

INTROductIO

“I hate games in dating and relationships!”

Anonymous

At one time or another all of us have played or have been played by another person in the game of love. So why would anyone want to break down love and dating and compare them to horse racing (or *any* sport for that matter)? After all, love is not supposed to be a competition. Many go to extreme measures, however, not only to find love, but to compete for it. Mathematicians and love gurus have formulated the statistics on finding true love, and the odds are said to be pretty slim. With all the people in your community, country, and the world, how do you overcome the odds against you?

The fact is those in quest for true love are going about it all wrong. There is not just one true love or soul mate that exists; there are many. It's not the odds that are the obstacle but how people approach these odds. Many see these odds as insurmountable. They become discouraged, eventually give up, and never reach fulfillment through love. What they need is the ability to approach love and dating through handicapping. What they need is a game plan.

Handicapping, whether it is horseracing, sports, politics is a system of calculating and analyzing conditions and factors to increase the odds of winning. Before making any wager, expert handicappers will strategize their picks to increase the outcome their investment. In love, where odds seem impossible, it makes sense to use these same methods to pick our best candidate before wagering a bet on love.

Love and relationships are a team sport. Some people engage in power plays and try to dominate relationships or try to be individual superstars, leaving their lovers feeling insignificant, while others are true team players.



Love and relationships do not only involve two people. They include friends, family, the community, and society as a whole. In order to find a successful, loving relationship, you have to consider all the factors and conditions involved.

But first, before you can have a strong relationship you need to be a strong individual. In order to be a strong individual you need to understand your own shortcomings that could sabotage your relationship. Many love relationships fail due to unresolved issues.

**If you do not love yourself unconditionally,
how can you expect anyone else to love you?**

Times have changed; old-fashioned advice and antiquated rules no longer apply. Over the decades relationship roles have reversed and equality between the sexes has increased. Women have come out of the kitchen to join the workforce. Men have chosen to stay home and raise families. Some folks have been able to advance with the rapidly changing times, some are holding on for dear life, and some simply can't get a grip. Dating and relationships can be exasperating.

Today, as never before, men and women have more freedom to be with someone they love. No longer can race, religion, or social status keep you from being with your greatest love, which for some goes beyond the boundaries of distance and time. You can now have the kind of love you never before dreamed was possible.

Why then are so many holding on to outdated ideas of relationships and the means to obtain them? Why embrace someone who isn't right for you? Why settle when there is someone out there who's better for you? Why ignore love's true calling for someone who is holding you back?

Traditional relationships have a valuable place in today's society, but traditional relationships are not for everyone. Don't worry, though—it is an awesome time for love. Never before have there been so many choices. You have the choice whether or not to get married. You have the choice whether or not to have a long-distance relationship. You have the choice whether or not to remain single and independent. The question you should ask yourself is, “Who am I, and what kind of love do I really want?” Do you want the love and relationship similar to that of your parents and friends, or is your heart begging for something different?



Much of the advice on relationships, whether it's from columnists, friends, or family, suggests that you venture out into the dating world to gain experience and get to know people. Follow it, they say, and you will find what you're looking for—the missing link of love. Society often dictates which qualities you must look for to find love—attractiveness, youth, and security. Sometimes heeding the advice of others can send you off course from what you truly want and make you lose sight of the finish line. This is why it is important for you to know yourself and what you are looking for in a relationship.

Keeping your eye on the finish line is a problem for many in the race for love. You spend too much time minding the spectators in the stands and lose focus on what you truly want. You become distracted and let others define you.

Only you can define you.



Like a champion of any sport, there is the deep desire to be a winner despite hardship or adversity. Why should you hold this standard for just sport and career? Shouldn't your love and relationships be held to the same high standard? You should strive to be winner in every aspect of your life and to reach your highest potential.

Handicapping

Sports handicappers spend lifetimes studying statistics of their sport—horse racing, basketball, football, and even politics. They review all factors that contribute to picking a winner. These factors include physical attributes as well as genetics.

Some factors do not draw complete comparisons to dating. It is not recommended to time your date in a forty-yard dash to handicap their speed, nor is it considered cool to measure your date's girth on the first date. There are many factors, however, that can help determine if you have found your winning mate. The idea of handicapping love might seem a bit frivolous to some, but there is nothing frivolous about wanting the best for yourself and the one you love.

Have you ever watched a horse race and been convinced that a horse was a winner based on your gut reaction? When you meet someone you're attracted to, you get this *feeling*. "I think he/she is the one," you say to yourself. How many times has your gut reaction been right? And if the relationship failed, how quickly did you tell yourself that you're never going to trust your feelings again? It's at this point that many give up on love because their feelings were wrong.



Successful sports handicappers understand their games, the players, coaches, conditions, and statistics. Horse racing handicappers will rarely pick the winner of a horse race based solely on their own gut instincts. Since these people base their own bets on more than just instinct, then shouldn't you base your gamble on love and relationships on more than a mere gut-reaction or feeling you might have?

This will not be a heartless journey toward finding love. You will learn factors of dating and relationships that you may not otherwise consider until it's too late. In this book I will not only outline tips for handicapping a potential mate but will also offer suggestions on how you can become a stronger contender.

Only when you are at your best, can you expect the best.

Handicappers for Hire

In every sport there are handicappers who offer tips and hints to gamblers regarding upcoming horse races and sporting events. Many gamblers pay a good deal of money to these expert handicappers for their information. No matter how much money is spent, in the end the gambler still must make his/her own bet, and there is no guarantee as to the outcome of this gamble.

In a similar fashion, online dating services also offer tips and matches to people for a hefty price, but ultimately it is up to you to make the date. It is up to you to call the shots and decide whether the dating contender is worth the gamble. Even after you make your pick, there is no guarantee you will walk away with a winner no matter how much money you spend.

No one has the answers for you and your relationship.

You alone hold the key.

Some dating sites guarantee that you will find someone, but they still are not guaranteeing you a winning relationship. These sites wager on the idea that desperate lovers will settle for someone/anyone therefore proving the truth in their advertising: you have found *someone*.

Don't buy advice, educate yourself.

Become your own love guru.

The more sports fans know about the game and the players, the more educated wagers they make. The more you know about the conditions, the players, and factors, the better the odds become of finding a great relationship. Learn how not to waste your money on things that you can figure out yourself.