# Analysis <br> For <br> Headstart Hold'em Keno April 22, 2005 

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## Analysis of Headstart Hold'em Keno

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## Game Description:

Headstart Hold'em Keno is based on the popular game of Texas Hold'em Poker. Five initial 2card predetermined hands are used for each Player to make a wager on. For each ticket, Players have the option to wager on one or all of the hands according to pre-determined minimums and maximums. To complete the draw, 5 random community cards will be chosen from the remaining 42 cards.

The object of the game is for the player to choose the highest hand. The hand that has the highest Poker Rank is deemed the winning hand. If the five randomly chosen community cards create the winning hand, all hands are considered to be winners and will be paid according to the paytable for that rank for that hand. Players will win the amount shown on the pay table, depending on which hand they chose and the final rank of that hand if it is a winning hand. Several different pay tables have been created, with each hand having its own unique pay table within each. The first three paytables are shown below, and the remainder are shown in Appendix A:

| Headstart Hold'em Keno Paytable - HHK-01 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K | Q^ Ja | 8* 9* | 5* $5 \downarrow$ | 2* 7 |
| Diamond Royal | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Other Royal | 250 | 80 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 100 | 50 | 50 | 200 | 300 |
| Four of a Kind | 50 | 15 | 30 | 10 | 100 |
| Full House | 10 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 20 |
| Flush | 6 | 3 | 4 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 10 |
| Three of a Kind | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Two Pair | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Pair | 1 | 1 | 2 | NA | NA |


| Headstart Hold'em Keno Paytable - HHK-02 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K | Q^ Ja | 8- 9* | 5-5v | 2* 7 - |
| Diamond Royal | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Other Royal | 250 | 80 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 100 | 50 | 50 | 250 | 250 |
| Four of a Kind | 45 | 20 | 25 | 10 | 100 |
| Full House | 10 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 20 |
| Flush | 5 | 3 | 4 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 10 |
| Three of a Kind | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Two Pair | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Pair | 1 | 1 | 2 | NA | NA |


| Headstart Hold'em Keno Paytable - HHK-03 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K ${ }^{\text {¢ }}$ | QA Ja | 8* 9* | 5* 5 - | 2* 7 |
| Diamond Royal | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Other Royal | 250 | 100 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 100 | 50 | 50 | 200 | 250 |
| Four of a Kind | 40 | 25 | 25 | 10 | 100 |
| Full House | 10 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 20 |
| Flush | 4 | 3 | 4 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 8 |
| Three of a Kind | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Two Pair | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Pair | 1 | 1 | 2 | NA | NA |

Additionally, there is an optional Flop Bonus bet. This wager is based on the first three community cards. The pay table for this wager will be presented later on in this report.

Headstart Hold'em Keno uses a standard 52-card deck. There are ten cards that make up the five initial 2 card predetermined hands. These ten cards cannot be drawn as a community card as they have been removed from the 'deck' prior to the draw of the community cards.

## Analysis Methodology:

As there are only five 'random' cards being drawn per hand, it is possible to create a computer program that will analyze every possible draw. This program calculated how often each of the five hands wins and with what Poker Rank each hand wins with.

## Results:

The results from the first program are shown in the tables below. This program simulated the 850,668 possible ways that five cards can be dealt from the remaining 42 cards in the deck. The total number of wins is greater than this, because if the community cards make up the highest hand, all hands are considered to be winners. This will occur 813 times out of the 850,668 hands.

| Headstart Hold'em KenoWinning Hands |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K $\downarrow$ | Q^ Ja | 8- 9* | 5* 5 - | 2* 7* |
| Diamond Royal | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other Royal | 76 | 741 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 48 | 2,157 | 1,417 | 197 | 122 |
| Four of a Kind | 1,631 | 1,491 | 1,491 | 9,878 | 1,491 |
| Full House | 23,049 | 21,165 | 19,280 | 56,785 | 16,116 |
| Flush | 15,957 | 69,951 | 56,925 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 17,789 | 40,926 | 36,408 | 15,579 | 7,329 |
| Three of a Kind | 20,847 | 22,740 | 22,588 | 68,046 | 19,550 |
| Two Pair | 67,259 | 53,026 | 34,519 | 4,983 | 23,044 |
| Pair | 69,344 | 25,222 | 4,748 | NA | NA |

