



Handicap Go (Elementary Go Series) (Volume 7)

By Yoshiaki Nagahara, Richard Bozulich

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In handicap games, the handicap stones are high on the star points and are not efficient in securing territory. It is therefore natural and strategically correct for Black to emphasize influence. However, kyu-level players lack the ability and the confidence to play an influence-oriented game; instead of taking chances on positions in which the territorial boundaries are not clearly defined and are often wide open, they prefer to build iron-clad territories in the corners and on the sides. This is strategically unsound. Kyu-level players also tend to play defensively and are not inclined to attack the stronger player. The result is that their opponent steadily starts gaining an advantage in both territory and influence after the first few moves of the game. The correct strategy for Black in handicap games is to place priority on building influence and to use this influence to relentlessly attack. This way of playing might seem to be unreasonable against a strong opponent, but it will actually make your handicap games less complicated and your strategic goals more clear. It is the aim of this book to teach the principles and techniques that will enable the kyu-level player to play this kind of game. Handicap Go starts out with a chapter laying out 20 principles that a player should constantly keep in mind while playing their games. The second chapter outlines a ‘sure-win strategy’ that Black can use in his games to increase his chances of winning. The third chapter looks at handicap games from the viewpoint of White. The fourth chapter presents four example games. The book ends with 38 problems that expand on the theoretical discussions contained in the first chapters and explore variations that were omitted there.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Nagahara Yoshiaki was born on December 5, 1939 in Gumma Prefecture, Japan. Disciple of Maeda Nobuakai 9-dan. Became 1-dan in 1959 and 7-dan in 2012. Has written several books on go in English. He has made many trips to Europe and the USA to promote the game of go. Richard Bozulich was born in Los Angeles in 1936. From the age of four until 17 he studied to become a concert pianist. He then studied Mathematical Logic at UCLA from 1953 to 1956 under Richard Montague. He transferred to UC Berkeley and graduated in mathematics in 1966. In 1967 he went to Japan to study go. In 1968 he founded Ishi Press Inc. in Japan and published more than 45 books on go. In 1982 he founded Kiseido Publishing Company and has published more than 60 book on go under that company. He started publishing a go magazine, Go World, in 1977. 129 issues were published until he stopped publishing it in 2013. He is said to be the most prolific writer of English-language go books, having written or translated almost 50 books on the game. He lives in Chigasaki, Japan and is the president of Kiseido Publishing Company.

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Robert Hester:

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