

HOME TABLE BLACK OUTER TABLE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

HOME TABLE WHITE OUTER TABLE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

backgammon

Michael Kloian
of the American Backgammon Club

BOLD PLAY

Here's the situation: Black is on the barwith one blot on the 3 point. Black has a slightly formidable (but not yet threatening) home board, exceptional timing and ownership of the doubling cube (at the 3 level). White now rolls a 5-4. What should white do?

Gather your senses and look over the entire position before deciding. The proper play here is not to move around the board passively or to safety the 8 point blot.

In this and similar positions, the only move you could make without thinking is to hit your opponent. Two checkers on the bar against a five-point home board is very powerful. The quality of the five-point home board with two checkers on the bar is not important. Most of the time it is preferable to have a consistent board. Having points closed all in a row is best. However, with two checkers on the bar, quantity, not quality, is what counts.

If you do not hit on the 3 point (from the 6), black could easily roll a 3 on his next roll, cover his blot and aggregate next roll, cover his blot and aggregate. Bearing off and bearing off could be somewhat difficult. With black in possession of the cube, one lucky roll could put him in the driver's seat.

With two checkers on the bar, black still could roll a 3 and send white to the bar. But now black has to roll another cube to 3 to take the second checker off the bar and establish the 3 point. Black is an underdog to hit and get both checkers off the bar.

For an effective 4 move, white would do best to move from the black 7 to the 11 point. Now a 6-5 roll covers the 3 point blot. By leaving the blot on the white 8, white could easily roll a 5 (15 ways) and cover the blot for a closed home board.

Of course, this move is a calculated risk. The rewards, however, outweigh the risks. Since black has five checkers in the outer board (and two on the bar), white is a favorite to win a gammon. With the cube on a 2, a four-point victory in any tournament is quite an edge.

For more information, contact the American Backgammon Club at 455-7789 or write to Box 599, Plymouth, MI 48170.

second runs

Tom Panzenhagen

"The Naked Edge" (1969), 1 p.m. Friday on Ch. 50. Originally 100 minutes.

It's always intriguing to see such romantic leads as Cary Grant (in "Suspicion") or Gary Cooper ("Naked Edge") portray potential murderers. That's because you can't see them as characters in a movie; instead, we think of them only as Cary and Coop. And Cary and Coop would harm a fly... would they? "Naked Edge" is Cooper's last film. Deborah Kerr also stars. Rating: \$2.70.

"Call Northside 777" (1948), 4 p.m. Sunday on Ch. 50. Originally 111 minutes.

World War II brought about a downizing in films that left the movies smaller in scope but larger in outlook. "Northside 777" typifies such films with its scaled-down production values and willingness to tackle the tough subject of injustice in the court system. James Stewart plays a reporter investigating the murder conviction of a small-time hood. Director Henry Hathaway presents an unromanticized, semi-documentary portrayal of Stewart's unrelenting quest. Lee J. Cobb and Richard Conte also star. Rating: \$2.85.

"WUSA" (1970), 8 p.m. Monday on Ch. 50. Originally 115 minutes.

Picture a blend of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "FM," and you've got

WHAT'S IT WORTH?
A ratings guide to the movies

Bad \$1
Fair \$2
Good \$3
Excellent \$4

WUSA," starring Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. What "WUSA" has in common with a 1958 Tennessee Williams story and a 1978 film about rock radio is that it concerns a super-patriotic radio station in New Orleans. New man drifts from the French Quarter, through an assassination plot, to the sound studio. Certainly an offbeat film and not a very good one, but worth seeing. Anthony Perkins, Laurence Harvey, Pat Hingle and Chris Leachman also star. Rating: \$2.30.

ON THE TOWN

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Tickets are available at \$10, and a limited quantity at \$14.50 and \$11.50.

second-rate

"The War Between Men and Women" (1972), 8 p.m. today on Ch. 9. Originally 110 minutes.

"A wacky cartoonist with a deep hatred of women, children and dogs meets a divorcee with two children, a pregnant dog and a madcap ex-husband. When this unlikely pair marry, they're the World War III." Jack Lemmon, Barbara Harris, Jason Robards. Rating: bombs away.

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