

GOOD THINKING

Here is a game situation where black is ahead at 69 black to 52 yellow.

It was a doubles match with play at the foot.

Black has the hammer.

Black has a seven in the corner on the yellow –side. Black also has ten-off near the center. Yellow has an open eight on the black side, centered, about eight inches deep.

Play had moved to black's third shot, the sixth of the frame. Should black remove his 10-off?

What would you do?

If black removes the yellow eight and plays to keep two scores, black would end the frame with five points maximum – the seven, the ten-off and hopefully an eight. But 5 plus 69 equals 74, one point short of the required 75.

Should black remove the kitchen on this shot, his third? If he did, yellow would likely remove the black seven and, if he didn't kitchen it, black can score the winning points by replacing the eight with his hammer.

Black however, with his third disc, lined up his shot aiming toward the black seven area. Black wasn't removing the ten-off and wasn't replacing the yellow eight. The disc came down the court and hit nothing. It simply took a cover position over the black seven. It was a good cover, but with a black seven, a ten-off and an eight on the hammer it would net five and a 74 total.

Yellow shot at the cover, trying to drive it into the seven to remove that score, but left the seven. So black lined up his hammer with the board looking like it does in the diagram.

Black shot his hammer hard and fast, slammed into the 10-off and both discs were removed. Black had won the game.

Black's tactic, covering the seven, had worked well.

Removing the ten-off on the third shot, likely would have worked too. In either case yellow has a chance to kitchen a black disc on his fourth shot and could have hurt black if successful. It was also possible for black to replace the yellow eight with the third disc. If black succeeds black would likely win, but if he rolls to a line, yellow would still be at 52, needing and three scores on their hammers to win.

Would you remove the ten-off or cover the seven, replace the eight or something else?

How would you have played it?

