

Blackwood On Bridge

By Easley Blackwood

It is a real pleasure to start a series of articles on the subject of overcalls. This business of overcalling has long needed a commonsense approach. A lot of pretty heavy stuff has been written about it. Dire results are emphasized. Storm warnings are issued. The reader comes to believe that it is practically

criminal to overcall and go set a few hundred points. Players like my friend Mr. Meek, taking it all literally, would probably decide to give up overcalling entirely. But I notice that in actual play the authors of these grave and solemn warnings are right in there overcalling with the rest of us.

Certainly I am not recommending throwing all caution to the winds and overcalling just for the fun of it. Safety is a virtue, no doubt about it. But only in a relative sense, as I will illustrate in the following articles.

I will say that if you point with pride to the fact that you never overcall and get set, then you are living in a fool's paradise. You are not overcalling enough and you are losing the opportunity of gaining thousands of points.

The truth is that you should occasionally make overcalls

that MIGHT go set, as much as 800 points, provided the chance of such a result is remote and also provided the chance of saving a few hundred points is quite good. Suppose you make such a bid three times in close-together similar circumstances. And suppose you go set 800 points once and save 500 points each of the other two times. Your tactics show a net profit of 200 points, right? You're not to figure your results over the long pull.

Here it is in a sort of formula. In overcalling you should weigh two considerations, one against the other.

(1) The possible amount of loss multiplied by the possible frequency of such a loss, against

(2) the possible gain multiplied by the probable frequency of such gain.

What are the justifiable rea-

sons for overcalling? Well, you can end up buying a contract you can make. You can lay a groundwork for a profitable sacrifice for your side. You can indicate a winning lead to your partner in case your left-hand opponent plays the hand. You can talk your opponents out of something. You can crowd the opponents bidding and prevent them from finding their best contract. You may push your opponents beyond their depth.

How can an overcall show a loss? You can get doubled and go set more points than the enemy could have made playing the hand. You can cause partner to get off to the wrong lead. You can make it easy for an opponent to cue-bid if he is void in your suit. You may help opponents in their bidding and play by "placing" certain high cards in your hand. You may sometimes save them from bidding too much.

And here is the big consideration on which the textbooks are usually silent. Whether your overcall will stand a better chance of showing a profit or a loss depends not only on the cards you hold, but on the skill, the habits and the temperaments of the other three players. I am going to show you some winning overcalls—and some losing ones as well.

BIG ORDERS

NEW DELHI — India has placed orders for 217 locomotives and for passenger cars and freight cars with British and continental firms to complete the first phase of the Indian Railway reconstruction program. The largest individual order went to Glasgow.



CLAUDE WEAVER—Star guard of Carroll College, who plays here Wednesday evening against local All-Stars.

BASKETBALL—

Bo-Me-Hi Is Winner

KETCHIKAN (Special to the Daily News) — Prince Rupert's Rainmakers finally scored a victory over Kayhi in the High School gymnasium last night when they registered a 38 to 32 victory in a rough and tumble game. Shooting and team play of the Prince Rupert team was greatly improved over the first game Saturday night when the British Columbia team lost 48 to 22.

Kristmanson, Blackaby and McChesney were outstanding for Prince Rupert. Bue and Maddox were stars for Ketchikan.

Scoring: Rainmakers — Ratchford, 5; Nickerson, Simonson, Letourneau, 4; Kristmanson, 3; Spring, 3; McChesney, 9; Young, Blackaby, 7; Morrison.

Polar Bears — Bue, 10; P. Tucker, Maddox, 8; Nelson, 3; Ouseholder, 5; Rich, 2; Samlin, 1; Statler, 3; Poorman, Simpson.

Referees were close on walking but loose on fouls.

Ketchikan's defence was weak and passing sloppy.

LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP WINS

PHILADELPHIA — The lightweight champion Ike Williams last night won a unanimous decision as he pounded Rudy Cruz, 138-pounder of Los Angeles, with ease in a ten-round non-title bout at the Arena here.

The world's largest paper mill is in operation at Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Lots 7 and 8, Block 20 of Lot 251, Range 5, Coast District, Plan 923, Section 1, located at Prince Rupert, will be offered for sale at

PUBLIC AUCTION to be held in the Government Agent's Office, Prince Rupert, B.C., at 2:00 p.m., Thursday January 11th, 1951. Further information may be obtained from the Government Agent, Prince Rupert, B.C., or from the Superintendent of Lands, Department of Lands and Forests, Victoria, B.C. Terms and conditions will be announced at the time of sale.

