

HOW TO TAKE RISKS LIKE A BADASS

By: AJ Schullo

Too often in today's society, people let their fears inhibit them from taking risks which ultimately prevents them from taking their life to the next level. Fear of rejection, fear of being wrong, fear of poverty, fear of judgment, and fear of loss are just a few of the many hidden emotions that inhibit our greatness from materializing.

Human psychology is quite interesting. We tend to emphasize when things went wrong or poorly much more than the pleasantries we've experienced. Thus making us think more frequently about the worst-case scenario rather than the best of many possible outcomes. It's the same reason we criticize people when they make mistakes at whatever their profession is but are dismissive of all their successes and classify them as "did their job."

In the MMA gambling space, some believe a sports handicapper is something along the lines of "The biggest fraud in the history of sports betting" if they lose a bet or have a losing event, yet if they win, "they did what they suppose to do." Funny. It's almost like we forgot it's gambling or something. Still, many people out there congratulate the success of others and give thanks which are always appreciated. My intent with this content piece is to inspire more people to take the stance previously mentioned and take chances for their success.

I applaud others for taking chances that are with good intentions. It tells me they want to better themselves, which I admire greatly. I see people online laugh and disrespect those who are wrong and fail. However, the people that do such unwelcomed behavior do not understand

probabilities, nor are they risk-takers. Therefore, their opinion on the matter is irrelevant and is best to be disregarded.

Acknowledging various outcomes is better for mental health as getting married to one outcome on how something will play out may result in egotism if right and disappointment if wrong. For example, when I bet on a fighter to win a matchup, I acknowledge in my breakdown the various ways it could cash while also pointing out why it may not by assigning it a percentage. Nothing is a guarantee. After all, it is risk-taking.

I believe that the best bet one can make is in themselves. I am explicitly referencing a decision on what brings them happiness and pursuing it, which warrants goal making.

How do you make and reach goals in four simple steps?

Firstly get very clear on what you want. The more specific the goals are, the better. Don't just say, "I want \$1,000,000". Instead, determine what exactly you will distribute that money towards. If you want a luxury condo, where is that luxury condo, how much does it cost precisely, and why do you like it so much?

Next, ignore everybody's opinion about what you do en route to achieving your goals, EXCEPT, who presently do what you aspire to do. Why? They know first hand what it's like to do such practices. Of course, others who have not been there and done that will provide feedback that I did not ask for, and it is met with a "thanks for your feedback" only to be later forgotten. When people tell me, "AJ, that's not possible. You can't do that," all that tells me is that the

doubter doesn't think what I am trying to achieve is possible. It does not mean that objectively it is not possible. For people like this, I wish them all the best and choose not to interact with them as all they're trying to do is bring me down to their level. I, too, used not to think big at all.

However, I knew I wanted more in my life and sought out resources to make me a better person, which warranted seeking information and feedback from people in the Self-Help, DFS, betting, and sports community.

I never take constructive criticism personally. Instead, I treat it as business per usual and as a way to get better at whatever it is I am seeking advice for. When challenged by others, I embrace it because it keeps me with something to keep working towards. When someone I respect greatly in the industry gives me feedback on my writing, I try my best to interpret the feedback and improve.

Third, realize that the outer world will reflect what you feel on the inside. "It was always me against the world, and then one day I realized it was just me vs. me." This quote from Kendrick Lamar has paid massive dividends for me lately. It made me realize there are no excuses for me not getting to where I want to go. The only thing standing in my way from reaching my goals is me.

The last point I'll mention is persistence or the process of trial and error. "Even a broken clock is right twice a day." This quote is meaningful to me because it tells me to no matter how many times I screw up, I'll be successful eventually. Accepting that I'll be wrong plenty of times has made me more willing to take risks. I try my best at all the work I do and realize outcomes

are probabilistic. When you do what you love, the neediness to be "right" is significantly suppressed because the passion is rightfully more compelling.

Taking chances on what you love to do has taught many lessons and produced many wins, which has made those who take risks wiser and more confident. Let's look at some of the most successful people who failed before becoming the inspirational figures we know and love today.

Michael Jordan did not make his sophomore varsity high school basketball team but later became what some consider the greatest basketball player. Jordan took many shots during practice and missed many, but these failures shaped him into the success we know him today.

Tom Brady was drafted in the 6th round of the NFL draft and was initially a backup before becoming a multi-time MVP and Super Bowl Champion. Francis Ngannou lost to Stipe Miocic in January 2018 and then lost his next fight against Derrick Lewis before winning five straight contests by TKO/KO to become Undisputed UFC Heavyweight Champion.

Can you imagine if Michael Jordan, Tom Brady, and Francis Ngannou decided to give up when they were initially notified they weren't good enough yet to get what they wanted?

We often forget about or are not aware of all the failures that the most successful people incurred, but this article serves as a friendly reminder.

If you try your best and have good intentions, who cares if you fail or how many times you fail?

It's your life, and you owe it to yourself to chase your dreams and let nothing stop you!

TLDR: Take chances with good intentions on what you love to do because it will lead to a more fulfilling life.