

Bob and Ted On Tactics

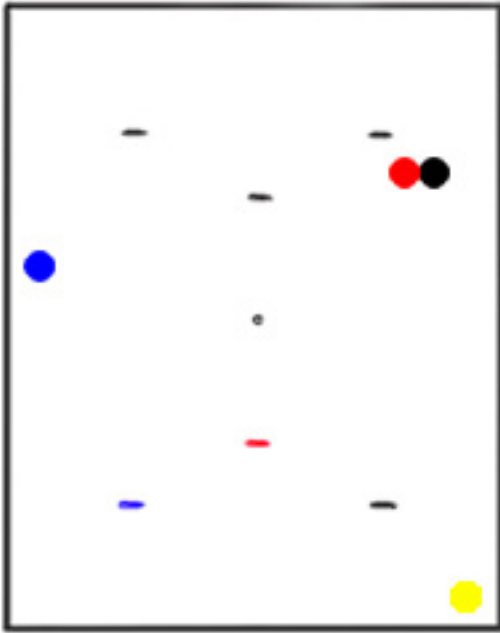


Diagram 1

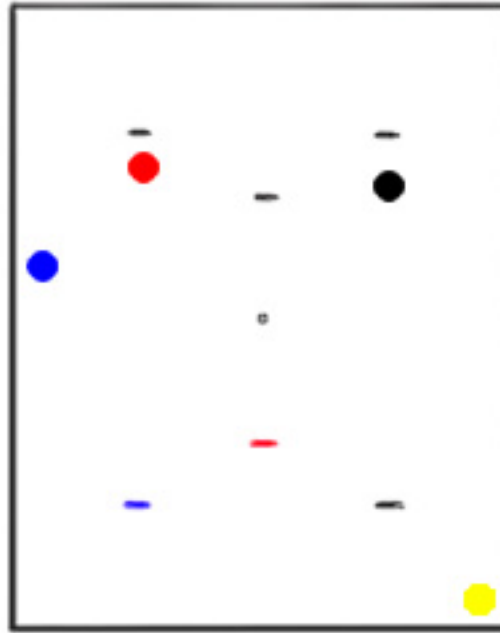


Diagram 2

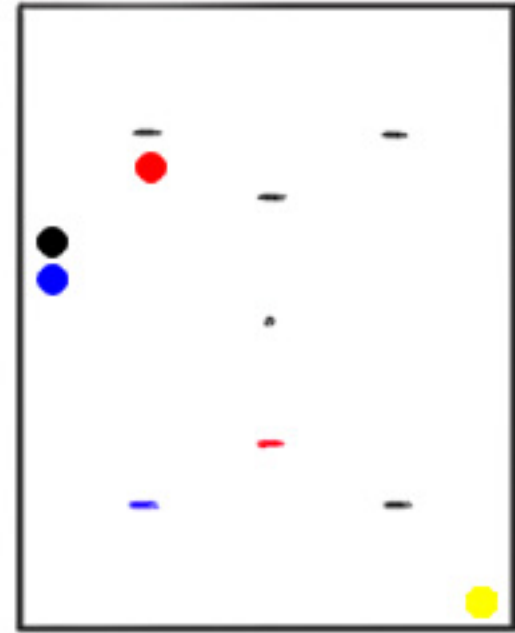


Diagram 3

When trying to set up your partner with a three ball break, there are some basic do's and don'ts. Diagrams 1 - 3 show the preferable way. In Diagram 1, black is in play, ball in hand on red having just made #3 wicket. Black's partner blue is for #2 alive on all balls. Not that is critical to this play but red and yellow are for #2 alive on all balls. Continuing with Diagram 1, black aims red, not to blue, but to blue's wicket with the result shown in Diagram 2. If the striker attempts to send red to blue, red might land too far from blue or be accidentally put out of bounds by blue depriving black of its continuation stroke. By sending red to #2 rather than to blue, it allows black to simply shoot out of bounds by blue with the continuation stroke allowing blue to choose the appropriate croquet shot (a drive shot) if the result is what is shown in Diagram 3. Having said all this, there are times you must send red to blue. (See Diagrams 4 - 6.)

