

# EIGHT POINTS NEEDED

The score was yellow 70 and black 67. Black had the 67 and the hammer. Black needed eight points. Seven wouldn't do. How does black get eight points?

Play was at the foot of the court in a doubles match. Black had the hammer and could try and shoot for an eight, but knew it probably never happen. Yellow, would most surely put his last disc into the seven. Black would have to shoot at it because it would be the game score.

Black could shoot the hammer for a ten against a yellow seven but that would only tie the score and wouldn't be worth the gamble.

So as the frame started, Black was resigned to having to the hammer to remove yellow's seven and hope would be to kitchen it. Yet even that would make the score 60 to 74 and with two yellow hammers coming, the game would still be in jeopardy.

Yellow also had been thinking about black's need for an eight and would be going into the seven with the seventh disc. Yellow was aware of the score and knew how to hold off black. Or did he?

It was time to play and yellow led out with a St. Pete. Yellow didn't want to go on the board and take a chance of getting put into the kitchen. It was a good lead but not if yellow wanted to be in the seven on black's hammer. Do you know why?

"There's an opportunity here." As yellow expected, black cleared the St. Pete, taking the chance yellow would replace it with another. Yellow did.

Zing. Black shot an eight and left the yellow St. Pete sit. Yellow knew he goofed and was trapped. All yellow could do now was clear the eight and did.

So black shot another eight. And there yellow was, down to his last shot, the seventh disc. This was the disc that was going to be put into the seven for black to waste the hammer on. Now yellow was looking at a black eight on the board. Yellow had to knock it out. What could he do?

If yellow cleared the eight, it would leave an open board on black's hammer to shoot for the winning eight. If yellow replaced the eight, held it, and kitchened black, there was some hope but it might get reversed. If that shot was unsuccessful black would have a shot for the eight, and even possibility have a backstop.

Yellow made a good choice, hitting the eight on the outside at kitchen speed but rolled the shooter to the side.

Black now had an open board for the hammer and could shoot for the winning eight.

Black positioned the disc carefully, thought about the last hammer sent that way and mentally adjusted for drift and speed. Away the disc went, dead on target approached the 10/8 line and passed over into the eight. Whew! Didn't want to come up short but, the darn thing kept going. Why didn't it stop? The dangerous 7/8 line was getting closer and closer. @#!&"@!!...it stopped, touching the cursed line. No eight, no game, no match.

Black lost that game and in the third game built a 35 to 8 lead, blew that, recovered, and then lost. Black was done, out of the tournament.

Sound familiar? Such is life in shuffleboard.

