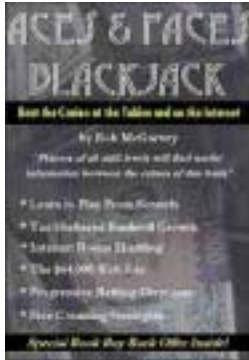


8.2. ONLINE BLACKJACK: MULTIPLYING YOUR EDGE

By Rob McGarvey



Rob McGarvey is the author of **Aces and Faces Blackjack** and is now writing **Billion Dollar Blackjack**, a book about his online strategies and his team of Blackjack Professionals. From his web site he sends out the message "**Blackjack can be Beaten!**" and enjoys taking the time to show you how to do it. He is a successful blackjack player both on and off the Internet. For more information contact Rob at blakjack@idirect.com. To order his book, **Aces and Faces Blackjack** (\$15), go to <http://www.geocities.com/acesandfacesblackjack/>.

Where were you in '62? The world was changing in so many ways "back in the day." With the backdrop of the top singles Sherry by the Four Seasons and Telstar by the Ventures, the top TV shows of the Beverly Hillbillies, Andy Griffith and the Dick Van Dyke Show played your cares away after work. John Glenn circled the earth in Friendship 7 and Marilyn Monroe was found dead "in the nude." The 76ers' Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain scored 100 points against the New York Nicks, and fall out shelters were considered better than evacuation if the bomb dropped. Prayer in public schools was defeated 6 to 1 and the first African American James Howard Meredith enrolled at the University of Mississippi with the help of the US Army.

In 1962 the world of blackjack would also change forever. Edward O. Thorp unleash the power of the Four Horsemen of the Blackjack Apocalypse (Baldwin, Cantey, Maisel, and McDermott) on the single deck game. Dealing to the bottom of a single deck quickly became a part of history as casino after casino retaliated against Thorps Ten Count and the Basic Strategy discovered by Baldwin, Cantey, Maisel, and McDermott. Soon the players were facing six deck games with less than spectacular rules as the edge of the counter was cut back to 1% for short periods of time against the house.

In August 1962, J.C.R. Licklider of MIT was working on his "Galactic Network" concept. He envisioned a globally interconnected set of computers through which everyone could quickly access data and programs from any site. He became the head of the computer research department at DARPA (Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency). Soon defence, government, and universities were all connected, and the information era began.

On August 14th, 1962, Rob McGarvey came into the world around 8 PM. Weighing 7 pounds and 11 ounces he was the gamblers baby. My Dad, a semi professional equestrian handicapper played 7 11 on the next days Exacta at Woodbine. And won.

Blackjack, Rob, and the Internet were now set on a billion dollar destiny that would happen as these three worlds collided in cyberspace over three decades later.

Flash forward forty years. The ARPANET is now the Internet. Instead of sending little packets of text across phone lines we are now sending multi-megabytes of info per second across fibre optic cables, or over the airwaves using wireless technology. We no longer have to travel to the casino to play blackjack. We are now surrounded by 2000