

Become A Winning Poker Player in 30 days

[The following review of this eBook by Collin Moshman and Katie Dozier was written on March 2, 2025 as a submission to a thread posted on the *CardsChat* forum. Although it could use some tightening up, I have republished it here verbatim.]

I just completed this course and found it very disappointing. To begin with, it isn't about poker, it's about hold 'em, primarily or entirely no-limit hold 'em. Any game in which you can lose your entire stack in one hand has no right to call itself a game of skill. In the freeroll tonight I had pocket queens in about mid position. There was a raise and a couple of calls in front of me. I went all-in and two players called. One – I believe the original raiser – had 6s. The other had KJ suited, so I am 53% plus. The 6s won and the other player hit his king, so the best hand came last and the worst hand won, as is often the case.

I hear from many so-called experts that you should never limp in but raise. Raise with pocket 6s? Call an all-in with them with a caller behind you? Yes, this was a freeroll but I have seen such lunatic plays made in fairly high stakes cash games.

The poker course stresses the importance of position. I hear a lot about this and how important it is. So you call a pre-flop raise with pocket jacks, an ace and king flop, the raiser bets into you heavily. What can you do but fold? He might have raised with 6-7 off-suit; if you call, he has the ace, if you fold, he has the garbage. The truth is that with hold 'em you never really know what hand your opponent has. Daniel Negreanu has made some spectacular reads, so have I on occasion, so have most players, but the bottom line is that you never really know.

I think I have heard everything in this course before, but I have been playing hold 'em for a quarter of a century and poker for twice as long, so it may be that some junior players find it of value. I doubt it though.

So, you may ask, if there is no skill at all in hold 'em, you might ask why are some players consistent winners and others not so? Of course, there is some skill in the game. People who play like idiots may have the odd

impressive run but they will always lose in the long term, mostly in the medium term and usually in the short term.

Good players must be able to bluff and to take a bluff, but by and large to win at hold 'em, you have to be aggressive and to be lucky. You also have to be stupid at times, I've actually won tournaments by playing recklessly or just stupidly, but this is where being lucky comes in.

Did I just write an essay or what?