

PS 94: More on Choosing Slot Machines Live | North Dakota Slots in 2020

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #94 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses choosing candidate slot machines. Plus, in this episode I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. state of North Dakota.

Thank you for joining me for the Professor Slots podcast show. I'm Jon Friedl and this is the podcast about slot machine casino gambling. It is where I provide knowledge, insights, and tools for helping you improve your slot machine gambling performance.

On Last Week's Episode...

In case you missed it, on my last episode I went over assessing casinos for success from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed North Carolina slot machine casino gambling in 2020.

I hope you enjoyed listening to my last episode as much as I enjoyed making it for you.

Call to Action #1 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

YouTube Q&A Session from Saturday, June 6, 2020

Here's the audio recording of my latest live Q&A session.

OPENING

Hello, slots enthusiasts! How are you? It's great to hang out with you again for another Professor Slots podcast episode and live stream.

Today we're going to be diving into how to choose candidate slot machines. The next step after last week's live stream on assessing casinos is choosing the best slot machines for you. But how do we do that well? With central servers and modern casino business practices, not all slot machines are the same. Many slots players dive right in without a plan. On today's live stream, I'll help you start on developing that plan. That's coming up!

But first, if you're with us during the live stream, make sure to say hello in the live chat and let us know where you are at or where you play slots. I'll check in with the live chat in a few moments. And, as usual, be sure to ask your slots-related questions!

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hi, my name is Jon Friedl. Welcome to Professor Slots, a channel that's all about mastering casino slots so you can win your way to success. If you've ever walked into a casino, looked around, and wondered what's going on with slots, I can help.

Thanks again for joining us today, whether you are listening on the podcast, watching this video later, or here with us on the live stream. I'm glad you're all here!

Today is Saturday, June 6th, 2020 and, about an hour ago according to the American Gaming Association's live casino tracker, 519 U.S. casinos have re-opened and 470 remain closed. That's right, another 292 casinos opened in the last week, we're up to 6.5% to just over half (52%) of U.S. casinos having re-opened. Visit AGA's live casino tracker using this convenient link: ProfessorSlots.com/tracker.

Also, I have a brief announcement about this live stream. Based on comments about Saturdays at 2 p.m. Eastern Time perhaps not being the most convenient time, I ran a poll asking when would be a better day or time, giving some choices which also work with my schedule.

The poll answers were with remain the same or 7 to 8 p.m. on Monday thru Friday. The clear results I got back is that people want to stay on Saturdays. In fact, the combined results for every weekday evening equaled those for Saturday alone. So, Saturday's it is.

However, and I hadn't even asked this question, I got a lot of replies it would be more convenient to hold it a little earlier in the day. A better time seems to be at Noon Eastern Time rather than 2 p.m. For example, California can watch it live at 9 a.m. while London can watch it starting at 7 p.m. If you're a podcast listener or watching the video recording later, this time change won't affect you at all. The podcast episode with the audio recording will still come out on Sunday's at 7 p.m. Eastern Time. And 12 hours or so that YouTube takes to process the live stream and spread it over the globe simply gets done two hours sooner.

Hopefully, the only people that might be affected are those who are here on the live stream now. Let me know in the live chat. I think we'll have more people coming in two hours earlier, after everyone adjusts.

BODY

Let's check in with the Live Chat to say hello and maybe answer a few quick questions before getting into today's topic...

That was great. Today's topic is based on the second of my three main articles on my website. This second topic is Choosing Slot Machines. Last week's topic was the first article, Assessing Casinos for Success, and I'm for next week's topic to be the third article: Identifying Your Gambling Goals. Links to these three every-slots-enthusiast-must-know articles are on my website homepage at ProfessorSlots.com.

<https://professorslots.com/choosing-slot-machines/>

You can find a direct link to Choosing Slot Machines in the live chat, in the show notes at professorslots.com/episode94/ for you podcast listeners, and in the description if you're watching the recording of this live stream later.

You'll find my YouTube video of this article near the top of website. That'll be important to take a look at, as I'll explain in a moment. Also, if you're a podcast listener, I spoke on this article on my Professor Slots podcast show way back in episode #4.

As with earlier live streams, my intent isn't to present this topic for the first time, but rather to review it in terms of what wasn't discussed or how such a topic might be applied in new ways.

In general, the article explains:

- How odds are set within a slot machine
- Choosing denomination and maximum credits based on bankroll
- Basics of reading a slot machine's paytable
- A simple way to use paytables to pick the best machines, and avoid the worst

Yes, there are two separate odds of winning. We're seeing casino operators using this at some of the Oklahoma casinos to make it a better experience for slots enthusiasts ... instead of tribal casinos just taking their money. The business practice we're seeing is that these casinos are giving slots enthusiasts a lot of wins ... but the jackpots are much smaller than what they were before they all closed.

