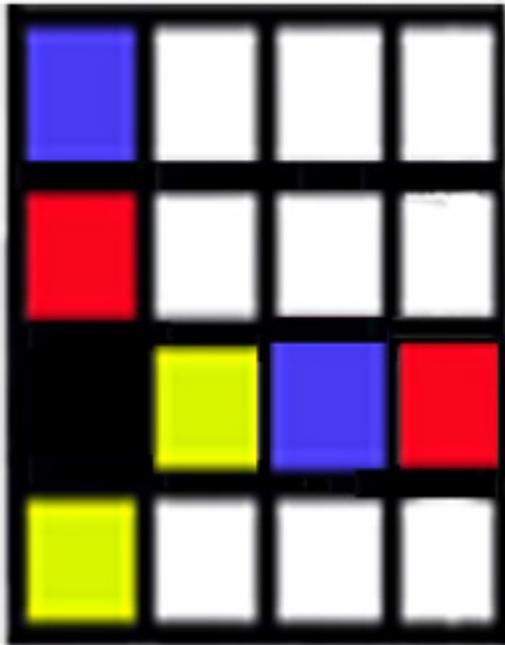


Bob and Ted On Tactics



DEADNESS - CHASE THEORY

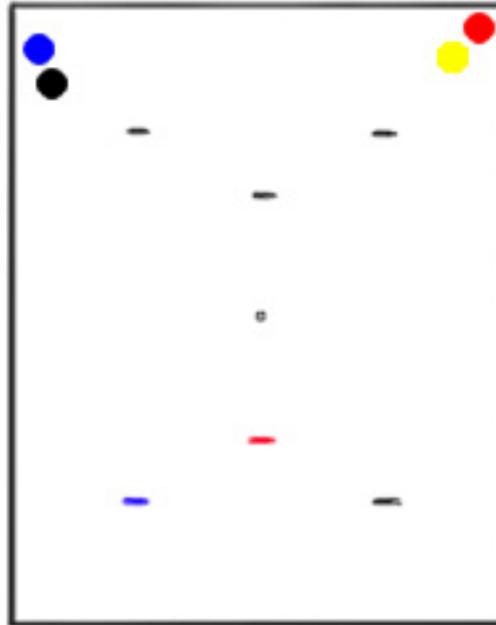


Diagram 1

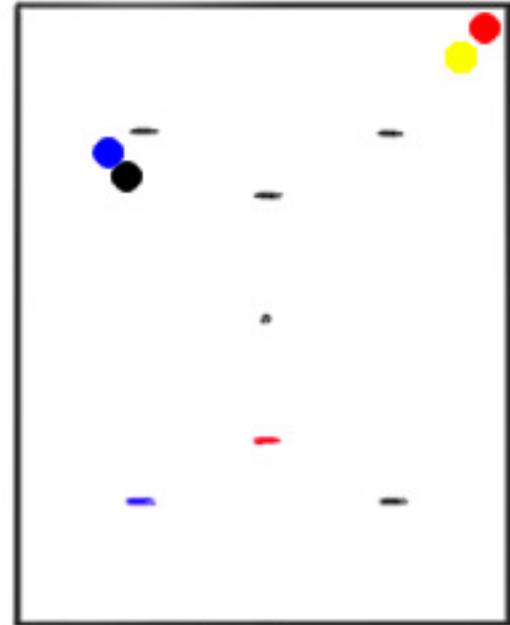


Diagram 2

From the first day of play, we all quickly grasp the theory of how to get dead. The problem lies with how to get clean once we get dead. We refer to this as deadness theory. Let us say that black is three balls dead as shown on the deadness board. Blue and black are both going for the second wicket while red and yellow are going for the third wicket. Blue and black face the unenviable problem of how to get black clean. It is always beneficial to have the clean ball of a side going for the same wicket as the dead partner because the live or clean ball can rush the dead partner to position for the wicket and with luck peel it or at least leave the dead partner in position to make the wicket on the partner's next turn and still make the wicket itself. In the Diagram 1, blue and black have located on the boundary near the second wicket and black has given blue a rush to the wicket. Likewise, yellow has given red a rush to the third wicket. In Diagram 2 blue rushes black near position but not into an easy place to do a peel.

