

## **“How about the got three, get four rule?”**

The situation is shown in the diagram. Black is ahead with the score at 35 to 55. It's a doubles match, the black players are up one game, play is at the head, and black has the next two hammers. Yellow has had a bad frame. Black is about to shoot his third disc, the sixth of the frame. On the board, as shown in diagram, are two black sevens and a yellow 10-off. The seven on the left is high and close to both lines, the 10-off is mid-deep, and the right-side seven is in the center of the seven. The court drifts from yellow to black.

What is black's shot?

Black shot to a location to the right of the eight area to cover the outside corner of the seven attempting to prevent a reverse. Black didn't get the block far enough and left yellow a shot at the reverse. Yellow's shot went to wide though, and missed everything. Black shot an eight with the hammer for a score of 10-off and 23 and a victory.

The “got three, get four rule” called for another black score, either in the left eight or in a similar spot in the right eight. (The rules also says got two, get three.)

Now let's say that black does shoot to the left eight. Yellow can then try to reverse using either the seven or the new eight. Let's say he uses the seven. He reverses the 10-off and keeps his own seven, a little wider than the black one was. Black still has the hammer and can replace the seven but the split would be too wide for a reverse. That would give black 12 for the frame and move the score to 35 to 67. Not too bad.

Yellow could have tried a reverse using the eight instead of the seven and that ends up the same. But if yellow gets lucky and the eight knocks out one of the sevens on the way to the reverse, things begin to slip away.

But then with the third score on the board, a missed reverse (or missed kitchen for the black disc) leaves the door open for black to score the hammer for three scores and a win.

“Got two, get three”. “Got three, get four”. Start there. Then think a little about what shot may even be better, one that perhaps may seal a win. If you find one, shoot it. But don't think too long. Tossing on

another good score always will be a good choice and probably the best. What do you think?

