

Winning Powerball Ticket Sold in Oregon

Friday, October 21, 2005

Associated Press



DES MOINES, Iowa — A ticket sold in Oregon matched all six numbers drawn in Wednesday's Powerball game to win the \$340 million jackpot. The drawing capped off a day of heavy sales in all 27 states where Powerball is played, plus the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

It was the largest jackpot in the game's history and the second-biggest lottery jackpot in U.S. history. The winning numbers drawn Wednesday evening were 7, 21, 43, 44, 49 and 29.

There were 47 tickets sold that matched the first that had been snowballing since mid-August, with 20 straight drawings in which no one won the grand prize.

Mary Neubauer, spokeswoman for the Iowa Lottery, said hundreds of ticket buyers had played a set of numbers from the ABC drama "Lost," which featured a character who won \$156 million by playing a string of digits obtained from a patient in a mental institution: 4, 8, 15, 16, 23 and 42. "I just think it speaks to people's *fascination* with numbers and the what-if factor," Neubauer said.

The odds of hitting all six numbers were 1 in 146 million.

Susie Siebke crossed the Mississippi River from Illinois to buy 25 Powerball tickets for her and five co-workers. "We only buy just whenever it gets this high," Siebke, 30, said as she stood in line at a convenience store in Bettendorf.

The biggest lottery jackpot in U.S. history was \$363 million, won by two ticket holders in Illinois and Michigan in 2000.

1. Assuming there was a single winner and the winnings were paid out equally over duration of twenty years, excluding any taxes or misc. fees, approximately how much may one anticipate receiving a month? A week?
2. Financially, what is the difference between the biggest lottery jackpot in U.S. history and the prize won in Oregon?
3. If you were to purchase 10 tickets, what are your odds in winning?
4. In your opinion, why has a journalist out of Iowa expressed enough interest in Powerball to write an article about a winner 1,700 miles away?
5. If 47 people have won since mid-August, why did the lottery continue to be played without awarding prizes until late October? Explain.
6. In the passage above, explain at least four ways using the "*Reading Across The Curriculum*" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
7. In simplest form, what fraction of the U.S. states participated in Powerball? A decimal? A percentage?
8. Using contextual clues, explain the meaning of the italicized word *fascination* above.
9. In paragraph form, explain three legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.