

DEAL ME IN



Mark Pilarski

The Actions Behind Action

Dear Mark: You have used the term "action" a lot in your column. Exactly what does that mean for the typical blackjack player? Does it mean how much I'm betting per hand, or per session, or does it mean how much I need to bet to get my room comped?

Justin B.

I recollect describing "action" at least these two different ways: as gambles for the total amount of all your wagers, regardless of whether you win or lose, or, how the casino decides what comps you deserve for a crack at your play.

As an example of "action" representing the total amount of all your wagers-say you were to sit down at a blackjack table with \$200 and proceed to play 100 hands an hour over three hours, betting \$10 on each hand. Got it? Now multiply 100 (hands) times 3 (hours) by \$10, and it comes out \$3,000. This would be the amount of money you "put in action," even though your actual bankroll was just \$200.

The latter description regarding "action" is how most casinos base their complimentary policies, i.e. the criteria a casino would use to assess your rating and eligibility for comps.

The joints I worked in had a simple mathematical formula to figure what your play was worth to them. To get your goodies, they wanted you to bet a decent chunk of change for a calculated stretch of time, and then they'd base your RFB merit (room, food and beverage) on what you were probably going to lose.

They considered your average bet, how many hours you were possibly going to play, the speed of the game, and the casino advantage. These factors, in theory, computed essentially your expected loss to the house over that period of time.

Going back to our original example, Justin, suppose again you are betting \$10 a hand for three hours, averaging 100 hands per hour, and taking into account the house advantage of five percent the casino holds over the average blackjack player, the casino management could predict that you should lose \$150 (\$10 X 3 hrs. X 100 hands X .05 = \$150) of the \$3,000 wagered ("put in action").

Now that they theoretically see \$150 of your hard-earned money

coming their way, it would probably warrant a "good eats" extravaganza at the buffet.

Dear Mark: I'm writing to let you know that Atlantic City is changing their blackjack rules. On the \$10 or \$15 tables, at least half of them now hit a soft 17, and this rule change exists in the same casino. Only the \$25 and up tables does the dealer stop on all 17's.

Dave

Just so readers understand Dave's concern, anytime the dealer hits a soft 17 (and that's anywhere, not just Atlantic City), the house gets an additional two-tenths of one percent advantage over the player.

When the dealer gets that additional hit on a soft 17, the dealer can improve his or her hand with an Ace, 2, 3 or 4, or it remains the same with a 10, Jack, Queen or King. Consequently, eight of every 13 cards either improve the dealer's hand, or keep it the same. Moreover, if any of the other five cards is drawn, the dealer still has some chance to escalate his hand-value with yet another draw. A dealer whacking at a soft 17 might not drill a hole through your wallet, but I'd recommend playing on a game where the dealer stands.

By the way, Dave, the same basic strategy rationale dictates that the player should always hit a soft 17, or double down against a dealer who's showing a 3, 4, 5, or 6.

Gambling Wisdom of the Week: "If you are looking to cheat the house or beat it legitimately, forget about roulette. It's basically a sucker's game."

-Mario Puzo

Got a question about gambling? Write to: Deal Me In, P.O. Box 1234, Traverse City, Michigan 49685 -e-mail: pilarski@markpilarski.com • To order Mark Pilarski's "Hooked on Winning" audio cassettes-laminated win cards package (\$12.95 plus \$2 S&H) call 1-800-WINNERS.

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Personals

In memory, Warren A. Snyder, 1921-1978.

As I write, I see your face in my mind, looking at me, saying goodbye on my back step. Why did I feel even then it might be the last time? You visited us one by one until nighttime came. Did you also feel the same? We will never know. We loved you, Dad, and miss you still. I see your face in my mind.

Sharron

The family of Reta Bentley extend our deepest thanks to those who by thought, words, and actions helped to ease our grief at the time of our mother's passing. We are truly blessed to have such caring friends, co-workers, and acquaintances.

We especially thank Bruce and Carolyn Dodson, Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey, Rev. Foote, and Dave Koivuniemi.

We will not forget our mother nor will we forget all of you who cared so much.

God bless you all.

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Classified Ads

Copy Deadline: Monday, 1 p.m.

