



**backgammon**  
**Michael Kiolan**  
 of the American Backgammon Club

**ACTION PLAY**

I am 79 years old and love to play backgammon every day. With over 20 years' playing experience, there are very few rolls that give me trouble. Recently, this position came up.

My opponent (black) won the opening roll with a 6-4. I then rolled a 6-4 and made my 2 point. After the game, I reset the position and I still cannot find a reasonable move.

— George V.

Since backgammon is an action game, when positions like this happen early, you need to recognize when not to play passively and force your opponent into action. Of course, discretion must always be used.

There are three reasonable moves. Making the 2 point is not one of them. White could run from the 1 to the 11 point, which leaves a 2 and 3 return hit (21 out of 36, or a 58 percent chance of being hit). But while being hit that far in the outer board will not accomplish much.

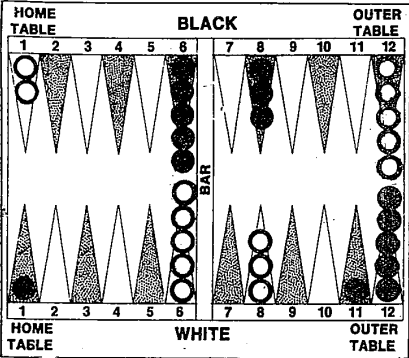
White could start the bar (7 point) and 9 point from the 12. If black should miss, white could create a fair block. Also, being hit isn't so bad. White would prefer to have three men back, capture a forward point and make it difficult for black to come around while building his home board.

White may run from the 1 to the 7 point and from the 12 to the 9 point, leaving black a direct 6 and 1 (24 out of 36, or a 67 percent chance) and an indirect 7 and 8. This move is good for action (contact) on black's next roll. However, if black did not have one checker in white's home board, then this move would be superior to any alternatives.

By far, the most sensible play is for white to start his own bar point and 9 point. Black has 17 shots that hit with an additional 4 to hit on the 9 point. This move is not as dangerous as moving to black's bar point.

Since white occupies the 1 point, black cannot close him out or begin a blitz. Furthermore, if white is hit, three checkers back is an asset. If not hit, white has the makings of a good positional game.

For more information, contact the American Backgammon Club at 459-5776 or write to Box 599, Plymouth 48170.



**Love blooms musically at spring chorale concert**

Love and its many manifestations will be the theme of a spring concert by the Madonna College Chorale at 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the Residence Hall at 14221 Levan, Livonia.

Chorale members, including students as well as singers from the area, will perform various opera and choral pieces by Brahms, Diener, Rossini and Mozart. They will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students and senior citizens.

Soloists include Madonna College alumni Elizabeth Dennis from Farmington; students Shelley King, a junior from Livonia; Mark Wallers, a fresh-

man from Birmingham; Janet Mitchell, a sophomore from Detroit; Judith Mauris, a sophomore from Sault Ste. Marie; and Paul Osterhaut from Pontiac.

John Redmon, Madonna College Chorale director from Oak Park, will conduct.

The spring concert is an annual performance sponsored by the Department of Music at Madonna, which awards bachelor of arts degrees in music education, vocal or instrumental music and music management.

Madonna College is at Schoenhercraft (1-96) and Levan. For more information contact the music department at 591-5097 or 591-5000.

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