

The PuzzlOR

Decision Support Puzzles for Applied Mathematicians

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October 2014 - Fighters



Four different fighters are having an all-out battle to determine who among them is the strongest. The image above shows those four fighters: Allan, Barry, Charles, and Dan.

Each fighter has varying attack and health abilities. At the start of the battle, they have differing health points: Allan has 10, Barry has 12, Charles has 16, and Dan has 18. Also, each fighter has differing attack points: Allan has 4, Barry has 3, Charles has 2, and Dan has 1.

The battle takes place over multiple rounds, each round consisting of a single attack. In each round, one random attacker and one random defender are chosen. When the attacker attacks a defender, the defender loses health points in the amount equivalent to the attacker's attack points. For example, if Allan is the attacker and Barry is the defender, Barry would lose 4 health points.

The fighters continue to randomly attack and defend in subsequent rounds until there is only one fighter left, who is then declared the winner. A fighter is removed from the battle when his life points become zero (or less).

Question: Which fighter is most likely to win the battle?

Send your answer to puzzlor@gmail.com by December 15th, 2014. The winner, chosen randomly from correct answers, will receive a \$25 Amazon Gift Card. Past questions can be found at puzzlor.com.

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