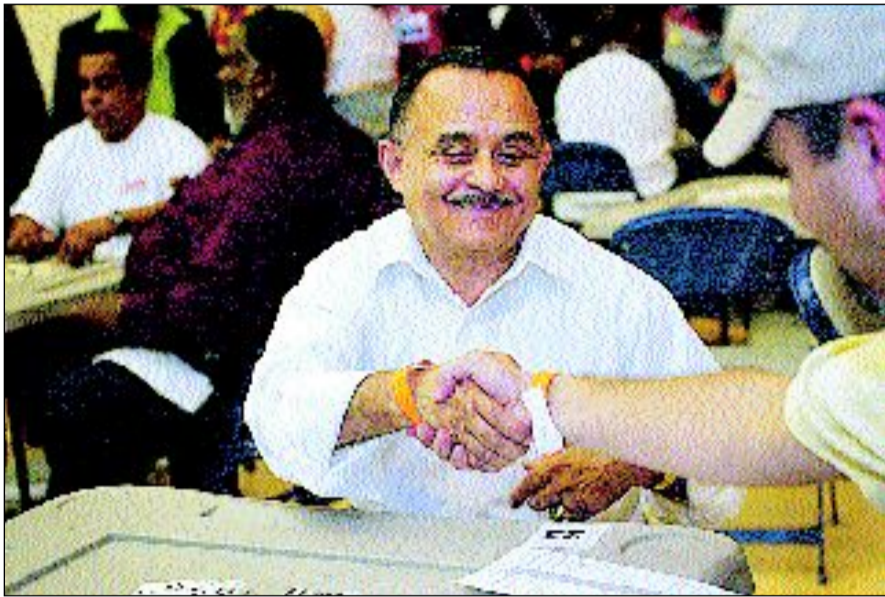


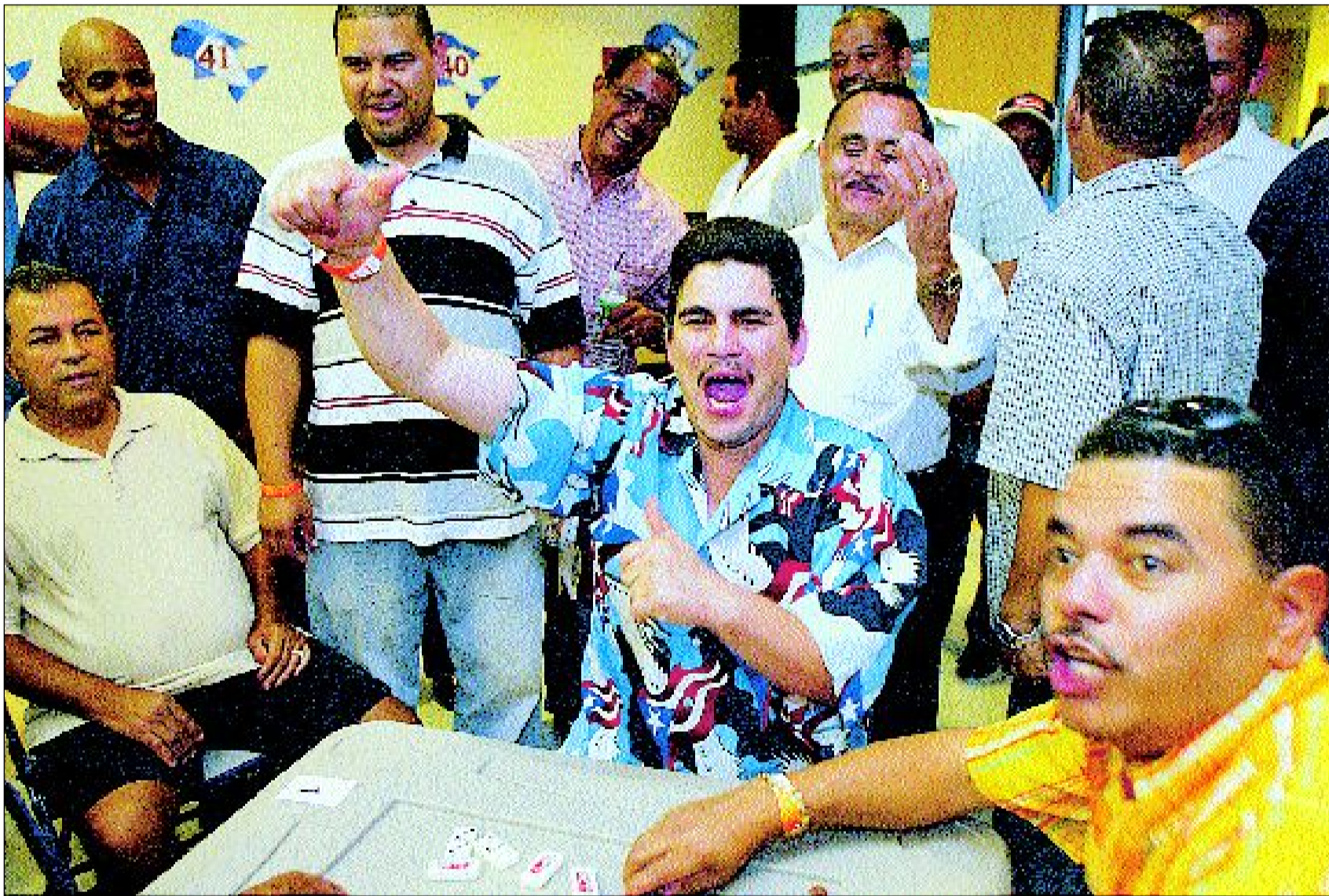
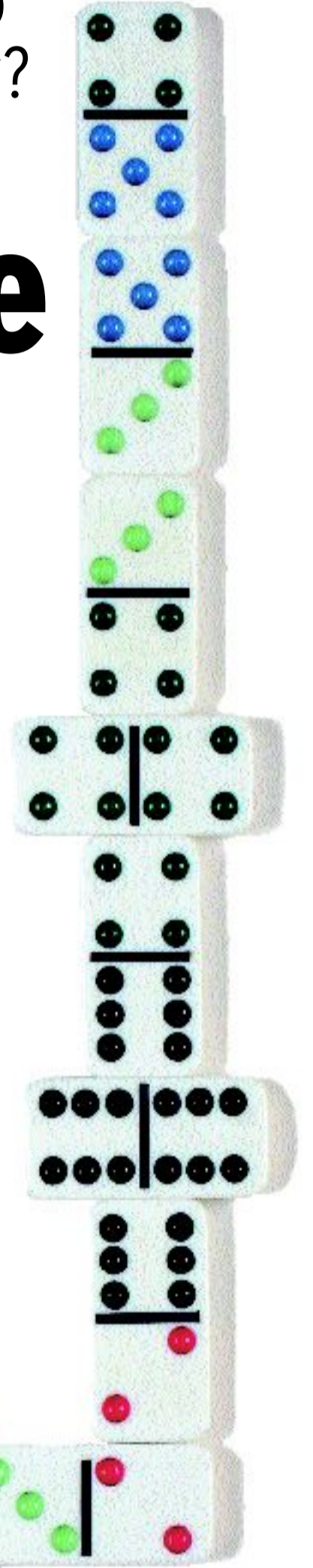