The overall win frequency for each hand is in the table below:

| Hand | Win Frequency |
| ---: | ---: |
| $\mathrm{A} * \mathrm{~K}$ | $25.39 \%$ |
| $\mathrm{~J} \uparrow \mathrm{Q}$ | $27.82 \%$ |
| $8 * 9$ | $20.94 \%$ |
| $5 \star 5$ | $18.28 \%$ |
| $2 * 7$ | $7.95 \%$ |

Calculating the overall payback of each wager can be computed by multiplying the frequency of each hands winning rank by the payout for that rank for that hand.

| Winning Hand | A* K | QA Ja | 8* 9* | 5* 5 $\downarrow$ | 2* 7* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Diamond Royal | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Other Royal | 19,000 | 59,280 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 4,800 | 70,850 | 107,850 | 39,400 | 36,600 |
| Four of a Kind | 81,550 | 22,365 | 44,730 | 98,780 | 149,100 |
| Full House | 230,490 | 105,825 | 134,960 | 340,710 | 322,320 |
| Flush | 95,742 | 209,853 | 227,700 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 71,156 | 122,778 | 109,224 | 77,895 | 73,290 |
| Three of a Kind | 62,541 | 45,480 | 67,764 | 204,138 | 97,750 |
| Two Pair | 134,518 | 106,052 | 69,038 | 9,966 | 92,176 |
| Pair | 69,344 | 25,222 | 9,496 | NA | NA |
| Total | 770,141 | 768,705 | 771,762 | 771,889 | 772,236 |
| Payback | 90.53\% | 90.36\% | 90.72\% | 90.74\% | 90.78\% |
| House Advantage | 9.47\% | 9.64\% | 9.28\% | 9.26\% | 9.22\% |

If each of the hands were wagered on equally, the overall Payback would be $90.63 \%$ for a house advantage of $9.37 \%$.

| Keno Version - Payback Calculation: Units Won per Hand per Rank (Paytable HHK-02) |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K | Q^ Ja | 8-9* | 5-5* | 2* 7- |
| Diamond Royal | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Other Royal | 19,000 | 74,100 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 4,800 | 70,850 | 107,850 | 49,250 | 30,500 |
| Four of a Kind | 73,395 | 29,820 | 37,275 | 98,780 | 149,100 |
| Full House | 230,490 | 84,660 | 96,400 | 283,925 | 322,320 |
| Flush | 79,785 | 209,853 | 227,700 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 71,156 | 81,852 | 109,224 | 77,895 | 73,290 |
| Three of a Kind | 41,694 | 45,480 | 67,764 | 204,138 | 78,200 |
| Two Pair | 134,518 | 106,052 | 69,038 | 9,966 | 69,132 |
| Pair | 69,344 | 25,222 | 9,496 | NA | NA |
| Total | 725,182 | 728,889 | 725,747 | 724,954 | 723,542 |
| Payback | 85.25\% | 85.68\% | 85.32\% | 85.22\% | 85.06\% |
| House Advantage | 14.75\% | 14.32\% | 14.68\% | 14.78\% | 14.94\% |

If each of the hands were wagered on equally, the overall Payback would be $85.31 \%$ for a house advantage of $14.69 \%$.

| Keno Version - Payback Calculation: Units Won per Hand per Rank (Paytable HHK-03) |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K | Q^ J^ | 8* 9 * | 5-5v | 2* 7 - |
| Diamond Royal | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Other Royal | 19,000 | 74,100 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 4,800 | 70,850 | 107,850 | 39,400 | 30,500 |
| Four of a Kind | 65,240 | 37,275 | 37,275 | 98,780 | 149,100 |
| Full House | 230,490 | 84,660 | 77,120 | 283,925 | 322,320 |
| Flush | 63,828 | 209,853 | 227,700 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 53,367 | 81,852 | 109,224 | 46,737 | 58,632 |
| Three of a Kind | 41,694 | 45,480 | 45,176 | 204,138 | 78,200 |
| Two Pair | 134,518 | 53,026 | 69,038 | 9,966 | 46,088 |
| Pair | 69,344 | 25,222 | 9,496 | NA | NA |
| Total | 683,281 | 683,318 | 683,879 | 683,946 | 685,840 |
| Payback | 80.32\% | 80.33\% | 80.39\% | 80.40\% | 80.62\% |
| House Advantage | 19.68\% | 19.67\% | 19.61\% | 19.60\% | 19.38\% |

If each of the hands were wagered on equally, the overall Payback would be $80.41 \%$ for a house advantage of $19.59 \%$.

