

backgammon

Michael Kiolan

of the American Backgammon Club

THINKING AHEAD
Kiolan attended the recent annual World Amateur Championship Plimpton Cup Tournament in Las Vegas. For the next few weeks, he will discuss positions of interest from the tourney.

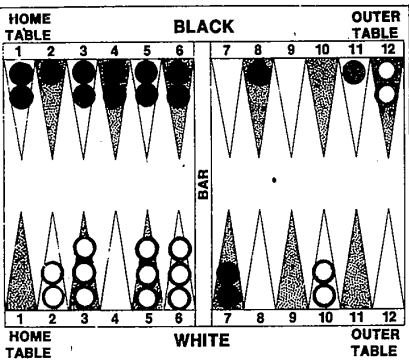
I observed this position in a fourth-round match between two amateur players. The score is tied 10-10 in an 11-point match. Winning the game for either opponent will win the match. The doubling cube has no power in this game.

White has a 6-3 to play. The race is close, with white ahead only three pips before moving. What is your suggested play?

Unfortunately, no matter how white plays the 6-3, he will leave a shot. So should he leave a direct 3 shot or a 6 shot?

The amateur player, without proper analysis, quickly moved a checker from the 10 to the 1 point. If black had less than two spare checkers in the outer board (especially on the 11 point), this would be a proper play.

However, what white failed to see is that if black misses the 10 point blot, white will surely safety this checker on the next roll. And since white will have no spare checkers (unless he rolls a perfect double after that), he will be forced to leave black a direct shot with any roll of 6. Black has approximately two rolls before he will be forced to split his 7 point checkers with any roll of 6.



Melikin Puppet Theatre performing at art museum

For three weeks during July, Detroit Youththeatre will present Chicago's Melikin Puppet Theatre in two shows especially designed for families with younger children.

"Hansel and Gretel" and "Three Little Pigs," July 7, 8, 10, 11, 14-17, 22-25; "Johnny, Paul & Dan," July 9, 15, 18, 21. Showtimes will be 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays. There will be no shows Saturdays or Mondays.

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The Skids on the rise

The Skids are Mike Majewick of Livonia (left) on bass; Tim Seeger of Southfield on keyboards and guitar; Keith Lenski of Livonia on guitar; Augie Fritsch of Royal Oak on drums; and Larry Smith of Garden City on lead vocals. The band is appearing through Sunday at September's on Hoover, one-quarter mile south of 10 Mile Road in Warren.

ren. The Skids will play Monday-Tuesday at Bentley's, 18155 N. Main, Royal Oak. Next date is July 21-25 at Jaggers, 3481 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford. A dance band featuring original music, The Skids has been playing the metropolitan Detroit Top 40 rock club circuit for the last two years.

Masonic Temple offers 4 musicals on 1st season

Four musicals will headline Masonic Temple's premiere theater season opening this fall in Detroit. "Camelot" starring Richard Harris, "The King and I" with Yul Brynner, "Madwoman of Central Park West" with Phyllis Newman, and a salute to Detroit's jazz festival, "One Mo' Time," are the offerings.

The bonus also will apply to "Sesame Street Live," which will play later this year. The 4,000-seat-plus Temple Theatre will host "The King and I," "Camelot" and the American Ballet Theatre. The 1,500-seat Cathedral auditorium will be the theatrical setting for "Madwoman"

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