This reminds me of great recession of 2008. Where I was working at the time decided to offer voluntary retirement packages followed by lay-offs, if needed. Just like now, right? But the third thing they did was give everyone an unpaid day off. I expected a lot of people to be upset by that, yet I never heard a peep out of anyone about it. Why? Because the furlough days were strategically placed before or after a major holiday. So those three-day weekends we had been getting became four-day weekends. And, again, I never heard a single complain about it.

It looks like it's that way at re-opened casinos that are doing well. They're increasing the first odds on if you win, but lowering the second odds on how much you win. And slots enthusiasts aren't complaining one bit.

But those casinos who have tightened up the first odds of winning, and probably the second odds of winning, although who knows if they bothered to do that, right? So, slots players aren't happy because they aren't winning. I wish other casinos would pick up on this win-win situation.

One of last week's casino assessment suggestions was to walk the casino floor and observe: Is anyone winning? Are there any sounds of anyone winning? Because, you know, that's a clue to leave, right?

Do you see how understanding the two odds of winning applies to what you're seeing at your casino?

With Choosing Slot Machines, the next section is about matching bankrolls to denomination and credits. You can read or watch it yourself, but I will mention that some slots enthusiasts in emails and the slots communities will just about apologize for not playing high limit or maximum credits. Don't apologize! That's wisdom, right there!

Next is a section on reading a slot machine pay table. Again, let's talk about more than what's written there. A question I'll often get to visually explain what I mean about my Goodness Ratio method, which is a way to use the pay table to avoid the worst slot machines. So, I did... in the YouTube video. This is why the YouTube video for this article is so important. Rather than give you a complicated link, here's a shortcut to the 7:50 mark in my Choosing Candidate Slot Machines video having my visual explanation for my Goodness Ratio: ProfessorSlots.com/goodness.

So, what does the Goodness Ratio really do? It's a little unusual in that it has absolutely nothing to do with the first odds of winning. It does not and can't identify a winning slot machine in the sense of being more or less likely of hitting jackpots. What it DOES do is identify whether any jackpot won will MATTER.

What does this mean? It means slot machines with a high Goodness Ratio have bigger jackpots IF a jackpot is won. You'll have to use one of my other methods based on casino business practices to find a jackpot that is more likely to provide jackpots. But, just like we're seeing from some casinos now, will those jackpots be big enough to matter?

One of the examples of this, recently mentioned within one of our private Facebook slots communities, was a slots enthusiasts report back on winning \$1,400 and \$1,500 jackpots in a high-limit room when playing a \$50 denomination slot machine. As other slots enthusiasts mentioned, and I was so proud of them for doing so, they wondered if he (or she) was even coming out ahead. Or even close, actually.

My point here is, my Goodness Ratio help find slot machines to avoid so that, if you win, you win bigger jackpots. Put another way, a very different way, maybe you win enough at a casino already and you just need to spend less time losing. Remember income minus expenses is profit, but only if it's a positive number. Otherwise, it's losses.

Finally, I'm often asked, what's a good Goodness Ratio? I avoid suggesting one in the article because it's relative to your casino. It's usually either very high or very low, so pick a high ratio with your desired denomination and credits combination which matches your bankroll.

But I can see that picking a Goodness Ratio cut-off for the nation is wanted. So let's call it halfway between the two Goodness Ratio from the side-by-side slot machines in the article picture and in the video at ProfessorSlots.com/goodness. The high Goodness Ratio is the machine on the left, a 2-credit quarter denomination machine with a top jackpot of 15,000 credits (\$3,750) 2-credit machine with a Goodness Ratio of 7,500. The one on the right should be avoided, a 3-credit quarter machine with a top jackpot of 6,000 credits and a Goodness Ratio of 2,000.

Do you see how wildly different they are? But if you want a cut-off, let's call it about halfway between 2,000 and 7,500? How about avoiding slot machines with a Goodness Ratio of 5,000 or less? Happy now?

Let's switch over to the Live Chat again and see what questions they might have....

CLOSING

As I've also mentioned, join your local slots community on Facebook to get the latest on casino re-opening in your area. Share your casino trip reports and see what your local slots enthusiasts are sharing. Every state has a private Facebook Group slots community. Find yours at ProfessorSlots.com/FB.

Remember, those of you on the live stream, we'll be switching the live stream to start at Noon Eastern Time starting next Saturday.

Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye!

Call to Action #2 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

Introduction

This is the second segment of the show on slot machine casino gambling. Here, I provide a brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or the federal district emphasizing, by far, anything of interest to slot machine casino gamblers.

Up next is North Dakota slot machine casino gambling in 2020. Here goes!

North Dakota slot machine casino gambling consists of six American Indian tribal casinos. Otherwise, North Dakota prohibits slot machines at racetracks and other OTB facilities as well as 800 charitable gaming sites.