The five community cards will form the winning hand 813 times ( $0.096 \%$ of all hands). Of these hands, 609 will be Straights, 180 will be Full Houses, 12 will be Four of a Kinds, 11 will be Straight Flushes and 1 will be a Royal. The impact of the community cards forming the highest possible hand been fully accounted for in the calculations of overall payback for Headstart Hold'em Keno.

The Flop Bonus bet is based on the first three community cards, generally referred to as the 'Flop'. Because ten cards have in essence been removed from the deck to form the five initial 2card hands, the distribution of hands is unique to this game. The frequency distribution is shown in the table below:

| 3-Card Distributions |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Headstart Hold’em |  | Standard 52-Card Deck |  |
| Hand | Occurrences | Frequency | Occurrences | Frequency |
| Straight Flush | 27 | $0.2353 \%$ | 48 | $0.2172 \%$ |
| Three of a Kind | 24 | $0.2091 \%$ | 52 | $0.2353 \%$ |
| Straight | 370 | $3.2230 \%$ | 720 | $3.2580 \%$ |
| Flush | 543 | $4.7300 \%$ | 1,096 | $4.9593 \%$ |
| Pair | 1,888 | $16.4460 \%$ | 3,744 | $16.9412 \%$ |
| Nothing | 8,628 | $75.1568 \%$ | 16,440 | $74.3891 \%$ |
| Totals | 11,480 | $100.0000 \%$ | 22,100 | $100.0000 \%$ |

Based on the distributions in the above table, several possible pay tables have been developed for this Flop Bonus Bet. They are shown in the tables below:

| Pay table HFB-01 for Headstart Flop Bonus |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Hand | Pays | Contribution |
| Straight Flush | 100 for 1 | $23.53 \%$ |
| Three of a Kind | 50 for 1 | $10.46 \%$ |
| Straight | 6 for 1 | $19.34 \%$ |
| Flush | 4 for 1 | $18.92 \%$ |
| Pair | 1 for 1 | $16.45 \%$ |
| Total Payback |  |  |
| House Advantage |  | $11.31 \%$ |


| Pay table HFB-02 for Headstart Flop Bonus |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Hand | Pays | Contribution |
| Straight Flush | 50 for 1 | $11.76 \%$ |
| Three of a Kind | 30 for 1 | $6.27 \%$ |
| Straight | 6 for 1 | $19.34 \%$ |
| Flush | 4 for 1 | $18.92 \%$ |
| Pair | 2 for 1 | $32.89 \%$ |
| Total Payback |  |  |
| House Advantage |  |  |


| Pay table HFB-03 for Headstart Flop Bonus |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Hand | Pays | Contribution |
| Straight Flush | 40 for 1 | $9.41 \%$ |
| Three of a Kind | 30 for 1 | $6.27 \%$ |
| Straight | 5 for 1 | $16.11 \%$ |
| Flush | 4 for 1 | $18.92 \%$ |
| Pair | 2 for 1 | $32.89 \%$ |
| Total Payback |  |  |
| House Advantage |  | $83.61 \%$ |


| Pay table HFB-04 for Headstart Flop Bonus |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Hand | Pays | Contribution |
| Straight Flush | 40 for 1 | $9.41 \%$ |
| Three of a Kind | 30 for 1 | $6.27 \%$ |
| Straight | 5 for 1 | $16.11 \%$ |
| Flush | 3 for 1 | $14.19 \%$ |
| Pair | 2 for 1 | $32.89 \%$ |
| Total Payback |  |  |
| House Advantage |  | $78.88 \%$ |

Appendix A
Additional Paytables and Paybacks
The following tables contain alternative paytables for Headstart Hold'em Keno Version. The paybacks shown in the bottom row were calculated in a similar fashion to those shown in the main report, by summing up the values of the frequency of each winning hand rank times the payback of that hand. The details of these calculations can be provided upon request.

