

and technological difficulties to emerge as the father of modern offshore sports gambling. His vision, insatiable ambition and charismatic leadership, brought him to the heights of success in his tropical paradise, where every night was a party and every day was a new chance to make a fortune. Only the intervention of the U.S. government could bring his dramatic success to an end.

This is his story, in his own words, as only he could tell it. It's absorbing reading for anyone interested in the big business of sports gambling, modern entrepreneurship, or a first-hand look at what it's truly like to live the high life.

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STEVE BUDIN is widely regarded as the father of the offshore sports gambling industry. A self-made multi-millionaire before the age of thirty, he revolutionized bookmaking by setting up on foreign soil and taking bets through toll-free numbers. Today he is the President & CEO of Sports Advisors, an online handicapping service for gamblers. He lives in Miami with his wife and two children.

BOB SCHALLER is the author of thirty-five published books, including *Never Stop Pushing* (with Olympic wrestling champion Rulon Gardner) and *State of the Game* (with Hall of Fame basketball coach Denny Crum).

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Budin

BETS, DRUGS AND ROCK & ROLL



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The Rise and Fall of the World's First
Offshore Sports Gambling Empire



STEVE BUDIN
with Bob Schaller
Foreword by Brandon Lang

Gambling/True Crime \$24.95 (\$29.95 CAN)

“The offshore gambling world is the Wild Frontier of the new millennium, a place where thugs and thieves, visionaries and charlatans, sling wads of cash instead of guns. Steve Budin, an entrepreneurial trailblazer, was there at the start. His revealing memoir of the industry's early days provides an illuminating (and often chilling) glimpse at the greed, amorality, and high-stakes chicanery of the international sports-betting racket.”

— Michael Konik, author of *The Smart Money: How the World's Best Sports Bettors Beat the Bookies Out of Millions*

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The son of a legendary New York bookmaker, Steve Budin learned the ins and outs of taking bets at an early age. By the time he was sixteen he was already taking action from his schoolmates, their parents, even his teachers. He graduated to running high-roller excursions to Las Vegas, where he plied wealthy clients with sex and drugs and watched as the casinos made a fortune on their losses. But then one day Budin had a vision that would change the gambling industry forever. He moved to Central America and began accepting bets over the telephone, wresting bettors from the clutches of the corner bookmaker and laying the foundation for the internet gambling revolution to come.

In Panama and later in Costa Rica, Budin's company raked in hundreds of millions of dollars. Along the way he navigated the treacherous waters of corrupt government officials, shady businessmen,