

Tournament Hold 'em Hand by Hand

Neil Myers

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Neil Myers : Tournament Hold 'em Hand by Hand before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tournament Hold 'em Hand by Hand:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. tournament hold'em - hand by handBy tunaIn a world with hundreds of poker books, this book addresses a specific type of play in specific type of games. Tournament poker is much different from cash game poker and different structured tournaments should be played in a different manner. This book

narrows down the types of tournaments out there and best helps you with specific tournament play while giving you hand by hand analysis to help you improve your tournament play. 4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Not terribly useful

By Online Junkie This book was written by a fan of Arnold Snyder's *Poker Tournament Formula*. Skip this book and just buy Arnold's which is excellent. 19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Getting Ahead of the Bell Curve

By Big Wave Dave This book is subtitled "The Step-by-Step Guide to the Final Table". To that, one might add "In Fast-Play Multi-Table Tournaments". In other words, this book is aimed at supplying a flexible strategy for small buy-in tournaments (from \$25 up to around \$500 entry fees, a 15- to 20-minute round, and about 30 to 50 times the Big Blind in tournament chips at the start of the tournament). This type of tournament is the kind you are most likely to play in, short of the World Series of Poker and other big-name tournaments, where the rounds are long (up to two hours), and the starting stacks are huge compared to the initial size of the Big Blind. The big tournaments take days, fast tournaments take hours. Though the book emphasizes live play, there's no reason it couldn't be applied to online poker. I liked the book because it was thorough and it emphasized positional play -- some might think a little too much. I think it's worth the price of admission because it will give you a fresh perspective on multi-table tournaments and may help you achieve a top-place finish instead of just struggling to make it to the bubble. This approach has a tie-in to another book that's provoking a lot of thought in poker circles these days. Just remember that poker is continually in flux. If your opponents are all using this method, a new method will have to be used to eke out a profit. You might be the one to invent it, too.

A forty-minute instructional DVD is included at no extra cost. The DVD, which is largely devoted to play-by-play analysis, makes a good introduction to the book. Production values are average -- not bad, not great. Mr. Myers is a congenial lecturer who has obvious consideration and respect for his audience. His enthusiasm for the subject matter also comes through. His accent and sense of humor are a bit on the British side. As a red-blooded American poker player who was taught to play by his pappy, ah find it jes' a little strange bein' lectured on mah own game by a furriner. But ah'll let it pass. This tahn.

This is a book for those who already know how to play hold'em. No time is wasted on the basics. This makes me wonder why it was necessary to include a 22-page glossary at the back. It is a good glossary, but the space could have been used on more problem hands. Not a big deal. The first four chapters are introductory -- who the book is for, how to use it, the general method of winning, and seven reasons to play no-limit hold'em tournaments. There is also a chapter dedicated to recommending the other book I mentioned earlier -- Arnold Snyder's *"Poker Tournament Formula"*. Like Snyder, Myers emphasizes three weapons: Cards/Position/Stack. Snyder used a "scissors-paper-stone" analogy. Myers' method, and his way of teaching it, differs from Snyder's. He says the two books may be thought of as "companion volumes"; that is, they enhance each other's value. Having read Snyder's book, I can say it's a tougher read than Myers', which has a more practical approach. However, it is as Myers says -- they are companion volumes, each enhancing the other.

The next section is called "Mindset and Key Skills". It covers the differences between cash games and tournaments, survival vs. chip accumulation (he favors the latter), and bluffing and tells (which he discounts as an important factor in your play unless you are willing to devote a lot of energy to studying it; if so, he makes specific, useful recommendations). This brings us up to page 52 in a 143-page book. I am subtracting the glossary, which runs the page count up to 177. Pages 53 to 126 are the applied science part of the book, unique problems based on Position, Cards, and Stack Size. The devil is in the details, as they say, and you will find that the analyses reveal new facets to the general approach. The final part of the book -- pages 127 to 141 -- covers "the endgame" and "money matters." In other words, how does one use the changing conditions toward the end of a tournament to improve one's chances of finishing first, second, or third. Most of the prize money is concentrated in the top three positions, especially the number one spot, so this is what Myers is teaching you to shoot for. The style he recommends is, of course, riskier than the "survival game." But it improves your chances of landing in the top three spots, where prize money is usually split, anyway. Be forewarned: When it works, it works. When it doesn't, it's a heartbreaker. On the other hand, so is the misery of having the blinds eat up your stack. Choose your misery wisely, I say.

