

International Association of
Certified Surveillance Professionals

SPORTSBOOK OPERATION

From a Surveillance Perspective

1

OBJECTIVES

- Terminology/Bet Types
- Familiarize Surveillance Personnel with the Sportsbook and its operation
- Identify Concerns and Issues with Sportsbook operation
- Recommendations for Surveillance Support of the Sportsbook



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2

2

TERMINOLOGY

- ATS: Against the Spread
- Bet Signals: Automated alerts triggered when professional bettors place a lot of money on a game, team, or number
- Betting Syndicates: Professional bettors who team up and combine resources
- Closing Line: Final number of the line before a game starts
- Cover: Whether or not a team wins a point spread
- Dime: A \$1,000 bet
- Edge: When a better has an advantage against the house (positive expected value)

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3

3

TERMINOLOGY

- Even money: A bet without juice (+100)
- Fade: To go against or bet the opposite side
- Future: A bet on something in the future (example - a bet made at the start of the season that the 49ers will win the Super Bowl)
- Handicapper: Someone who breaks down the information on a particular game or event and makes an educated guess on the outcome
- Handle: The total amount of money that a sportsbook takes in on a game or event
- Hook: The extra half point on a bet
- Juice (Vig) – Tax or commission paid to the sportsbook to make a bet

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4

4

TERMINOLOGY

- Key Numbers: The most common numbers of victory or defeat. In football they are 3 or 7
- Lay: When you bet a favorite on the spread, you lay points
- Liability: When a sportsbook has heavy action on one side and stands to lose big money if that side wins or covers
- Line Freeze: When there is heavy betting on one side but the line refuses to budge toward the team getting the majority of the bets
- Line Shopping: Going to multiple books to find the best and most profitable line
- Lines: Another name for Odds
- Middling: When bettors bet both sides of a game so they can "play the middle" and win both bets

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5

5

TERMINOLOGY

- Moneyline: Betting on which team will win the game
- Moving the Line: When oddsmakers adjust their lines because sharps are betting one side heavily
- Nickle: A \$500 bet
- No Action (NA) Bet is voided and your bet is returned (for example: game canceled due to rain)
- Odds: The price given to every team a bettor can bet on
- Oddsmaker: The person who sets the odds or betting lines
- Off the Board (OTB): When a sportsbook takes down the betting lines on a game or no longer accepts bets due to major injury to a key player, etc.

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6

6

TERMINOLOGY

- Opening Line: First line the sportsbook release on a game
- Over/Under (O/U): Total points combined over or under a determined amount
- Parlay: Multiple bets into same bet (parlay football card)
- Power Ratings: A statistical representation of how strong every team is compared to others
- Prop Bet: a bet on anything other than the outcome of a game such as total rushing yards or how long the Super Bowl National Anthem will be
- Public Money: Money coming from novice or recreational bettors
- Runner (Messenger better): Someone who places a bet on behalf of another better. Numbers runner

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7

7

TERMINOLOGY

- Sharp: A professional sports bettor
- Smart Money: Money coming from professional bettors who have an edge. Books will move lines based on which side is getting sharp money
- Spread (SPD): Point spread
- Square: A novice player
- Steam Move: Overload of sharp action that causes a sudden, drastic line movement across the betting market
- Syndicates: Groups of professional sports bettors who team up, combine their bank roles, skills and expertise to bet as much as possible with the biggest edge

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8

8

- Total: The total number of points scored in a game by both teams combined. A bettor can bet on whether it will go over or under the total
- Wiseguy: A sharp, professional bettor

