

Gotham's Next Top Henchman
Aaron Kaufman & Adam Maresca
Answer: **PROPOSAL**

This is a logic puzzle in disguise about reconstructing the bracket by figuring out the rules that govern who will advance, what rounds participants reach, and matching their initial seeds.

The five rounds are as follows, with the number of people who meet the criteria.

- *Scrabble* score for the total of the full name; highest moves on (32/16)
- Stock ticker of a *Fortune 1000* company; *Fortune 500* move on (16/8)
- Name either does or does not conceal the name of a color/hue (8/5)
- Name possesses all AEIOU vowels, AEIOU vowels in alphabetical order (4/3)
- Number of siblings also in the tournament; most siblings is winner (2/1)

The following information helps resolve those rounds with more possible henchmen than spots:

- Those eliminated in the Sweet 16 round are all ranked #600 or lower by *Fortune*.
- Timothy doesn't have a stock ticker, so the color hiding in his name doesn't matter.
- Rachel has no hidden color, and thus cannot reach the ordered-vowel semifinals.
- In the finals, Kaspar only has one brother, which loses to Cammy and her two sisters.

With this clear, every competitor's elimination round can be deduced. The only way the Sweet 16 round can feature all 16 stock tickers that can possibly move forward is for them to beat the person with a *Scrabble* score exactly one lower than theirs, locking in the face-offs that occur in the opening round. This, combined with the given ranks, leads to the complete seeding.

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| 1. Cammy "Daredevil" Willoughby | 17. Wolfgang "Wide Variety" Verhoeven |
| 2. Kaspar "Mastermind" Igoruvych | 18. Timur "Mockingbird" Igoruvych |
| 3. Paul "Yellow Pages" Lister | 19. Quentin "Needles" Acker |
| 4. Cassandra "Counterspin" Kimball | 20. Brock "Jazz Hands" Bonn |
| 5. Ursula "Ninja" Perez | 21. Crystal "Autopilot" Willoughby |
| 6. Isaiah "Bully" Masterson | 22. Chloe "Cruel" Willoughby |
| 7. Rachel "Trickshot" Xu | 23. Fred "Magic" Lovett |
| 8. Jim "Nighthawk" Johnstons | 24. Yancey "Fancy" Fauntleroy |
| 9. Gregory "Drop Dead" Yorkshire | 25. Franklyn "Foxy" Xenakis |
| 10. Diana "All Star" Hildegard | 26. Timothy "Recruiter" Loblaw |
| 11. Dave "Pistol" Zulinsky | 27. Ed "Grumpy" Gussleys |
| 12. Maxine "Original Gangster" Abramson | 28. Lauren "Matrix" Nichols |
| 13. Ozzy "Deep Freeze" Leonard | 29. Patrick "Lights Out" Tuckers |
| 14. Herbie "Rockstar" Biggles | 30. Olivia "Outlaw" Bishop |
| 15. Ali "Kamikaze Attack" Madison | 31. Xerxes "Pharaoh" Sadeghi |
| 16. Vincent "Vacuum" Vacuzzio | 32. Scott "Scuzzball" Scully |

Reading the first names of Riddler's hires in order spells the answer, **PROPOSAL**.

Author's Notes

Aaron: My original draft clued real people who had been on reality TV shows, but the round-winning criteria ended up too arcane.

Adam: I mostly just worked on cleanup duty here.