**The Answers: Sam and Bob**

Sam turned and gave Bob a fierce look. “I don’t care what he said. I’m not *letting him off the hook* **[fishing]**. *The ball is in my court* **[tennis]** and I’m running with it.”

“Just don’t *drop the ball* **[football]**,” Bob warned. “You’re *skating on thin ice* **[hockey]**. You may *almost* be *neck and neck* **[racing]** with him, but you haven’t *made the cut* **[all sports]** yet. *Take time out* **[all sports]** if you need to. Remember, there are a lot of people *going to bat for you* **[baseball]**.”

“Not enough. Not yet,” Sam grumbled. “I’m *on the ball* **[baseball]**, but some people are still waiting to *take sides* **[all sports]**.”

“Can you blame them? You’re the *dark horse* **[racing]**, Sam. Straight *out of left field* **[baseball]**. Just stay focused on the prize. If you *hit the bullseye* **[darts]**, none of this will matter.”

“Don’t worry,” Sam said. “I *have the upper hand* **[cards]** and I’m going to *beat him to the punch* **[boxing]**. I *learned the ropes* **[sailing]** the hard way, but I don’t have to *hit below the belt* **[boxing]** to win. My plan will *blind-side* **[football]** them with its simplicity. I’m going to *knock it out of the park* **[baseball]**.”

“Confidence is one thing, buddy. Being overconfident is another. Don’t *jump the gun* **[racing]**.”

“Chill, Bob. I’m *on target* **[darts]**, right where I should be. Thanks to you, I *got a head start* **[racing]**. He may have done this before, but this time it’s *three strikes and he’s out* **[baseball]**.”

Bob sighed. “Just *keep your eyes on the ball* **[ball games]** and *give it your best shot* **[shooting]**, Sam.” *Even if it is a long shot* **[shooting]***.* But Bob kept that thought to himself. “Remember, he’s *the front runner* **[racing]** and it’s probably going to come *down to the wire* **[racing]**.”

“*Don’t sweat it* **[all sports]**, man. This time I’m *taking the bull by the horns* **[bull fighting]**. I may be *out of his league* **[all sports]**, but my plan will *level the playing field* **[all sports]**. He’s *met his match* **[all sports]**. I won’t be the one to *throw in the towel* **[boxing]**. I’m *going the distance* **[boxing]**.”

**Answers:** 35 sports idioms from 12 individual sports.