

ROBBINS TRADING CHAMPIONSHIP: ALBO D'ORO a cura di Emilio Tomasini

Robert Bloch

When Robert Bloch attended a Futures Conferences seminar in Las Vegas a few years back and saw the presentation of trophies to the winners of the World Cup Championship of Futures Trading, he had a knee-jerk reaction. "When I saw that bull and bear trophy being handed out," he says, "I thought 'why shouldn't they be handing that to me?'" That impetus was all Bloch needed. He went on to blitz the field in '98 and '99, scoring five top-three finishes in World Cup divisions and becoming one of the most prolific performers in the championship's history. His '99 results include separate accounts that appreciated 216%* and 179%*. "It's hard to say if it was ego, but I definitely thought that it would be nice to be able to say that you're number one in the world," says Bloch. "I needed to prove to myself that my concepts could work in the marketplace."

Bloch's system, the HB12 - named in memory of his mother -- tracks a variety of markets, including precious metals, financial instruments, energy products, stock indexes, meats, and grains. His indicators are built around 10 different moving averages and several oscillators, and he trades on both a short and long-term basis. He describes his trading method as aggressive in terms of the wide range of markets he targets, yet conservative in terms of his trade management. "I'm not afraid to take a quick loss," says Bloch, "because my trading produces a lot more winners than losers."

Bloch is a CPA and is CFO of a bank, where he manages a \$20 million bond portfolio.

Robert Bloch - Live Update

Contracts traded: Dow Jones, Coffee, Treasury Bonds, Metals, Grains, Meats, Currencies, and Energy and Soft products

Options or spreads used: Both will be utilized

Approximate round-turns per month: 10

Recommended account size: 8,000 to \$10,000

Order types to enter: Market

Order types to exit: Market, stop

Average length trades held: 30 minutes to 2 months

Methodology: Seeks support and resistance areas utilizing proprietary signals (including HB1, SR71, and HB7 oscillators); positions trades based on market action. Trades generally initiated after market fails at S/R levels

Risk rating: Moderately aggressive

Steve Hutson

Steve Hutson's first exposure to the futures markets in 1982 was palpable. He had received a cold call from a brokerage firm, and decided to check out the company in person, showing up minutes before the 7:20 am financial instruments opening one morning. "They had one of those mechanical tote boards, like an old-fashioned scoreboard at a baseball game," says Hutson. "When the markets opened and the numbers started flipping, I could feel the excitement. I could feel the profit opportunity. I knew it was what I wanted to do."

Hutson has never looked back. After years of successful trading for his own account, Steve became a registered Commodity Trading Advisor with the CFTC in 1995 and immediately showed his mettle with runner-up finishes in the professional division of the World Cup Championship of Futures Trading in '95*, '96*, and '98*. His big-time success is born of small-town sensibilities; Steve operates his business out of Mequon, WI. "I started as an outsider, and it has definitely given me a unique perspective," he says. "It has helped me because I didn't come into the profession with preconceived ideas. My systems are unique and they work."

Industry recognition has included citation as one of Futures magazine's Top Traders of '95, a top-10 ranking by The Stark Report that same year for traders managing less than \$10 million, and inclusion in Managed Funds Association's Star Search program in '96. Hutson's Macro Program system trades a combination of trend-following and non-trend-following systems in foreign currency, interest rate, stock index, and agricultural markets. Steve holds a masters degree in macroeconomics from the University of Wisconsin and is a member of the NFA.

Steve Hutson - Live Update

Contracts traded: Dow Jones, 10-year Notes, Coffee, Currencies. (Occasionally Grains.)

Options or spreads used: Options used in Coffee and Grain trades

Approximate round-turns per month: 15

Order types to enter: Market, stop, limit

Order types to exit: Stop, MOC

Average length trades held: Intra-day to 1 week

Methodology: Technically based proprietary systems to exploit both trending and non-trending markets

Risk rating: Aggressive

Ryan Jones

Finishing third in the non-professional division of the World Cup Championship of Futures Trading in 1999 was quite an achievement, but Ryan Jones has his sights set even higher. Like a gunslinger looking for Billy the Kid, he's trying to climb to the top of the World Cup's Mt. Everest and knock off the all-time leading sharpshooter, Larry Williams, who posted an astounding 11,376%* run-up in 1987.

"I'm putting myself out there by saying it, but it's been a goal of mine for several years," says Jones. "If I don't do it this year, I'll try again next year. The key is getting out of the gate quickly."

If anyone can do it, it's Jones. He's considered a leading authority on money management techniques, and is credited for popularizing the fixed-ratio method. Jones, in fact, believes trading is 90% management and 10% methodology. His trading systems are based on historical data, mathematical analysis, price movement, trend-following, and value investing.

"With proper management," he says, "the record is definitely beatable."

