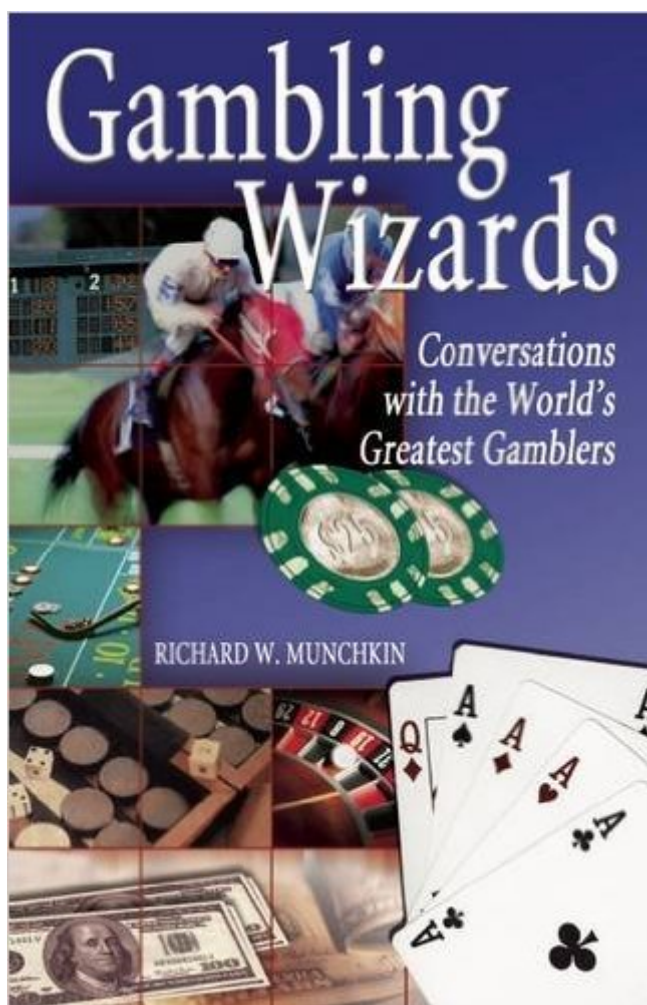


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Gambling Wizards: Conversations With The World's Greatest Gamblers



Synopsis

Can you imagine betting a million dollars on a football game or winning seven million on a single horse race? Can you even fathom what it would be like to be the resident backgammon player at the Playboy Mansion or to win the World Series of Poker … twice? How would you react if a gun-wielding casino owner demanded back the money that you won playing blackjack in his casino? It's all in a day's work for the gamblers in this book. Billy Walters — sports bettor Chip Reese — poker player Tommy Hyland — blackjack card counter Mike Svobodny — backgammon player Stan Tomchin — sports bettor Cathy Hulbert — blackjack/poker player Alan Woods — horse bettor Doyle Brunson — poker player It isn't luck. Collectively, they've won hundreds of millions of dollars playing the games most people consider unbeatable. Discover what it really takes to become a master gambler. *Gambling Wizards* delves deeply into the lives and minds of some of the most successful professional gamblers of all time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gambling Wizards is a must read whether you're aspiring to become a professional gambler or are just curious about what makes real pros tick. The book contains advice more valuable than any gambling "secret." You will learn from their successes, but more importantly, you learn from their mistakes without having to make them yourself. Read how some of them stumbled at first and went broke (perhaps multiple times), and then went on to make millions. Learn what's most important in being a great gambler -- there are a couple of things much more important than being the greatest player and playing perfectly. Best of all, you read it straight from the point of view of the players

themselves, not distorted by an author's agenda. Even seasoned gamblers, like myself, will benefit from reading the book, by reinforcing important ideas. I for one wish I could have read this book years ago -- I definitely would have made a lot more money. Andy Bloch (former blackjack player and professional poker player with 2 World Poker Tour finals)

This book has made me more money than any "How-to" book. The first time I read it, it was "only" entertainment. I thought "This was a really funny book, but I did not learn much". However, it was amazing how often I come to think of one passage or another while contemplating how to bet! I kept re-reading it, getting very useful hints on what to look for. It is now two years ago since I first read it and I got another one of these "flashbacks" while reading Ziemba's paper on horse betting markets. I thought "Didn't they mention this in Gambling Wizards?" They sure did - along with one expert telling you why the PhDs model is flawed! All in all, I have been reading over 50 gambling books and this has given me the most help along the way - even though it is not even a "How to" book! My highest recommendation. Get ready to be both entertained and educated.

"Gambling Wizards" is a compilation of interviews with gamblers who are the best in their field. Covering sports betting, blackjack, backgammon, horses and poker, Munchkin assembles an impressive array of talent to fill the content of his book. Do not expect the masters to reveal their inner gambling secrets. The professionals will not keep out information that will jeopardise the small edge that they possess. Do expect to see some of the attributes that are necessary to become a successful professional gambler. The traits that are necessary are much the same as in any other profession. You need skill, hard work, persistence, a healthy appetite for risk and of course a little bit of luck. Slightly alarming is the frequency with which the protagonists of the book go from being broke to being a millionaire and then back again. Although trivialised in the book, when a professional gambler goes broke it often represents damage that is irreversible. Nevertheless, each person in the book has character attributes worthy of emulation. A good read for historians of the game and those who wonder what it is like to be a professional gambler.

Gambling Wizards: Conversations with the Worlds Greatest Gamblers, gives you exactly what you read in the title. A short intro to each person interviewed then a Q&A format from there on, some questions have some prior research on the part of the author so he knew which way to lead the conversation as well as a couple standard questions asked each person like "If your teenager came to you and wanted to be a professional gambler, what would you say?". What I liked about this book

the most is the personal information learned about these very famous gamblers. How they started on the road of gambling, personality, views on other gamblers and what it is like to be a professional gambler. I didn't expect them to be so candid and honest. The stereotype that most gamblers are liars hooked on drugs and alcohol didn't even come close to being upheld, most of them talk about having a great routine of exercise and are either completely against drinking and drugs or very infrequently touch it, especially while "working". There are some really great stories about things that they've gone through, some shaken down by the government/police for money or flat out robbed by someone waiting in the parking lot. Being a millionaire one day, broke the next, and back again the day after. The gamblers don't give up secrets about particular games, which is something I didn't expect to see anyway since every time someone does then everyone knows and it doesn't work anymore. The book is what you would expect if you were buying based on the title, candid conversations with professional gamblers. I enjoyed it.

This book contains a series of 8 interviews with gamblers across a range of games (backgammon, horse racing, poker, other) of proportionate length and content. There is a standard range of in each discussion including youth, introduction to gaming, books, going broke, children and recommendations to others. Each interview is structured as an open ended question and answer session. The author is not familiar with some of the answers as evidenced by reference to Harvel (for Harville) and may have lost other details in the transcription. An interesting aspect of the book is the definition of gaming slang (e.g. going broke). None of the questions are very pointed and the answers are equally dull. There is nothing about the questions or answers which is going to "open the bank" for any one. Instead, the book points to hard work and frequent losing streaks for the interviewees. Recent interest in poker may stimulate some interest. It was interesting to compare and contrast the answers and come away with my own picture regarding the key factors to success.

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