

The Champ
Holzhauer has
also donated
money to
pancreatic-
cancer research
in honor of host
Alex Trebek, 79,
who has been
diagnosed with
the disease.



What's Next for *'Jeopardy!' James*

HIS WINNING STREAK LAST SPRING MADE HIM A HOUSEHOLD NAME. NOW HE WANTS TO USE HIS FAME (AND MONEY) TO HELP OTHERS

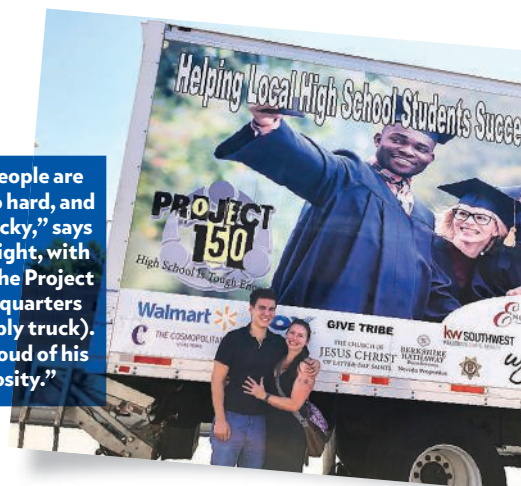
James Holzhauer never expected to be the kind of guy who couldn't walk down the street without being recognized. But after his 32-game winning streak on *Jeopardy!* last spring—during which he earned nearly \$2.5 million and captivated the nation—he went from unknown Las Vegas sports gambler to overnight celebrity. “I’d say my email now never stops ping,” he says with a laugh. Since he finally lost on June 3, Holzhauer, 34, and his wife, Melissa, 37, have kept an ultralow profile while deciding how to use their newfound platform. “We knew we wanted to do a big philanthropic push,” says Melissa.

The couple, who have a 4-year-old daughter, soon learned of Project 150, a foundation that helps homeless teenagers in Nevada attend and finish high

school. “Las Vegas has to be one of the most inhospitable places to not have a place to sleep at night,” says Melissa. For kids going to school, “there are things most of us don’t have to think about—like showers, toilets, hygiene products, food, clothing. Project 150 is providing all of that.” James says he’s beyond impressed by the teens Project 150 is helping. “They’re working really hard. Some of them are the breadwinners of their families,” he says. “It’s incredible to read their stories and see that despite everything, they’re doing whatever they can to get another chance at life.”

Other than returning to *Jeopardy!* this fall for its Tournament of Champions, Holzhauer is still mulling his next moves.

“Other people are fighting so hard, and we’re so lucky,” says Melissa (right, with James at the Project 150 headquarters with a supply truck). “I’m so proud of his generosity.”



“There are lots of doors opening for me,” he says. “It’s incredible.” For now he’s content to continue donating and fundraising for Project 150. “It’s nice to be able to have a voice,” he says. “Especially for people who need it.” —GILLIAN TELLING