

DEATH HAND



The Death Hand is a large, ballistic cluster missile used by the Harkonnens, that some say is named after a similar-looking rude hand gesture.

While spying behind Harkonnen lines, you observed an 8-man crew playing their Harkonnen variant of the traditional game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors".

The Harkonnen variant was played amongst 8 players using cards, with each player starting with a hand of seven cards comprising one card showing the rude Death Hand gesture, and two cards showing each of the other three Rock, Paper, Scissors gestures.



Normal rules apply for the three standard gestures - Rock beats Scissors, Scissors beats Paper, Paper beats Rock, and the same gestures result in a draw. The Death Hand beats all the other three gestures, drawing only with another Death Hand.

In the game, each player dueled against every other player once in a round-robin format of 7 rounds, as shown in the pairing tables below.

Round 1

	Aleksi	v	Edric	
	Blaise	v	Gamont	
	Cael	v	Horx	
	Dhakar	v	Ferrih	

Round 2

	Aleksi	v	Ferrih	
	Blaise	v	Cael	
	Dhakar	v	Edric	
	Gamont	v	Horx	

Round 3

	Aleksi	v	Dhakar	
	Blaise	v	Horx	
	Cael	v	Gamont	
	Edric	v	Ferrih	

Round 4

	Aleksi	v	Horx	
	Blaise	v	Dhakar	
	Cael	v	Edric	
	Ferrih	v	Gamont	

Round 5

	Aleksi	v	Cael	
	Blaise	v	Ferrih	
	Dhakar	v	Gamont	
	Edric	v	Horx	

Round 6

	Aleksi	v	Gamont	
	Blaise	v	Edric	
	Cael	v	Dhakar	
	Ferrih	v	Horx	

Round 7

	Aleksi	v	Blaise	
	Cael	v	Ferrih	
	Dhakar	v	Horx	
	Edric	v	Gamont	

During each round, each pair of players simultaneously played a remaining card they own showing one of the gestures. The player with the winning gesture scored 3 points, while the loser scored 0 points, and both players scored a point for draws. After each round, the card played was discarded from each player's hand.

Here were your observations from the game:

1	Players have full knowledge of all cards played in preceding rounds.
2	Before the game, players first secretly decided on the player that they would play their Death Hand card against. Exactly one Death Hand card was played in every round except for one.
3	Half of the Death Hand cards were played against Gamont.
4	Edric played all his cards randomly and did not have any wins in all seven rounds.
5	Edric and Horx played their Death Hand cards with exactly two rounds inbetween.
6	Cael had no draws in all seven rounds.
7	Blaise had ingested some spice, and could foretell the card played by his opponent during each round, which helped him in playing the card against it that would maximize his score gained. Because of this, he only lost once in the last round.
8	Horx played his Death Hand card in an odd-numbered round.
9	Amongst the Rock, Paper, Scissors gestures, Aleksi had cards of only one of these gestures left in his hand at the start of Round 5. Same for Ferrih at the start of Round 6.
10	Horx ignored strategy and played all his cards (besides the Death Hand) across the seven rounds in the order of Rock, Paper, Scissors.
11	Alexi played cards with the same gestures only in non-consecutive rounds. As did Blaise too.
12	<p>Unless otherwise indicated, players strategized the card played each round to maximize the expected score gained where possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This strategizing is based solely on the type/s of remaining gestures in their opponent's hand at the start of that round. - It does not factor in other considerations such as the number of each type, potential strategy of the opponent, or the impact to their remaining hands after the round. - If more than one option maximizes the expected score, then one of those gestures was played randomly. <p>(Note that observations of how cards were played are factual, and not necessarily determined by how players strategized, unless otherwise indicated)</p>
13	The highest number of draws in a round was three.
14	All three gestures Rock, Paper, Scissors were played in Round 2, and a different number of times each.
15	Gamont played cards with the same gesture only in consecutive rounds.
16	Cael played a Rock card against Edric.
17	A total of five cards with the Paper gesture were played in Round 5.
18	Rock and Paper were equally the most played gestures in Round 1.
19	Gamont played the Paper gesture in Round 6.
20	Edric played a Scissors card against Aleksi.