

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

4:15 p.m., Tuesday, April 17, 2001
Sequoia Hall Rm. 200
(Cookies at 3:45 in 1st Floor Lounge)

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Odd Angles in Sports and Gambling

What are some of the odd questions and answers in the mathematics of sports and gambling? Are all sports contests equally exciting? In some sense, yes; from football to bowling on the radio, the swings of fortune are the same. Are games half over at half-time? Yes, again. But what does that mean? How high can one jump on the moon? Not six times as high, not even close. Can one beat the famous two-envelope problem bar bet? Yes. Do longer games favor the stronger player? Not necessarily. And what kind of quantum bar bet can you get out of Bell's inequality?