



## DO YOU WANNA MAKE A BET?!

By Kerry Schmidt 01-25-2004

Next Sunday, it's estimated some 800 million people worldwide will watch the Super Bowl. And perhaps as many as half will make some type of bet on the game. But I'm not just talking about who wins/loses or the point spread. There are some 160 different types of bets you can make, and if you count the varieties of wagers possible in each of these categories, the numbers can run into several hundred.

Each year at this time, I contact "The Man," the guru of sports book betting, Jay Kornegay, director of the Race and Sports Book at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas. Jay e-mailed me 22 pages explaining every bet and variety within same possible. Some of them require rocket science to understand, but, believe me, some folks, emboldened with a few cocktails, will imbibe.

"Most of the other (casino's) sports books only have about 40 bets," said Kornegay. But Jay and his Imperials are the kings of "PROPS." These are proposition bets, the wild and crazy wagers that really can make things interesting. "With all our props, we offer over 150 combinations on which we take action," said Kornegay. "There are bets that people can make on every single play with us, thus making the entire game interesting, especially if it is a blowout, like many of the past ones."

Jay and his Imperials got together "until well after 3 am right after the two teams were known and gathered all the stats. To put the props together takes all of us 3-4 days." Let's look at some of the wagers you can make.

Of course, you have all the normal ones: Who wins, over under, total points. Then you can place bets on things like which of 20 players will score first TD, total points scored by either kicker, total points by every player, number of fumbles, interceptions and total turnovers. Or pick total passing or running yards, for individuals and the teams, and many others general bets.

Now, let's get interesting. Bet on whether the Panthers will score or punt twice first. Total 3<sup>rd</sup> down conversions by each team. Will either team try/make a fourth down conversion. Total number of sacks and tackles by individual players.

But let's go to the real prop bets. Will Carolina's M. Muhammad have more/less receiving yards than Phil Mickelson's 4<sup>th</sup> round score in the FBR Open that day. Will Jake Delhomme have more/less passing yards than the combined points scored by the 76'ers and Minnesota Timberwolves.

Who will have more: Oklahoma & Nebraska (basketball) or the Pats' A. Smith's total rushing and receiving yards.

How about soccer? Will Arsenal and Manchester City score more combined goals than Patriot TD's?

Or Maryland basketball team: More/less points than the Panthers rushing yards. More or less: Providence's R. Gomes points + rebounds or Delhomme's longest completion.

Hockey. Panther's Smith's receptions or Penguins and Bruins goal total.

Basketball. More points. Both teams or Lakers first half points. Will David Branch (NE) have more receptions than Kevin Garnett will have made free throws.



# OFF THE WALL SPORTS

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How about this one? Longest field goal of the game versus Alan Iverson's points, rebounds and assists.

I've just scratched the surface, but space limits same.

Kornegay said that approximately \$77 million will be bet in Nevada alone.

"And that is just 1 ½ percent of all the bets in the US." Using the right math, that means \$5.1 BILLION will be wagered.

A guestimate of all off-shore and international betting could reach over a quarter of a trillion bucks!

Now some of these crazy bets can give Jay a problem.

Two years ago you could make a bet if Denver backup QB would have a "rush." With Denver way ahead late, he came in for one play and "took a knee" to end it. That counts as a "rush."

"One guy actually came up to me yelling and accused me of calling Denver's coach on the sideline and telling him to put Brister in. Amazing."

"And last year. The bet on Warren Sapp's number of tackles was 1 ½. He had one and on last series, sacked the QB. According to NFL and Elias Sports Bureau rules, a sack is not a tackle. It is it's own category. Boy did that guy get upset. But," he added, "all the rules are written on the betting sheets."

So, if you want to go to Vegas for the game, go see Jay and the Imperials.

I've watched a Super Bowl in a sports book and it is great fun. People watching is a game in itself.

Or, e-mail me at [kerryschmidt@bellsouth.net](mailto:kerryschmidt@bellsouth.net) and I can show you all 22 pages, so you, your buddies and beer can bet on every play.

But no, you are not invited to my 46 inch wide screen LCD with home theatre.

Again, thanks to Jay Kornegay. Keep the imagination going.

Carolina in an upset. I've wagered all of five bucks.