

ANTE UP

YOUR POKER MAGAZINE



HISTORIC VICTORY

John Riordan, 19, is the youngest WSOP Circuit Main Event champ, winning in Palm Beach, Fla.



CONNECTICUT
FOXWOODS MEGA STACK

LOUISIANA
SPRING TRAVEL GUIDE

MISSISSIPPI
WSOPC, DELTA GOLD

NEW JERSEY
PADDING BANKROLLS

SCOOP 2011 - Schedule*

Date	Game	Low Stakes		Medium Stakes		High Stakes	
		Buy-In	Guarantee	Buy-In	Guarantee	Buy-In	Guarantee
8-May	NL Hold'em [6-Max]	\$22.00	\$300,000	\$215.00	\$750,000	\$2,100.00	\$1,000,000
	NL Hold'em	\$22.00	\$300,000	\$215.00	\$1,500,000	\$2,100.00	\$1,500,000
9-May	NL Hold'em [6-Max, Rebuys]	\$5.50	\$250,000	\$55.00	\$500,000	\$530.00	\$750,000
	FL Badugi	\$16.50	\$25,000	\$162.00	\$25,000	\$1,575.00	\$50,000
	NL Hold'em [Turbo, Rebuys]	\$11.00	\$250,000	\$109.00	\$500,000	\$1,050.00	\$1,000,000
10-May	PL 5-Card Draw	\$11.00	\$25,000	\$109.00	\$50,000	\$1,050.00	\$75,000
	NL Hold'em [Heads-Up Match Play]	\$16.50	\$100,000	\$162.00	\$200,000	\$1,575.00	\$400,000
	NL Hold'em	\$11.00	\$100,000	\$109.00	\$300,000	\$1,050.00	\$600,000
11-May	Mixed Hold'em [6-Max]	\$22.00	\$75,000	\$215.00	\$150,000	\$2,100.00	\$250,000
	7-Card Stud	\$33.00	\$25,000	\$320.00	\$50,000	\$3,150.00	\$100,000
12-May	PL Omaha [Heads-Up Match Play]	\$22.00	\$50,000	\$215.00	\$100,000	\$2,100.00	\$200,000
	NL Hold'em [Knockout]	\$27.00	\$200,000	\$265.00	\$400,000	\$2,600.00	\$600,000
13-May	NL Hold'em [Ante Up]	\$16.50	\$100,000	\$162.00	\$200,000	\$1,575.00	\$300,000
	FL Omaha Hi/Lo	\$55.00	\$75,000	\$530.00	\$125,000	\$5,200.00	\$225,000
	NL Hold'em [2X Chance, Turbo]	\$16.50	\$150,000	\$162.00	\$400,000	\$1,575.00	\$750,000
14-May	NL Hold'em Shootout [10-Max]	\$22.00	\$125,000	\$215.00	\$150,000	\$2,100.00	\$150,000
	PL Omaha [6-Max, Rebuys]	\$16.50	\$100,000	\$162.00	\$250,000	\$1,575.00	\$400,000
	Triple Stud [Turbo]	\$22.00	\$25,000	\$215.00	\$50,000	\$2,100.00	\$75,000
15-May	NL Hold'em	\$22.00	\$300,000	\$215.00	\$1,000,000	\$2,100.00	\$1,000,000
	NL Hold'em	\$22.00	\$350,000	\$215.00	\$2,000,000	\$2,100.00	\$2,000,000
16-May	NL Hold'em / PL Omaha	\$16.50	\$75,000	\$162.00	\$150,000	\$1,575.00	\$300,000
	NL Hold'em [4-Max]	\$33.00	\$100,000	\$320.00	\$300,000	\$3,150.00	\$500,000
	PL Omaha [Turbo, 1R1A]	\$11.00	\$75,000	\$109.00	\$200,000	\$1,050.00	\$350,000
17-May	Triple Draw 2-7	\$11.00	\$25,000	\$109.00	\$50,000	\$1,050.00	\$75,000
	7-Card Stud Hi/Lo	\$22.00	\$25,000	\$215.00	\$75,000	\$2,100.00	\$150,000
	NL Hold'em	\$11.00	\$100,000	\$109.00	\$300,000	\$1,050.00	\$600,000
18-May	Razz	\$22.00	\$25,000	\$215.00	\$75,000	\$2,100.00	\$150,000
	NL Hold'em [Big Antes, Rebuys]	\$11.00	\$200,000	\$109.00	\$400,000	\$1,050.00	\$600,000
19-May	8-Game	\$33.00	\$50,000	\$320.00	\$100,000	\$3,150.00	\$250,000
	PL Omaha Hi/Lo	\$11.00	\$50,000	\$109.00	\$125,000	\$1,050.00	\$250,000
20-May	NL Hold'em [1R1A]	\$22.00	\$300,000	\$215.00	\$500,000	\$2,100.00	\$800,000
	FL Hold'em [6-Max]	\$55.00	\$75,000	\$530.00	\$150,000	\$5,200.00	\$250,000
	NL Omaha Hi/Lo [10m Levels]	\$22.00	\$50,000	\$215.00	\$100,000	\$2,100.00	\$150,000
21-May	PL Omaha [6-Max]	\$55.00	\$100,000	\$530.00	\$300,000	\$5,200.00	\$500,000
	NL Hold'em [Heads-Up Match Play]	\$270.00	\$300,000	\$2,600.00	\$450,000	\$25,500.00	\$600,000
	HORSE	\$22.00	\$50,000	\$215.00	\$100,000	\$2,100.00	\$150,000
22-May	NL Hold'em [6-Max]	\$22.00	\$300,000	\$215.00	\$1,000,000	\$2,100.00	\$1,000,000
	NL Hold'em Main Event	\$109.00	\$1,000,000	\$1,050.00	\$3,000,000	\$10,300.00	\$5,000,000

*Schedule is for information purposes only. PokerStars reserves the right to change guarantees and schedule without notice.



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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



Christopher Cosenza

Scott Long

WSOP EXPERIENCE, OR IS IT?

A great entrepreneur once coined the phrase, “If you can’t come to us, we’ll come to you!” It may have taken a while for the World Series of Poker to grasp this, but once it had the ball it ran with it full steam ahead. Yes, the WSOP Circuit has been around for a few years, but only recently has it increased its schedule significantly, going so far as to venture outside of Harrah’s properties.

Kudos to the folks at Caesars Entertainment (as it is known now) for bringing the WSOP experience to the poker player who can’t afford to fly to Vegas or pay the steeper buy-ins that accompany the WSOP events at the Rio. One of the biggest benefactors of this new thinking has been the Palm Beach Kennel Club, a non-affiliated property that was granted permission to hold a WSOPC event, and what an event it was. Records broke daily, including the largest single-site tournament in Florida history (877 players for the opening \$345 tournament), and the youngest WSOPC main event winner (our cover boy, 19-year-old online pro John Riordan of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.) Results from this fine event are on Page 14, as well as results from the WSOPC in Tunica (Page 28).

Without the WSOPC relaxing its location restrictions and Florida relaxing its buy-in limits, Riordan may never have known what it was like to capture this prestigious gold ring, and the poker world may never have had a chance to learn of Riordan. We know Riordan is a high-stakes player who eventually would be known in the national live setting, but why should he have to wait till he’s 21?

Oh, by the way, the winners of the WSOPC main events around the country are given a seat into the season-ending WSOPC National Championship in Vegas at Caesars Palace in May; only in this case Riordan can’t go. He has some getting older to do. How screwy is that? He has to surrender his free seat and a chance

at another huge payday because you can’t play poker in Vegas until you’re 21. Funny, you can vote and fight for your country but you can’t check-raise the curmudgeon in Seat 8 because you’re only 19. Sorry, John. But that’s another topic for another time.

The Ante Up Brass immensely enjoyed playing in the WSOPC’s H.O.R.S.E. event at PBKC. One of us actually cashed, and that raised an interesting question: Does cashing in a WSOPC event mean you’ve cashed in the World Series? Some would say no because it’s not in Vegas and not in the annual tournament series that started it all. When you think of the WSOP you think of summer in the desert. And if you go on the WSOP website and look at the list of players who have cashed in WSOP-related events you’ll see each entry is broken down into WSOP cashes and circuit cashes. Question answered, right?

But what about the WSOP Europe (and the inevitable events that will pop up around the world)? Those are considered WSOP cashes, yet they aren’t held in Vegas. Is it the level of buy-in that makes it more “legitimate?” The WSOPC main events are \$1,600, much more than the \$1K “stimulus” bracelet events in Vegas, yet Riordan’s main-event win is still just considered a circuit cash.

In the end what’s most important is the achievement, not the status. But if Caesars is touting the WSOPC as the World Series experience then shouldn’t we consider the accomplishments to be on the same level? Just something to think about. And be sure to read our interview with WSOP Media Director Nolan Dalla at the back of the magazine. He has some great insight regarding the WSOP brand, poker history and online poker legislation.

We’ll see you at the tables.

— Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long



John Riordan won the main event, but is it a WSOP cash?

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CONNECTICUT

The November Nine reunion may have grabbed the headlines at Foxwoods' Mega Stack Challenge, but Ramy Ibrahim grabbed all the cash after taking down the main event. **36**



DELAWARE

The Delaware Park Poker Classic runs April 1-17, highlighted by a large variety of events, including H.O.R.S.E., stud/8 and a \$100K guarantee for the main event. **35**

MISSISSIPPI

It was a busy month in the Magnolia State as two big series passed through Tunica: the World Series of Poker Circuit at Harrah's and the Delta Gold Classic at Gold Strike. **24**

NEVADA

Eric Seidel has won just about every large buy-in tournament on the planet these days, and his hot streak continues by taking down the National Heads-Up Poker Championship, on the heels of finishing second in the event last year. **34**

NEW JERSEY

The Borgata's Spring Open is this month, plus other big tournaments will give your bankroll a boost just in time for the World Series. **32**



ONLINE REPORT

The sixth annual Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (AIPS) has begun, featuring just about every poker game spread on PokerStars, plus a \$2K freeroll for winners and consistent participants. Also, New Jersey's governor vetoes its online poker bill. **37**

PLAYER PROFILE

Chris Oliver, 21, knows what it's like to run pretty well in poker, even if he didn't win the PCA. **18**



FLORIDA



The World Series of Poker Circuit made its first stop in Florida, drawing thousands of players to the Palm Beach Kennel Club and setting numerous records. **14**

- The WPT Hard Rock Showdown runs all month long in Hollywood, and the man in charge now is William Mason. **12**
- Isle Casino's Battles at the Beach guarantees \$1 million in overall prize pools. **16**

LOUISIANA

Springtime in the Pelican State means great festivals and great poker. *Ante Up* Ambassador Scotty Rushing maps out a terrific roadtrip to find culture and cards. **30**

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World Series of Poker Media Director Nolan Dalla chats about the government's inability to pass online poker legislation. **61**



ANTE UP POKER CRUISE



The Amenity Pro ladies were on hand again to give professional massages to the players in the Ante Up Poker Room aboard the *Navigator of the Seas* en route to Jamaica. **54**

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JONATHAN LITTLE

The former WPT Player of the Year says sometimes the best play is merely to call. **42**

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It's time to start preparing for the World Series. **49**

CALL THE FLOOR

It's a delicate balancing act when tournament directors have to balance tables in an event. **45**

OOPS!

Daniel Pearlman won Event 9 of the Winter Open at Hard Rock in Hollywood. A different name was listed last month.

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Must be at least 18 years old to play. See Brush Stand for complete details. Persons who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are not eligible. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1.888.ADMIT.IT.

MASON USHERS IN WPT ERA TO HARD ROCK

The World Poker Tour is visiting Florida this month (April 8-May 2) for the first time in its storied history, thanks to uncapped poker limits and the efforts of the Seminole Hard Rock family. The person responsible for making sure this event runs smoothly is William Mason, who recently was named the Paradise Poker Room's director of poker operations at Hard Rock Hollywood. *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza had a chance to chat with Mason about his new appointment and the challenges he faces in bringing the first WPT event to the Sunshine State.

How old are you? 41

Where are you from originally? Absecon, N.J., just outside of Atlantic City.

How long have you been in poker? I have been around poker for a good part of my life and began working at the Seminole Hard Rock poker room in 1995.

Do you play poker, and if so, what is your favorite game/limit? Yes, I have been playing poker since I was a teenager with my friends. My favorite game is \$15-\$30 limit hold'em.

Where did you gain your poker experience before landing this position? I first learned the dealing aspects of the game from a friend when I moved to Florida. When I became the manager of the Casino Princessa, I had to familiarize myself with all aspects of the game for management purposes. In 2005 after the Princessa closed, I was hired on as a poker floor person at the Seminole Hard Rock and was promoted to shift manager.

What are some of the challenges you face in taking over Hollywood Hard Rock and removing "interim" from your title? Some of the challenges in taking over the poker room at the Seminole Hard Rock are found in getting everyone involved. I believe for us to succeed, we must

all take ownership in the room. Everyone from our guests to the staff must feel part of the family and be committed to its growth and success.

How have you prepared for the upcoming WPT event at HRH in relation to staff, changes, etc.? We have spent a great deal of time ensuring we have one of the best venues on the tour and I believe that Hard Rock Live will be the best. Late last year we submitted rule changes to hold the tournament outside of our current poker room and they were approved. Recently, we began a push to hire dealers and other staff for the event.

What will make this WPT stop different from the others? This WPT stop will have the Seminole Hard Rock flair and style. It will be footsteps from one of the best nightlife scenes in all of the country and one of the most rocking casino hotels in the world.

How have the limit changes made you rethink your approach to attracting players? With the current limit changes in Florida, the business has changed from a tournament-based business to a cash play-based business. The playing field has been leveled and poker rooms, including ours, have to be more sensitive to players' needs. Promotions have become a more important part of attracting business and finding the right mix can be a challenge.

Do you have any plans you can share? With the competitive nature of the business in South Florida, discussing specific plans might not be in our best interest. I will say that there are some new promotions directed at player loyalty and other nuances in response to guest suggestions.

What can a player expect from a poker room run by William Mason? They can expect a commitment to guest service and a belief that we will do everything reasonable to accommodate their wants and needs.

William Mason began working at the Hard Rock poker room in 1995.



WPT HARD ROCK SHOWDOWN

Event 1: April 8, 11A, 1A, \$350 (\$200K guar.)
Event 1: April 8, 7P, 1B, \$350
Event 1: April 9, 11A, 1C, \$350
Event 1: April 9, 7P, 1D, \$350
Event 2: April 10, noon, \$230
Event 3: April 10, 4P, \$150
Event 4: April 11, noon, seniors, \$350
Event 5: April 11, 4P, \$230*
Event 6: April 12, noon, \$350
Event 7: April 12, 4P, Omaha/8, \$230
Event 8: April 13, noon, \$350*
Event 9: April 14, noon, (1 rebuy, 1 add-on), \$230
Event 10: April 15, noon, 6-handed, \$560
Event 11: April 16, noon, \$560 (\$100K guar.)
Event 12: April 17, noon, \$350, (\$40K guar.)
Event 13: April 17, 4P, \$150
Event 14: April 18, noon, \$230*
Event 15: April 18, 4P, PLO w/re-entry, \$340
Event 16: April 19, noon, \$350
Event 17: April 19, 4P, \$150*
Event 18: April 20, noon, \$350
Event 19: April 21, noon, \$350*
Event 20: April 21, 4P, \$350*
Event 21: April 22, noon, \$350*
Event 22: April 22, 4P, \$125 (\$30K guar.)
Event 23: April 23, noon, \$560 (\$100K guar.)
Event 24: April 23, 4P, \$1,080, 6-handed
Event 25: April 23, 8P, \$150* (\$25K guar.)
Event 26: April 24, noon, \$1,630
Event 27: April 24, 4P, H.O.R.S.E., \$560
Event 28: April 24, 8P, \$150* (\$25K guar.)
Event 29: April 25, noon, 6-handed, \$2,160
Event 30: April 25, 4P, Omaha/8, \$550
Event 31: April 25, 8P, \$150* (\$25K guar.)
Event 32: April 26, noon, \$560
Event 33: April 27, noon, WPT Main Event \$10K

* One \$1,050 mega seat added to prize pool.

