

Sports Betting and Why It's Important to Baseball

By Mac Goodchild



Fans enjoying a Los Angeles Dodgers game (Courtesy of the [Los Angeles Dodgers](#)).

Gambling on sports is a dangerous thing to do because you're betting on variables that you have no control over. The game or match could go either way so that's why the risk is often extremely high. It's all a numbers game, you just must predict who is going to win what, put some money on it and voilà! You either lose the money you decided to enter, or you win your money multiplied by whatever the odds you took the bet at.

For example, let's say Bobby bet on game four of the National League Championship Series, the Los Angeles Dodgers vs. Atlanta Braves in the. Bobby bet \$50 on the Astros with the odds listed at [+271](#). The Astros won 4-3, so Bobby got a \$135.50 payout. The payout equation is the odds you took it at (+271) multiplied by the money you bet. The most popular bets for baseball are money-line, over/under, and prop bets. Money-line means you are betting on the team to win. Over/under is the point line of what the projected score might be. Prop bets are betting on if something happens or not that has a direct impact on the outcome of the game. "For MLB, legalized sports gambling is a double-edged sword pitting an increase in fan engagement against the possibility of a breach of the game's integrity," ([Berra](#)).

Naturally, there will always be good and bad teams in every sport. For most loyal fans of bad teams have this complicated love/hate relationship. Whether it's notorious bad play or bad coaching, for some reason the franchise hasn't figured it out. For these fans, they desire a reason to root for sports. Because their team isn't doing enough, they want to move to a better option. "With COVID-19 looming over our head, sports betting has been a stress reliever for me. I'm a huge Braves fan and I've been hammering them and so far, it's worked out for me," said Jamie Lauderdale.



Willy Adames and Kevin Kiermaier celebrating after an out in game two of the ALCS in San Diego, CA. (Courtesy of [Ezra Shaw/Getty Images](#)).

Making money is a necessity in the world we live in today. Unfortunately, baseball is not the most popular sport in the United States. Football is king and baseball and basketball are in a constant battle for second best. Illegal streaming sites are more popular than ever so all TV production companies have been taking a hit. This year "As an example, Monday's Game 1 of the Rays-Yankees AL Division Series had 2.3 million viewers on TBS, which was one-third less than a similar time slot on TBS last year. Also a year ago, the baseball game was going up against a "Monday Night Football" broadcast, but this week's Rays-Yankees matchup was competing against two NFL games because one had been moved from Sunday due to a COVID-19 outbreak," ([Walken](#)).

"Viewership in cable news networks is up significantly, and right now, especially once the president got COVID, that's all anyone was watching," "It affected college football numbers (last weekend). It affected everything," said [Karp](#).

"In a time of change, questions abound. Legal sports betting could be a financial boon to sports leagues while significantly affecting the viewing habits of fans," ([Crasnick](#)).

I feel passionate about this because I see firsthand the pros and cons of sports betting. My friends bet all the time, but mostly on baseball, football, and basketball. Sometimes they do well, and other times they don't. That's the beauty of betting: uncertainty and hope are the two factors that keep bringing people back, despite the odds being stacked against them. Just last week my friend, Ryan lost \$300 betting on the Marlins to beat the Braves. Unfortunately, that did not happen, but he made it up the next day on a five-leg parlay that paid out \$482. Now this was incredibly lucky and quite proportionally rare compared to other bets made.

Ryan is a [New York Jets](#) fan, arguably the worst franchise in all of the major sports leagues. Since his team is so bad, he wants to cheer for other teams, but in his case, money is on the line. Even though the risk of betting is high, the thrill of your bet possibly hitting is exhilarating. "My life was pretty boring until I turned to sports betting and I haven't looked back since. Have I lost a lot of money, yes? But I've also made a lot of bad bets. Responsible gambling only," said Wimpy. By enabling sports betting, it will attract a much larger audience than the current dying market. It's a dog eat dog world out there and baseball needs every dollar it can get just to stay relevant. Baseball NEEDS to embrace sports betting with open arms!!!