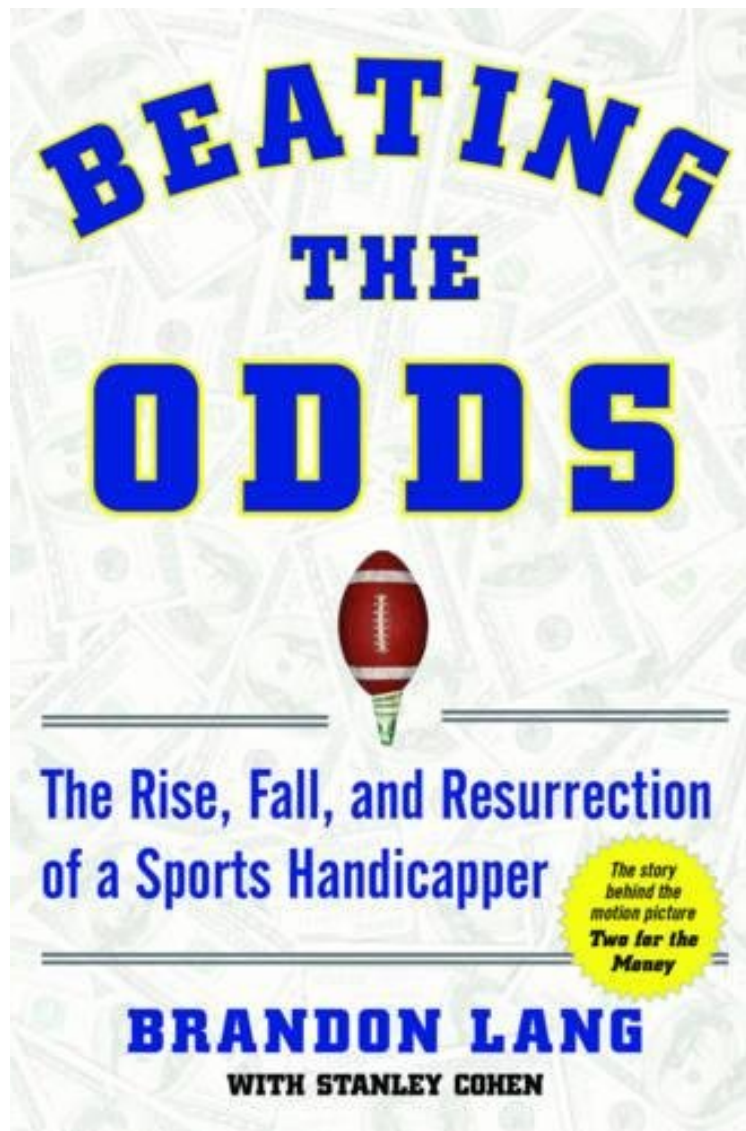


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Beating the Odds: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Sports Handicapper

Brandon Lang, Stanley Cohen
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The incredible rags-to-riches-to-rags-to-riches true life story of acclaimed sports tout Brandon Lang, subject of the motion picture *Two for the Money* (Al Pacino, Matthew McConaughey). *Beating the Odds* describes in vivid, colorful detail Langs rise from small time sports-phone tout to big time national exposure, his dramatic fall, and his subsequent rebirth in the internet age. Also describes the series of improbable events, while working as a golf caddie in Los Angeles, that eventually led Lang to the optioning of his story to Hollywood and the making of *Two for the Money*.

From Booklist*Two for the Money*, the 2005 movie starring Matthew McConaughey, chronicled the rise, fall, and rise again of sports handicapper Brandon Lang and his tumultuous relationship with his mentor and friend, Walter Abrams (played in the movie by Al Pacino). Here, Lang tells the same story, but in his own words. Its a story of a young man from a wildly dysfunctional familyLangs father went to prison for the attempted murder of Langs motherwho found inspiration in religion, discipline in the U.S. Navy, and his own talents in the world of sports betting. Often it feels like the movie, fast paced and suspenseful, but theres also an element of introspection that is missing from the big-screen story of Langs life. In addition to talking about himself, Lang also talks about the nature and future of sports handicapping and the way the Internet has nearly killed the industry. An excellent companion to the popular movie and a very good autobiography in its own right. --David Pitt An excellent companion to the popular movie and a very good autobiography in its own right. (David Pitt - Booklist)About the AuthorBrandon Lang served in the United States Navy until 1984. He then traveled the world for three years before ending up in Las Vegas. It was there that he entered the sports handicapping industry, building a reputation by validating his opinion to customers worldwide. In 1989, he joined a nationally-known sports service based on the East Coast and immediately embarked on one of the most historic winning streaks ever witnessed in the handicapping world. But after an incredible six-year run he abandoned the industry in 1996, moving to Los Angeles in a attempt to get his incredible life story made into a movie. He networked his way in as a caddy at the prestigious Riviera Country Club, knowing the job would eventually put him in touch with a director, writer. It was there he met Dan Gilroy, to whom he pitched the movie idea of a lifetime. Six years later, with Matthew McConaughey playing Brandon Lang and Al Pacino and Rene Russo in supporting roles, *Two For The Money* was born. He lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.Stanley Cohen is a veteran award-winning newspaper and magazine journalist. For more than fifty years, he has worked as an editor, writer, and reporter for newspapers, magazines, and an international news service. He also has taught writing, journalism, and philosophy at Hunter College and at New York University. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *Inside Sports*, and *Sports Inc.*, and he was a contributing writer for *The Diamond* magazine and *Sports, Inc.* He lives in Tomkins Cove, New York.