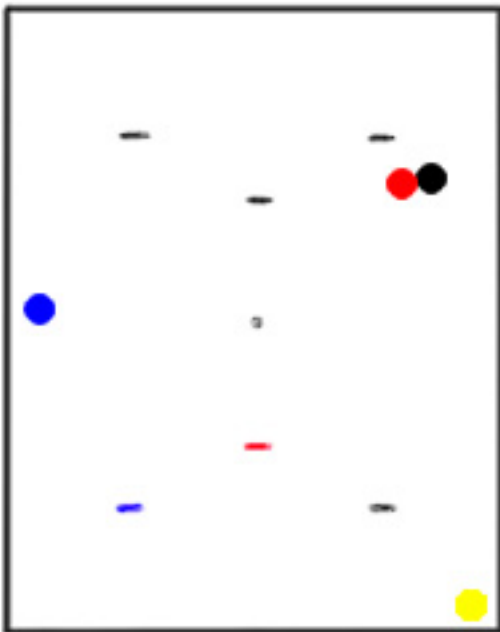


Diagram 4

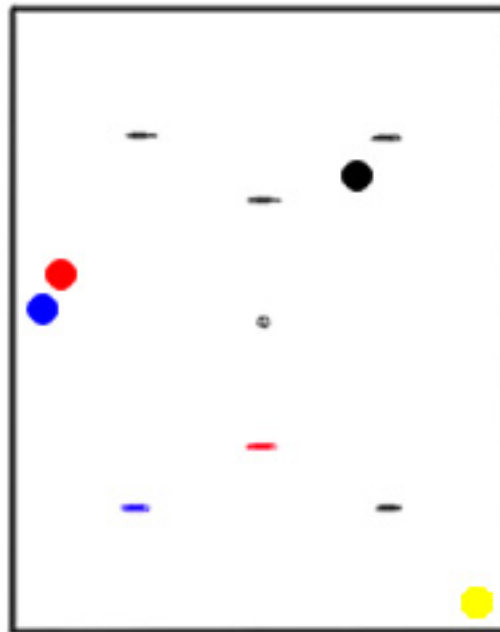


Diagram 5

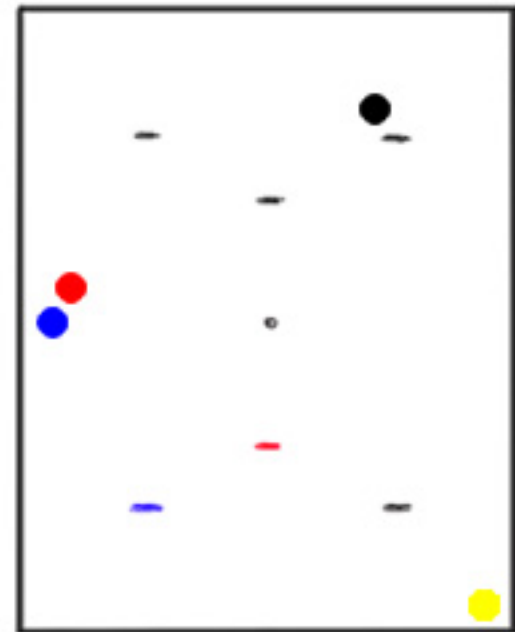


Diagram 6

Diagram 4 has the same conditions as described in Diagram 1 except here blue is dead on black only. With this deadness, black must send red to blue. Here black must use its muscle memory skills by sending red to blue giving blue a rush to #2. This is not an easy shot but clearly the best strategy in this situation. Assuming black was successful as shown in Diagram 5, black would want to shoot to blues pioneer wicket (#3) shown in Diagram 6. For both of these examples to work, the danger ball yellow must be ineffective, in this case, a great distance from blue's wicket.

Bob Kroeger and Ted Prentis are authors of the "Croquet Strategy Books for Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Players" published by the CFA. They have also just released their two most recent videos on DVD, 'Staying Alive ~ Winning Croquet Tactics' and "You Make the Call ~ Making the Best Play". All are available through the USCA.