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WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT

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Ring Event 1 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 877 • Prize Pool: \$255,207

1. Reed Zhao, Lexington, KY, \$49,258
2. Michael Hallen, Tampa, FL, \$30,435
3. Sean Westbrook, Granada Hills, CA, \$22,419
4. Filipp Khavin, Treasure Island, FL, \$16,731
5. Jermaine Gerlin, Gainesville, FL, \$12,649
6. Jeff Lee, Ft. Lee, NJ, \$9,686
7. Denis Mendoza, Miami, FL, \$7,512
8. Cyndy Crosby, Memphis, TN, \$5,898
9. Terry Siele, Delray Beach, FL, \$4,688
10. Ronnie Bardah, Stoneham, MA, \$3,771



Ring Event 2 • \$555 NLHE

Entries: 409 • Prize Pool: \$198,365

1. James Giraldo, Miami, FL, \$43,191
2. Roberto Alberro, Coral Gables, FL, \$26,690
3. Courtland Twyman, D. Beach, FL, \$19,502
4. Tanya Gawarecki, Orlando, FL, \$14,481
5. Carlos Frontela, Tampa, FL, \$10,919
6. Brad Miller, Jupiter, FL, \$8,357
7. Julian Conde, Sunrise, FL, \$6,490
8. Robert Rousseau, Tallahassee, FL, \$5,112
9. Matas Pacevicius, S. Pasadena, FL, \$4,083
10. Joh Godwin, Clearwater, FL, \$3,306



Ring Event 3 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 465 • Prize Pool: \$135,315

1. Ray Del Cueto, Tampa, FL, \$28,800
2. Matthew Bellucci, Naples, FL, \$17,802
3. Don Gousse, Port St. Lucie, FL, \$13,005
4. Patricia Till, Plainfield, IN, \$9,641
5. Michael Palumbo, Ft. Myers, FL, \$7,250
6. Michael Traylor, Houston, TX, \$5,531
7. Ryan Sponaygle, Palm Harbor, FL, \$4,279
8. Jason Woodall, Lantana, FL, \$3,357
9. Jonathan Rapp, Davie, FL, \$2,672
10. Richard Bratter, Ocala, FL, \$2,155



Ring Event 4 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 418 • Prize Pool: \$121,638

1. Chris Lyons, Kissimmee, FL, \$26,480
2. Todd Arnold, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, \$16,366
3. Mark Sykes, New Haven, CT, \$11,959
4. Frank Traino, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, \$8,880
5. Paul Ramkissoon, Greenacres, FL, \$6,696
6. Johnny Miller, Hollywood, FL, \$5,125
7. Dustin Bradley, Wellington, FL, \$3,980
8. Gene Hochman, Coconut Creek, FL, \$3,135
9. Arshad Siddiqui, Pembroke Pines, FL, \$2,504
10. Vincent Renzo, Long Branch, NJ, \$2,027



Ring Event 5 • \$345 H.O.R.S.E.

Entries: 173 • Prize Pool: \$50,343

1. Brent Carter, Oak Park, CA, \$13,454
2. Tuan Luu, Orlando, FL, \$8,314
3. Morty Benowitz, Ft. Worth, TX, \$5,984
4. Jim Hagan, Brandon, FL, \$4,386
5. Ken Weiss, Palm Desert, CA, \$3,271
6. Michael Palma, Longwood, FL, \$2,483
7. Mark Gallo, Atlanta, GA, \$1,916
8. Adam Smith, PB Gardens, FL, \$1,503
9. Jeffrey Welch, Greenfield, IN, \$1,199
10. Michael Hallen, Tampa, FL, \$971



Ring Event 6 • \$345 Omaha/8

Entries: 192 • Prize Pool: \$55,872

1. Timothy Burt, Grenada, MS, \$14,375
2. Dennis Napel, Dubuque, IA, \$8,881
3. Aaron Lambert, Chapin, SC, \$6,413
4. Rich Cleveland, Boynton Beach, FL, \$4,710
5. Tom Franklin, Gulfport, MS, \$3,518
6. Jeffrey Green, Ft. Myers, FL, \$2,674
7. Michael Bozeman, Deltona, FL, \$2,065
8. Marc Levy, Boynton Beach, FL, \$1,622
9. Tom Schneider, Scottsdale, AZ, \$1,294
10. Debbie Mitchell, Miramar, FL, \$864



Ring Event 7 • \$555 NLHE

Entries: 664 • Prize Pool: \$322,040

1. June Amer, Pembroke Pines, FL, \$65,338
2. Farid Jattin, Miami, FL, \$40,430
3. Mike Tait, Hallandale Beach, FL, \$29,654
4. William Navarro, Tampa, FL, \$22,052
5. Barry Hutter, Bradenton, FL, \$16,621
6. Sean Winter, Jacksonville, FL, \$12,965
7. Clint Tolbert, Moore, OK, \$9,823
8. Donald Williams, Plantation, FL, \$7,700
9. Lisa Adams, Delray Beach, FL, \$6,113
10. Zhen Cai, Lake Worth, FL, \$4,915



Ring Event 8 • \$1,080 NLHE

Entries: 206 • Prize Pool: \$199,820

1. Ory Hen, Cooper City, FL, \$51,417
2. Daniel Weinman, Atlanta, GA, \$31,762
3. Rich Kirsch, Pompano Beach, FL, \$22,934
4. Ed Vanlandingham, Tampa, FL, \$16,843
5. Ray McDonough, Jupiter, FL, \$12,583
6. Matthew Hankins, Newnan, GA, \$9,562
7. Matthew Kursar, Long Beach, CA, \$7,386
8. Jose Reyes, Santiago, DR, \$5,800
9. Ish Delgado, Polar Beach, FL, \$4,628
10. Michael Michnik, Hollywood, FL, \$3,752



\$1,600 Main Event

Entries: 712 • Prize Pool: \$1,035,960

1. John Riordan, PB Gardens, FL, \$210,180
2. Mike Morton, Mays Landing, NJ, \$130,057
3. Tom Aprea, East Marion, LI, NY, \$95,392
4. Austin Buchanan, Winter Park, FL, \$70,939
5. Ryan Lenaghan, Mobile, AL, \$53,468
6. Jon Brody, Davie, FL, \$40,837
7. David MacDonald, Jupiter, FL, \$31,599
8. Jesse Okonczak, Destin, FL, \$24,771
9. Jerry Timmons, Cooper City, FL, \$19,665
10. Jorge Carrero, Toa Alta, PR, \$15,810



Ring Event 10 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 389 • Prize Pool: \$113,199

1. Howard Charyn, E. Meadow, NY, \$24,650
2. Chris Bolek, Boca Raton, FL, \$15,231
3. Samuel Monks, Wellsboro, PA, \$11,129
4. Marg. Spagnuolo, St. Island, NY, \$8,263
5. Bruce McPhillips, Tampa, FL, \$6,231
6. Brittany Darwin, Davie, FL, \$4,796
7. David Gandy, Boca Raton, FL, \$3,704
8. Steven Dockswell, Lake Worth, FL, \$2,917
9. Howard Mash, Boca Raton, FL, \$2,330
10. John Land, Frisco, TX, \$1,887

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ISLE'S BATTLES SERIES TO GUARANTEE \$1M

Isle Casino at Pompano Park has quickly become one of the hottest spots for tournament poker in Florida. Starting April 1 it will host its third annual Battles at the Beach series, which will include more than 23 tournaments and a combined guaranteed prize pool that exceeds \$1 million.

The Battles at the Beach kicks off with a \$550 no-limit hold'em event with a \$125K guarantee. The series includes buy-ins ranging from \$150 to the \$3,200 championship event and features bounty events (April 7, 13, 14 and 21); rebuys (April 17 and 20); turbos (April 18 and 26); a High Heels Poker Tour event (April 17, \$150, 4 p.m.), a heads-up event (April 21, \$1,100, noon); and a PLO rebuy event (April 20, \$200/RB, noon).

Another great aspect of this series is tournaments have re-entries (except Events 13, 14, 19, 20 and 22) that allow for larger prize pools.

Director of poker operations Mike Smith believes this will be the Isle's biggest and best series yet.

"I think our numbers will be consistent with previous events,"

Smith said. "We are giving the players a great product, terrific venue, a well-trained staff and most important, a well-run tournament with a great structure."

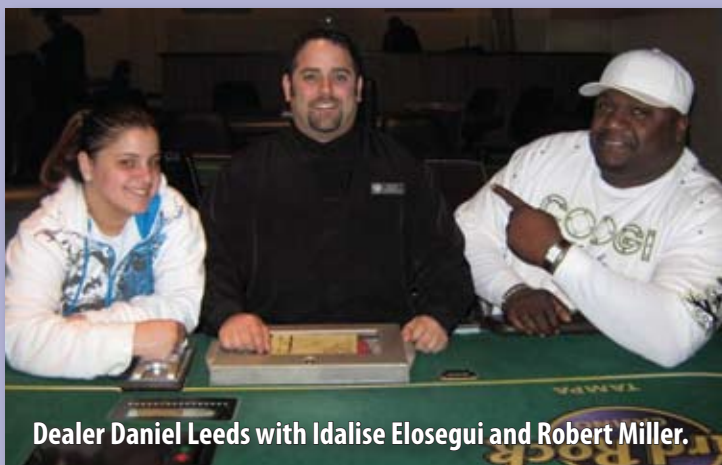
The Battles at the Beach championship has grown larger as the series has developed. Said Smith: "Our main event will feature our biggest buy-in yet of \$3,200. Players in this series will also have the opportunity to win seats into the main event at the Florida State Championship in July. The buy-in for that main event will be \$5,300 with a guarantee of \$1 million."

The Battles championship is a two-day event with starting days on April 22 and 23 (\$3,200, noon) with the final table on April 26. It has a total guaranteed prize pool of \$300,000 and is expected to have an large turnout. Mega satellites for the championship are running on April 7 at noon and 3 p.m. (\$330 w/\$100 rebuys and add-ons).

Visit thisislepompanopark.com for the full schedule of buy-ins and starting times.

— Garrett Roth

HARD ROCK TAMPA



Dealer Daniel Leeds with Idalise Elosegui and Robert Miller.

The Mega Bad Beat Jackpot reached \$314K this time before someone hit it. Idalise Elosegui won \$157,319 with her "losing" hand of quad queens beaten by Robert Miller, who took home \$94,392 with a straight flush to the king on Feb. 13 in Tampa. The six other players at the table each won \$10,488. The Seminole Casinos' Mega Bad Beat has paid \$5,984,296 in 26 jackpots since it began in December 2009.

DERBY LANE



On April 9 the Florida Chapter of the Poker Players Alliance will host its inaugural "Meet the Pros" Poker Boot Camp at the Derby Lane Poker Room in St. Petersburg.

"The First Lady of Poker" Linda Johnson and poker professional Jan Fisher will share their knowledge and experiences with the Poker Boot Camp attendees after a session of intensive training by poker mind-set coach Donna Blevins, beginning at 1 p.m.

Afterward a PokerDawgs.net charity tournament to benefit Special Olympics Florida will start at 6 p.m.

This will be the first in a series of Meet the Pros events to take place at Florida poker rooms.

The April 9 event is limited to 200 participants. The tuition for the four-hour boot camp is \$99, and the tournament entry fee is \$75, which includes dinner before the start of the tournament. Through April 1, a special combined price of \$135 through preregistration by contacting Blevins at (352) 422-1441.

HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD



The \$1,100 Main Event series at the Paradise Poker Room on March 13 went to Haim Gil Nager, above, of Cooper City, good for \$15,400.

Nager was followed by Greg Rosen of Plantation (\$15K), Steve Karp of Miami (\$15K), Richard Leger of Lighthouse Point (\$15K), Don Williams of Plantation (\$13,500), Long Nguyen of Miami (\$13,500), Evan Dollinger of Coral Springs (\$4,200), Ryan Garitta of Davie (\$3,400), Marc Levy of Boynton Beach (\$2,700) and Nigel Murray of Miami Gardens (\$2,300).

- Mike Laake won the Cruiser-weight Division, besting 55 players for the \$8,600 first-place prize on March 9.

- Shaun Lowe won the Middle-weight Division on March 7, beating 72 players for \$5K payday.



- Richard Semander of Pembroke Pines captured February's \$750 Big Slick tournament at the Paradise Poker Room, defeating a field of 100 players and pocketing nearly \$17K from the \$75K prize pool. He was followed by Leon Benmargui (\$12,025); Anthony Ruberto Jr. (\$11,630); Eddie Turner (\$11,568); Raymond Millard (\$4,575); Manuel Rosado (\$3,525); Arturo Garcia (\$2,475); Alan Rodriguez (\$1,800); Paul Brettler (\$1,725); and Catherine Gestewitz (\$1,650).

See website for
calendar

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PLAYER PROFILE: CHRIS OLIVER

An occasional interview with a local player • By Garrett Roth

Relentless aggression. If you don't know what it is or how to use it, just ask Chris Oliver. The 21-year-old from Holiday, Fla., is very familiar with using the full force of his chip stack to dominate live and online poker. His results speak for themselves. In August 2010 he became the top-ranked online player in the world (pocketfives.com) and recaptured that title in December. Recently he placed runner-up in the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure main event for a monstrous \$1.8 million.

Oliver, a.k.a. "ImDaNuts" (PokerStars) and "Gettin Daize" (Full Tilt), started playing poker with a small online transfer from a friend. He was staked in a \$3 rebuy and made the final table. From there it was no stopping him. He was so confident he dropped out of *high school* to play professionally. Other achievements include a runner-up in the PokerStars Sunday Million (\$158K), a third-place finish in the 2010 PokerStars WCOOP Event 44 (\$67K), and victories in the Full Tilt \$1K Monday (\$83K) and PokerStars Sunday 500 (\$87K).

Ante Up's Garrett Roth got the opportunity to speak with Oliver about his career, his most recent seven-figure score at the PCA and his future ambitions.

When your family and friends heard about you dropping out of high school to play poker, how did you explain to them this was a profitable career path?

"Nobody liked it, but I knew I could do it. I just blocked everyone out for a couple of years and focused on making it work. I knew I wasn't the best player but I knew I could outwork everyone and that was all I could control. Everyone was shocked to see me on TV winning that much money. My mom and dad are thrilled now and all my friends from high school watched the PCA final table. I put so much work into poker and I just wanted to make sure I made it all worth it."

How did you use your aggressive image to your advantage at the PCA?

"In the first day of the tournament, I chipped up from 35K to 100K with no showdowns. The second day, I had Casey "bigdogpckt5s" Jarzabek and seven fish at my table so my VPIP (voluntarily put money into pot) for the first five hours of the day had to be close to the 90-percent range. There was a hand where a player opened and I three-bet queen-deuce offsuit on the button and he flat-called. The flop came out 10-8-4 with two spades. He led out for half the pot and I snap min-raised him. He folded and I showed the bluff. I wanted to make it as

hard as possible for people to play against me."

Were there any other big hands that propelled you to the final table?

"On Day 3 there was this one big hand where I opened 7♦-5♦ to 23K (5K-10K blinds) from middle position. (Harry Kaczka) three-bet me to 65K. My options were to flat and play a pot in position or put in another raise. I four-bet him to 112K and I expected to see a five-bet in that spot a lot (we were over 100 big blinds deep). He did five-bet to 255K and at this point I'm not four-betting a hand like 7-5 suited to fold it that deep, so I just put it in. He called with A♦-K♠ and the board ran out 5♥-K♣-5♣-J♦-6♥ for the biggest hand of the tournament up to that point.

"A little while later, I raised with jacks and got three-bet in position. He was about 100 big blinds deep and I wasn't really sure what to do, but I clicked it back to induce a shove and he obliged. I called and he showed kings. A player at the table told me he threw away a jack, but the first card that came on the flop was the case jack. This gave me a huge chip lead to end the day.

"I played snug early at the final table because I knew there were going to be a ton of good spots since I had been playing so crazy earlier. When we got down to five players, I started playing crazy again, three-betting a few hands in a row. I picked up some pots and ended up knocking out Sam Stein on a cooler hand, my A-Q to his A-9. There were no other really big hands except where I had A-2 on a 2-3-5-2-A board and Galen Hall made an absurdly good laydown with a four. The final hand was another cooler, my A-9 to his Q-Q all-in preflop. Some people say it was a bad play but A-9 heads-up, with my image, is pretty much the nuts vs. a capable player such as Galen."

