

## The 6 Biggest Lessons Playing MMA DraftKings

I am writing you this free article in hopes of saving you time & stress and making you money over a long period of time as it pertains to playing MMA on DraftKings. I played MMA on DraftKings for over 3 years and I am grateful & proud to have made a live final (DraftKings Sports Betting National Championship in 2019. I placed in the top 50.) and an MMA qualifier (DraftKings Knockout King Final 2018). In addition, I, more importantly, make subscribers of my services money too. I wouldn't be as successful playing DraftKings on MMA if I did not apply 6 lessons with persistence, I've learned throughout my DraftKings career. These lessons I am referencing...I would like to share with you....

→The screenshot on the left is the leaderboard for the participants at the DraftKings Sports Betting National Championship. My username was anthony54 (50<sup>th</sup>).












A screenshot of a digital leaderboard for the DraftKings Sports Betting National Championship. The table lists participants by rank, prize, username, player score, pending wagers, bets wagered, and total bets. The top three prizes are \$1,000,000, \$350,000, and \$250,000. The user 'anthony54-SBNC' is listed at rank 50 with a prize of \$5,487.57.

#	PRIZE	USER	PLAYER SCORE	PEND WAGERS	BETS WAGERED	TOT
1	\$1,000,000	Opti5624-SBNC	\$81,891.83	\$0.00	8	\$48,213.30
2	\$350,000	rleejr86-SBNC	\$58,249.82	\$47,500.00	19	\$106,437.94
3	\$250,000	moneylinemikey...	\$57,039.24	\$57,039.20	25	\$105,505.27
46	--	lobo99-SBNC	\$6,114.89	\$400.00	14	\$4,950.00
47	--	tenaciousdjones...	\$5,688.57	\$78.00	67	\$20,643.00
48	--	joshuadbroad-S...	\$5,581.46	\$440.00	41	\$6,855.00
49	--	RotoAlmanac-SB...	\$5,371.49	\$0.00	33	\$24,482.51
50	--	anthony54-SBNC	\$5,202.86	\$1,102.02	91	\$5,487.57



→ This is the lineup I used for the 2018 MMA Knockout King Final on DraftKings (it was for UFC 232).

DRAFTKINGS		
	47th  \$2,490 anthony54	232.00 FR  2
F 	J. Jones   \$9,100   82.00% vs. Gustafsson PRE-FIGHT	0.00
F 	C. Cyborg   \$9,200   73.00% vs. Nunes PRE-FIGHT	0.00
F 	B. Lewis   \$7,900   29.00% vs. Hall   FINAL RD3	34.00 ▾
F 	W. Harris   \$8,600   35.00% vs. Arlovski   FINAL WINNER WBD	50.00 ▾
F 	A. Volka...   \$7,500   40.00% vs. Mendes   FINAL WINNER RD2	107.00 ▾
F 	S. Bahad...   \$7,400   42.00% vs. Millender   FINAL RD3	41.00 ▾

## 1. \*MOST IMPORTANT\* DRAFTKINGS BANKROLL MANAGEMENT








- Very similar to what I stated in my '6 Biggest Lessons Betting MMA' article, I am not a financial advisor, but I knew that there are MANY more important items that need to be addressed prior allocating a certain amount of money to my DraftKings bankroll. When I established my DraftKings bankroll, I knew that I had to set a limit on how much (as a percentage %) I would spend on a single UFC card. This magic number was 10 for me.

The amount roughly ranged between 1% of my DraftKings bankroll to 10% of my DraftKings bankroll throughout my entire career.

- Going along with this, diversification is a strategy to use to your advantage as a DraftKings player. Play as many fighters as you'd like and do this by making multiple lineups per slate in tournaments (any contest that has multiple entries where the payout is structured like a pyramid/is greater the higher you place). I always made multiple lineups for every MMA DraftKings slate because the variance in this sport is high and I'd like to have as many lineups as I need to feel comfortable approaching the slate. Additionally, I'd rather make 10 lineups that are \$1 each (assuming they're all in the same contest) than 2 lineups that are \$5 each if it means I am comfortable with the amount of fighters I am playing that are in my fighter pool selection.
- Also, I didn't shy away from playing cash games (50/50 contests, Head to Head contests, Double Ups) knowing that I am more likely to double my investment than if I played in a tournament where the upside of winnings is greater, but the likelihood of receiving a payout is significantly less (around 20% less). Having more exposure in cash games when playing an MMA slate on DraftKings is more than okay, I would just keep in mind that even though the likelihood to receive a payout in these contests is higher, that there is no guaranteed payout.

