



Trading Bases: How a Wall Street Trader Made a Fortune Betting on Baseball

By Joe Peta

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An ex-Wall Street trader improved on *Moneyball*'s famed sabermetrics and beat the Vegas odds with his own betting methods. Here is the story of how Joe Peta turned fantasy baseball into a dream come true.

Joe Peta turned his back on his Wall Street trading career to pursue an ingenious—and incredibly risky—dream. He would apply his risk-analysis skills to Major League Baseball, and treat the sport like the S&P 500.

In *Trading Bases*, Peta takes us on his journey from the ballpark in San Francisco to the trading floors and baseball bars of New York and the sportsbooks of Las Vegas, telling the story of how he created a baseball “hedge fund” with an astounding 41 percent return in his first year. *And* he explains the unique methods he developed.

Along the way, Peta provides insight into the Wall Street crisis he managed to escape: the fragility of the midnineties investment model; the disgraced former CEO of Lehman Brothers, who recruited Peta; and the high-adrenaline atmosphere where million-dollar sports-betting pools were common.

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Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

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Peta, a successful Wall Street trader, found himself confined to a wheelchair in early 2011—he had suffered multiple injuries after being struck by an ambulance as he was walking in Lower Manhattan—and then fired by his employer, Nomura Securities. Reengaging with the world by joining his love of statistical analysis to baseball, Peta created a reliable system for beating Vegas odds throughout the 2011 Major League season. It would be easy to call out Peta for cynically using sport for financial gain—and he can be unnervingly detached when crunching numbers—but it's clear that he loves the game itself as much as the winnings. Moreover, he asks a number of salient questions, such as: How can businesses on Wall Street and beyond apply the thinking used by baseball sabermetricians to strengthen their own organizations? The answers, and how Peta arrived at them, make for great reading. --Alan Moores

Review

“Fascinating...reads like a mash up of *Liar's Poker* and *Moneyball*.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“[A] swaggering story from frantic stock trader to professional sports bettor....Even casual baseball fans could learn from it. Serious fans should slurp it up like ballpark beer.”—*Los Angeles Times*

“He reminds me of Nate Silver—he's able to blend different worlds (in this case, baseball and finance) using his intense knowledge of each to give us a very entertaining read.”—Play-by-Play Announcer for the San Francisco Giants and ESPN National Sportscaster Dave Flemming

“Peta created a reliable system for beating Vegas odds throughout the 2011 Major League season...but it's clear he loves the game as much as the winnings. Moreover, he asks a number of salient questions, such as: How can businesses on Wall Street and beyond apply thinking used by baseball sabermetricians to strengthen their own organizations? The answers, and how Peta arrived at them, make for great reading.”—*Booklist*

From the Back Cover

"Fascinating. . . . The deftly explained math only enhances the ballpark drama. . . . Peta's hardheaded but warmhearted narrative reads like a mash-up of *Liar's Poker* and *Moneyball* peppered with besotted evocations of emerald-green outfields and sports-bar camaraderie. His is that rare finance saga that's both smart and loads of fun." -- *Publisher's Weekly*

"Joe Peta has a wonderful story to tell and precious insights into the evaluation of talent, investments, and risk. This is a great book for anyone with capital to allocate. But if you love baseball half as much as Peta does, you will find *Trading Bases* absolutely irresistible." -- Tyler Cowen, author of *The Great Stagnation* and *An Economist Gets Lunch*

"Joe Peta has joined the new wave of baseball analysts who are changing the way many of us look at the game. He is taking a rightful place alongside guys like Jonah Keri, Jay Jaffe, and Dave Cameron as must-reads for me in the baseball landscape. He reminds me in some ways of Nate Silver -- he's able to blend different worlds (in this case, baseball and finance) using his intense knowledge of each to give us a very

entertaining read." -- Dave Flemming, play-by-play announcer for the San Francisco Giants and ESPN national sportscaster

Users Review

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