Professor seeks to even odds of lottery

Class aims to unravel the numerical mysteries of the state's game of chance

By Dave Eitel
American-Statesman Staff

What are the chances of winning the Texas Lottery? It's easy to play 10 times a week for 10 years without ever winning.

The numbers: 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50.

It's a 50-50 chance of winning or losing, and yet the odds are even for all of us who play the state's game of chance.

In the recent case of Larry Lemmon, the class is not intended to encourage or dissuade anyone from playing the lottery. Rather, Lemmon's story is an example of how one person's luck can change when he stands up against the odds and stands up for himself.

"People talk about winning and losing," Lemmon said. "There is a lot more to the equation than we think. There is a lot more to the equation than we think."

The story of Lemmon is not just about numbers and calculations. It's about the human element and the power of the human spirit.

"People" can have a good chance of winning the game of chance, but not if they don't stand up for themselves. Lemmon's story is a reminder that the odds are even for all of us who play the state's game of chance.