Jones' noted money-management book, "The Trading Game: Playing by the Numbers to Make Millions," is available at the [World Cup Advisor Store](#) along with several of his popular video tapes..

Ryan Jones Nasdaq - Live Update

Contracts traded: Australian dollar, Corn, Cocoa, OJ, Crude Oil, Cotton, Wheat, T-Notes, Copper, Live Cattle, Dow Jones, Sugar.

Options or spreads used: No

Approximate round-turns per month: 8-10

Order types to enter: Stops for following day

Order types to exit: Stops for following day

Average length trades held: 4-20 days

Methodology: Group 2 PowerTrade (proprietary)

Risk rating: Moderately aggressive

Mike Lundgren

After a five-year hiatus, Mike Lundgren is back trading Live Cattle futures. And when you take the measure of the man, it's surprising he stayed away this long.

"With everything I do" Mike says, "I love to compete."

Lundgren is comfortable at center stage, and it shows. In '92, he served as President of the Washington State Cattle Feeders Association and on the Board of Directors of the National Cattlemen's Association. That same year he was named Washington State Cattle Feeder of the Year. From '92 to '95, he was the youngest majority owner of a Continental Basketball Association team. Since 1996, Mike has been majority owner and president of Canyon Lakes Golf Course, one of the top daily fee facilities in Washington.

And his trading wasn't too shabby, either. Over a four-year stretch, he rode herd over professional division competitors in the World Cup Championship of Futures Trading with a trio of first-place finishes: '89 with a 177%* return, '90 with 244%*, and '92 with 213%*. "I had heard about the World Cup on television and in Futures magazine, and I thought 'Hey, I think I can do pretty well myself,'" Lundgren says. "At that time I believe no one had better information about the cattle market than I did."

Today, Lundgren remains closely tied to the cattlemen's community. "I still have the opportunity to visit with the cattle feeders and buyers," he says. "That's important, because I've always believed that in the marketplace fundamentals eventually win out over mechanical systems and technical analysis."

Mike's return to trading will follow a familiar path, with a mix of outright and spread positions. His World Cup Advisor.com account can be followed in real-time with Live Update service.

World Cup accounts do not necessarily represent all the trading accounts controlled by a given competitor. World Cup competitors may control accounts that produce results substantially different than the results achieved in their World Cup accounts.

Mike Lundgren - Live Update

Contracts traded: Live cattle. (Occasionally feeder cattle, corn)

Options or spreads used: Both

Approximate round-turns per month: 1 - 10

Order types to enter: Market, limit

Order types to exit: Market, limit

Average length trades held: 1 month

Methodology: Fundamental Analysis

Risk rating: Aggressive

John Mills

When John Mills first entertained the idea of competing in the World Cup Championship of Futures Trading, sponsored by Robbins Trading Company, he decided to take his questions straight to the source. "I was reading Futures magazine and I saw the advertisement for the competition," says Mills. "I went over to the Robbins offices, and Joel (Robbins) was nice enough to sit down with me. I asked him what it would take to finish in the top three, and he told me a 50% return would probably do it. I entered, and when I got my account up to 50% I stopped trading. I always make sure I make my minimum."

That single-minded approach, which allowed Mills to finish first in the non-professional division of the 1989 World Cup competition, has characterized his business career. It's the mindset that helped him to build a 2,000-employee, 285-store hair and tanning salon chain from 1978 to 1999. Now devoting his full attention to trading, it's the same mindset that has him focused on currency markets with specified returns in mind. "I'm usually out my positions within three or four days," says Mills. "I always have a realistic target in mind, and I always exit when I reach my target or stop level."

Mills has continued to be a force in the World Cup Championship, posting third-place finishes in the system trading division in '94 and the professional division in '96. John's research and market analysis concentrates on the euro, Swiss franc, Japanese yen, and the e-mini S&P. He is a registered Commodity Trading Advisor with the CFTC and is a member of the NFA. He is also Trading Advisor for the Fortex Fund, which engages in foreign exchange interbank market transactions.

John Mills - Live Update

Contracts traded: Japanese Yen, Swiss Franc, British Pound, Eurocurrency, Dollar Index, E-Mini. (Occasionally Dow Jones, Soybean Oil, Crude Oil, 30-year T-Bonds.)

Options or spreads used: Both options and spreads are traded; both buy and write strategies are used with options.

Approximate round-turns per month: 8-15

Recommended account size: \$15,000

Order types to enter: Stop, limit, market, OCO

Order types to exit: Stop, limit, market, OCO

Average length trades held: 0-4 days. Overnight position held as directed by methodology

Methodology: Proprietary trading model with specific entry and exit points, profit targets, and stop-losses

Risk rating: Moderately aggressive

Contracts traded: S&P

Options or spreads used: No

Approximate round-turns per month: 20-30

Recommended account size: \$15,000

Order types to Stop

enter:

Order types to exit: Stop, market, limit

Average length trades held: Two hours or less

Methodology: Proprietary system utilizing indicators based on time, price, and volatility. Employs trailing stops.

