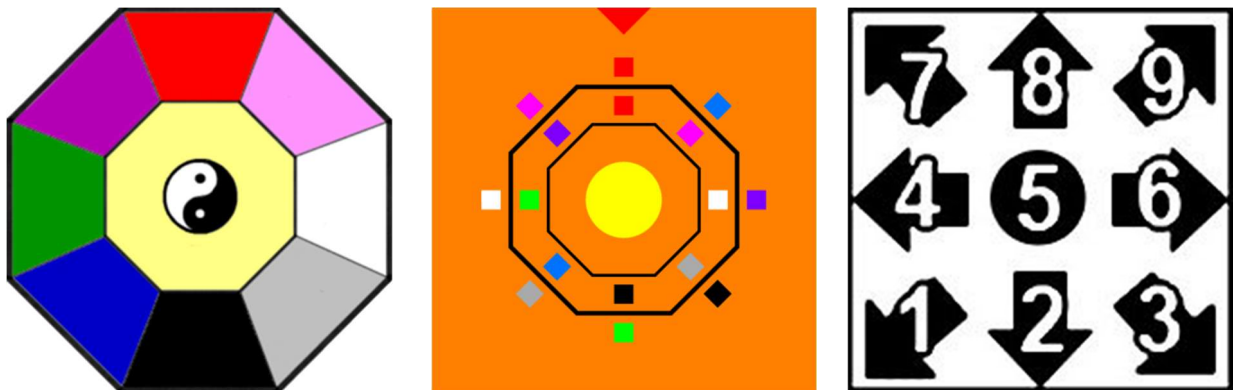


**Ultimate Flunky Championship**  
 Aaron Kaufman & Adam Maresca  
 Answer: **FIGHT SONGS**

The first step is to solve the eight crossword clues in the top right of the puzzle, and to realize that each is a common translation for the name of an I Ching hexagram. Solving the seven with enumerations, and finding that each force is appearing once as an upper trigram and once as a lower trigram, allows for deduction of the last clue.

Crossword Clue	Answer	#	Upper	Lower
Achieving enlightenment, or an Excel sort (9)	ASCENDING	46	Earth	Wind
Activity fun on social media, but suspicious on the street (9)	FOLLOWING	17	Lake	Thunder
Affirmative checkbox on a wedding RSVP (9)	ATTENDING	5	Water	Heaven
Burt Reynolds movie with foreboding banjos (11)	DELIVERANCE	40	Thunder	Water
Pitchers dream of doing this 28 times on their last game (8)	RETIRING	33	Heaven	Mountain
Shared responsibility for acetone and sex workers (9)	STRIPPING	23	Mountain	Earth
Watt per steradian per square meter (8)	RADIANCE	30	Fire	Fire
[You're going to need to find this to win...]	INNER TRUTH	61	Wind	Lake

Arrange these hexagrams on the octagon, with the lower/inner matching the traditional feng shui bagua layout. This is the start position for the diagram, with the double fire trigram rightly on top. This is the starting state of the diagram; please also note the Numerical Annotation system that is used to explain joystick positions in fighting games; this will be used for the “moves” to come.



Once the “fighting” begins and your fighting “combos” are brought into play, the inner ring of the diagram rotates in accordance with the circular action of the move, like the dial of a combination lock. “Attacks” clue which new trigram to take, “strong” meaning the trigrams match.

For example, “3 + 2 + 1 to BACK LOW ATTACK (STRONG)” is the first move. Start with the dial at “3” in the lower right, and turn it to position 1 in the lower left. The “attack” type always matches the end of the rotation, if any occurs; for the first move, this yields Heaven/Heaven.

Complete all ten moves in the sequence and note the hexagrams at each step.

Combination Instructions	Turn	Take Hex	Top	Bottom	#	Translation
3 + 2 + 1 to BACK LOW ATTACK (STRONG)	90° CW	lower left	Heaven	Heaven	1	FORCE
7 + 8 + 9 + 6 to FORWARD ATTACK	135° CW	right	Wind	Mountain	53	INFILTRATING
4 + 1 + 2 + 3 to FORWARD LOW ATTACK	135° CCW	bottom right	Water	Earth	8	GROUPING
BACK HIGH ATTACK	none	upper left	Earth	Mountain	15	HUMBLING
2 + 1 to BACK LOW ATTACK	45° CW	lower left	Heaven	Lake	10	TREADING
9 + 6 + 3 to FORWARD LOW ATTACK	90° CW	bottom right	Water	Thunder	3	SPROUTING
7 + 4 to BACK ATTACK (STRONG)	45° CCW	left	Lake	Lake	58	OPEN
4 + 7 to BACK HIGH ATTACK	45° CW	upper left	Earth	Lake	19	NEARING
2 + 3 + 6 to FORWARD ATTACK (STRONG)	90° CCW	right	Wind	Wind	57	GROUND
HIGH ATTACK	none	top	Fire	Mountain	56	SOJOURNING

The first letters of these hexagrams' common translations spell the answer, **FIGHT SONGS**.

### **Author's Notes**

Adam: Hoo boy we did shove a lot into this one. The real thrust was all Aaron, I just came in and said "but what if it spun?" and put on a nice thematic paint job with the ring!

Aaron: Feng shui and gamepad fighting games are not a natural thematic combo, but I think we made it work.