## **2. Don't be afraid to play 'chalk' a.k.a. popular fighters**

- One of the most important things to win tournaments on DraftKings is to take ownership into consideration. You will be more likely to move up the ranks in a tournament if you have a fighter or fighters on your roster that are low owned AND have a proficient DraftKings score. That said, there are 6 roster spots per DraftKings lineup for MMA, so while you may need a low owned fighter or 2 or a few, you may still need one or a few highly owned fighters on your lineup IF those fighters put up a huge DraftKings score. Let's analyze an example below from when one of our subscribers, Tony, won a tournament.

DRAFTKINGS		
	<b>1st</b> 💰\$275.29 aschullo1801	<b>630.50</b> FR 0
F 	B. Rothwell   24.41% vs. Struve   FINAL WINNER RD2	109.00 ✓
F 	J. Rozenstruik   55.76% vs. Overeem   FINAL WINNER RD5	94.50 ✓
F 	B. Mitchell   22.09% vs. Sayles   FINAL WINNER RD1	113.00 ✓
F 	C. Stamann   21.38% vs. Yadong   FINAL RD3	63.50 ✓
F 	T. Means   34.14% vs. Alves   FINAL WINNER RD1	111.50 ✓
F 	B. Quarantillo   24.42% vs. Kilburn   FINAL WINNER RD2	139.00 ✓

- The respective ownership percentages are next to each fighter's name in the above image. Tony played popular plays, Rozenstruik (55.76%) and Means (34.14%), but both fighters put up big scores relative to their prices (values) so the ownership was irrelevant in this case because both fighters were on the tournament winning lineup.

Tony also played less owned plays that scored proficiently as well; thus, boasting him towards the top of the leaderboard (Rothwell, Mitchell, Stamann, and Quarantillo).

- I wouldn't shy away from playing 'chalky' or highly owned plays because as you can see in the example above, they can still win you money and boost you up the leaderboard. That doesn't mean go out of your way to play low owned fighters just because they're low owned if you don't think they make for good plays, but basically play the fighters you think are the best plays and mix and match them across making multiple lineups to where you feel comfortable in your DraftKings portfolio for the slate.
- If you'd like assistance on how to gage ownership on DraftKings slate, I accommodate this as part of my services:

<https://www.ajsactionpackedsportsbets.com/subscription>

**3. Don't exclusively look at DraftKings scores in the fighter's past performances to determine if you want to play them in your lineups. Look at the stylistic matchup they're in, finish prop, odds to win, and other factors.**

- One of many factors used to gage ownership is previous DraftKings scores on a fighter's previous performances. While it's quite possible a fighter who scored well in the past can certainly do it again if not better, it should be noted that it doesn't mean the intriguing DraftKings score will sustain for the rest of the fighter's career much like a trading stock's performance.
  - One fighter that comes to mind that fits this criterion on the most recent UFC card is Enrique Barzola. Barzola has scored very well in the past on DraftKings by landing an excessive number of takedowns, passing his opponents guard, and landing a good amount of significant strikes. However, I did not think Barzola was going to replicate a big DraftKings score like he's shown in the past against Rani Yahya (I wrote Barzola up as a fade in my DraftKings breakdown → <https://www.ajsactionpackedsportsbets.com/ufc-draftkings-breakdowns> → very










bottom of the page on the left hand side). Yahya is a very high-level submission grappler and if Barzola wanted to take Yahya down with frequency he would be at a disadvantage on the mat and take the fight to where Yahya wanted it the most. This goes along with the stylistic matchup the fighter is in principle. If Barzola was facing a fighter with takedown defense that can be exploited and wasn't a threatening submission grappler, he would've made for a good play and had potential to score as highly or higher as he's did in the past. Barzola also did not have a strong finish prop despite being the favorite which is why I did not think he made for a good play on DraftKings for UFC Brasilia.

- A fighter that is a big underdog that has scored well in the past also does not make for a good DraftKings play either in general in my opinion. One example that comes to mind is Dustin Poirier when he faced Khabib Nurmagomedov. Poirier is an excellent fighter, but Nurmagomedov was a bad stylistic matchup for him which was reflected in the odds (Poirier was a +325 underdog 23.5% implied probability to win). Therefore, Poirier would've been a good fighter to be underweighted to (have less % owned than the field) if not outright fade because he was naturally going to receive some solid ownership because he was in the main event and had good previous DraftKings performances.