Since you've achieved so much at such a young age, what are your future goals for poker?

"My main goal to start the year was to have a million dollars in the bank from playing and backing players. Backing is a way I can help my buddies come up and make some money for themselves. I want to have everyone I grew up with living good. I also plan on buying a house in Vegas in the near future and trying new things to be successful at everything I do. I want to inspire everyone around me to do the same thing. I would also like to get to the level where I can beat the \$25-\$50 cash games and the \$2K-\$5K heads-up SNGs on a regular basis."



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CALDER CASINO



Grinder signs some autographs.



The five winners pose with poker director Chris Trabue, right.

Grinder Classic gets chopped five ways

The Studz Poker Club at Calder Casino hosted the \$50K guarantee Grinder Classic 2 on Feb. 11-13, drawing 132 players to generate a \$66,000 prize pool.

Some of the celebrity names in the field included Michael "Grinder" Mizrachi, Momma Grinder (a.k.a. Susan), Tristan Wade, Robert Croak, creator of SillyBandz, and Lily Mizrachi (a.k.a. Mrs. Grinder), who cashed in ninth place. The final five players, including former Miami Jai-Alai poker room manager Nelson Costa, chopped for \$10,150 each.

"We're very happy with the turnout," director of poker Chris Trabue said. "This was our first multiday tournament at Studz, and we look forward to running more in the future."

Here are the final results: 1. Nelson Costa, Hialeah (\$10,150); 2. Jon Marks, Weston (\$10,150); 3. Miguel Rodriguez, Hialeah (\$10,150); 4. Leonard St. Germain, SW Ranches (\$10,150); 5. Jorge Chaves, Hollywood (\$10,150); 6. Taylor Fortini, Boca Raton (\$3,168); 7. Leonardo Basanta, Hollywood (\$2,376); 8. Andres Becerra, Miami (\$1,584); 9. Lily Mizrachi, Plantation (\$1,518); and 10. Richard Blanchard, Ft. Lauderdale (\$1,452).



Lily Mizrachi cashes at her husband's tournament.



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DANIA NAMES FAMIANO POKER ROOM MANAGER

Frank Famiano was named poker room manager at Dania Jai-Alai. Famiano, a Palm Beach native, brings a wealth of poker knowledge to the Dania Beach facility.

His past experience includes dealing and managing cardrooms from Indiana to Nevada.

"I have done every job in a poker room, including sweeping the floor," he said jokingly.

He comes to Dania from one of the most exclusive cardrooms in the country, the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas.

"We are extremely fortunate to land such a talented individual with top-notch experience," said Dave Winslow, Dania Jai-Alai's director of operations.

Famiano began working in the gaming industry at age 18, coordinating charity events in Ft. Wayne, Ind. He has set up major events with the World Series of Poker and World Poker Tour as well as coordinating tournaments in the Caribbean.

"I truly believe that South Florida is the mecca of poker, and I feel privileged to be a part of it," Famiano said. "Dania Jai-Alai has a room with so much potential. I am excited about the challenge. South Florida is my home. It is great to be back."

Famiano succeeds poker room administrator Paula Lettiere, who retired at the begin-

ning of March.

Frank Famiano has worked in major poker rooms all over the country.



ning of March.

LE BATARD CELEBRITY EVENT: Chip-leader Erick Sarduy from Miami was declared winner of the Dan Le Batard tournament as the final 10 players elected to chop the prize pool, each getting \$1,346 for their



\$79 buy-in. Sarduy also received the glass trophy for his victory.

With fewer than 30 players left the Ticket's John "Stugotz" Weiner was eliminated when his A-K lost an all-in to a K-Q. "That's poker," he said.

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A look at the Mississippi-area poker scene

BACK-TO-BACK TUNICA EVENTS ATTRACT MANY

The World Series of Poker Circuit stop in Tunica is the pinnacle of poker events for the northern end of the state. At the end of every January thousands of players brave the unpredictable weather and book their reservations at Harrah's for 20 days of nonstop action. This year was no exception.

Tournament director and local favorite Jimmy Sommerfeld is native to nearby Memphis, which makes it a much-anticipated stop for his touring company Poker Tournament Consultants.



JENNIFER GAY

The first ring event boasted a staggering 1,032 entrants and a first-place payout of \$54,747.

Sommerfeld couldn't have been happier with the turnout.

Even a world-class tournament director can't prepare for the unexpected. A freak winter storm dumped six inches of ice and snow in less than an hour just days before the main event. Travel in and out of Tunica ground to a standstill as casinos operated on a skeletal crew. In an unrelated fluke, a power outage during the first hour of the main event turned the event center pitch black, leaving 480 participants scrambling to guard their stacks. When the power resumed, the staff put all hands on deck to resume the tournament clocks and keep things moving without a hitch.

Sam Barnhart ultimately won the championship. The Little Rock, Ark., native, who had no notable tournament cashes before this, took home an impressive \$148,612. What some rumored to be Barnhart's relative beginner's luck was quickly put to rest when just a couple of weeks later he cashed an additional \$10,476 in the Gold Strike's Delta Gold main event with his fourth-place finish.

Barnhart, needless to say, was thrilled.

"This has been a huge achievement," he said. "I hope this run continues on in Las Vegas. I've played a few events in neighboring states, but I haven't had this kind of success anywhere else."

Barnhart is a regular \$20-\$40 limit player at the Horseshoe in Tunica where he can be found most weekends.

"I would like to thank the wonderful staff at Harrah's and espe-

cially the staff at Horseshoe for their overwhelming support."

Horseshoe has a picture of Barnhart's championship win on display in the poker room.

The Delta Gold, which began just nine days after the culmination of the Harrah's event, filled the ballroom of Gold Strike with daily events spanning a week and a half. Despite relatively small fields for the daily noon events, the \$1,080 main event drew an impressive 135 entrants. Final-table dealer Patrick Gormandy said one of the best parts for the traveling tournament staff at Gold Strike is how much fun everyone has.

"The people in Tunica are really nice, everyone has such a great time," he said.

The event champion, James Reed, pocketed \$43,214 and a beautiful crystal trophy, which his wife promptly claimed. Reed called his mom just before photographs were taken to commemorate his win. He shared that she wasn't in great health, but that he couldn't let the moment pass without including her. He said his mother always has encouraged him to play poker and that she was one of his greatest supporters. Reed's mother is justified in her faith. This win adds to his career winnings of more than \$170,000 since 2008.

Other accomplishments of note include Michael Postle of Hernando, Miss., winning three NLHE events and Salah "Papa" Levy of New Jersey winning two events (stud/8 and Omaha/8).

With Tunica all wrapped up, the MGM touring staff left for Biloxi for the Spring Break Classic scheduled at the Beau Rivage (March 17-27). Floor supervisor Brannon Kingston said, "We're expecting great crowds at the Beau Rivage. Spring Break is always a fantastic event."

Sommerfeld's crew is on the road again as well, this time with a West Coast stop in San Diego for the WSOPC event at Harrah's Rincon. Several of our Mississippi players will be heading west to participate in the \$10K televised WSOP event on March 27. Among the confirmed participants are celebrities Charlie Sheen, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. Details on this and the Spring Break Classic will follow in next month's column.

— Jennifer Gay is a poker journalist, poker room supervisor and poker player local to the Mid-South region. She can be contacted at [facebook.com/aceofjewels](https://www.facebook.com/aceofjewels).

Delta Gold Poker Classic, Gold Strike, Tunica, Miss., Feb. 24-March 6



Event #1 • \$125 NLHE

91 Entries • Prize Pool: \$8,827

1. Mike Postle, Hernando, MS, \$3,176
2. Robert Owens, Wynne, AR, \$1,678
3. Alonzo Lyles, Memphis, \$1,060
4. Michael Fink, Salah, MS, \$706
5. Perry Brigman, Baldwin, MS, \$618
6. Jeff Floyd, Southaven, MS, \$531
7. Richard Skinner, Oshkosh, WI, \$441
8. Rudy Varner, Sylacauga, AL, \$353
9. Jerry Quinn, Blue Springs, MO, \$265



Event #2 • \$230 Omaha/8

52 Entries • Prize Pool: \$10,088

1. J. A. Sims, Frostbite Falls, MN, \$3,631
2. James Connor, Monroe, GA, \$1,917
3. H.C. Murphy, Robinsonville, MS, \$1,211
4. Doug Ikeda, La Vergne, TN, \$807
5. Jimmy Angotti, Lakeland, TN, \$706
6. Hjohn Catlett, Granite City, IL, \$605
7. P. J. Thakkar, Memphis, \$504
8. Henry Wilson, Nashville, \$404
9. Austin Harber, Robinsonville, MS, \$303



Event #3 • \$230 NLHE

127 Entries • Prize Pool: \$24,638

1. Mitch Harris, Marietta, GA, \$7,908
2. Jay Friedman, Eads, TN, \$4,484
3. Emmitt Humphrey, Lapeer, MI, \$2,464
4. Chris Graham, Malakoff, TX, \$1,971
5. Danny Nelson, Batesville, AR, \$1,478
6. Clark Fawcett, Frodyce, AR, \$1,232
7. Rudy Varner Jr., Sylacauga, AL, \$986
8. ShaneGerzon-Kessler, Boulder, CO, \$739
9. Tim Page, McMinnville, TN, \$493



Event #4 • \$230 Stud/8

19 Entries • Prize Pool: \$3,686

1. Steve Winkel, Georgetown, TN, \$1,843
2. Jim Watson, Biloxi, MS, \$1,106
3. Tommy Polk, Brookhaven, MS, \$737



Event #5 • \$340 NLHE

200 Entries • Prize Pool: \$58,200

1. Duy Tran, Brentwood, TN, \$19,207
2. Damon Rucker, Nashville, TN, \$10,592
3. Scott Conaway, Memphis, \$5,820
4. Neil Self, Florence, TN, \$4,656
5. Jordan Myers, Bartlett, TN, \$3,492
6. Mary Harden, Ooltewah, TN, \$2,910
7. Ed Garza, Bedford, TX, \$2,328
8. Phil Chung, McKinney, TX, \$1,746
9. James Marotta, Memphis, \$1,164

Continued on next page

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Joe Rose (\$150 buy-in)



- Wednesday, May 18th • 7:30pm
Sid Rosenberg (\$150 buy-in)
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- **7th Annual Hillel Texas Hold 'Em Tournament**
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DELTA GOLD POKER CLASSIC

FEB. 24-MARCH 6 • GOLD STRIKE CASINO • TUNICA

Continued from previous page



Event #6 • \$230 Ladies

29 Entries • Prize Pool: \$5,626

1. Linda Hurst, Longview, TX, \$2,531
2. Cassy Henson, Little Rock, \$1,407
3. Diane Ascare, Troy, MO, \$844
4. Brenda Whitten, Pine M'tain, GA, \$563
5. Barbara Becker, Jonesboro, AR, \$281



Event #7 • \$230 NLHE

100 Entries • Prize Pool: \$19,400

1. Kelly Money, Waco, TX, \$6,984
2. Mitch Franks, Tupelo, MS, \$3,686
3. Marla Byram, Osceola, AR, \$2,328
4. Jonathan Wilkinson, Byhalia, MS, \$1,552
5. Jamie Kizer, Collierville, TN, \$1,358
6. Steve Winkel, Georgetown, TN, \$1,164
7. Brent Turner, Somerville, TN, \$970
8. Norman McKeldin, Chattanooga, \$776
9. Mark Milam, Walls, MS, \$582



Event #8 • \$230 Omaha/8

38 Entries • Prize Pool: \$7,372

1. Salah Levy, Westfield, NJ, \$3,317
2. Timothy Chappell, Little Rock, \$1,841
3. Robert Heard, Trumann, AR, \$1,106
4. Glenn Kiersky, Memphis, \$737
5. Korel Sanders, Tunica, MS, \$371



Event #9 • \$230 NLHE

72 Entries • Prize Pool: \$13,968

1. Drew McIlvain, Temecula, CA, \$5,029
2. Billy Hurley, Bald Knob, AR, \$2,654
3. Tom Phillips, Philadelphia, MS, \$1,676
4. Jeff Baudendistal, Hernando, MS, \$1,117
5. William Flanary, Eldridge, MO, \$978
6. Dave Smith, Birmingham, \$838
7. Theresa Gex, Baton Rouge, \$698
8. Frances Anton, Memphis, \$559
9. Terry Crosby, Memphis, \$419



Event #10 • \$230 NLHE

61 Entries • Prize Pool: \$11,834

1. Michael Postle, Hernando, MS, \$4,261
2. Michele Doto, Memphis, \$2,248
3. Tim Kramer, Poplar Grove, IL, \$1,420
4. Randy Hollis, Helena, AR, \$947
5. John Payne, Guntown, MS, \$828
6. James Davis, Jackson, TN, \$710
7. Robert Fry, NewWaterford, OH, \$592
8. Clark Benson, Tryon, NC, \$473
9. Danny Lacaze, Paris, TX, \$355



Event #11 • \$230 Stud/8

15 Entries • Prize Pool: \$2,910

1. Salah Levy, Westfield, NJ, \$1,455
2. Bill Walker, Memphis, \$873
3. Jim Fleming, Cordova, TN, \$582



Event #12 • \$230 NLHE

52 Entries • Prize Pool: \$10,088

1. Michael Postle, Hernando, MS, \$3,630
2. Joe Poole, Myrtle Beach, \$1,918
3. Mark Kehrees, Alexander, AR, \$1,211
4. Mark Fleddermann, St. Louis, \$807
5. Jamie Kizer, Collierville, TN, \$706
6. David Umsted, Cordova, TN, \$605
7. Keith Whipple, Union City, TN, \$504
8. Dean Hoffman, Cookeville, TN, \$404
9. Lacey Coffey, Houston, \$303



Event #13 • \$230 Omaha/8

32 Entries • Prize Pool: \$6,208

1. Rick Blest, St. Louis, \$2,794
2. Larry Dangler, Sycamore, IL, \$1,552
3. George Andell, St. Louis, \$931
4. Ron Wethington, Hot Springs, AR, \$621
5. Karel Sanders, Tunica, MS, \$310



Event #14 • \$230 NLHE

84 Entries • Prize Pool: \$16,296

1. Sonny Johnston, Florence, AL, \$5,865
2. Pierce Webster, Acworth, GA, \$3,096*
3. David Newman, Memphis, \$1,956
4. Donald Atkins, Memphis, \$1,304
5. Larry Williamson, B'ham, MS, \$1,141
6. Tony Farazza, Memphis, \$978
7. John Yoo, St. Charles, MO, \$815
8. Danny Nelson, Batesville, AR, \$652
9. Stan Rojeski, Lake Cormorant, MS, \$489

* Pictured



Event #15 • \$230 PLO/8

38 Entries • Prize Pool: \$7,372

1. Jimmy Angotti, Memphis, \$3,317
2. Ben McDaniel, W. Memphis, AR, \$1,843*
3. Austin Harber, Robinsonville, MS, \$1,106
4. Stewart Carpenter, Walls, MS, \$737
5. Harvey Smith, Hope, AR, \$369

* Pictured



Event #16 • \$230 NLHE

122 Entries • Prize Pool: \$23,668

1. Danny Green, Jackson, TN, \$8,521
2. David Ashmore, New Albany, MS, \$4,497
3. Billy Johnston, Florence, AL, \$2,840
4. Roy Swindle, Valdosta, GA, \$1,893
5. William Craft, Jonesboro, AR, \$1,657
6. Ilene Matz, Marietta, GA, \$1,420
7. Joel Rayburn, Florence, AL, \$1,183
8. Rodney Tullock, Afton, TN, \$947
9. Stuart Breakstone, Memphis, \$710



\$1,080 Main Event

135 Entries • Prize Pool: \$130,950

1. James Reed, Newman, GA, \$43,214
2. Rodney Cozart, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$23,832
3. Joshua Thompson, Atlanta, \$13,095
4. Samuel Barnhardt, Little Rock, \$10,476
5. Charles Coble, Lewisburg, TN, \$7,857
6. Michael Wolf, Greenville, TX, \$6,548
7. Donald Tyler, Pelham, AL, \$5,238
8. David Mann, Henderson, TN, \$3,929
9. Mitch Franks, Tupelo, MS, \$2,619



