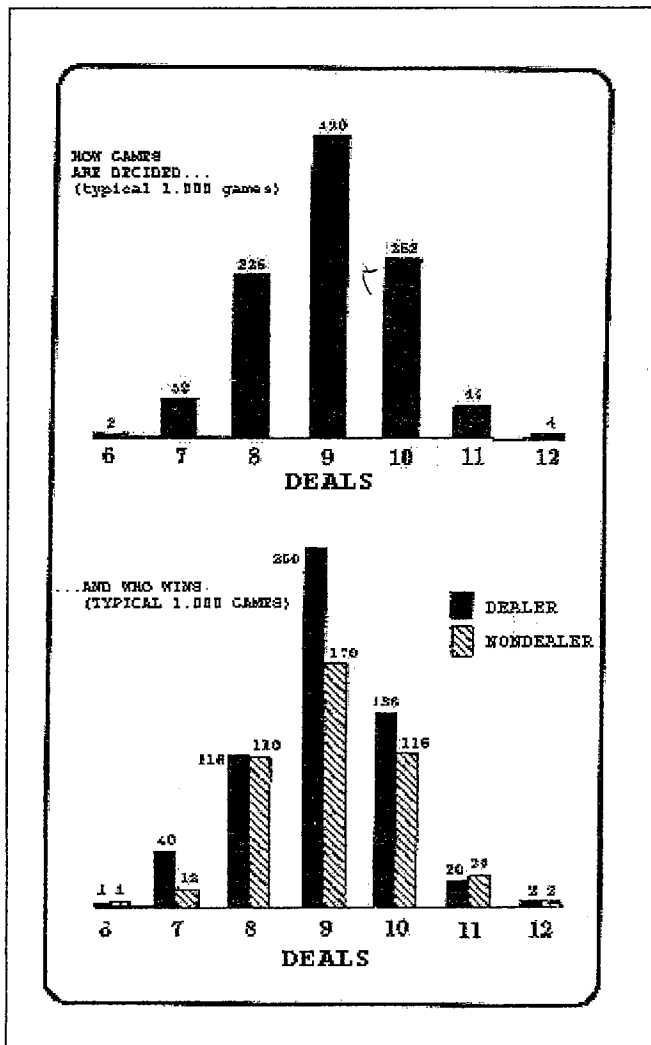


By DeLynn Colvert, author of, "PLAY WINNING CRIBBAGE"



# WHAT'S THE ODDS?

## #17



Many games of cribbage are won or lost by simply *knowing the odds* and playing the hand accordingly. Study the graphic on this page and over the upcoming months and you will improve your knowledge of cribbage probabilities. These probability tidbits are especially helpful when playing those last critical hands....and that crucial end-game pegging that decides so many games.

Remember, hunch players are losers. Play the odds, and sooner or later you will be rewarded with the majority of victories.

The charts are based on samples of 1,000 or more. Your own games should parallel these findings. Of course, millions of games would have to be analyzed to pinpoint these probabilities precisely. And this is what makes cribbage such an exciting game...the endless combinations of cards and pegging possibilities.

The chart on this page analyzes the number of deals in a typical cribbage game, and who has the advantage (the dealer or the non-dealer). The chart shows that a nine-deal game is by far the most common (about 42% of all games are played in nine deals). The lower chart

shows that the dealer wins about 19% more than the non-dealer (250-170) in a nine-deal game. It also shows that about 90% of all games are played in eight, nine or ten deals. In an *average* game, the non-dealer comes up about five points short, and the dealer wins...usually by counting his/herr crib to win the game. *By using the "Twenty-six Theory" as your guide, you can cut the dealer's ninth deal advantage.*