The virtues of the book are its thoroughness and its learn-by-example method. These days, nonfiction writing makes great use of anecdotes. They draw you in, helping you feel like you're at the table and your decisions matter. The step-by-step play feature is, in effect, a collection of anecdotes that illustrate theoretical principles. It's an approach that tends to anchor the concepts in memory.

The deficits? Well, I would like to have seen more on the subtleties of post-flop play. The majority of problems in the book have to do with preflop play. Let me add that many of the "Card" problems extend into the postflop phase. I would simply like to have seen more. Also, I'd like to have seen more on adjusting your play according to your opponent's playing style, and how to assess that. For contrast, read Barry Greenstein's description of tournament hands in "Ace on the River". He doesn't have a "method," such as outlined in this book, but his analyses are up to the Sherlock Holmes standard. Get both books! If either one wins you a single pot, it's worth it, right?

The final part of Myers' book discusses bankroll requirements to sustain you as you go forth into battle. All well and good, but as a poker player with fifteen years' experience at high stakes and low, I would like to add a word of caution: no matter what you think, you're grabbin' a tiger by the tail. No matter how high you fly, you can be knocked down in a single day. So beware. A friend of mine who's an excellent player has been going a solid year defying the odds with one bad beat after another. Mason Malmuth says this type of run is theoretically possible, and he is living proof. In his

first year at the table, this guy won a huge tournament. It was the worst thing that ever happened. He paid his taxes, and has since blown back every penny of his winnings, and then some. The same can happen to you, no matter how you steep yourself in mathematics and methods. If you win a tournament or two or three, more power to you, but remember -- what goes around comes around. Keep an eye over your shoulder, because it's coming, and it's got your name on it. You've got to learn when to duck, or know when to fold'em, know when to walk away and know when to run, as the song says. I also recommend looking into online Sit 'n' Go games. There are reasons why they are more predictable -- and profitable -- than multi-table tournaments. In an MTT, you will be presented with a chance to make Big Bucks, but you'll have to negotiate a minefield to make it to the final table. Nothing feels worse than playing for hours and then getting knocked out just before the bubble. In an SnG, you only have to survive the demise of six players and you're in the clear. If you don't make it, it's on to the next game, all in a short time. Good luck.

Dear Aspiring Poker Tournament Winner, Do you regularly play in No-Limit Hold'em tournaments? Do you want to get to the final table more often? Then this book is for you! \$10,000 TV tournaments that last for days require very different winning strategies than much faster paced tournaments that last for hours. Most of us never play in the televised extravaganzas. Instead, we play regularly in No-limit Hold'em tournaments that have buy-ins of \$40 to \$1,000. Many tourney entrants never win money. A few savvy players know that small tournaments can be fun and profitable if you know exactly how to play them. Hand-by-hand, I will reveal why these players make more than their fair share of final tables--and how you can join them. You'll learn: How to win despite a run of bad cards How to assess good-value tournaments and avoid bad ones How to play when you are short-stacked How to build a big stack and use your chips as a weapon The vital importance of position in tournament play When and how to change pace as the blinds and antes increase Some of the conventional advice about tournament play is just plain wrong. Success requires more than a desperate attempt to survive and wait for big cards. So if you want a chance to feel the thrill of a big payday at your next tournament, buy this book now! I'll see you at the final table.