Risk rating: Moderately aggressive

Dennis Minogue

Followers of Dennis Minogue tend to share a maverick streak. "They're typically people who won't tolerate your standard industry-generated commodity returns," says Minogue. "They're not people who are going to give their money to a Merrill Lynch or a Goldman Sachs. Excellence in profits, not trading activity, that's my pledge. As a result, I don't necessarily fit the profile of the typical commodity trader, sometimes spending considerable periods of time in a 100% cash position, waiting for a high-profit, high-probability trading opportunity to unfold."

Sticking entirely to long stock index futures positions in the mid to late 90s, Minogue's competitive trading results* were outstanding, beginning with a first-place finish in the World Cup Championship of Futures Trading professional division title in 1995. Highlights include a ranking by Commodity Traders Consumer Report** as the #2 most profitable stock index futures advisory service in the U.S. in 1996, and a #1 ranking by CTCR** in both '97 and '98 as the advisory service leader in overall return on margin stock index futures. In '99, Dennis scored a rare triple: #1 in overall profit performance in Futures magazine's Superstar Trading Contest, #1 as International Traders Research's** most profitable stock index futures trading CTA, and #1 as CTCR's** most profitable futures advisory service.

Minogue's success is not as simple as it looks. "There are management, timing, leverage, and rollover techniques involved," he says. "And there are stop adjustments to be made. It's not just watching paint dry." The Minogue Stock Index Hotline and other advisories have received top rankings from Timer Digest, Managed Accounts Reports, Barclay's Trading Company, and Commodity Traders Consumer Report. Minogue is a registered Commodity Trading Advisor with the CFTC and a member of the NFA.

***Rankings are limited to the number of advisors that provided data to the ranking organizations.*

Neil Peplinski

Neil Peplinski rolled the dice and got burned in his first brush with the futures markets. While he admits it hurt at the time, he's convinced it was a blessing in disguise. "It was absolutely the best thing that could have happened," he says. "If you shoot from the hip you're eventually going to crash and burn. It was an awakening. It helped me to refocus my energies. It made me understand that this is a business and there's lots of work involved."

Peplinski decided to approach futures trading utilizing the analytical skills he had developed while earning his masters in engineering - with an emphasis in mathematics - from the University of Michigan. "I taught myself to become a mechanical trader with specific exit points," he says. "I learned how to use my technical background to gain an edge in the markets."

Peplinski learned so well that he won the non-professional division of the World Cup Championship of Futures Trading in 1998 with a 94%* return, the second highest of all competitors that year. The timing signals he employed so successfully are incorporated into his new The Futures Edge system, a dynamic approach that provides short-term signals based on market patterns, statistical analysis, and ongoing research. The system dictates an average hold of two to three days on winning trades, and an average hold of only one day on losing trades.

Peplinski currently focuses on the T-Bond, Dow, and coffee markets. Neil is registered as a Commodity Trading Advisor with the CFTC.

Neil Peplinski - Live Update

Contracts traded: Coffee, Dow Jones, 30-year T-Bonds, Japanese Yen. (Occasionally Energy products and Grains as part of an options trade.)

Options or spreads used:	Yes, primarily option writes
Approximate round-turns per month:	5
Recommended account size:	\$15,000
Order types to enter:	Stops, limits for futures; limits for options
Order types to exit:	Stops, markets, limits for futures; limits for options
Average length trades held:	3-5 days for futures; 1-4 weeks for options
Methodology:	Swing trading and inter-market patterns for futures; overvalued option writes
Risk rating:	Moderately aggressive

Kurt Sakaeda

In 1995, Kurt Sakaeda was discussing trading over a drink with a friend. "I told him there can be no advantage to trading on a seasonal basis," says Sakaeda. "If there was an advantage like that, a large investment firm would find it. Then they would saturate the market and drive the advantage away." Kurt's friend replied simply, "How do you know if you haven't done any of the research?"

After months of study, Sakaeda had done the research. He had found the seasonal patterns he was searching for and began testing his theories in the marketplace. "No true adventure begins with steady hands," he says. "But I closed out my first position a winner and knew I was on to something." By 1998 Sakaeda was on to something big, as demonstrated by his runner-up finish in the non-professional division of the World Cup Championship of Futures Trading.

The big payoff, however, was still a couple years away. In 2000, Kurt took center stage in the World Cup by lapping the field with a commanding 595%* return. The only traders to ever post higher World Cup numbers both go by the name of Williams.