Is Sen. George Allen Jewish?
Does it matter? What does it mean? **B5**



A game of skill, chance and close relationships, is dominoes primed to become the next poker?

Laying it on the line



Top photo: Anibal Silva of Paterson shakes hands with an opponent following one of his matches at the first annual Domino Tournament of Champions in Perth Amboy. Above, Silva, behind center, watches participants play for fun between rounds at the tournament.

By **CAROLINA BOLADO**
Herald News

Forty minutes on the clock. An official gives the signal to begin, and a roar of clicking noises fills the auditorium, as 156 competitors shuffle their dominoes. Round 1 of the 2006 Domino Tournament has begun.

Over at Table 22, Anibal Silva of Paterson already feels frustrated. It's just a few minutes into the six-hour tournament, and he's

On the Web

Log on to northjersey.com/dominoes for a bilingual, multimedia look at the 2006 Domino Tournament of Champions.

stuck with a partner randomly assigned to him. Silva's regular dominoes partner, Eddie Crespo, is in New Orleans on business.

"He killed me with that," Silva says, shaking his head.

The minimum number of games necessary to develop a rapport with a new partner is 12, Silva says; at the tournament, each pair plays only five. Despite Crespo's absence, Silva has decided to give the Perth Amboy tournament, held at the Robert Wilentz School, a shot anyway. It's the first time he's competed with an unknown partner.

"I don't want to put my partner down, but I really like to win," he says. "That's the bottom line. I can't accept losing."

Neither can his fellow competitors. They're passionate about this game that most have played since they were old enough to count. And they're helping transform dominoes from a casual game



Photos by Leslie Barbaro



Anibal Silva's cheering section included, from left, his wife, Carmen, Stephanie Rosario, Ferneli Familia, Cynthia Wells and Fernando Turbi.

Please see **DOMINOES**, B6