#### **4. Prioritize 'safe' plays in cash games (50/50s, Head to Heads, and Double Ups), but also hedge if you find it optimal**

- As previously mentioned in lesson #1, diversification is great strategy to employ when playing DraftKings. Another effective strategy is hedging. In cash games (50/50s, Head to Heads, and Double Ups), I always prioritize the safest plays on the slate. These plays include fighters with strong odds to win, are in good matchups after doing my research + analysis, have safe 'floors' or high point projection in the worst-case scenario, and have high ceilings in the better case scenarios. Sometimes in cash games, I hedge by playing a fighter facing one of the fighters I see as safe and place in my cash game lineup (it is usually in a 5 round fight so the DK point potential is higher due to having 2 extra

rounds). For instance, UFC 245 had 3 title fights (3, 5-round fights) and I wanted at least 1 fighter from each fight in my cash game lineup. I 'stacked' the Usman versus Covington and Holloway versus Volkanovski fight by playing all 4 fighters in my cash game lineup. I felt good that both the winner and loser of each fight should score well considering each fighter has shown capability of doing so in the past plus the odds suggested each fight was likely to go the distance. In doing my research and analysis, I also thought each fight would play out in the striking exchanges most of the time with all four fighters striking at high outputs. I was confident all four fighters can score well. This strategy worked out great as I won all my cash games on this slate.

DRAFTKINGS		
	2nd  \$0 anthony54	477.00 FR  2
F 	A. Nunes   100.00% vs. de Randa...   FINAL WINNER WBD	124.50 ✓
F 	M. Holloway   100.00% vs. Volkanov...   FINAL RDS	67.00 ✓
F 	A. Volkanovski   100.00% vs. Holloway   FINAL WINNER WBD	108.50 ✓
F 	K. Usman   50.00% vs. Covington RDS	91.50 ✓
F 	C. Covington   100.00% vs. Usman RDS	44.00 ✓
F 	I. Heinisch   50.00% vs. Akhmedov   FINAL RDS	41.50 ✓

## 5. **\*\*\*Very Important\*\*\*DO NOT WORRY ABOUT LOSING. INSTEAD GET EXCITED**

### **ABOUT WINNING**

- Analysis, research, and execution are crucial to be a successful DraftKings player, but another key ingredient is mindset

- Fear-based decision making is non-optimal and those are the types of decisions that inhibit regret and perhaps label a play in your lineup as 'dumb' from the perspective of the player that made the play. Making decisions based on confidence, integrity, in depth analysis, and focusing on the best-case scenario are the regret-free decisions that we all gain from. As Conor McGregor stated quoting his coach in his post-fight interview after defeating Nate Diaz in the rematch, "we win or we learn"

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUXcJpdn\\_f8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUXcJpdn_f8) at 1:44 mark) and that is how it should feel AFTER a slate on DraftKings concludes. This is a long term game and 1 losing or a few losing consecutive events does not mean you're a bad DraftKings player nor does 1 winning or a few consecutive winning events mean you're the best DraftKings player in the world, but after each event we can learn something and apply it going forward whether it be with the fighters specifically or new trends (i.e. fighters with an expensive DK salary don't need to finish in the early rounds to get a good score, calf kicks, should strikes, altitude, etc.) or perhaps something else that drew our attention. Know that every successful DraftKings player (including myself) has been on bad runs, but it's how we respond that makes us successful in the long run.

**6. List the pros and cons of each fighter and decide on how much (if any) exposure you would like to have in your DraftKings portfolio**



- In DraftKings breakdowns, I list the pros and cons of each fighter for you, so this first part isn't necessary for you to do if you are a subscriber to my services  
<https://www.ajsactionpackedsportsbets.com/subscription>
- This step is self-explanatory, but essential because the less fighters we have in our DraftKings fighter pool, the easier it is for us to construct lineups. Furthermore, once we have an idea of how much exposure we would like to each fighter, it is that much easier to construct DraftKings lineups. In the past, I have taken very heavy (highly owned) stances on fighters I felt confident in and it has paid dividends (not all the time though) which is why having a 'core' of fighters you would like the most exposure to is a strategy I like to employ on each slate. If that core of fighters does well, your likely looking good in terms of a payout on the respective DraftKings slate.

**Would you like to know more about my betting success? Please see below for more details.**

- Third party tracking site for ALL my MMA bets:  
<https://www.betmma.tips/AnthonyS364>
- Third party tracking site for my NBA and NFL bets (will move over ALL of MMA bets in the next couple of weeks) <https://bettin.gs/AJAPSB>

**It would be my pleasure to connect with you. Let's connect on social media:**

- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AJMMABetting> + @AJMMABetting
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ajmmabetting/?hl=en> + ajmmabetting

**Lastly, if you'd like to tail my bets right away, you can subscribe on my website here:**

<https://www.ajsactionpackedsportsbets.com/subscription>