

PROBLEM OF THE WEEK #5 – JANUARY 6, 2020

THE POSITION:

○ is JBNY
 score: 0
 pip: 142
 7 point match
 pip: 139
 score: 1
 ● is Double A Red

64

XGID=---b-E-D--CbB--abcd-A--a:0:0:-1:62:0:1:0:7:10

● to play 62

THE TOURNAMENT AND THE PLAYERS:

For this week’s problem, we’ll continue to take positions from games played by members of our regular player pool in the “For The Glory” online tournament circuit. This position comes from the final round of the 2020 year-end online backgammon tournament for the Long Island Backgammon Club, which was hosted on the Backgammon Galaxy website. This week’s protagonist is our very own local hero, December Man of the Month and all-around gentleman, Ralph “Double A Red” D’Onofrio (above, playing the Black checkers). In today’s problem, he is pitted against backgammon superstar, preeminent tournament director, and true legend in his own mind, John “JBNY” Barnett (above, playing the White checkers). For those that don’t know, John was once almost elected to the board of directors of the prestigious United States Backgammon Federation.

THE GAME SITUATION:

It’s the second game of a 7-point match, and Ralph (with the Black checkers above) is on roll, leading 1-0 in the match. He was hoping to point on White’s blot in his inner board, and any roll containing a combination of 2, 3, 4 or 5 would have allowed him to do so. Sadly, though, he rolled a 62 – obviously not one of his better rolls. He takes his time and carefully weighs his options, aiming to find the best play for this non-ideal roll.

THE QUESTION:

So, my loyal readers, what should he do here?