GEO. P. MELROSE, Deputy Minister of Lands, Victoria, B.C., December 13th, 1950. (1c)

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IN THE BASKET

Alex Bill has announced his starting line-up for tomorrow evening's basketball show and regrettably reports that he will be without the service of two of his top string in Joe Davis and Art Olsen. Davis is leaving for Vancouver to spend the Christmas season and Olsen's bad ankle is acting up. Herb Morgan may also scratch at the last minute unless he can get someone to work a shift for him at his cigar stand.

Even though he admits that the three lads will be missed, Alex is not too concerned about the strength of his starting crew or his chances of holding his own with the visitors. All the excitement Alex is worried about is the condition of his boys and if he drives them as he hopes to, there should be some entertaining action. He will start the Scherk brothers, Syd and Don, Jim Platen and Rupe Holkestad, Bill Sunberg, Lefty Carlson, Reg Lavigne, Don Hartwig, Ray Spring and Sonny Beynon.

For the first time in many seasons Beynon will not be a starting guard and will be used sparingly due to his inability to get into proper condition.

Tonight Brownwoods will like-

ly climb into the coveted first place spot with Co-op in the Senior League by defeating Gordon and Andersons in the senior fixture of the evening. I don't like to predict defeat for Montgomery's Marvels but I'm afraid it's just going to be that way until the boys get a little more experience. It's not from want of trying either, or the want of anxious coaching from the Doc. It's just a case of fast-est with the mostest and the hardware merchants just ain't got the mostest.

And a sharp reprimand from Angus MacPhee for stating in this column that he relinquished his position as coach of the all-star squad due to his inability to find time for practices. This, according to Angus, is all a grave misunderstanding and the Scot insists that it was a case of the boys not finding enough time for him. MacPhee is fast becoming the picture of frustration due to the department of his Co-op club who usually turn out three strong for practices and are beginning to gaze upon the heels of the Brownwood club—something MacPhee doesn't seem to relish.

(Continued on page 5)

OTTER INVASION
PAINTON, England — Otters by dozens have been invading gardens on riverbanks in the

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DEATH NOTICE

DAVIDSON—On December 14, 1950, in Vancouver, Jonathan, age 48 years 3 months, beloved husband of Mrs. Sarah Davidson, 1352 Pigot Ave., Prince Rupert, Interment to follow in Vancouver, Harold Edward Ltd. in charge of arrangements. (1tp)

CARD OF THANKS

Mrs. William McLeod is deeply appreciative of the many expressions of sympathy and acts of assistance during her recent bereavement. She wishes to especially thank Dr. J. A. MacDonald and members of the staff of the Prince Rupert General Hospital. (1tc)

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Ambrose Ryan, who departed this life December 19th, 1949. There is a wife who misses you sadly. And finds the time long since you went. And thinks of you daily and hourly. But tries to be brave and content. But the tears that I shed in silence. And I breathe a sigh of regret. For you were mine, and I remember. Though all the world forget. Sadly missed by your wife Lil and children. (1tp)

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FOR SALE—Astral refrigerator, used 2 months, \$125.00. Also wartime heater, \$10.00. Apply evenings, week-days, 1455 6th East. (299p)

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FOR SALE—Chicken ranch, equipment, good frame buildings, school, stores. Price \$1800. \$600 cash balance like rent. Other interests. Mrs. Fay Rowe, Kitwanga, B.C. (295p)

FOR SALE—One McClary Acm coal and wood stove, \$18.00. Apply 249 9th Ave. West. (295p)

FOR SALE—Single bed and spring, \$10.00 3/4 spring-filled mattress, \$9.00. No. 5, Killias and Christopher. (295p)

FOR SALE—Girl's bicycle and other articles. Phone Black 290. (295p)

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WANTED—TOP MARKET PRICES PAID for scrap iron, steel, brass, copper, lead, etc. Honest grading. Prompt payment made. Atlas Iron & Metals Ltd., 250 Prior St. Vancouver, B.C. Phone Pacific 6357. (1tp)

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