Event #20 • \$125 NLHE

53 Entries • Prize Pool: \$5,141

1. Matthew Clerk, DeSoto, IL, \$1,851
2. Michael Stetson, Memphis, \$977
3. Stephen Winkel, Germantown, TN, \$617
4. Dennis Acosta, Mount Juliet, TN, \$411
5. Johnnie Frost, Golden, MS, \$360
6. Paul Melton, Memphis, \$308
7. Earl Millsaps, Loudon, TN, \$257
8. Bryan Watts, Franklin, GA, \$206
9. Thomas Burlison, Little Rock, \$154



Event #21 • \$125 NLHE

44 Entries • Prize Pool: \$4,268

1. Matthew Clerk, DeSoto, IL, \$1,921
2. Richard Tenhet, Maben, MS, \$1,067
3. Darren Attebery, Overland Pk., KS, \$640
4. Jeffery Floyd, Southaven, MS, \$427
5. James Woodley, Riverside, CA, \$213

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1pm Start**

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30 min. blinds
\$10 add-on, 5000 units

\$400+\$30



WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT

JAN. 27-FEB. 15 • HARRAH'S CASINO • TUNICA



Ring Event 1 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 1,032 • Prize Pool: \$295,866

1. Bill Wellman, Bethalto, IL, \$54,747
2. Donald Johnson, Carbondale, IL, \$33,841
3. Rob McDaniel, W. Memphis, AR, \$25,149
4. Richard Gibson, Sidon, MS, \$18,906
5. Kevin Miles, Rising Fawn, GA, \$14,376
6. Samuel Devers, Fenton, MO, \$11,059
7. Christopher Welch, Nashville, \$8,607
8. Linda Creasy, Hendersonville, TN, \$6,775
9. Jordan Myers, Bartlett, TN, \$5,397
10. Dale Robinson, Otisco, IN, \$4,349



Ring Event 2 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 448 • Prize Pool: \$130,368

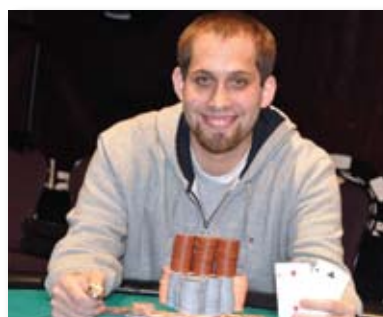
1. Bradley Clay, Southaven, MS, \$28,090
2. Trent Bennett, Fulton, MS, \$17,357
3. Roger Foley, Thayer, MO, \$12,683
4. Charles Belcher, Rowlett, TX, \$9,417
5. David Jacobs, W. Palm Beach, FL, \$7,101
6. Leonard Rodgers, Paragould, AR, \$5,435
7. Nick Willie, Bowling Green, KY, \$4,221
8. Luther Lewis, Goodlettsville, TN, \$3,325
9. Justin Kruger, Denison, TX, \$2,656
10. Brian Walsingham, Winston, GA, \$2,150



Ring Event 3 • \$345 Omaha/8

Entries: 155 • Prize Pool: \$45,105

1. Jessie Bryant, Conway, AR, \$11,687
2. Christopher Logue, Lakeside, TX, \$7,223
3. Jay Pettion, St. Louis, \$5,200
4. Mark Pharo, Birmingham, AL, \$3,811
5. Casey Hayes, Demotte, IN, \$2,842
6. Kyle Milam, Little Rock, \$2,157
7. Lindell Price, Memphis, TN, \$1,665
8. Ken McLendon, Tillatoba, MS, \$1,306
9. David Whitis, Nashville, \$1,042
10. Claudan Beaudouin, Ozone Pk., NY, \$844



Ring Event 4 • \$555 6-handed

Entries: 213 • Prize Pool: \$103,305

1. James Kirk, Chamblee, GA, \$25,220
2. James Quick, Decatur, TN, \$15,590
3. Steve Vuylsteke, Imperial, MO, \$11,346
4. Jerry Thielemier, Cordova, TN, \$8,391
5. Radwan Khuri, Memphis, \$6,303
6. Russell Boyker, Houston, \$4,807
7. Justin Kruger, Denison, TX, \$3,723
8. Steven Pionk, Hernando, MS, \$2,926
9. Trotter Chris, Chattanooga, TN, \$2,334
10. Harold Dabney, Stockbridge, FL, \$1,889



Ring Event 5 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 410 • Prize Pool: \$119,310

1. Kyle Cartwright, Bartlett, TN, \$25,678
2. Tyler Olsen, Little Rock, \$15,869
3. Christopher Dandrea, Nashville, \$11,596
4. Joshua Cooper, Mt. Juliet, TN, \$8,610
5. Maurice Hawkins, Coral Springs, FL, \$6,493
6. James Rapp, Centerville, OH, \$4,969
7. Darrell Hahs, Friedheim, MO, \$3,859
8. Timothy McNeely, Helena, AR, \$3,040
9. Austin McCormick, Chesterfield, MO, \$2,428
10. Brandon McKinney, Ft. Smith, AR, \$1,966



Ring Event 6 • \$555 NLHE

Entries: 404 • Prize Pool: \$192,570

1. Marshall Ruddle, Summertown, TN, \$42,367
2. Ben Vogt, St. Peters, MO, \$26,180
3. John Kulish, Oconto, WI, \$19,130
4. Joshua Jumps, Calera, OK, \$14,204
5. Jennifer Reel, Du Quoin, IL, \$10,711
6. Jim McMahon, Olive Branch, MS, \$8,198
7. Duy Tran, Brentwood, TN, \$6,366
8. Michael Pagliari, Memphis, \$5,015
9. Darius Brown, Cleveland, MS, \$4,005
10. Jason Harris, Wilmar, AR, \$3,243



Ring Event 7 • \$345 H.O.R.S.E.

Entries: 76 • Prize Pool: \$22,116

1. James Mink, Houston, TX, \$6,983
2. Jeffery Welch, Greenfield, IN, \$4,321
3. Christopher Wolfe, Rolla, MO, \$2,844
4. Scott Carlson, Tampa, FL, \$1,991
5. Joshua Palmer, Daphne, AL, \$1,475
6. Shane Paxton, Bauxite, AR, \$1,154
7. David Perkins, Olathe, KS, \$950
8. Stephen Winkel, Germantown, TN, \$820



Ring Event 8 • \$555 NLHE

Entries: 284 • Prize Pool: \$137,740

1. La Sengphet, Dallas, \$32,394
2. Andy Nguyen, Dallas, \$20,019
3. Kelli Mix, Carrollton, GA, \$14,525
4. Mike Vardeman, Laneville, TX, \$10,717
5. D. Harfield, CA, \$8,037
6. Daniel Gerald, Nashville, \$6,125
7. Walter Bell, San Antonio, TX, \$4,740
8. William McMahan, Newport, TN, \$3,725
9. Mike Anderson, Cheapeake, VA, \$2,972
10. Paul DeRosa, Lutz, FL, \$2,407



Ring Event 9 • \$345 NLHE

Entries: 508 • Prize Pool: \$144,704

1. Kyle Cartwright, Bartlett, TN, \$31,111
2. Allen Kron, Elizabeth, IN, \$19,236
3. Randy Stott, Olla, LA, \$14,052
4. Ferris McManus, Rock Hill, SC, \$10,417
5. Chris Green, Manhattan, KS, \$7,834
6. Richard Gum, Granite City, IL, \$5,976
7. Suzanne Lackey, Union, MO, \$4,623
8. Donna Jetter, Nashville, \$3,628
9. Brian Hunt, Pearland, TX, \$2,887
10. Charles Belcher, Rowlett, TX, \$2,328



\$1,600 Main Event

Entries: 480 • Prize Pool: \$698,400

1. Samuel Barnhart, Little Rock, \$148,612
2. Jesse White, Summer Shade, KY, \$91,881
3. Mary Harden, Ooltewah, TN, \$67,122
4. Brian Burney, Branson, MO, \$49,759
5. Marco Palacios, Austin, TX, \$37,422
6. John Nguyen, Fairview Hts., IL, \$28,547
7. Preston Derden, Houston, \$22,084
8. Kurt Jewell, Frankfort, KY, \$17,328
9. John Holley, Niceville, FL, \$13,789
10. La Sengphet, Dallas, \$11,121

HORSESHOE POKER CLASSIC

MAY 13 – 22

Day	Date	Time	Event	Buy-in
Fri	5-13	10am-7pm	Single Table Satellites	\$35, \$45, \$65, \$125
Fri	5-13	Noon	No-Limit	\$300, \$40, \$10
Fri	5-13	7pm	No-Limit	\$125, \$15, \$10
Sat	5-14	Noon	No-Limit	\$500, \$50, \$10
Sat	5-14	7pm	No-Limit	\$125, \$15, \$10
Sun	5-15	Noon	No-Limit	\$200, \$30, \$10
Sun	5-15	7pm	No-Limit	\$125, \$15, \$10
Mon	5-16	Noon	No-Limit	\$200, \$30, \$10
Mon	5-16	7pm	No-Limit	\$125, \$15, \$10
Tue	5-17	Noon	Seniors No-Limit	\$300, \$40, \$10
Tue	5-17	7pm	No-Limit	\$125, \$15, \$10
Wed	5-18	Noon	No-Limit	\$300, \$40, \$10
Wed	5-18	7pm	No-Limit	\$125, \$15, \$10
Thur	5-19	Noon	No-Limit	\$200, \$30, \$10
Thur	5-19	7pm	No-Limit	\$125, \$15, \$10
Fri	5-20	Noon	No-Limit	\$300, \$40, \$10
Fri	5-20	2pm	Ladies No-Limit	\$125, \$25, \$10
Fri	5-20	7pm	No-Limit	\$125, \$15, \$10
Sat	5-21	Noon	Main Event No-Limit	\$500, \$50, \$10
Sun	5-22	Noon	No-Limit	\$200, \$30, \$10
Sun	5-22	7pm	No-Limit	\$125, \$15, \$10
Mon	5-23	Noon	Free-Roll	*

- Single Table Satellites start 5-13 at 10am
- All Tournaments are 1 day events
- All Noon Tournaments 30-minute levels \$5,000 chips
- Main Event 45-minute levels \$10,000 chips
- All \$10 staff add-ons get \$3,000 chips
- All 7pm tournaments \$5,000 chips 20-minute levels
- Top 5 players in each Noon Event and 1st place in 7pm Tournaments qualify for \$15,000 Free-Roll

*Free-Roll on May 23 at Noon 1- \$10,000 seat to Main Event at WSOP® and 2- \$2,500 seats to WSOP at Rio in Las Vegas.

Hotel Rates: Horseshoe starting at \$49 – Harrah's starting at \$35

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IT'S SPRING FEVER ON THE BAYOU

Springtime in Louisiana traditionally has meant one thing: crawfish season! As you read this column the Cajuns in the South are filling their nets with the crown jewel of Creole cuisine and gathering their families for a fais-do-do that will last long into the summer months. Numerous festivals throughout the state honor what we call the mud-

bug and there's no better time to plan a visit, especially if you're a poker player. World-class poker is fast becoming Louisiana's new spring tradition.

With a little creativity a poker player can plan a roadtrip that will allow him to enjoy the game while experiencing the unique culture of the Pelican State. I've put together a little travel guide for you this month so you can make the most of your visit. With a little luck, who



knows? You just might pay for that vacation.

North

What self-respecting poker player doesn't dream of taking a shot at poker's biggest prize, the World Series of Poker Main Event? The \$10,000 buy-in may not be within your means, but don't let that stop you from pursuing your dream. You can win a seat into the main event for as little as \$120 by playing in the monthly satellites at the Horseshoe Bossier City through May.

The tournaments are the first and third Mondays of each month. The buy-in is \$120 and there are \$100 rebuys and add-ons. Registration begins at 4 p.m. and the tournament begins at 6. These tournaments have been very popular and usually draw a field of close to 100 entrants. If the main event isn't your cup of tea, don't worry; you can opt to take a cash payout instead when you win. It's normal to see multiple seats/payouts awarded in each tournament.

After you win that seat you'll need to refresh yourself before heading to Vegas to take on the likes of Doyle Brunson and Johnny Chan. Take time to kick back with your favorite beverage, enjoy those tasty crawfish and celebrate with some live Zydeco music at Shreveport's Mudbug Madness Festival. A yearly celebration since 1984, Mudbug Madness attracts tourists from all over the United States for a weekend of fun in downtown Shreveport. This year's festival runs from May 26-29. One suggestion: Bring sunscreen. The festival is open-air and you can expect to be in the sun for a few hours. For ticket prices and details go to mudbugmadness.com.

Southwest

The Isle of Capri in Lake Charles has become the destination for poker in Southwest Louisiana. The highlight of the spring season is the Louisiana State Poker Championship, which runs April 25-May 8 and boasts \$200,000 in guaranteed prize money spread out over 14 events. Six of these events will award a bracelet to the winner. This is the Isle's signature event and the casino really rolls out the red carpet for poker players.

If you make it to the Isle for the LSPC you won't want to miss Contraband Days in Lake Charles. Now in its 54th year, Contraband Days

is a celebration of the state's colorful history of pirates. Legend says the notorious Louisiana pirate Jean Lafitte used to hide out in Contraband Bayou near Lake Charles on his way to raids in Galveston, Texas. The legend has spawned what has become one of America's largest exhibitions of pirate history. Each year the festival draws in excess of 100,000 visitors and hosts more than 100 activities on land and water. This year's festival runs April 26-May 8 and you can get a complete list of events at contrabanddays.com.

South

When people think about New Orleans they naturally think about Mardi Gras during February and March, but the poker enthusiast should consider heading to the Big Easy soon for some exciting poker action.

Boomtown Casino in Harvey will celebrate the grand opening of its newly expanded poker room in June. Plans are still being finalized for this event but my sources say you can expect some unbelievable tournaments and promotions. More tables, more games and more amenities for players will create an exciting opportunity for you to visit this spring. Be sure and say hello to room manager Robert Horvath and tell him *Ante Up* sent you. You never know what he might pull out of his goodie bag!

Without question, the biggest poker event in New Orleans this spring is the WSOP Circuit stop at Harrah's Casino. The series begins May 9 and concludes May 22 with the nationally televised no-limit hold'em regional championship. Some of the top names in poker will vie for a coveted WSOP Circuit ring in 11 tournaments. Numerous non-ring tourneys also are scheduled. For as little as \$135 you can give it a try, but be prepared for some very tough competition. This is the major league of professional poker.

If you're going to be in NOLA this May then the 42nd annual New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival is an absolute must. This year's roster is a stellar group of musical legends. Bon Jovi, Kid Rock, John Mellancamp, Wilco, Jimmy Buffet, Cyndi Lauper, Wyclef Jean and Willie Nelson are just a few of the performers who will take the stage during the seven-day blowout that has been called America's Best Festival.

The dates for this year's event are April 29-May 1 and May 5-8. Single-day tickets are \$45 in advance and \$60 at the gate, a terrific bargain and a great way to pump those poker winnings back into the local economy. For a complete schedule go to nojazzfest.com.

There's no reason you shouldn't combine your love of poker with an opportunity to experience the culture and style of Louisiana this spring. If you come our way to play poker do yourself a favor and take time to attend some of these festivals, and don't forget to set a place for the old Spokesman at that crawfish boil!

OTHER NEWS: Bobby Thornton at the Isle said the search for Matt Dodd's replacement is going well and he expects the company will not look to radically alter or change anything Matt did. "We really just want to continue to enhance our product," Thornton said.

— **Scotty "The Spokesman" Rushing is a poker professional and sports journalist. When he isn't playing or writing about poker he's usually reading about it. Email him at scottyrushing@gmail.com.**

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A look at the Atlantic City-Philadelphia-area poker scene

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL FOR A.C. BANKROLLS

By **Cris Belkewitch**

The dark days of winter are behind us and that usually means good things for the boardwalk empire that is Atlantic City. With a World Series of Poker Circuit stop landing at Caesars last month and the Borgata Spring Open April 13-29 (the main event is April 24-27), New Jersey is the place to be this spring to get you ready for the 2011 World Series of Poker.

