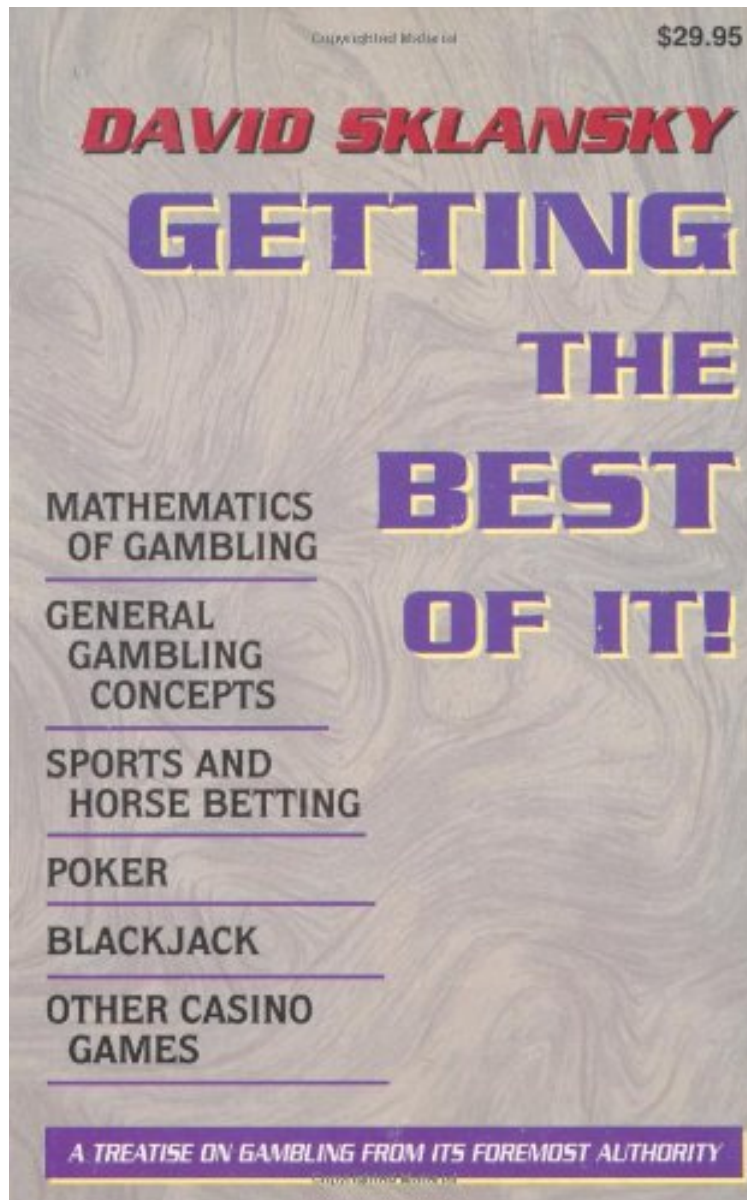


Getting the Best of It

David Sklansky

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David Sklansky : Getting the Best of It before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Getting the Best of It:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book, needs a little more.By B. BoalThe big revelation on craps is that if you bet 6 and 8 they hit 54% of the time. The problem is, if you win you get 7 if you lose you lose 12. I

had a roll that went 15 rolls with no 6/8 hitting. For crapless craps, buying the 12 for \$35 with commission on wins only (the Stratosphere might do this) is a 0.79% house edge and pays 6-1 (minus vig). The other thing I liked was a little info on key cards (i.e. knowing how many cards will give you a likely win on a hit, etc.), but it could have had more. I found the horse betting part insufficient. Carryovers can yield an edge if the pool doesn't get TOO big. A \$25,000 carry over makes a \$100,000 pool (before the house take of 25%) an even bet. If the carry over is \$200,000 and the pool is \$500,000 after the house take then you might have a 15% expectation. But if the pool gets too big, the house take eats it up and may go back to being a negative game. Keys to this are putting your bets in late and using a group of friends (syndicate) to reduce cost per person and increase the odds of winning. Still a major long shot. For every day races, under lays and over lays offer opportunities to complex to explain in this review. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Roy C. Wood MD Great47 of 49 people found the following review helpful. Good information, some of it needs to be updated. By Jake This book is largely composed of old essays that David Sklansky wrote during the 70's and 80's. Although he knows his stuff inside and out, this book is really not as useful as it could be. A la Stanford Wong, Sklansky wastes many pages regaling the reader with his exploits winning money from defunct downtown Las Vegas casinos during the 1970's. While these stories are interesting, they are nothing more than entertainment. He wastes a chapter telling us about a 1980's craps offshoot called crapless craps which may have been of interest to others in 1985, but no one would care about today. He also offers up a chapter on counting cards at baccarat and at the end tells us that other gambling experts have researched this matter and that it is not really feasible. He offers two chapters about beating progressive slot machines and at the end states that unfortunately progressive slots are different now. His section on poker includes a reprint of 10 pages of his book 'Hold Em' Poker which to me is a waste of space. On the positive side, the area of the book on probability is well done. His poker section has some interesting insights although the examples would be better if they were updated to show more hold em' examples and less draw and lowball examples. The sports betting section has some interesting insights but is a little short. The blackjack section I feel is a waste of space. A lot of the essays seem to show the mathematics behind basic strategy which is of interest only to those trying to recreate the wheel. All in all, considering the \$30 price tag, this book should get an update which makes it more relevant to today and should excise the essays which are no longer pertinent. I'm not questioning Mr. Sklansky's expertise at gambling, but I do question why certain parts of the book are left verbatim after 20 years.

Contains six sections discussing probability, poker, blackjack, other casino games, sports betting, and general gambling concepts. This book contains some of the most sophisticated gambling ideas that have ever been put into print. Included is perhaps the best discussion of the basic mathematics of gambling, yet it is written so that even the most non-mathematical of readers can understand it. Many of the ideas discussed are those that the author himself has successfully used during his career. Topics include expectation, combinations, Baye's Theorem, the eight mistakes in poker, checking in the dark, playing tight, The Key Card Concept, casinos and their mistakes, crapless craps, betting sports, hedging and middling, knowing what's important, the Law of Averages and Other Fallacies, and much more.

About the Author David Sklansky is generally considered the number one authority on gambling in the world today. Besides his ten books on the subject, David also has produced two videos and numerous writings for various gaming publications. His occasional poker seminars always receive an enthusiastic reception, including those given at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City and the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. More recently, David has been doing consulting work for casinos, Internet gaming sites, and gaming device companies. He has recently invented several games, soon to appear in casinos. David attributes his standing in the gambling community to three things: 1. The fact that he presents his ideas as simply as possible (sometimes with Mason Malmuth) even though these ideas frequently involve concepts that are deep, subtle, and not to be found elsewhere. 2. The fact that the things he says and writes can be counted on to be accurate. 3. The fact that to this day a large portion of his income is still derived from gambling (usually poker, but occasionally blackjack, sports betting, horses, video games, casino promotions, or casino tournaments). Thus, those who depend on David's advice know that he still depends on it himself.