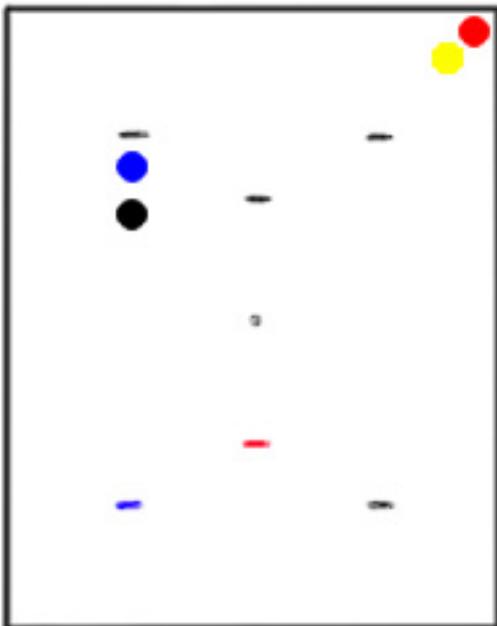


Diagram 3

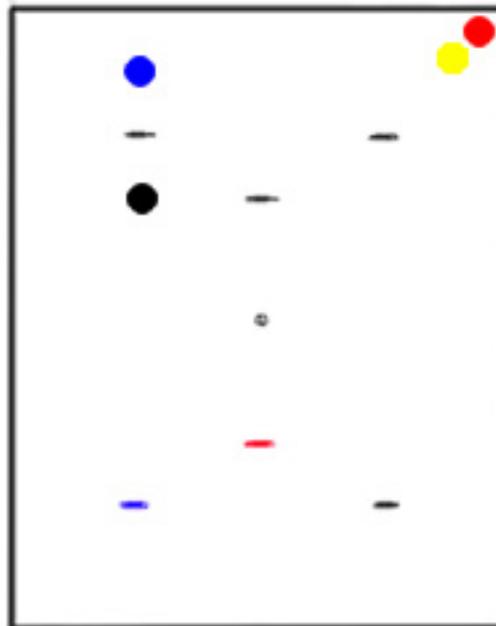


Diagram 4

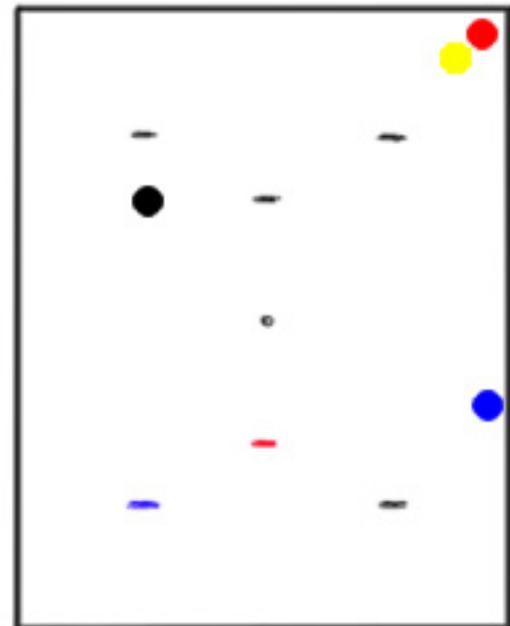


Diagram 5

Diagram 3 shows blue splitting black to slightly deep position while blue makes close position for the wicket. In Diagram 4 blue scores the wicket and gets clean. Where does blue locate on its continuation shot? If blue remains on the court, it is vulnerable to red's possible attack. Blue should locate out of bounds, but where? Let's consider red's next play. It appears as if red will rush yellow to the third wicket and then make that wicket. If red then wishes to attack black in order to keep black from getting clean, red will have to play off of yellow to get to black, hit black and then destroy it. Red will then have to get clean - where? Red will have to go to the fourth wicket in order to get clean and that is precisely why blue should have gone out of bounds guarding the fourth wicket as shown in Diagram 5. Please note blue goes caddy corner to the wicket so that if it takes any shot at a ball in front of the wicket, it does not have far to go to get out of bounds. This is known as 'Chase Theory'. The dead ball takes or is left in position while the live ball partner guards the wicket that the opponent's ball must make after attacking the dead ball.

Deadness Theory is discussed and illustrated in detail in the Croquet Strategy Books by Bob Kroeger and Ted Prentis, produced by the Croquet Foundation of America and available from the USCA.