Minimum and maximum payout limits have been set with different minimum limits for video poker and video blackjack versus physical-reel and video slot machines. Return statistics are not publicly available.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in North Dakota

The minimum legal gambling age in North Dakota depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 21
- Poker Rooms: 21
- Bingo: 18, or younger if accompanied by an adult
- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

Beginning in 1992, five negotiated tribal-state gaming compacts were approved allowing Class III Vegas-style gaming machines at tribal casinos in North Dakota. At these tribal casinos, the maximum bet is \$25.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in North Dakota

Next up is a usually short statement about slot machine private ownership, which I have included in case you live in this U.S. state and are considering owning a slot machine. Here it is:

In North Dakota, it is legal to own a slot machine privately if it is 25 years old or older.

Gaming Control Board in North Dakota

The North Dakota gaming commission is the Licensing and Gaming Division of The Attorney General's Office. This gaming control board is responsible for enforcing gaming regulations on:

- Charitable Gaming

- Tribal Gaming
- North Dakota Lottery

With regards to slot machines, the commission conducts random inspections at tribal casinos to ensure game integrity and compliance with wager limits and prize payout ratios.

Casinos in North Dakota

In this section, I'll discuss North Dakota gambling establishments.

There are six American Indian tribal casinos in North Dakota. The largest casino in North Dakota is Dakota Magic Casino Hotel with 1,001 gaming machines. The second-largest casino is Sky Dancer Hotel Casino & Resort with 820 gaming machines.

Non-Tribal Casinos in North Dakota

There are no commercial casinos in North Dakota with slot machines. However, two racetracks and a series of Off-Tracking Betting (OTB) sites without slot machines exist. Further, another 800 sites state-wide offer charitable gaming but, also, none offer slot machines.

American Indian Casinos in North Dakota

There are six tribal casinos in North Dakota. As usual when there are too many casinos to mention here, a complete list and map is on my webpage for this state at professorslots.com/ND.

Other Gambling Establishments

As an alternative to enjoying *North Dakota slot machine casino gambling*, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state. Bordering North Dakota is:

- North: Canadian Provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba
- East: Minnesota
- South: South Dakota
- West: Montana

To visit any of my articles on these U.S. states, simply visit ProfessorSlots.com followed by its two-letter postal designation. For example, my Minnesota slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/MN.

Our North Dakota Slots Community Facebook Group

Are you interested in sharing and learning with other slots enthusiasts in North Dakota? If so, join our North Dakota slots community on Facebook at professorslots.com/FBND. All you'll need is a Facebook profile to join this private Facebook Group freely.

There, you'll be able to privately share your slots experiences as well as chat with players about slots gambling in or near North Dakota. Again, use this convenient link I've created to go directly to our Group on Facebook: professorslots.com/FBND. Join us!

Payout Returns in North Dakota

Each gaming compact states the theoretical payout for slot machines is between 80% and 100%. Games of skill machines such as video poker and video blackjack have theoretical payouts between 83% and 100%.

Monthly gaming statistics are not publicly available, as the gaming compacts do not require it.

Summary of North Dakota Slots in 2020

In summary, North Dakota slot machine casino gambling consists of six tribal casinos. The maximum bet is \$25. Electronic gaming machines are not available at North Dakota's other gambling centers including pari-mutual wagering racetracks, OTB facilities, or 800+ locations with charitable gaming.

Slot machines have a minimum theoretical payout of 80% while video games of skill have been set to 83%. Both types of gaming machines have a maximum theoretical payout of 100%. Return statistics are not publicly available.

Annual Progress in North Dakota Slot Machine Casino Gambling

Over the last year, there has no significant change to the slots gaming industry in North Dakota.

Call to Action #3 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

On the Next Episode of Professor Slots

Part I of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is a live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

My weekly Q&A session on YouTube has moved, starting next time, to Saturdays from Noon until 1 p.m. ET. Bring whatever slots questions you have, and I'll do my best to answer them. An easy-to-remember link to my YouTube channel is [ProfessorSlots.com/Live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8). Feel free to stop by anytime during my hour-long Q&A.

To suggest a topic or ask a question which might end up as a blog article or on a podcast episode, email it to jon@professorslots.com where Jon is spelled J-O-N.

Part II of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is another brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or the federal district. Next time, I'll be talking to you about the great U.S. territory of Northern Mariana Islands.

Closing (closing music)

That's the end of another great episode of the Professor Slots podcast. Thanks so much for listening!

Show notes for this episode are on my website at [professorslots.com/episode94](https://www.professorslots.com/episode94).

I plan to have the next episode come out very soon for you, where I'll have more amazing content for the show.

Until the next episode: Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye.

320-character description:

After assessing casinos is choosing the best slot machines. But how do we do that well? With central servers and modern casinos, not all slot machines are the same. Many slots players dive right in without a plan. On today's live stream, I'll help you get started on developing that plan. Plus, North Dakota slots in 2020.

156-character description:

After assessing casinos is choosing the best slot machines. But which are best (or worst) when not all slots are the same? Plus, North Dakota slots in 2020.