

MCENROE'S TELL-ALL: Drugs, fights & his split from Tatum

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People

...: Some answers, new questions

JACKPOT!

True Tales of Lottery Winners

You've just won \$50 million. Now what? Instant zillionaires talk about the thrills—and pitfalls—of getting really rich really quick

Kim Haggarty won \$27 million, Erika Greene (right) almost \$59 million



GEORGIA LOTTERY APRIL 17, 2002
pay to the order of **ERIKA GREENE** \$58,900,000
58 MILLION 900 THOUSAND DOLLARS



after the Jackpot

Shock, elation and phone calls from long-lost cousin Ed: Lottery winners tell how they coped with windfall wealth

Just pencil in your birthday plus your high school locker combination, plunk down a buck or maybe 50, cross your fingers and . . . next thing you know you're sipping mai tais in the Jacuzzi of your stretch Mercedes SUV. Never mind that you're 10 times more likely to be killed by a bee sting—winning a whopping lottery jackpot is still the quickest, easiest way to realizing the American Dream.

Or is it? Sure, today's lottery jackpots are growing faster than Tobey Maguire's asking price, producing some gargantuan payouts. Just look at 20-year-old inventory clerk Erika Greene, who last month pulled up to the Georgia lottery office in a limousine to cash her \$58.9 million Big Game lottery ticket. "People used to get excited about \$20 or \$30 million," says Chuck Strutt, executive director of the Multi-State Lottery Association, which created the first Powerball jackpot in 1992. "Now it takes \$50 to \$100 million before we get national attention." But with massive windfalls can come major headaches, such as needy, distant relatives who suddenly remember your phone number. "You get bombarded with some outrageous requests, like 'Uncle Ray needs a new leg,'" says Bob Hainey, a Washington, D.C., lottery manager. "You've got to put up a firewall, or you can get cash-poor pretty quick."

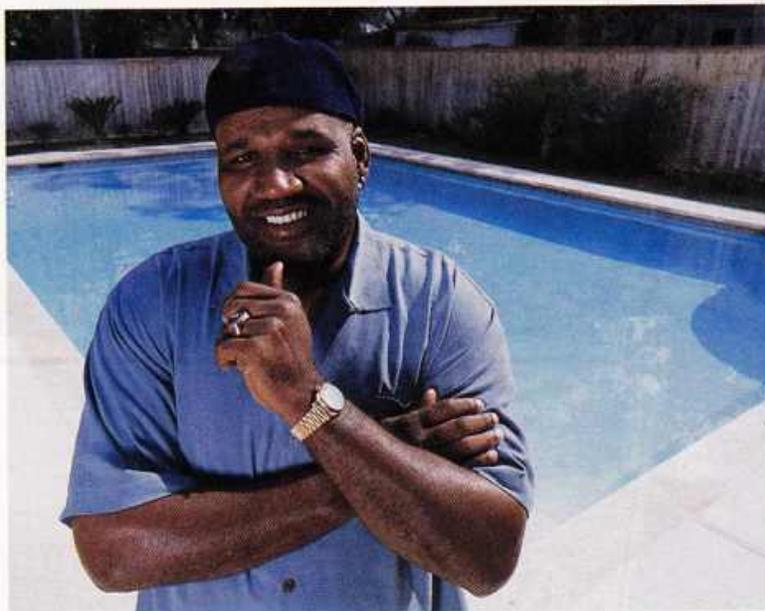
Your best bet: Hire a good financial planner, take a deep breath before buying that minor-league baseball team and listen to what the following big winners have to say about what happens after you hit the jackpot.

Thomas Henderson

Amount won: \$28 million

He won a Super Bowl as a linebacker with the Dallas Cowboys in 1978, but Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson beat even bigger odds when he bought 20 Lotto Texas tickets in an Austin pharmacy in March 2000 and wound up with a \$10.4 million lump payment. "I was already worth maybe \$2 million when I won," says Henderson, 49. "So I splurged on my family."

He bought new homes for his two ex-wives and daughter Thomesa, 23, and gave \$10,000 to each of 50 friends and relatives. Active in several charities and anti-substance-abuse projects (he's a former drug addict), Henderson also sold his condo in an upscale Austin neighborhood and built a bungalow in the low-income, high-crime part of town where he grew up. "Something deep inside was telling me to go home," he says. "Go *all* the way home."



"Somehow, I always knew I would win," says Henderson (at his Austin home).

MATTHEW HANSON

Written by: Pam Lambert, Michelle Tauber and Alex Tresinowski
Reported by: Angela Isidro Bresnahan, Tom Duffy, Cathy Free, Michael Haederle, Anne Lang, Don Sider, Vicki Sheff-Cahan, Erick Trickey and Gerard Wright