Popular tournament series always garner a lot of attention for the host casinos and the players come out in droves, but outside those series of events play never stops. Up and down the boardwalk and out in the marina the poker action has been picking up. New games and limits have been popping up and bigger and better promotions have been coming down the pipeline.

Harrah's has taken a step in the right direction by adding a little variety to its list of games with the addition of a \$7.50-\$15 pink chip Omaha-8/stud-8 mix. People still talk about the pink-chip games held at the Tropicana years ago and Harrah's is hoping its rendition is talked about in the same regard. The game has been going nicely and a lot of the regulars have been enjoying giving something other than no-limit hold'em a chance. For you comp buffs out there the game offers \$2 per hour in comps and 60 tier credits per hour.

Speaking of comps and promotions, the Showboat is going to be offering a lot more to its players. When it comes to its list of promotions it's more quantity than quality, but it's a start. Any player who hits a royal flush receives a comped room, Sunday-Thursday, and \$20 added to their comps.

Anyone who plays five or more hours on Monday or Tuesday will receive a free buffet valid for that day and the next (the staff is working on having Wednesday and Thursday added). The best promotion is related to daily tournaments. Each daily winner will be entered into a freeroll the next month with the prize pool equaling \$1 for every tournament entry that month (expected to be between \$3,000 and \$5,000). The winner of the freeroll will be Showboat's Tournament Player of the Month.

Pennsylvania

The poker scene in Pennsylvania is still a little wet behind the ears, but it definitely is coming along. And some of the problems haven't all been the poker rooms' fault. Things such as ordinances that prohibit them from serving alcohol or waiting on the gaming commission to approve tournament play or the distribution of new chip denominations are growing pains that new ventures have no choice but to wait patiently. But in the best interest of their customers they have been doing as much as they can.

Players at the Parx Casino requested a mid-limit stud game be added to the mix and the staff was quick to take them up on it. Within a day or two a \$15-\$30 stud game was added, and a \$3 time charge was taken in lieu of rake. The decision was met with gleeful approval from the regulars. With a \$30-\$60 hold'em game running as well, this addition is a nice push in the right direction for higher limit poker in Pennsylvania.

Looking ahead

As mentioned the Borgata spring series is this month, plus Harrah's Chester released its WSOPC schedule. The series, which runs April 27-May 10, will feature 10 ring events, culminating with the \$1,600 buy-in main event. The schedule is much more eclectic than the one found at Caesars with rings to be awarded in numerous no-limit hold'em events, a re-entry event, Omaha/8, H.O.S.E., and what is hoped to be a juicy NLHE six-max event.

There is a lot on the menu in the coming weeks to pad the bankrolls of all the East Coasters, just in time for the 2011 World Series of Poker.

— **Cris Belkewitch is a professional poker player and writer from New Jersey. A member of Team Bustout, his insight can be found at thepokerjourney.net.**



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NEWS

NEW JERSEY

The youth revolution continues on the World Poker Tour, as 23-year-old Internet marketing entrepreneur Gregory Brooks of Wyckoff, N.J., crushed a final table featuring a former online player of the year and two WPT champs.

Brooks outlasted an LAPT field of 681 players to win \$1,654,120 of the \$6.5 million prize pool.

Hosted at Commerce Casino in Commerce, Calif., the LAPC is widely considered among the toughest fields at any WPT event. This year was no exception with poker superstars such as Phil Ivey, Antonio Esfandiari, Phil Hellmuth, Michael Mizrahi, Faraz Jaka, Daniel Negreanu, Maria Ho, and Jason Mercier taking a seat on the felt.

Brooks follows in the footsteps of 22-year-olds Randal Flowers (Festa al Lago) and Jeff Forrest (Foxwoods World Poker Finals), as young stars continue to make their mark on Season IX.

At one of the fastest, most aggressive and highly contentious final tables in WPT history, Brooks and Vivek Rajkumar made quick work of their opponents and started their heads-up battle on Hand 62 of the night. Play slowed considerably as former WPT Borgata Open winner Rajkumar, 24, tried to overcome Brooks' more than 2-to-1 chip lead. In the end Brooks came out on top when his 8-7 beat Rajkumar's J-10 and the board fell 7-3-2-2-A.

"My strategy throughout the



Gregory Brooks

entire tournament was really to play aggressively in spite of whether or not my chips allowed me to," Brooks said. "But I was lucky enough to have a lot of chips and I was able to play a lot of hands. I was a little surprised. No one else seemed like they wanted to take the reins. So I decided that I would do so."

Borgata results

\$100K guar. \$340 NLHE • March 12

Entries: 739 • Prize Pool: \$221,700

1. Jacob Millstein, Brooklyn, \$49,891
2. Michael Accardi, Parsippany, NJ, \$29,031
3. Suzanne Manchester, Bayport, NY, \$17,742
4. Victor Ramos, Brooklyn, \$14,623
5. Jason Nablo, Niagara Falls, NY, \$11,828
6. Dennis Thurman, Fisk, MO, \$9,677
7. Michael Vela, Newburgh, NY, \$7,742
8. Adam Sanders, Atlantic Hgts, NJ, \$5,914
9. Asa Berger, Chalfont, PA, \$4,086
10. Benoit Cantin, Vancouver, \$2,688

\$1,650 NLHE Deep Stack • March 5-8

Entries: 308 • Prize Pool: \$500,000

1. Christopher Tryba, Las Vegas, \$131,257
2. Seunghwan Lee, Albertson, NY, \$72,921
3. Jay Shumsey, Asotira, NY, \$45,211
4. Joshua Supsak, Linwood, NJ, \$36,461
5. Eracles Panayiotou, Toms River, NJ, \$28,196
6. Jinhing Chin, New York, \$23,821
7. John Andress, Doylestown, PA, \$19,203
8. John Zoldak, Staten Island, NY, \$14,341
9. Paul Volpe, West Chester, PA, \$9,723
10. Matthew Mazzeo, E. Williston, NY, \$6,320

NEVADA

Erik Seidel reigned supreme over an elite field of 63 of poker's best to win the seventh annual National Heads-Up Poker Championship at the Caesars Palace on March 6. Seidel defeated Chris Moneymaker in the tournament's best-of-three final table to claim the championship and the \$750,000 first-place prize.

INDIANA

The All In for Friends Charity Tournament at the Horseshoe in Southern Indiana will be April 30 at 3 p.m. The event benefits the Friends School and features a \$50 buy-in with a \$20 add-on and \$50 rebuys through the first level. For more information or to register for this tournament call 502-899-1822.

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SATURDAY
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at 7 pm

SUNDAY
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NEWS

DELAWARE

Delaware Park Poker Classic is April 1-17

The Delaware Park Poker Classic, which runs April 1-17, features more than \$400K in guarantees, including a \$100K guarantee for the \$1,070 main event on April 16 (50K chips, 60-minute blinds).

The schedule features two events daily with the noon tournaments solely no-limit hold'em and the 4 p.m. events catering to non-hold'em games such as PLO, Omaha/8, H.O.R.S.E. and stud/8.

"It's our goal at Delaware Park to become the premier location for tournament poker on the East Coast," tournament director Kevin Castora said. "Our inaugural Delaware Park Poker Classic is just one of the steps we are taking to obtain that goal."

Second-chance NLHE events will be nightly at 7 (\$100) and 11 (\$85 bounty event) plus there will be a variety of satellites for events.

"Our players will be hard-pressed to find a better tournament experience outside of the highest profile casinos in Las Vegas," Castora said.

For the full schedule and details go to delawarepark.com.

DOVER DOWNS: The Crown Royal Poker Room produced Delaware's largest bad-beat jackpot on Feb. 21, hitting for \$118,833.



The winner was Nicholas McCulley, a Magnolia, Del., resident who took home \$59,416 when his aces full of jacks were beaten by quad jacks.

"We are pleased and proud to have paid out the largest Delaware bad-beat jackpot to date," said Steve Keener, assistant vice president of casino operations.

The losing hand received \$29,708 and the seven other players at the table each won \$4,244.

SOUTH CAROLINA



The L.A. Poker Classic at the Commerce Casino in L.A. saw Yuval Bronshtein of Charleston, S.C., chop Event 37 (\$1,065 eight-game-mix) with Casey Hayes of Chicago. Though Hayes took home more money (\$12,700), Bronshtein won the hardware and \$11,400 after beating nearly 40 players.

KENTUCKY

Most might agree it isn't a question of IF Mark Smith will win his fifth World Series of Poker Circuit ring, but instead a question of WHEN. The man better known as "Pegasus" is



tied with Men Nguyen and Chris Reslock for the most WSOPC rings at four. Smith almost broke the record at Choctaw in Oklahoma when 448 players entered the \$345 NLHE event, but he fell just short as Kentucky

native Robert Castoire took home the first place prize of \$28,090 and his second WSOPC ring, denying Smith his fifth ring, having to settle for second.



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FEB. 4-13 • FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO • MASHANTUCKET

\$1,200 Main Event

Entries: 390 • Prize Pool: \$412,347

1. Rami Ibrahim, Melrose, MA, \$60,000
2. George Kalaitzis, Brockton, MA, \$47,350
3. Mustapha Moutaouakil, Norwich, CT, \$43,650
4. Henry Robinson, West Haven, CT, \$32,000
5. Eric Siegel, Bellmore, NY, \$29,531
6. Robert Courtney, Millbury, MA, \$25,000
7. Mark Sykes, New Haven, CT, \$20,000
8. Michael Norman, Murrillsville, PA, \$20,000
9. Douglas Benedict, Londonderry, NH, \$20,000

\$300 NLHE

Entries: 448 • Prize Pool: \$152,095

1. Milton Houghton, Jamesport, NY, \$25,000
2. Justin Smith, Webster, MA, \$25,000
3. Carlos Matos, Bronx, NY, \$15,000
4. Michael Parras, Waltham, MA, \$12,881
5. Franco Mancini, Watertown, CT, \$10,000
6. Christian Fourquet, Pawtucket, RI, \$6,510
7. William Trauernicht, Wilbraham, MA, \$5,293
8. Michael Paiva, Pawtucket, RI, \$4,228
9. Anthony Raimone, Bardonia, NY, \$3,485

\$200 NLHE Bounty

Entries: 358 • Prize Pool: \$43,407

1. Savvas Kosmidis, Worcester, MA, \$8,150
2. Eric Orsillo, Woburn, MA, \$8,150
3. Michael Wood, Stow, MA, \$3,798
4. David Chesley, Concord, NH, \$3,038
5. James Lex, Brighton, MA, \$2,366
6. Aditya Prasetyo, Cambridge, MA, \$1,910
7. Kenneth Buchanan, Cranston, RI, \$1,584
8. Joseph Romano, Manchester, NH, \$1,281
9. Alfred Aubin, Ware, MA, \$1,056

\$120 NLHE

Entries: 473 • Prize Pool: \$45,881

1. Nick Larisa, Hope Valley, RI, \$6,600
2. Paul Pinkham, Richmond, ME, \$6,600
3. Salvatore Pipitone, Paramus, NJ, \$3,000
4. Andrew Bimonte, Hopewell Jct, NY, \$3,000
5. Bill Flaherty, Stratford, CT, \$3,000
6. Mark Corbett, Ledyard, CT, \$3,000
7. James Silva, Bridgewater, MA, \$3,000
8. Jeremy Derby, Londonderry, VT, \$3,000
9. Barnett Degen, Manchester, ME, \$1,058

\$300 NLHE

Entries: 513 • Prize Pool: \$129,379

1. David Servedio, Jefferson Valley, NY, \$16,349
2. Jim Bernard, Barrington, RI, \$13,869
3. Richard Purdy, Hudson Falls, NY, \$10,966
4. Al Pizzimento, Marlborough, MA, \$10,603
5. Edward Bratz, Mattapan, MA, \$7,882
6. David Sibley, Braintree, MA, \$7,217
7. Jose Fernandes, Norton, MA, \$7,035
8. Patrick Morris, Beverly, MA, \$6,491
9. Jim Geoghegan, Clinton, CT, \$4,317

\$600 NLHE

Entries: 289 • Prize Pool: \$148,575

1. Daniel Voccia, W. Hampton Bch., NY, \$25,047
2. Kevin Conroy, Southington, CT, \$22,862
3. Christopher Griffin, Malden, MA, \$18,093
4. Jake Liddell, Duxbury, MA, \$14,972
5. Donald Fales, Antrim, NH, \$8,320
6. Lawrence Martone, Pelham, NH, \$6,760
7. Ismel Carrasco, Roxbury Cross, MA, \$5,646
8. TK Sparker, Hartford, CT, \$4,606
9. Gilbert Bortone, Waltham, MA, \$3,877



Rami Ibrahim

Rami Ibrahim of Melrose, Mass., captured the \$1,200 Mega Stack Challenge Main Event on Feb. 13 and pocketed a cool \$60K. This series had a reunion of the 2010 WSOP November Nine. Read last month's issue at anteupmagazine.com for more coverage.

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NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

A look at online poker



ANTE UP ONLINE SERIES GETS UNDER WAY

Ante Up's popular online pokers series — Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series, or AIPS — has begun its sixth season featuring its best prizes in the event's history.

AIPS is a series of \$5.50 buy-in tournaments on PokerStars. In addition to cash and other prizes players win during each event, players also earn points toward Ante Up's Online Player of the Year title. The Player of the Year gets a featured interview on the *Ante Up PokerCast*.

Two events, plus one \$1.10 satellite, are held each month through December. Events take place on dates ending in "6." The sixth of every month is the satellite awarding seats in the next event, the 16th is a non-hold'em game and the 26th of every month is a hold'em variation, usually no-limit. Weekdays events are at 9 p.m. ET, and weekend events are at noon ET.

Events pay PokerStars' normal prize pool, but the winner also gets a coveted plastic banana trophy and new this year — a pair of Blue Shark Optics worth more than \$100. In addition, winners are entered in the end-of-the-year Tournament of Champions freeroll, which features a \$2,000 prize pool put up by PokerStars.

Players also can advance to the Tournament of Champions by playing in at least 18 of the 20 events or finishing high enough in the points standings. All of the details, including a schedule of events, can be found at anteupmagazine.com/aips.

If you don't have a PokerStars account you can sign up through AnteUpMagazine.Com using bonus code STARS600 and marketing

April AIPS events

April 6, 9 p.m. ET - No-Limit Hold'em satellite to Event #3

April 16, noon ET - Event #3 (Pot-Limit Omaha)

April 26, 9 p.m. ET - Event #4 (Limit Hold'em)

code ANTEUPMAG to get a 100% matching bonus on your first deposit up to \$600.

Governor vetoes N.J. online bill

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has vetoed what would have been the United States' first intrastate online gambling bill, saying, "If the Legislature believes that expanding gambling outside of Atlantic City is in the best interests of the State of New Jersey, it should place the question on the ballot for the voters to decide."

New Jersey's bill, which passed both houses overwhelmingly, would have allowed Atlantic City casinos to offer online versions of their games to state residents. Lawmakers haven't said whether they will try to override the veto.

In Florida, a similar intrastate online poker bill has advanced through committee hearings. Similar bills have been filed in Iowa, California and Nevada.

— Scott Long

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*Main Event last year paid approximately **\$1,300,000**, with first place receiving **\$316,000**.

Suggested Contribution: **\$165 in advance** or \$190 on the day of the event.

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- \$1,000 in five-star dining at The Venetian
- Round trip airfare for two and exclusive limo transportation

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Tournament founded and created by *Scott Frank*.

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DeepStackCharityClassic.com



Kneel before Neil

Poker 4 Life charity league director Neil Lawson captures 2011's second Ante Up Poker Tour event.



SureBetPoker.net owner Jason Sallman finished third.



Neil Lawson is all smiles after winning the AUPT title aboard the Ante Up Poker Cruise.



Ante Up Player of the Year bracelet provided by Madison Jewelers. Go to www.madison-jewelers.com.