Sakaeda's style will appeal to the more laid-back investor. Looking for long-term trends based on seasonality, his trade activity can at times move at a glacial pace. But don't let that fool you. "People who follow me are more interested in winning than in having action," Kurt says. "My system is based on winning at a slow, steady pace. I don't have to swing at the pitches that are high and outside."

Sakaeda, a data analyst, concentrates on agricultural, cocoa, and energy products, and favors holding options positions. He suggests picking up on all his recommendations for optimal results. "It's like riding a bicycle," he says. "The faster you go the more stable you become. If you pick and choose positions, you will not have any diversity."

Kurt Sakaeda - Live Update

Contracts traded: Corn, Cocoa, Crude Oil, Cotton, Copper, Heating Oil, Unleaded Gas, Orange Juice, Coffee, Natural Gas, Soybeans, Sugar, Wheat

Options or spreads used: No

Approximate round-turns per month: 7-10

Recommended account size: \$50,000

Order types to enter: Limit

Order types to exit: Market

Average length trades held: Average position held 6 months

Methodology: This account is traded using seasonal shifts in price

Risk rating: Aggressive

Jim Severoglu

In 1997, after 11 years as a senior portfolio manager with a highly respected investment management firm, Jim Severoglu decided to take the road less-traveled. Armed only with self-confidence, he quit his lucrative position to follow his dreams.

His primary mission: To develop a trading system of exceptional reliability. A math whiz at UCLA and Harvey Mudd College with an engineering and quantitative background, Jim began a search that led him through the analysis of tens of thousands of systems.

"I kept trying different methods, different time frames, different intervals," says Jim, "and one day I just applied something new after trying a million different permutations and I had it. At first I thought 'This must be an error,' but there it was. It was far ahead of everything else I had tried in terms of consistent profitability. I knew this was the system I needed for the World Cup Championship."

Jim tested his new system into late 2000, and it wasn't until October that he was ready to enter in the competition. Trading the mini Nasdaq contract exclusively, he placed his first order on Oct. 18 and closed out his last position on Dec. 22. In just two months he amassed a return of 138%* and claimed second place.

Some might call it blind luck to find a needle in the systems haystack. Others might call it Divine Intervention. Jim calls it the byproduct of dogged determination. "I believe in persistence," he says. "I wasn't going to stop until I found what I was looking for."

Jim resumed trading the system in May 2001. A display of the account is available through WCA's Live Update service.

Jim Severoglu - Live Update

Contracts traded: Primarily e-mini S&P, e-mini Nasdaq; occasionally T-Bonds

Options or spreads used:	No
Approximate round-turns per month:	20
Order types to enter:	Stops and markets
Order types to exit:	Stops and markets
Average length trades held:	Daytrades and short-term trades up to 3 days
Methodology:	Quantative mechanical strategy
Risk rating:	Aggressive

Larry Williams

You can hardly blame Larry Williams for making 1987 his last appearance in the World Cup Championship of Futures Trading. When you start with \$10,000 in your account and finish with \$1,147,607, you've established an 11,376%* benchmark that you might as well let others chase.

Still, Williams could never quite shake the critics who called his phenomenal year a fluke. So to answer the skeptics on the 10th anniversary of his accomplishment without climbing back into the ring himself, Larry came up with an ingenious solution. He trained his daughter, Michelle, in the fine points of his strategies, and let her represent the Williams' trading style.

The result? A 1,000%* increase that is easily the second-best performance in the 16-year history of the competition. The skeptics have been oddly quiet ever since.

"Because no one had seen that kind of a performance before, they didn't understand how it could be done," says Williams. "People always underestimate the power of money management, and that was the key to what I accomplished in 1987. Money is made trading, but the creation of wealth is due to money management."

With eight books to his credit and an exhaustive worldwide seminar schedule always in front of him, Larry nonetheless continues to trade actively. "Trading has never stopped being challenging and rewarding to me," he says. "So is rodeo riding, but I didn't make as much money at it and it hurt more."

Recent industry accolades include Futures magazine's Doctorate of Futures award in 1998 and Omega Research's Lifetime Achievement award in 1999. His most recent book, *The Mt. Sinai Myth*, is scheduled to become a motion picture. A variety of Larry's books and videotapes is available at the [World Cup Advisor Store](#).

Larry Williams T-Bond -- Live Update

Contracts traded:	30-year T-Bonds
Options or spreads used:	No
Approximate round-turns per month:	3-5
Recommended account size:	\$15,000
Order types to enter:	Market, stop, limit
Order types to exit:	Market, stop, limit
Average length trades held:	1-10 days
Methodology:	Proprietary system
Risk rating:	Moderately aggressive
Contracts traded:	S&P
Options or spreads used:	No
Approximate round-turns per month:	4

Recommended account size:	\$10,000
Order types to enter:	No
Order types to exit:	Buy/sell stops
Average length trades held:	2 days
Methodology:	Technical
Risk rating:	Aggressive and speculative