**Some Common Sports Related Idioms** (for more, see Wikipedia’s *List of Sports Idioms*)

**1.across the board --**applying to everybody or everything (in horse racing this is a bet where an equal amount of money is placed on a horse to finish in any top winning position). e.g, The workers received an across the board wage increase and most of them are happy.

2. **back the wrong horse --** to make the wrong choice, to support the wrong thing (from horse racing) e.g, We backed the wrong horse in the school election and we were very surprised at the winner.

**3. ball is in (someone's) court**- it is up to this person to make the next move (from tennis or a similar game) e.g, We made an offer to buy the business and now the ball is in the owner's court to accept our offer or not.

4. **ballpark estimate/figure**-a guess that is in a certain area or range**,** e.g,We received a ballpark estimate about how much it would cost to buy the business.

**5.bat a thousand**- to be successful in everything that you do**, e.g,** The salesman was batting a thousand during his sales trip to Europe.

6. **behind the eight ball**- at a disadvantage (the black ball is number eight in the game of pool and is the last ball that you try to put in a pocket - if you are behind it then you are at a disadvantage)**, e.g,** Our friend was behind the eight ball when he discovered that he was the last person to register for his classes.

7. **blow the whistle on (someone)**- to reveal information about someone (from sports where the referee blows a whistle when someone does something wrong)**, e.g,** The secretary blew the whistle on her boss after he wasted much money in his department.

**8. bounce (something) off (someone)**- to test someone's reaction to an idea (when a ball is thrown against a wall it bounces back to the thrower)**, e.g,** I bounced my idea for a new restaurant off my friend.

**9. call the shots**- to control something, to make the rules (from calling the shots in billiards or pool)**, e.g,** My friend has been calling the shots in his company for several years now.

**10. carry the ball**- to be in charge of something, to be responsible for something (from carrying the ball in American football)**, e.g.,** The director let his assistant carry the ball on the assignment for the new sale's contract.