135 FLA ST -11	134 ALABAMA -29	166 VIRGINIA
136 NC ST	135 OKLA ST -3	167 E CAROLINA -6.5
137 TCU -1	136 KANSAS ST	168 AKRON
138 UTAH	137 TEXAS A&M -1.5	169 CINCINNATI -6
FRIDAY OCTOBER 6	138 KANSAS	170 S CAR -6.5
LOUISVILLE -33	139 S DIEGO 8	171 KENTUCKY
MD TN ST	140 BYU -27	172 BAYLOR
	141 RICE -2	173 COLORADO -5
SATURDAY OCTOBER 7	142 TULANE	174 NEBRASKA -6.5
NW WESTERN	143 NAVY	175 IOWA ST
WISCONSIN -20.5	144 AIR FORCE -3	176 MEMPHIS
INDIANA	145 STANFORD	177 ALA-BIRM -6
INDIANA -11	146 NDRE DAME -32	178 MISSOURI
PITTSBURG -6.5	147 W VIRGINIA -28	179 TEX TECH -3.5
MARQUETTE	148 MISS ST	180 WEST MICH -3
ILLINOIS -7	149 LSU -2	181 OHIO
MISSOURI -18	150 FLORIDA	182 VANDY -1.5
FOREST	151 WASH ST -4	183 OLE MISS
ARIZONA	152 OREGON ST	184 CENT MICH
ARIZONA	153 ARIZONA	185 TULSA

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9

9

SPORTSBOOK OPERATION

- Sportsbooks offers odds on games and accepts bets on sports. It can be an in-facility operation or online. Sportsbooks in casinos provide a comfortable place to watch almost all events live while enjoying food and beverage service
- The book is usually operated by a director or manager, supervisors, and writers
- Setting the lines for games or events is done by a professional odds making service or oddsmaker, and then will be adjusted based on wagers, power ratings, statistics such as margin of victory, strength of schedule, home or away, weather conditions, injuries, etc. to determine the favorite and underdog
- Once the is set, favorite/underdog bettors have two options on betting one side or the other: the point spread or moneyline

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10

10

POINT SPREAD (SPD)

- The spread is a certain number of points taken away from the favorite and given to the underdog
- Example: 49ers (-7) Seahawks (+7) (meaning the 49ers are favored to win by 7 points)
- The spread can be half points (7.5)
- Wagers are won, lost or pushed

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11

11

MONEYLINE (ML)

- Based only on which team (or person) who will win
- The amount of money you must risk is determined by the price of the money line
- Moneyline prices begin at even money (even odds) (+100 or -100)
- A favorite is given a minus (-110 pays 100, loses 110) and the underdog is given a plus (+100 pays 110, loses 100)
- Example: New England -700

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12

12

TOTALS

- The total is the cumulative number of points scored in the game by both teams combined
- Wagers may be made on the over/under (O/U) of total points



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13

13

JUICE/VIG

- Juice or vigorish is commission paid to sportsbook to accept a bet
- Standard juice is -110 ("ten cent juice")
- Sportsbooks win mostly because of the juice

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14

14

HOUSE EDGE

- House Advantage: Bet \$11 to win \$10 = 4.55%
- Per Sport (Hold%)
 - Football = 4.91%
 - Basketball = 5.08%
 - Baseball = 3.32%
 - Other (Hockey, Soccer, Golf Tennis, Boxing, MMA) = 6.35%
 - Parlay Cards = 31.17%
 - Overall Sportsbook hold = 5.52%
- From 1992 – 2017 (Nevada) The Everything Guide to Sports Betting, Josh Applebaum

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15

15

PROFESSIONAL BETTERS

- A professional bettor or "Sharp" is a player who has a long track record of success, tends to bet big amounts on games and bets based on value, numbers and data
- Sharp Action: Line movement caused professional bettors betting predominately on one side or the other
- Wise Guy: A sharp, professional bettor

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16

16

SURVEILLANCE CONCERNS AND ISSUES

- Lines and other game parameters can be manipulated by sharps and corrupted employees
- Sharps/Wiseguys can collude with senior sportsbook employees
- Employees are often bettors too!
- Cash intensive during big games/events (Superbowl, March Madness)
- Title 31 concerns

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17

17

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SURVEILLANCE

- Understand sportsbook operations
- Know your wagers and terminology
- Monitor, patrol and audit the book regularly (especially during big games and events)
- Review and understand the sportsbook numbers, results and statistical information
- Know your winners!

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18

18

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