Points are earned by finishing in the top 10. Here are the Ante Up Player of the Year leaders as of press time. For complete, up-to-date results and the formula used for calculating points be sure to log on to anteupmagazine.com/tour

1. Corey Burbick, Davie, FL	393.15
2. Chad Brown, Margate, FL	278
3. James Slattery, Glen St. Mary, FL	226.98
4. Dermot Blain, Codonegal, Ireland	196.57
5. Shaun Deeb, Troy, NY	175.82
6. John O'Shea, Dublin, Ireland	160.50
7. Dennis Bergeron, St. Augustine, FL	148.60
8. Sean Winter, Jacksonville, FL	139
9. Robbin Ulrey, Jacksonville Beach, FL	131.05
10. Dan Dyke, Orlando, FL	124.32
11. Neil Lawson, Gainesville, FL	123
12. Bryan Yaeger, Ocala, FL	87
13. Jason Sallman, Tampa, FL	71
14. Brent Philbin, Hallandale, FL	61
15. Scott Long, Safety Harbor, FL	55
16. Mike Wolf, New York	50
17. Joe Massaro, Juno Beach, FL	46
18. Douglas Lanier, Orlando, FL	43
19. Justin Maddox, Orlando, FL	41
20. Matthew Waxman, Parkland, FL	39

Upcoming events

JUNE 8: Ante Up Scramble in the Sand, \$4,000

SEPT. 1: Ante Up Cruise Main Event, \$350

DEC. 14: Ante Up Cruise Main Event, \$350



ANTE UP POKER CRUISE, 3/11

1. Neil Lawson, Gainesville, FL
2. Bryan Yaeger, Ocala, FL
3. Jason Sallman, Tampa, FL
4. Brent Philbin, Hallandale, FL
5. Scott Long, Safety Harbor, FL
6. Mike Wolf, New York
7. Joe Massaro, Juno Beach, FL
8. Douglas Lanier, Orlando, FL
9. Justin Maddox, Orlando, FL
10. Matthew Waxman, Parkland, FL



The final table.





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WATCH OUT FOR PLAYMAKERS

Often while playing poker, especially if I've been overly aggressive or simply not showing down many hands while winning a lot of uncontested pots, I'll look across the table and see one of my opponents glaring at me. When you spot someone giving you "the look," you can be fairly confident they're going to make a play at you sometime in the near future. Knowing they're going to attack you ahead of time can turn normally easy



JONATHAN LITTLE

fold into snap calls. You also need to be sure to let your opponent bluff you. If you pile the money in against them, they will be forced to fold but if you make any sort of made hand, you should be confident going into check-call mode.

The following hand came up during a \$2,000 event at the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure. As usual, I was playing my standard aggressive strategy, though I was never too far out of line.

A young European player across the table was giving me "the look," though he had yet to play a pot with me. I raised with a random hand, made a continuation bet and took down a small pot. On the very next hand, with the blinds 300-600 and a 75 ante, I raised to 1,400 with J♠-10♣ from middle position. My European friend in the small blind reraised 3,400. I had around 45,000 and he had around 34,000. Seeing as I was getting decent odds and thought my opponent easily could be making a play, I decided to call with the intention of calling down if I hit a decent flop.

The flop came J♥-6♣-2♦. My opponent bet 4,600 and I called. At this point, I could be way ahead or way behind, but I certainly am never folding when I have top pair and I think my opponent's range

is wide open.

Notice raising here doesn't make much sense because he will fold most of his air and call with all better hands. The turn was the 6♠. He bet 7,000 and I called. The same logic I used on the flop applies on the turn. If he has a better hand he'll always call if I raise. If I raise, I also blow him off all of his bluffs, which I keep in his range by simply calling.

The river was the 8♣. He bet 7,600 fairly quickly out of his 18,000 remaining stack. When players throw out a bet really fast on the river, it means they usually planned on betting regardless of the river card. I always wait around 20 seconds to call in spots like this just in case my opponent gives off a tell I can use later. In this case, since his range should be made up of mostly bluffs and a few nut hands, I think I have an easy call. I made the call and beat his A♠-9♠.

Notice if I raised the flop or turn, he would've most likely folded, unless he was an absolute maniac. I think the optimal line in these situations is to simply call down.

If I had something like A-A in the previous hand, I still would have taken the check-call line. I would not raise the river because again, he will usually only call when you're beat.

By playing hands like this in these situations, you keep all the bluffs in your opponents' range while making it impossible for him to bluff you. You also make it tough for your opponent to get a lot of value when he actually makes a hand because you never put in a raise. Hopefully next time this situation arises, you will take this line and allow him to bluff off his stack.

— Jonathan Little is the Season 6 WPT Player of the Year and is a representative for Blue Shark Optics. If you want to learn to play a loose-aggressive style, which will constantly propel you to the top of the leaderboards, check out his poker training website at FloatTheTurn.com.



LITTLE



FLOP



TURN



RIVER



OPPONENT

Notice if I raised the flop or turn, he would've most likely folded, unless he was an absolute maniac. I think the optimal line in these situations is to simply call down.

GET THE EDGE WITH

BLUE SHARK OPTICS

PRO POKER EYEWEAR

AT WHAT POINT DID YOU KNOW YOU WERE BEAT?

When did you know you were beat? This question sounds strange for the beginning of a magazine article. Sadly some players never know when they're beat. When, then, do you become aware you're playing a losing hand?

Let's begin with the way you enter the pot. Do you consider your position before putting in your chips?

When will you have to act after the flop? Do you know the types of players in the pot before you enter? Have you considered how these players entered? Did they limp or raise? What was the size of the raise, min-raise, three times the size of the big blind, or more? How many players behind you could enter the pot? Do you know the type of player they are if they do enter the pot? How far are you prepared to go with the hand based on the flop?



ANTONIO PINZARI

Can you continue after the flop if you don't get a piece of it? Where does your starting hand rank out of the 169 possible starting hands? Do you hold a drawing hand or a pair?

It's preflop and you may or may not know you're beat!

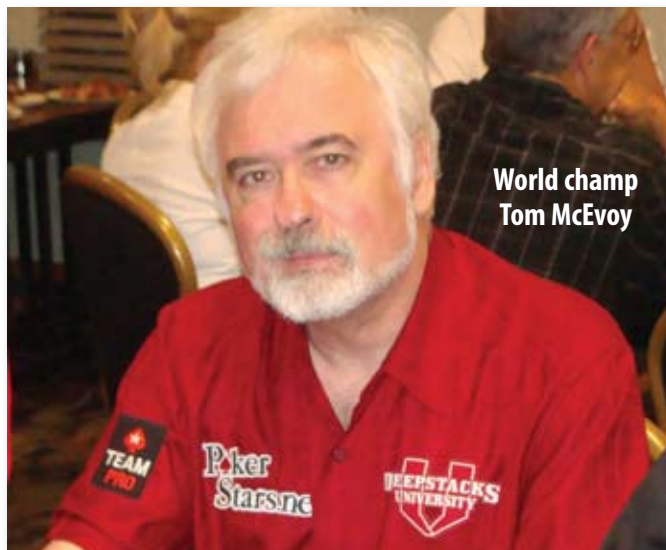
Now we have the flop. Where does your hand rank after the flop? How are you going to play the hand? Is your play going to be based on the actions of other players? If so, how aware are you of where your hand stands? Have you been able to pick up any tells? How's your chip stack in relationship to the other players in the hand? If you're playing a preflop pair, are you aware of all the numbers associated with a pair whether you hit the flop or not? Is anyone in the hand the type of player who is capable of making a move? Are you able to play a big pot if need be? I hope you know your hand is 71.4 percent complete after the flop. I hope you know the rule of 4 and 2 and are able to count outs.

It's postflop and you may or may not know you're beat!

Here comes the turn card, or fourth street if you're an old-timer. What has happened in the hand up to this point? This is always a good time to replay the hand in your mind before committing chips to the pot. Re-evaluation becomes paramount to all successful players, and the turn card is the ideal time for this to occur. Try to combine the thought process and the ranking of your hand with all previous actions that have occurred. Be on the lookout for tells of all types, verbal or physical, and especially betting patterns, which are usually the truest tell of all when combined with the type of player making the bet.

It's after the turn and you may or may not know you're beat!

Old Man River. This is where the rubber meets the road! Where does your hand rank? First nuts, second nuts, or just the same pair you had preflop? Do you feel the need to bet your hand to protect the money in the pot? If you open the betting and you're raised can you make the call? Are you hoping the hand is checked down? Do you

World champ
Tom McEvoy

wish you played the hand differently? If so, you were not playing the hand with a strategy to win. Have you showed down a hand and were surprised you won or lost?

After the river you may or may not have known you're beat!

Well you know now! At this point there's a glaring weakness in your game. I don't care how strong or weak your game is, we all get our money in bad from time to time. Great players get their money in bad less than average players do. Why is this so apparent and why do we see the great players cashing so frequently? Texas Hold'em is a thinking game. This game is so multifaceted that all players should be learning constantly. Learning how each player at your table plays is a major factor in the success of all great players. As my good friend Tom McEvoy says, "Poker isn't a card game played by people; it's a people game played with cards."

After reading this article if you're not factoring the many decisions required to become a successful player I can help you to know when you're beat.

You were beat when you entered the cardroom and before you sat at the table. In today's poker world there are so many great players, young and old, that your need for knowledge could never be higher. Knowledge is currency. Simply playing your pocket cards and hoping to hit the flop just won't do in today's poker world.

Please read, study, learn and play. Invest in a poker seminar. Combine these factors to become successful and prosper.

— Antonio Pinzari is the host of *Poker Wars Live*, which airs Mondays from 7-9 PM (ET) on WBZT-AM 1230 Radio from West Palm Beach, FL and streams live at www.pokerwars.info.

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JOE NAVARRO • Ex-FBI guy shares his nonverbal secrets.

A NIGHT OUT WITH THE BOYS

I don't play a lot of poker. But I do play in a monthly home game that has a great mix of characters, from retailers and construction workers to a doctor and some retired FBI agent who shall remain nameless. Let's just say he's the sucker.

We play just about every version of poker there is, including Bunk Beds, Screw Your Neighbor, Follow the Queen and the L Game. Hold'em? Not so much. I'm just content to be socializing with my friends. The stakes are miniscule, which means money is mindlessly thrown into the pot and the game isn't taken seriously.



JOE NAVARRO

Their mannerisms dictate strength, but how can they all be strong? I usually have a rag hand, but they almost make me contribute to the pot. I often think of my friend Greg Raymer, who says you should fold close to 70 percent of your hands. Not at this game.

When I get my chance as dealer to call limit hold'em I hear a few grumbles, but they oblige. And that's when they start to take the game a little more seriously. Maybe it's because they've seen it on TV or they feel it's a step above the rest. Either way, hold'em is respected, but that doesn't mean they're going to fold.

They look at their cards and react in ways they aren't aware. I hear Juan, who's on my left, exhale. He has nothing. Good Frank (and there's a reason why we differentiate from Bad Frank) looks around, sits quietly and touches his eyelid. Greg sits higher than usual ... or maybe he's moving away from the table; I can't tell just yet. Chris, to the left of Greg, is briefly plucks at his upper lip before raising. By the time it gets to me and my pocket kings, everyone is committed to the pot.

The flop brings a 3♣-A♦-K♥. I've flopped a set and am a little nervous they're going to think I somehow favored my hand as dealer. My focus remains on my opponents, as I'm trying to gauge immediate postflop reactions, and on myself as my "Happy Feet" typically kick into gear when I have a good hand.

Everyone makes adjustments after seeing the flop. They squirm in their chairs, touch their face or transmit other notable behaviors. They couldn't care less that I'm looking at them and thinking about odds and their chances to win.

Once more everyone commits a bet to the pot, but given it's limit, we can raise no more than 50 cents. I comment that we need to spice things up so I raise. As I hoped, this is followed by howls that I'm obviously bluffing. Everyone calls, however, but only after they look at their cards to check what they have.

I think Bad Frank and Greg also have good hands and maybe one of them has a set, too. Good Frank, who is always in a great mood, inches forward and asks me if I have a good hand. I respond, "It's as good as the beer I'm having." KB, who brought the beer, nods and says, "Thanks."

The turn is the 7♥. I hear mostly sighs, though Mitch begins to shift in his chair. Everyone puts in another bet and for the first time I see Chris is pursing his lips. Given my profession, I announce, "Chris is going to fold," but he doesn't. I'm ignored, but I know the truth about his hand.



Just because it's a relaxed atmosphere in your home game doesn't mean you should relax your game.

The river is the K♦ and it takes all the effort I have to conceal my emotions. Good Frank is still in the pot. Greg bets and that gets Chris to fold. He acknowledges my previous comment about pursed lips by saying, "purse this Navarro." I ignore the insult, because I know pursed lips means we disagree or don't like something. Bad Frank, of course, calls because that's what he does, even if he has to buy in several times during the night. I raise and everyone remaining in the hand calls.

Bad Frank has threes full, while Mitch has a pair of aces. Greg mucks and says he was "close." I flip over my monster hand and drag a pot worth almost \$6.

It was a night of fun and laughter. The winner (nope, not me) wins \$14 and we all leave KB's house and wait until next month. It costs more to drive there than to play, but this game is about the camaraderie, not the money.

The game also provides an education and I wouldn't be doing my job if I wasn't learning at a poker table. No matter what the stakes, we reveal our emotions in real time. I witnessed the pacifying gestures on the face, the leaning forward, the neck touching ... and we were only playing for dimes.

All these observations have to include context. In our case, the context is for the sake of harmony — people at this game commit to the pot no matter what. In the same way if you're in a high-stakes game and you have someone with lots of money to burn, that provides context — they have money they can lose at will and that pot commitment is not beholden to actual card strength.

After so many years, I relearn something every time I play with these guys. They simply don't care to invest the time to observe, decode and interpret nonverbal behavior. That's fine if you want to limit your abilities to play poker, but if you're taking the game a little more seriously, you can't fall into this category. And that's it, enough excitement for one night. Next month it's at Bad Frank's house. I can't wait.

— Ex-FBI counterintelligence officer Joe Navarro of Tampa specialized in behavioral analysis for 25 years. He has penned numerous nonverbal books, including his new Kindle book called *200 Poker Tells*, which you can find on Amazon.com. Email Joe at editor@anteupmagazine.com and he'll answer your questions.

A DELICATE BALANCING ACT FOR SURE

Each month *Ante Up* asks its poker room manager Jody Russell to interpret one rule from the Tournament Directors Association's list of rules. This month's rule has to do with balancing tables and was so interesting we decided to turn his interpretation into a column.

Remember, if you have any questions regarding TDA rules be sure to email them to editor@anteupmagazine.com.

BALANCING TABLES: In flop and mixed games when balancing tables, players will be moved from the big blind to the worst position, including taking a single big blind when available, even if that means the seat will have the big blind twice.

Worst position is never the small blind. The table from which a player is moved will be as specified by a predetermined procedure. In stud-only games, players will be moved by position (the last seat to open up at the short table is the seat to be filled). Play will halt on any table that is three or more players short.

JODY: Ever been in a tournament and wonder why the tournament director just took the guy next to you to another table, leaving you with the big blind? Now you know.

The way I was taught to run tournaments is to keep the number of players at each table within two players of the table with the most players until there are only four tables. At four tables I balance each table within one player of the table with the most players.

A tournament with tables that are 10-, nine-, nine-, nine- and eight-handed is just fine. If the eight-handed table goes to seven, the tourna-

TDA Rules

Go to pokertda.com to see all 44 TDA rules.

ment director must then take a player from the 10-handed table and move him to the short table. Now the nine-handed tables have the most players and a seven-handed table will be acceptable. Once there are 10 empty seats the tournament director breaks a table and all of the remaining tables are full again.

The proper procedure for balancing tables is for the tournament director to determine which table has the most players, wait for that table to finish its current hand, and then take the player in the big blind to the short table. It is important for the tournament director to wait for the hand to finish.

If a player goes broke at that table the tournament director may have to select another table from which to move a player. In smaller buy-in tournaments with short levels you'll see some TD's taking players from tables while a hand is still in progress so the short table doesn't lose out on valuable time waiting for the new player. That is fine for smaller tournaments, but shouldn't occur in tournaments with longer levels.

— Jody Russell is a veteran poker room manager who also runs the Ante Up Poker Room. Email questions to editor@anteupmagazine.com.

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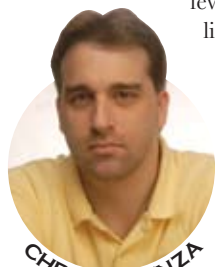
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WHY BET POT BLINDLY?