| Headstart Hold'em Keno Paytable - HHK-04 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K | Q^ Ja | 8* 9* | 5* 5 | 2* 7v |
| Diamond Royal | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Other Royal | 200 | 100 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 100 | 50 | 40 | 150 | 200 |
| Four of a Kind | 25 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 75 |
| Full House | 10 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 20 |
| Flush | 5 | 2 | 3 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Three of a Kind | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Two Pair | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Pair | 1 | 1 | 2 | NA | NA |
| Payback | 70.97\% | 70.35\% | 70.29\% | 70.66\% | 70.64\% |
| House Advantage | 29.03\% | 29.65\% | 29.71\% | 29.34\% | 29.36\% |


| Headstart Hold'em Keno Paytable - HHK-05 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K | Q^ Ja | 8* 9* | 5* 5 - | 2* 7* |
| Diamond Royal | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Other Royal | 150 | 100 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 100 | 50 | 40 | 150 | 200 |
| Four of a Kind | 25 | 15 | 25 | 10 | 50 |
| Full House | 6 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 20 |
| Flush | 4 | 2 | 3 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 |
| Three of a Kind | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Two Pair | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Pair | 1 | 1 | 1 | NA | NA |
| Payback | 70.26\% | 70.35\% | 70.61\% | 70.66\% | 70.57\% |
| House Advantage | 29.74\% | 29.65\% | 29.39\% | 29.34\% | 29.43\% |


| Headstart Hold'em Keno Paytable - HHK-06 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* Kv | QA Ja | 8* 9* | 5* 5 - | 2* 7* |
| Diamond Royal | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Other Royal | 200 | 100 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 100 | 50 | 50 | 100 | 200 |
| Four of a Kind | 25 | 30 | 25 | 15 | 50 |
| Full House | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 20 |
| Flush | 5 | 2 | 3 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 |
| Three of a Kind | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Two Pair | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Pair | 1 | 1 | 1 | NA | NA |
| Payback | 75.29\% | 75.47\% | 75.41\% | 75.31\% | 75.58\% |
| House Advantage | 24.71\% | 24.53\% | 24.59\% | 24.69\% | 24.42\% |


| Headstart Hold'em Keno Paytable - HHK-07 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K ${ }^{\text {¢ }}$ | Q^ Ja | 8* 9* | 5* 5 - | 2* 7 - |
| Diamond Royal | 599 | 599 | 599 | 599 | 599 |
| Other Royal | 200 | 100 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 100 | 50 | 50 | 100 | 200 |
| Four of a Kind | 25 | 30 | 25 | 15 | 50 |
| Full House | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 20 |
| Flush | 5 | 2 | 3 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 |
| Three of a Kind | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Two Pair | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Pair | 1 | 1 | 1 | NA | NA |
| Payback | 75.24\% | 75.42\% | 75.36\% | 75.26\% | 75.53\% |
| House Advantage | 24.76\% | 24.58\% | 24.64\% | 24.74\% | 24.47\% |


| Headstart Hold'em Keno Paytable - HHK-08 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K ${ }^{\text {¢ }}$ | Q^ Ja | 8-9 | 5* 5 - | 2* 7 - |
| Diamond Royal | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Other Royal | 300 | 75 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 200 | 50 | 50 | 200 | 200 |
| Four of a Kind | 50 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 100 |
| Full House | 10 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 20 |
| Flush | 7 | 4 | 5 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| Three of a Kind | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| Two Pair | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Pair | 1 | 1 | 2 | NA | NA |
| Payback | 95.51\% | 95.66\% | 95.66\% | 95.58\% | 95.79\% |
| House Advantage | 4.49\% | 4.34\% | 4.34\% | 4.42\% | 4.21\% |


| Headstart Hold'em Keno Paytable - HHK-09 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Winning Hand | A* K | Q^ Ja | 8* 9* | 5* 5 - | 2* 7v |
| Diamond Royal | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Other Royal | 300 | 75 | NA | NA | NA |
| Straight Flush | 200 | 50 | 50 | 200 | 300 |
| Four of a Kind | 50 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 100 |
| Full House | 10 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 20 |
| Flush | 7 | 4 | 5 | NA | NA |
| Straight | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 10 |
| Three of a Kind | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| Two Pair | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Pair | 1 | 1 | 2 | NA | NA |
| Payback | 95.51\% | 95.66\% | 95.41\% | 95.58\% | 95.38\% |
| House Advantage | 4.49\% | 4.34\% | 4.59\% | 4.42\% | 4.62\% |

