



Musical clown

Clown "Tuba" Heatherton makes music in the 110th Edition of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, opening Oct. 6 at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. The circus will be in town for 12 performances, through Oct. 11. Headlining the three-hour program of three-ring entertainment is Ursula Botcher, with a polar bear display. Wild animal trainer Cheryl Baumann will present "15 fearless felines," and Elvin Bale will perform acrobatic stunts on the Whirling Wheel-of-Death.

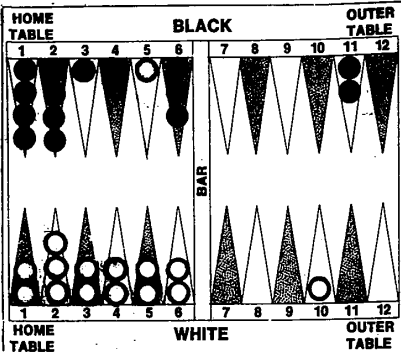


backgammon
Michael Kloian
of the American Backgammon Club

• **TIME TO RUN?**

In the example, white has a 5-3 to play. The doubling cube is neutral. While it faced with a healthy decision - to run or not to run. If white runs to the 12 point with the 5-3 roll, white will be seven pips behind in a race with black. In this position, it is important to know what the pip count is between opponents. (Pip count represents the number of spaces one player is behind or ahead of the other.) Knowledge of this will enable you to make the proper decision in positions like this. Being seven pips behind in a race is not bad. However, with an average dice roll of 8½, white will be 15-16 pips behind after black takes his next roll. This is considerably more than anticipated. It is important to never overlook your opponent's next roll potential. Taking this into consideration, perhaps white should stay on the black 5 point. Black could roll a 6-1, 2, -3 or -4 and leave white a direct six shot in the outer field. A 6-5 or 6-6 would be a horror roll for black. With the 5-3, white could easily move from the 10 point to the 2 point and wait out black, since black is a heavy

favorite to leave a shot. Of course, white must still hit the shot. If white hits, he could force black out of the game by simply sending the cube. If black does not roll a six, white could hold black on the 11 point for a roll or two while white improves his home board position for the bear-off. Later, with a large roll, white could run home safely. In all honesty, each decision has merit and both offer sound reasons. But I favor running to the 12 point and turning the game into a race merely to avoid any accidents (like being hit and staying on the bar). Another strong factor to consider is black's home board. Black's 5 point is vacant and the 3 and 4 points have only one checker on them. This is dangerous since black will have many miss potentials. Don't look at all the checkers on the 1 and 2 points as favorable for black. Actually, they could prove to be pip wasters since black has to bear them off with any roll beyond two (after all checkers on the higher points are cleared). White's checker distribution for the bear-off is superior since there are no apparent misses. In my opinion, that will make up for the 15 or so pips white will be behind when he runs to the 11



point. Sept. 13 at the Plymouth Hilton Inn. For more information, call the American Backgammon Club at 459-5776.

Band seeks new members

Adults and high school musicians are invited to join the Northville Community Band. All instruments are needed including trumpets, trombones, flutes, clarinets, low woodwinds, French horns, saxophones, tuba, percussion and string bass. There is no membership fee and auditions are not required. Northville Community Band is a symphonic band which plays a variety

of music at performances throughout the area. Recent performances include Twelve Oaks Mall, Brighton Gazebo Concert Series, Tel-12 Mall, Millrace Village and Madonna College. Rehearsals are 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Cooke Junior High School in Northville. Director is Robert Williams. For information call 349-8242 or 349-3541.

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