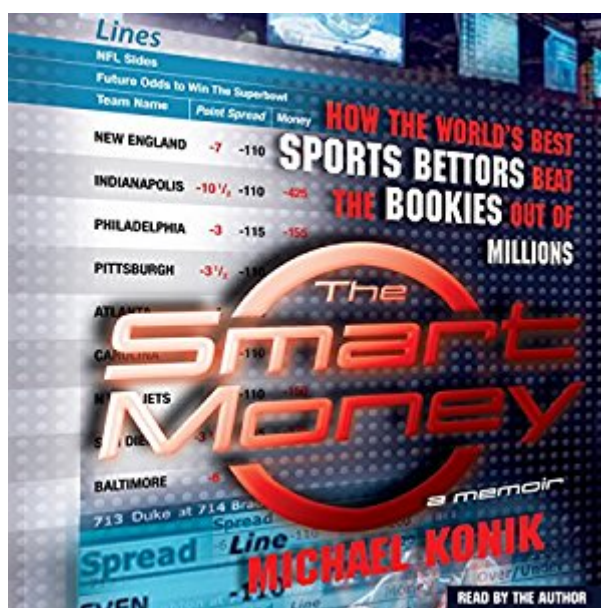


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# The Smart Money: How The World's Best Sports Bettors Beat The Bookies Out Of Millions



## Synopsis

A riveting inside look at the lucrative world of professional high-stakes sports betting by a journalist who lived a secret life as a key operative in the world's most successful sports gambling ring. When journalist Michael Konik landed an interview with Rick "Big Daddy" Matthews, the largest bet he'd placed on a sporting event was \$200. Konik, an expert blackjack and poker player, was no stranger to Vegas. But Matthews was in a different league: the man was rumored to be the world's smartest sports bettor, the mastermind behind "the Brain Trust," a shadowy group of gamblers known for their expertise in beating the Vegas line. Konik had heard the word on the street -- that Matthews was a snake, a conniver who would do anything to gain an edge. But he was also brilliant, cunning, and charming. And when he asked Konik if he'd like to "make a little money" during the football season, the writer found himself seduced . . . So began Michael Konik's wild ride as an operative of the elite Brain Trust. In *The Smart Money*, Konik takes readers behind the veil of secrecy shrouding the most successful sports betting operation in America, bypassing the myths and the rumors, going all the way to its innermost sanctum. He reveals how they -- and he -- got rich by beating the Vegas lines and, ultimately, the multimillion-dollar offshore betting circuit. He details the excesses and the betrayals, the horse-trading and the paranoia, that are the perks and perils of a lifestyle in which staking inordinate sums of money on the outcome of a single event -- sometimes as much as \$1 million on a football game -- is a normal part of doing business. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Interesting book. There's a sucker born every minute. If you are gambling and you don't know who the sucker is, it's you. I love books like this and was very impressed. I love reading about how guys with off-the-chart IQs figure out how to beat the market in various different sports betting markets. This one didn't fall short. It's like the book / story "Bringing Down the House" but for various types of sports betting, rather than black jack. Enjoy.

I have always enjoyed reading books written by people who tell a story about what it was like for them to do something that most people might never experience in their lifetime. Michael Konik tells his story about his life as a big time sports gambler. Konik begins telling you about his start in the world of professional sports gambling. He began making huge bets for some talented gamblers who were so successful they had to conceal their identities from the sports books. He writes about the highs and lows he experienced as he became more and more involved in the sports betting world. He ends at the point where he became disillusioned with his life as he evolved into one of the big, smart money bettors himself. This book is a first person account of a man's experiences in extraordinary circumstances. It's not just about gambling. It's also about the impact big money sports betting had on one man's life.

Seems like most of the people who criticized this book are doing so because they question the truthfulness of it, and/or it didn't deliver what they were looking for (ie the key to sports gambling riches). First off, in a way it DID deliver on the 2nd point. The secret is to build a computer model more accurate than the competition (the linemakers and the other high-rollers). What else do you expect the book to deliver? A CD with the coded algorithm on it? As for the veracity of the tale, honestly, I don't care. Regardless of the level of truthfulness, it's a wildly entertaining story, and I couldn't put the book down until I was finished. It provides a glimpse into a world few of us will ever have access to, and it's a fascinating chronicle of Konik's descent from a guy who got physically sick sweating out a \$4k "get-even" bet on a football game, to a guy who was churning \$30k and upwards per game, and having 6 figure bankroll swings on a given day. If I have a complaint, it's that I want to hear the stories from the perspective of the characters who actually did all the work. The only thing Konik brought to the table was hustle. His ability to find and cultivate relationships with the sports books was what made him valuable. Now I'd like to hear the stories of the guys who actually did the REAL work of devising the models.

I thoroughly enjoyed this read. This story of Michael Konik's adventure in to the world of high stakes

sports betting and the trials and tribulations that he encountered on that roller coaster ride is something very few of us will ever get to know but are richer for reading about. I won't go in to the storyline because I don't like to be a spoiler. I can say I was engrossed in how the story progressed as Konik became more and more well known amongst the bookies and their desire to prevent him from placing any kinds of 'real' bets. His association with the Brain Trust and how they operate is fascinating as you realize the business of betting successfully is just that, a business and is run as such. This is not really a book about how to bet sports but more a story on what to expect when betting on sporting events. Granted you will not likely win with the win expectancy that the author experienced but he did show that even when you have the odds in your favor there are times they still go against you. I recommend this to people who like to read about gamblers and how they operate. While I consider it a very well told story I will not give it a 5 star rating because it was a book I could put down for days at a time and while the read at times was compelling, the writing style was like that of a columnist and for 5 stars it would need to be better than that. This is a 4.5 star read.

I found this book to be relatively entertaining. However, anyone looking for specifics about how experts or their software actually calculates lines will be disappointed. Since Mr. Konik was a "beard" for the smart money for most of the book he is really just an order taker. Some readers may find sequences of him receiving orders to place bets then rushing down to the sportsbook to be boring. About 40% of the book is devoted to this. In the last 10% of the book he develops his own computer system however the specifics of what went into the programming was left to his friend Andy and we don't get much insight at all into what makes it tick. I did learn a bit about sports gambling in the late 90s early 2000s and his writing style agreed with me.

Every American man at one point in his life dreams of the fast life of Las Vegas. We talk about the high-roller status, the private jets and hotel entrances, the RFB (oh yes the full RFB), the showgirls, and betting more than the average guy, and winning more than the average guy. Mr. Konik lived this Vegas high life, made a fortune, and lived to tell about it. The Smart Money is Mr. Konik's seductive and suspenseful account how he and his group of high-rolling, numbers-driven, syndicated sports bettors did what most people just dream and talk about, and made out with millions to the dismay of bookies world-wide. Read this because someone proved it can be done, and you know you want to know how he did it. Mr. Konik writes with ease, great clarity, and a keen sense of storytelling. There are mini-stories within the global picture, and some of the most memorable characters captured in

writing about gambling. The best part of all this fantasy stuff is that it's a true story. Don't miss this.

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