

## DOUBLE DOWN



### HE'S STILL BEATING THE HOUSE

Ed Thorp's moment is coming—again. Thorp is an investor, mathematician, and crack blackjack player whose winning system got him expelled from Reno casinos in the 1960s. Now his 1967 work, *Beat the Market: A Scientific Stock Market System*, has been named one of the most sought-after out-of-print books of the past year by BookFinder.com.

*Beat the Market*, which sells for up to \$750 on Amazon.com, describes his investing system, a precursor of the Black-Scholes formula. Why is the book so hot now? Perhaps it's rising interest in the relation between gambling and investing. Thorp also gets mentions in recent books, including Nassim Nicholas Taleb's best-seller on probability, *The Black Swan*. Another attention-getter: publicity about a cigarette-pack-size computer co-invented by Thorp in the '60s, to be exhibited next spring at Germany's Heinz Nixdorf computer museum. "It could predict where a roulette ball would land," he says.

—Hardy Green