There exists a paradox in the maturation of today's poker player, one that is unlike any other training program, be it game, sport, business, career or life.

Let's say you want to learn to play golf. You don't head to the PGA Tour offices, sign up for the tour and after a few months of playing head back to the public links to try out your new swing. It's the same for any sport. You don't get your experience in the major leagues only to go back to play T-ball.



CHRIS COSENZA

Yet most people nowadays got their first introduction to poker from what they saw on television ... no-limit hold'em. Hole-cams made thousands of people eight years ago rush right out and buy Doyle Brunson's *Super System*, get themselves an online account and dive right into the no-limit

pool with the sharks. And to those people I thank you for allowing me to pay off my mortgage 20 years early.

The online scene (at least the fish swimming there) has dried up considerably since then. And as I literally hear Alanis Morissette's *Ironie* playing on my iTunes right now (no kidding, she's singing the *It's like raaaaaain on your wedding day* verse, even though that's not remotely ironic), it occurs to me the paradox that helped launch poker's resurgence is what has caused it to dry up as well. If these players (myself included) had learned to play hold'em in a limit (then pot-limit) capacity first, they might still have a healthy bankroll.

It's the natural progression that's missing these days. A baby learns to sit up, crawl, wobble, walk and then run. It doesn't come out of the womb entering marathons. Yet so many poker players start out running, only to run out of gas nowhere near the finish line.

Florida poker rooms are getting a taste of this now as players who were handcuffed for years by \$100 buy-ins are now allowed to play for any stakes they want. What the state is finding out is the government had crippled these players because they had no way of learning proper strategy for deepstack high-stakes poker, consequently causing them now to lose their bankrolls much faster ... and more devastatingly.

So, what am I getting at? I've been playing some pot-limit online lately and it's absolutely remarkable to me how many times people bet pot preflop and after the flop. They see that "pot" button and are drawn to it like a fat guy to a burger. Or if there's no "pot" button they just slide the betting bar over as far right as their mouse will let them and then click bet.

Why is that? I contend it's the no-limit syndrome, where players learn NLHE first and have to transition back to pot-limit. Just because you can bet pot doesn't mean you have to, and maybe they don't know

that. There is a MAX button when playing NLHE, but you don't click it automatically when you want to raise or bet, do you? Of course not.

Let's say for a minute you're playing a NLHE tournament where the blinds are 25-50. You like your hand, are first to enter the pot and raise three times the big blind to 150. You get two callers and the blinds fold. The pot is now 525. You flop top pair with top kicker on an uncoordinated board and are first to act. How much are you betting?

Pot? Really? You're going to risk 525 chips? Are you afraid of something? There's no fear of a flush or straight coming on the turn, so why bet so much? Don't you want to extract some chips from your opponents? You probably would bet 250-400, no? Yet it seems as though every time there's a preflop raise in a pot-limit game players continue to bet the pot automatically. Are they too lazy to type in a number or to click the little arrow a couple of times? What is it that makes them click pot every time?

Sure, there are sound reasons for betting pot in certain situations, especially in pot-limit Omaha when the nuts is something you are always dodging or drawing to, but this doesn't mean you should lose all grasp of strategy and bet-sizing.

By the way, if you are thinking of venturing into the land of PLO for the first time be sure to check out Jeff Hwang's series on the subject, published by DiMat. It's the best out there.

In pot-limit games, sometimes blinds are identical (e.g. 25-25), which is recommended for home games to make it easier when calculating how much is in the pot. In this case, if you were to bet pot as the first person to raise preflop it would be 100 units, because you essentially call the bet of 25, then bet what's in the pot (75) for a total bet of 100. That's fine, and perfectly acceptable.

But, already we can see a divergence from standard NL raising practices (not that there's anything standard in poker, but you get the idea). Generally you would make it 2.5X or 3X the big blind, yes? That would be in the range of 60-75 for a raise, yet we've made it 4X. Yes, I said that was acceptable, but, if you get three callers (with the blinds folding) you have 450 units in a preflop pot that started with 25-25 blinds. Talk about bloated.

If you started with 1,500 chips and wanted to bet "pot" after the flop you basically will be making a continuation bet that's almost a third of your stack. If you get raised and want to call you pretty much are all-in on the first hand. Is that the way you want to play poker? Not me.

The reason players like pot-limit games is they can see a flop for a decent price. And if they're accomplished players they know they can outplay their opponents after the flop without it getting too costly.

Don't be afraid to play pot-limit games with no-limit strategy, and only use the "pot" button as a betting tactic, not a betting crutch.

— Email comments to chris@anteupmagazine.com.



IT'S ABSOLUTELY REMARKABLE TO ME HOW MANY TIMES PEOPLE BET POT PREFLOP AND AFTER THE FLOP. THEY SEE THAT "POT" BUTTON AND ARE DRAWN TO IT LIKE A FAT GUY TO A BURGER.

STRATEGY

AL SPATH • Coach's Corner

DOGS JUST DON'T BARK AT THE PARKED CARS

By Al Spath

You recognize yourself playing solid-aggressive poker, you haven't picked up a hand in what seems like an hour, but actually it has only been two or three full revolutions around the table. You finally get a hand, K-K. First, you think about catching up to the bigger stacks and how to maximize profits with this "killer" hand. Then you realize that your image (super tight) may interfere. You face the dilemma of balance! What amount do you bet that will entice some action and not scare everyone ... or bring in too many opponents?

Loose-aggressive and aggressive players in general are aware of their opponents' style and take advantage of the common traits displayed by tight-aggressive players. They know when solid-aggressive players enter a hand with a raise they routinely have the "goods," as advertised. They know when solid-aggressive players call a raise, or reraise, they have monster hands, or they don't bother to get involved. Those at the table "paying attention" realize there's money to be made or saved and know when to battle and when to step out of the way of what could be a huge hand.

Solid-aggressive players also pay attention and realize opponents will eventually notice their style of play and some may even utilize software programs like Poker Tracker, designed specifically to track play, identify trends and view the results of players seated at the table. So what can you, the solid-aggressive player do if you have been marked this way? Do you begin to play their game and loosen starting-hand requirements or play more hands out of position and "gamble it up" against weaker opponents who play any two cards? Or do you "change speeds" just enough to throw them off, put them back on their heels and use your established image as a potent weapon and not just an exploitable flaw in your game?

How you might incorporate these tactics is up to you. You might raise in early position with a hand you'd normally discard in hopes opponents will interpret it as a strong holding. You might be providing them an illusion of a solid hand and want to manipulate them into making an unnecessary fold. In some cases you may get a caller or a reraise, and you can make a continuation bet (out of position); because that is what solid players do with big hands in EP. Even when the board contains an ace or a king, your bet signals you hit your hand, or are not put off by the cards on the flop. If opponents haven't connected solidly they'll pitch their hand faster than a Nolan Ryan heater.

On other occasions, you might have position and just call a raise with the expectation of playing the hand aggressively after the flop, with a bluff in mind. Or quite possibly you might have in mind stealing the pot on a later betting round. Nothing is more unnerving to a loose-aggressive player than to be out of position and have a solid player just sticking around and then pouncing on the turn, or when the board appears to have helped their opponent tremendously and not them. "Image" again can win hands that normally would be conceded, and it happens when players who are thinking in terms of "out-thinking" their opponents and incorporate Level 2, 3 and 4 thinking.

If you're strictly staying in the moment, playing solid-aggressive poker and not out-thinking your opponents, you will not be as successful and will not get them to bark at you. When I play poker, I don't try to play poker better than my opponents, I only try to play better than myself.

— Al Spath is the former Dean of PokerSchoolOnline, author the "Poker Journal," and a private online and live poker coach (at Delaware Park Casino, Atlantic City and Las Vegas). He can be reached for private poker mentoring through his website: pokerinstructors.com or alspath@alspath.com.

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POKER, MUSIC AND EAR BUDS, PART TWO

Before diving into my main topic this month I'd like to offer kudos to my favorite local cardroom, Silks at the Tampa Bay Downs. Poker room manager Pat Murphy read my column on Automatic External Defibrillators, bought one for his poker room and mounted it in a prominent location visible across the room. Thanks, Pat. Now players have a fighting chance to survive a heart-stopping bad beat.



Last month I proposed a theory that listening to music might just make you a better poker player because music, especially music you really love, tends to wake up the intuitive side of the brain.

The opposite side of the brain, the analytical side, is usually pretty good at processing lots of incomplete bits of information and coming up with a pattern. When you concentrate hard on hand ranges, betting patterns and stack sizes, you're using raw analytical processing power, not intuition, to come to your conclusions.

Occasionally, though, it's the intuitive side of the brain that has the advantage. When you're truly in the zone, every gesture, every bet and every vocal nuance stimulates your brain almost subconsciously and combines to form an image that's so clear, your opponents might as well be playing with their cards face up. When you're able to see the big picture, those "Aha!" moments of enlightenment are nearly always the product of intuition, not analysis.

Calm relaxation makes it easier for you to be in touch with that intuitive side. Music, especially music that moves you emotionally, causes your brain to squirt out chemicals that are pleasurable and calming and may be just the stimulus you need to open up that intuitive side and allow you to see the broad overall view.

So crank up Nine Inch Nails, pop in the ear buds and start betting. Right?

Not so fast! Besides the obvious problem of missing a verbal declaration or a dealer instruction, there's a health-related downside that deserves equal time. Ear buds can harm your hearing.

Well, that's not exactly what the *Journal of the American Medical Association* said in a recent article

but it came pretty close. From 1988-94, it measured hearing levels in teenagers. In 2005 and 2006 the hearing tests were repeated in a new group of teenagers. The results: The new group had hearing loss that was 31 percent worse than the earlier group. A whopping one in five teenagers had a hearing loss of up to 25 decibels, a level that's more commonly seen in the aged.

The study didn't try to figure out why the hearing of today's teenagers is so much worse than 20 years ago, but they pointed out the rise in use of MP3 players and ear buds correlates pretty well with the hearing problems. And, it turns out the tiny ear buds seen so commonly today at poker tables are more likely to cause damage than the older muff-style headphones.

Let's put some numbers on this problem. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration says 30 minutes at 110 decibels is the maximum level allowable in the workplace. That's like a chain saw.

We know exposure to any sound more than 85 decibels will cause damage over time. Many MP3 players can hit 115 and an iPod is capable of producing as much as 130. At Wichita State University, random students with ear buds were often listening at the 110-plus level. Even at only 70 percent volume (about 92 decibels), hearing damage can occur in about 100 minutes.

The best solution is to turn down the volume. Use the 60-percent/60-minute rule as a guideline. To keep safe, listen for no more than 60 minutes per day at 60 percent the maximum volume. If you crank it up, it doesn't matter if it's Bieber or Beethoven, those delicate hairs inside your ears that translate vibration into sound will be damaged. Switch to muff-style headphones or drop the volume down further and you can listen safely for much longer.

So it's not necessarily a bad thing to listen to your favorite tunes while playing cards, especially if it helps you focus. Just use moderation and protect your hearing.

Some years ago my wife began to suspect my hearing might be slipping a little so I reluctantly got tested. I returned home triumphantly to announce I had good news and bad news. The good news was my hearing was just fine. The bad news was I was just ignoring her.

After a slight adjustment with a frying pan, I now hear perfectly.

— An avid poker player, Frank Toscano, M.D. is a board-certified emergency physician with more than 28 years of front-line experience. He's medical director for Red Bamboo Medi Spa in Clearwater, Fla. Email your poker-health questions to ftoscano@redbamboomedispa.com



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HEAD GAMES

DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

PREPARING FOR THE 2011 WORLD SERIES

It's never too early to start thinking about the World Series of Poker. But first, a little self-disclosure: Last year I played in the WSOP senior event and fell just short of my goal: cashing. Not deterred, I plan on going back, maybe to the senior event.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

Regardless of everything else going on in the world of poker, the WSOP is still our Super Bowl and all you need is the buy-in to play the same game as elite professionals. Not many other competitions allow that. From a peak performance point of view, *now* is the time to start preparing. Decide on how you're going to manage your money for buy-ins. Plan your trip; not just travel and hotel, but check out what else is going on in Vegas. The WSOP has a spillover effect on side cash games and other tournaments throughout the city.

Make your travel and hotel plans early. Having last-minute anxiety is no way to travel to the WSOP. Think about what you want to take there: clothes, energy bars, vitamins, etc., and make a packing list.

Remember every event in the WSOP is a grind and a grueling marathon. Prepare! Make sure you have the stamina to play long, slow days. Work out at the gym and at your favorite poker room. Play tournaments!

When you get there, familiarize yourself with the surroundings: not only Vegas as a whole, but the huge rooms that you will be playing in and the WSOP atmosphere.

Before your event, walk around and get used to the sights, the sounds and the smells. Every elite athlete and team does this before a big game. I sometimes call this *taking a lap* when at your local room, but now you have to get used to a foreign room. Scope out the bathrooms and food, and plan your breaks.

A friend who played the last two main events told me one of the most important things is to know when the breaks are and to manage your liquid intake accordingly. What could be worse than to be bouncing your leg waiting for a bathroom break? *Sip* water or a sports-drink throughout the tournament. Keep hydrated, but go slowly. Though caffeine has its advantages, there are drawbacks: Some high-powered energy drinks do nothing more than give you a rush before a crash. Know their effects and act accordingly.

Mental preparation is essential. Bring headphones to listen to music, but also to block out babble at the table. Don't drink a high-sugar and high-caffeine drink for the first time when you're a day-and-a-half into a tournament; know its effects on you beforehand.

Before you sign up look at the structure and blind levels and develop a plan. Plans, of course, change by the nature of your table and the cards you get, but have a plan.

Knowledge is power and reduces anxiety.

Practice relaxed activation. This starts with practicing breathing exercises. *Ante Up* archives (anteupmagazine.com) have my articles on this and other topics. Review them. Being in a state of relaxed activation allows you to use your people-reading skills, your knowledge of the math and the fundamental poker skills you have learned and experienced.

Practice visualization. Picture yourself succeeding at the table. Picture yourself following your plan. See the win; feeling what it feels like to win.

Practice positive thinking.

Increase your patience level. Good poker can be hours of boredom followed by moments of pure acceleration.

Another article in our archives talks about the following: **purpose, patience; practice; preparation; persistence; perception; patterns; passion; and pleasure.**

Don't forget any of them. Develop a mantra using these ideas; I like this one but make up your own:

*I will develop my **poker purpose** by defining why I play and accept the pluses and minuses of this decision. Once I accept who I am and why I play the rest will fall into place. I will learn to be **patient** and play my game. I will practice and **prepare** to the extent necessary to reach my goals. I will be persistent. I will sharpen my **perceptions** and learn to identify **patterns**. I have a passion for the game equal to the reason I play poker and **poker is pleasurable**.*

Set your goals; In order to set goals correctly many peak performers follow the **SMART** method. Goals need to be Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented and Attainable, Realistic and Relevant, Timely. Good goals are smart goals.

Know when you tilt; have a plan to walk away, take another lap, and do some breathing exercises. Identify tilt and don't be timid in dealing with it. Bad beats come. The peak performer practices how to deal with them.

Review your style. Don't try to learn something too new before you go. There is a learning curve. Typically when you learn and incorporate a new style or technique you are too conscious of the new technique and your play goes down; after some practice it improves. This is true in all competitions. So, review some materials, but don't try to change your style right now. Practice what you know and get better.

Remember, poker is a combination of skill, chance, luck and opportunity. Use the perception of luck to your benefit.

Poker is an analytic and intuitive competition. Intuition is the outcome of your total experience; it's not a momentary feeling about what's going on. Use your experience and preparation to reach peak performance and increase your "luck" and "intuition" and enjoy the flow of the game. And this above all: Keep your head in the game.

— Dr. Stephen Bloomfield is a licensed psychologist and avid poker player. His column will give insight on how to achieve peak performance using poker psychology. Email questions for him at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

CRACKING UNDER PRESSURE?

Stephen Bloomfield, a.k.a. the Doc, is one of Florida's leading psychologists. He wrote *Head Games* in the late '80s to help competitors of every type use the skills he had learned about the effects of the mind on performance.



