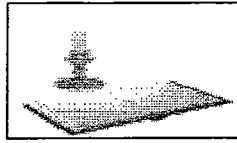


Discarding Tips

#7

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DISCARDING EFFECTIVENESS-PONE LESSON

Cribbage combines multi-faceted intellectual strategies with the excitement of a game of chance. One of the important strategies is that of discarding to the crib. This lesson focuses on discarding to opponent's crib. *DISCARDING IS VERY IMPORTANT AS TWO-THIRDS OF ALL CRIBBAGE VICTORIES ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE COUNT OF ONE OR MORE CRIBS.*

A gain of one point in your crib average and a loss of one point in pone's crib average will make eighteen points difference in the average game of cribbage. You would like to "balk" or "bust" pone's crib. So what are the premises for successful discarding to the crib of your opponent?

1. Discard two cards that will offer little help in establishing sequences, 15-2's or triplets
2. The king is the most effective balking card followed closely by the queen. In a few instances the queen may be preferable.
3. Avoid when possible the discard of the Jack to your opponent as the Jack is the key connecting card among the 10-point cards and has a 25% chance of counting one point as "nobs".
4. Avoid touching cards whenever possible.
5. Be wary of cards with one space between them (K-J, Q-10, J-9, 10-8, 9-7, 8-6, 7-5, 6-4, 5-3, 4-2 and 3-1) as it only takes one card from the dealer to complete the sequence and a double run on the cut is a frequent result.
6. Although cards of the same suit only average .05 more than cards of different suits, if possible, place cards of different suits to pone's crib.
7. Hang onto a five-spot if at all possible (it averages nearly 6.0 to the crib regardless of crib composition).
8. Be prepared to sacrifice, depending on board position, a few points (generally 1 or 2) in hand to make a defensive discard. There are times when a greater sacrifice should be made and we will review a few of these when we study board position

SO WHAT ARE THE BEST DISCARDS THAT CAN BE MADE TO PONE'S CRIB

TO MINIMIZE CRIB COUNT?

DISCARD	AVERAGE	TESTED IN ACTUAL PLAY
10-K	3.829	3,535
9-K	3.926	2,392
6-K	4.094	1,770
6-Q	4.146	1,182
9-Q	4.150	1,484
8-K	4.154	1,756
7-10	4.169	1,676
6-10	4.217	1,483
A-Q	4.228	2,460
7-Q	4.248	2,037
7-K	4.254	1,793
8-Q	4.322	1,980
A-K	4.345	2,400
4-K	4.352	1,338
A-9	4.354	1,422
4-Q	4.448	1,233
2-K	4.461	1,139
6-J	4.466	898
3-K	4.469	1,643
2-9	4.530	1,895
4-10	4.534	862
Q-K	4.534	1,460
A-10	4.539	1,751
3-Q	4.545	932
8-J	4.555	1,171
2-10	4.558	1,219
4-9	4.559	1,232
2-Q	4.566	1,344
3-10	4.569	958
10-Q	4.611	1,348
2-J	4.625	843
J-K	4.638	1,297
A-J	4.692	1,644

3-J	4.703	938
7-J	4.731	737
3-6	4.783	846
2-7	4.807	1,359
2-6	4.807	913
3-7	4.808	1,218
A-7	4.847	964
9-J	4.848	443
A-8	4.860	1,323
2-8	4.906	1,167
4-8	4.932	950
A-3	4.948	1,995
4-7	4.976	632

COMMENTS: Only the 10-K and 9-K average less than 4.0 points to pone.

THE ABOVE DISCARDS ARE THE ONLY CHOICES WHICH AVERAGES LESS THAN FIVE POINTS TO OPPONENT CRIB. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT DISCARD CHOICES MADE TO OPPONENT AVERAGE HIGHER THAN THE SAME CHOICES MADE TO OWN CRIB. CLASSIC EXAMPLE COMPARES THE 8-8.



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