 20 bad ones. So the odds here are not on his side.

I'm not certain how he was lucky enough to gammon you in this position, but I'm assuming he rolled the 1 out of 36 (4-4) that hurt the most.

You certainly made a wise choice in accepting the double. Your home board is well preserved and any shot he may have left you could have been curtains for him.

Just because you lost the game and were gammoned doesn't justify a "bad take." If you were to repeat the identical situation, the tables may turn.



Hilberry enters play 'Wild Oats'

The Hilberry Theatre's production of John O'Keeffe's "Wild Oats" has been selected as one of six plays to appear through Sunday at the Regional American College Theatre Festival at the University of Akron.

The others include Oakland University's original mime show, "Jeririgg," the only other Michigan production on the festival bill.

Also honored are Hilberry actress Beth Taylor, nominated to compete there for an Irene Ryan Scholarship Award; Hilberry designer Melinda Pacha, whose set design for the Hilberry's "Love's Labor's Lost" has been chosen to compete for the festival's design award; and six Hilberry actors who have been selected to audition for the ACTF National Touring Company.

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MARK TYMCHYSHYN also was invited to compete for an Irene Ryan Scholarship Award but, as last year's top national winner of the Ryan Award, declined the offer.

The Hilberry Company leaves for Akron this morning, following its official opening of "Caesar and Cleopatra" last night. The company will perform "Wild Oats" in Akron at 9 p.m. Thursday evening, returning to Detroit Friday to resume its repertory scheduled at the Hilberry: "Love's Labor's Lost" Friday evening, "Boy Meets Girl" Saturday afternoon and "Macbeth" Saturday evening.

The other participants in the Akron festival are the Univerity of Toledo with "The Robber Bridegroom," Wright State University with "Aspirations," the University of Evansville with "All the Way Home" and Indiana University-Purdue University at Ft. Wayne with "Runaways."

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