The St. Ignace News will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion of a classified ad.

Thank you, We would like to thank our family Sheryl and Jim, Rick and Kari, and Rand and Gracia for the wonderful part for our 50th anniversary. Also everyone who helped us celebrate those who sent cards, gifts, and well wishes. We hope everyone had as much fun as we did.

Cliff and Delores Marshall

Happy Ads

Congratulations Tom, Heidi, and every person on the Driftwood crew for earning "Best Sports Bar" and "Best Up North Restaurant" in the state in The Detroit News poll. We're not surprised, you guys rock!

B, E, E, L, and M

Jordan, Happy 17th birthday June 4. We hope you have an extra special day.

Love, Your Family

Aunt Mary Anna, Happy Birthday May 31. We hope you have a very happy and special day. See you this summer.

Love, Your St. Ignace Relatives

Rubber Stamps made to order. The St. Ignace News, 359 Reagon, St. Ignace. Phone (906) 643-9150.

Trash to Treasure" St. Ignace Community Garage Sale. Downtown - June 9th. Rent a space, bring your stuff. Registrations at the Chamber of Commerce, phone 906-643-8717.

Mike, Wishing you a very happy birthday June 1. Have an extra piece of cake.

Kelley

Billy, Happy birthday May 30. Good luck in Cape Cod.

Chris, Tammy, and the kids

Quality Printing at The St. Ignace News, 359 Reagon Street, St. Ignace. Business cards, flyers, envelopes, letterheads, brochures, raffle tickets and more. Phone 906-643-9150.

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Love, Mom, Tim, Madysin & Rachel

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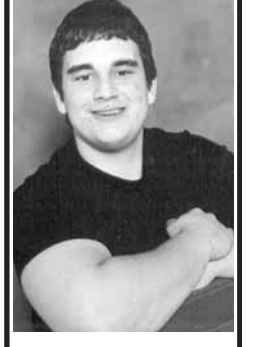
Shag May 29th

HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY GERALD!!



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Congratulations Jeremiey!



Uncle Tim & Aunt Di

Congratulations Alex Class of 2007 Good Luck in College ~ News Crew

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May 30

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Now that this chapter of my life is over, I would like to say thank you to those who made this transition in my life a little easier. I would especially like to thank Pastor Bercot and his wife, Shannon, who helped hold me together, along with my family at Faith Baptist Church, Cheryl and Christopher Stearns. If it weren't for them, I would have had to walk it alone. Also, for their friendship, of which I'm so glad to call them friends. Tom North, for his valuable spiritual insight. Bonnie Ledy, who helped give me perspective. Fred Schlehuber, who proved to be a true friend and also made my days a lot brighter. Dan and Maria Saylor, who were always there for me, always reminding me of God's goodness, regardless of the circumstances. Bucky McPhee, who was a father to me through all of this. Frank Schirtzinger, who allowed me to cry on his shoulder these many months. Greg Schirtzinger, whom I gained as a friend and brother in Christ. Pastor Lane, for not wavering in his convictions. Assistant Pastor Dave Davis for the listening ear. Dave and Angela Litzner, who gave me their time and resources, always reassuring me of God's blessings and his faithfulness, and to Dave, those precious times we spent in prayer. Jim and Lil McDonald, who never stopped praying, always holding out hope, along with Jim, always checking in on me. Zion Lutheran Women of Moran, who made Christmas for my children a whole lot brighter, and also for their love and concern. Also, DHS for remembering me at Christmas. Greg Shimkovitz, for his valuable insight and wisdom. Terry Utter, who proved himself over and over, who stuck by me closer than a brother, always there for me, my brother in Christ. I love you, Terry. Kathy Lawnichak and Phyllis Massey, who always made sure I had everything I needed. Dave Lawnichak for taking the time to come out to visit me. Dave, that meant so much to me. Cathy and Rebekkah Johnson for your support. You're dear to my heart, I love you guys. And Sarah Halvorsen, who got me up and moving again.

Thank you, all of you, for being here for me in my hour of need, for which I am very grateful. Along with all of this, and for his Holy Spirit, who gave me peace when I needed it most.

Sincerely, Peter Crystal

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