After five years of playing poker in Florida, Mississippi, Las Vegas, Connecticut and occasionally online, Doc is sharing his skills with *Ante Up* readers through periodic columns, titled *Head Games*. Doc offers support to some of the region's best professionals and amateur players with one-on-one advising sessions and group workshops.

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO EDITOR@ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM

WHAT'S THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE?

By Mike Wolf

Are you living life to its full potential? Are you living every day as if it's your last? Take five seconds to think about the question and answer honestly. No, huh? That's what I thought.

Here's my story for inspiration. Use me; go ahead. I give you permission.

After taking a brutal \$1,800 loss in a \$2-\$5 session in Atlantic City I decided to embark on an adventure. I went home to New York and saw it was snowing, so I chose to head south. Maximum buy-in legislation had recently been lifted from Florida poker rooms so my destiny was predetermined from the get-go. I packed my clothes and \$1,000 in my car and started driving. First stop, somewhat ironically, was the Taj Mahal in A.C. I mean, hey, it was New Year's Eve!

I walked into the casino restroom wearing sweats and a hat, got changed, brushed my teeth and walked out in a gray blazer with a red tie, dress shoes and black hair slicked back. I used all of my comp dollars to eat seafood risotto and flourless chocolate cake at Il Mulino. I bumped into a local pro named Mike and ended up cutting the line at Casbar, being escorted to a VIP section with 10 different bottles of liquor for my choosing. Someone escorted us through a back elevator so we didn't have to pay the \$125 cover charge. At midnight someone handed us bottles of champagne and at that very moment I decided I wanted to be something more.

I woke up the next day in my car with \$3 in my pocket after walking into the casino the night before with \$10.

A writer/poker player friend of mine named Alec happened to be in Atlanta at the same time for a wedding. I drove 10-plus hours straight to get there and slept in a hostel in Atlanta for \$20. We wandered a bit, grabbed lunch and talked about my idea: a School of Adventure, where students would go to learn about life. I know, total game-changer. I'm talking a complete worldwide paradigm shift on education. We have a drink at The W hotel and I drop him off at the airport for a flight to Amsterdam.

I drove another 10-plus hours to Miami, windows down, shirtless, all the while smiling in the knowledge it's snowing back in New York. I slept on South Beach all day and headed to the Hard Rock's Paradise Poker Room in Hollywood. The games were as juicy as I've heard. I won \$1,080 playing \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em in six hours. The game had a \$200-max buy-in. I lost a \$400 pot with A-A to K-J offsuit and still managed to walk away with \$1,000-plus profit. I slept in my car in the parking lot. By the way, I chose to document my adventure daily on the popular poker forum site twoplustwo.com.

My friend Eric, who's a professional dancer, decided he needed a vacation so he flew to Miami to hang with me. We booked a room on Ocean Drive and partied at every club in South Beach for the next six days, spending the \$1K profit. After he left I grinded the \$1-\$2 tables at night and slept on the beach during the day for eight days, winning another \$900.

My girlfriend flew in from New York with her friends for a vacation, but then decided to ditch her flight home and drive to Key West with me, living out of my car for six days. We smoked cigars and snorkeled 90 miles off the coast of Cuba. Eventually she had to fly home, so I hit the tables by myself for two days.

A Canadian Internet pro, Andy Smith, was inspired by my thread on 2p2 and bought a one-way ticket from Toronto to come down and hang out with me. I never met him before.



My friend Franny flew in from New York and surprised me. I won another \$650 at \$2-\$5 the first night and then we drove to Tampa from midnight until 6 a.m. Over the next week I won another \$1,000, visited a shooting range and fired a gun for the first time in my life, ate alligator, got a massage, relaxed in a hot tub and published my first strategy article here in *Ante Up*.

As I write this article I'm planning a six-month roadtrip throughout Canada, California and, ultimately, Vegas for the World Series of Poker. But first I had to join the Ante Up Brass in March for their poker cruise to Jamaica. It was blast, and I managed to increase my bankroll another \$2K at the tables. I'm living the dream and making things happen. Just remember why you play poker. It's to enjoy the freedom to explore and experience life. All you have to do is go for it; everything will fall into place.

— Mike Wolf is a 22-year-old professional poker player who goes by the name *Insanepoker7* on the 2p2 forums. Email him at MichaelJWolf33@gmail.com.

POKER POLITICS

MARC DUNBAR • What's going on with our government

THE HOUSE HAS THE EDGE IN COURT, TOO

The old casino adage “you don’t bet against the house” is one we should keep in mind when considering any kind of gambling. A recent case of mine reminds of just how true this can be not just at the table where the house advantage is widely known, but also in the courtroom.



It seems a group of blackjack players who frequented the Seminole Hard Rock in Tampa thought they had figured a way to beat the house.

Mind you their manner of trying to beat a casino was a little unconventional, but as I will explain it’s worth keeping in mind that no matter how creative your argument, chances are the house will win in the end.

Before the story a little history refresher is in order for those not familiar with the gaming compact between Florida and the Seminole Tribe. The Seminoles began dealing blackjack in 2007 after executing a gaming compact with then-Florida Gov. Charlie Crist. Some of my clients and some state legislators felt the compact violated Florida’s Constitution and the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and were able to convince the Florida Supreme Court the same.

The court liked our arguments and found the provisions authorizing blackjack and other table games unconstitutional. This ruling created a legal limbo for the blackjack offered by the Seminole Tribe for about 16 months until a new compact was authorized by the Florida Legislature and signed by Crist.

During the interim period between compacts, the Seminoles kept dealing blackjack and these players alleged they were regular losers at the tables. Not content with their beatings, these players found a creative trial lawyer and filed a federal lawsuit to recover their losses arguing the blackjack during this interim period was illegal, and using an arcane statute, they attempted to recover their gambling losses.

The interesting hook on the story was that these alleged blackjack losers didn’t try to recover from the casino that had their money. They knew suing an Indian tribe would go nowhere due to sovereign immunity afforded Indian tribes under the U.S. Constitution. Instead

they sought to recover from the billboard company that advertised the blackjack, the manufacturer of the chips used during the blackjack game and from the manufacturer of the software program used to track players for reward purposes. The statute they used to pursue these entities purportedly created joint and several liabilities for gambling losses for anyone directly or indirectly involved in an illegal gambling transaction, including those involved in the promotion, management or conduct of the activity.

Unfortunately for these creative but challenged blackjack players, the court did not agree with their cause of action. Finding in favor of my client and the other alleged co-conspirators, the court pointed out that no such cause of action existed. In fact, the Florida Legislature, ironically which was part of creating the alleged period of “illegal blackjack” between the voided and effectuated compacts, repealed the ability to seek such a remedy in 1974. The result for these players was the privilege of losing at the blackjack tables, disclosing the losses publicly in federal court and then being told those losses will stick because their lawyer sought a remedy under a statute that had been repealed for roughly 36 years.

The plaintiffs in this case were not unlike the scores of people who try to skip out on casino markers thinking if they run far enough a court will relieve a gambling debt or refund a gambling loss. Courts across the land even in the most conservative of states may be very aggressive against those involved in illegal gambling but they take a different tone when it comes to folks trying to get out from under their legally incurred gambling losses. I have seen cases against cruise ships, tribal and regulated casinos, credit-card companies, slot-machine companies, and now a chip manufacturer and a billboard company.

The central rule from all of these cases is the same: Don’t be against the house! If you sit at a table and lose, don’t expect a judge or a jury to have sympathy for your losses and bad play; settle your debts and next time don’t play or play better keeping in mind the house always has the upper hand, and in most cases the better lawyers!

— Marc W. Dunbar is a shareholder with Tallahassee law firm Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar, P.A. He represents several gaming clients before the Florida Legislature and teaches gambling and parimutuel law at the Florida State University College of Law.

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YOU HAVE AN ACE, BUT DO YOUR OPPONENTS?

By Tom Gallagher

Quick, with four other players at the table, what's the percentage someone doesn't have an ace if you have one in your hand? If you come across poker statistics like this you probably wouldn't take the time to attempt to memorize this data and if you did you would find it difficult to do.

As a poker coach/instructor it's my job to take this type of statistical information and see if I can make slight adjustments to come up with a memorable format so my students can memorize the data within three minutes.

I removed some decimal points and found a very interesting pattern I could memorize in three minutes, so I included it in my training. Take three minutes and memorize the list; it's worth your time and you will find it important the next time you're at a final (or short-handed) table.

Here's how you memorize this list.

Memorize two players first (87 percent), and then memorize 10 players (25 percent).

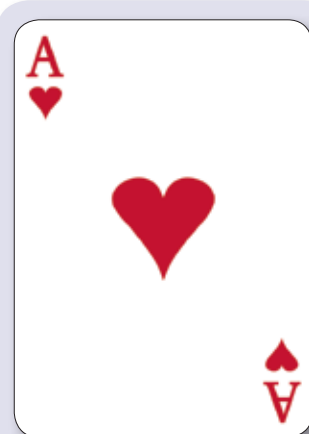
OK, now start at 87 percent and move down list: 87, 77, 67, 57, 50, STOP! Go down the list one more time, then without looking at the list, recall the numbers: 87-77-67-57-50!

Now start at 50 percent and go down list: 50, 45, 35 . . . we know the last is 25 . . . but after 35 is 30. Now go down list from 50: 45, 35 30, 25.

Within three minutes you should have memorized the list: from 2-10 players: 87-77-67-57 50-45-35-30-25.

Now, at a table with four players you look down at your first card and it's an ace. You go down the list three levels to 67. You can round off to 70 percent. There is a 70 percent chance none of the other three players has an ace. You're in the lead and should play your strong ace as such. Note: It's 16-to-1 opponent(s) do not have a pair.

— **Tom Gallagher is a poker coach/instructor in Southern California with 15 years' experience and more than 6,000 students to his credit. He teaches seminars monthly at Oceans 11 Casino or conducts live online training. Go to thepokerfactory.com for more information.**



Have an ace? Here's how likely your opponents don't:

- 2 opponents is 87 percent
- 3 opponents is 77 percent
- 4 opponents is 67 percent
- 5 opponents is 57 percent
- 6 opponents is 50 percent
- 7 opponents is 45 percent
- 8 opponents is 35 percent
- 9 opponents is 30 percent
- 10 opponents is 25 percent

Take three minutes and memorize the list; it's worth your time and you will find it important the next time you're at a final (or short-handed) table.

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designs and colors, and have the chips imprinted or just order the inlays and affix them yourselves. Starting at 17 cents each, U.S. shipping included! www.anteupstore.com

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The Ante Up features tables, bracelets, shirts, jewelry, eyewear, training and much, much more from these great vendors: Bad Hat Poker, BBO Poker Tables, Big Kicker Gear, Blue Shark Optics, Bustout Poker, DesJgn Playing Cards, Great Poker Hands, High Heels Poker Tour, High Roller Clothing, Palm Gaming International, PMS PokerWear, Poker Bling, Poker-Pig, Poker Up Shop, Pokey Charms, Pro Poker Gear, Remember Media, Thomas Gallagher Casino Seminars and WPT Boot Camp. Want to be a vendor? Use the "Contact Us" form at www.anteupstore.com to inquire about details. www.anteupstore.com

Other Ante Up items

T-SHIRTS: Choose from three Ante Up designs from PMS PokerWear: the Ante Up Wing design, the Ante Up Spades & Hearts design or a simple Ante Up logo design. All are available in white, blue and chocolate. \$24.99, U.S. shipping included!



CARD GUARDS: Pokey Charms has added copies of Ante Up Magazine to its entertaining line of card guards, featuring several animals and likenesses of some pop-culture icons. \$25.99, U.S. shipping included!

CUSTOM CHIPS: Make your next home game an Ante Up Home Game with custom chips with the Ante Up logo AND your name! Choose from several



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The new Ante Up Store features great Ante Up logo items and dozens of other terrific poker products from some of the best companies in the business! All orders include free shipping and a 30-day money-back guarantee. Each month, we'll also offer a special limited-time-only "Featured Item" — you'll have just one month to place your order! Don't see an item that you want? Use the "Contact Us" form at anteupstore.com to suggest new items. www.anteupstore.com

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FINAL TABLE

April 15, 10 p.m.

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Cruisin'

Here's a look at the Ante Up Poker Cruise that sailed in March to a private Royal Caribbean island and Jamaica. You can find all of the details for our next cruise to the Bahamas on the next page.



Clearly the Ante Up boys had a different reaction to the Jamaican Bobsled ride.





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Royal Caribbean International reserves the right to impose a fuel supplement on all guests if the price of West Texas Intermediate fuel exceeds \$65 per barrel. The fuel supplement for 1st and 2nd guests would be no more than \$10 per guest per day, to a maximum of \$140 per cruise; and for additional guests would be no more than \$5 per person per day, to a maximum of \$70 per cruise.

PLEASURE ISLAND POKER



Sherry Taylor beat Frank Crowder head-up on Feb. 23 to win the January monthly that drew 82 players to Los Panchos Mexican Restaurant in Fort Walton Beach. She pocketed a \$350 tournament-entry chip at Pensacola Greyhound Track's poker room for the \$20K guarantee event. Crowder, who won a \$50 chip, was followed by Loria Walters, Jerry McFadden, Henry Kelley, Mark Wolfe, Jason Spradlin, Dennis Whisner, Jack Strickland and Joey Branhof.

NUTZ POKER LEAGUE



- Chris Evans beat more than 140 entrants to win a monthly event bracelet and a \$500 gift card.
- Justin Ballard won the Buffalo Wild Wings monthly championship and the Buffalo Cup.

MIAMI POKER SOCIETY



Ricardo Betancourt defeated Laurent Touma in a WSOP satellite at Waxy O'Connor's on South Beach to win a \$1K seat this summer.

ALL IN POKER SERIES



- Tearsa Smith, left, won the recent quarterly event in Orlando, beating about 60 players for the trophy and a seat to the Daytona Beach Kennel Club WSOP qualifier.
- Brenda Kasper won a monthly tournament to take home a 32-inch TV. She also qualified for a satellite to a WSOP event in June.

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURS

From left is Mike Rubano (third), Jeff Rodgers (first) and Joe Adams (second), who captured the top three spots in the Tallahassee-area monthly on Jan. 29.



QUARTERLY: With more than \$8,000 in cardroom sponsorships and prizes on the line and about 430 players in attendance, **Greg Leszek** won the grand championship and a seat into the USPC tournament in November. He was followed by Luke Turcott, Robert Hall, Rafael Candelaria, Dianne Walton, Phil Hale, Samuel Bulla, Jonathan Bowman, Andy Determan and Russell Gault.



TREASURE CHEST POKER



Kirt and Maria



Jeff Shuler

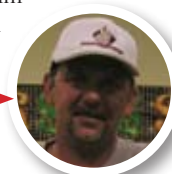


Jen and Keith

- Kirt Callahan and Maria Trap outlasted more than 150 players at a recent monthly event and then chopped the prize pool, each taking home a \$400 gift card.
- Jeff Shuler won twice recently, first at Stix Palm Harbor (\$200 gift card) and then a week later at Snappers Grill & Comedy Club (\$250 gift card).
- Keith Davis and Jen McCoy took home two \$25 gift cards, a trophy and the title of the first players to win the "Treasure Chest Poker Couples Game."
- Tammy Leonard won the Battle of the Bars for Stix Palm Harbor and a \$50 gift card.
- Deborah Ebner won the Stix Monthly and a \$300 gift card, beating more than 100 players for the chance to play in the World Series of Poker Circuit event at Palm Beach Kennel Club.
- Daniel Buncie is the King of Ocala, winning the special event and a gift card.

DIRTY JACKS

Here are the results from the recent three-day semi-annual event at the Clarion Waterpark in Kissimmee, where more than 300 players competed and **Jeff Stimeling** came out on top. He was followed by Tim Green, Clay Hutchins, Dave Sferrazza, Butch Hachney, Marcy Smiley, Bjorn Anderson, Mitch Lawrence, Kim Bowers and Lloyd Taylor.



MIAMI POKER STARS

Roberto Torres won the Season 1 Main Event, besting more than 30 players to earn a trip for two to Las Vegas and a \$1K tournament buy-in. He was followed by J.R. Roe, Donna Sirgany, Anne Detrio and Jorge "Moe" Molina.



"I've never considered myself an outstanding player," Torres said, "but I just started playing regularly and developed a strategy that works for me."

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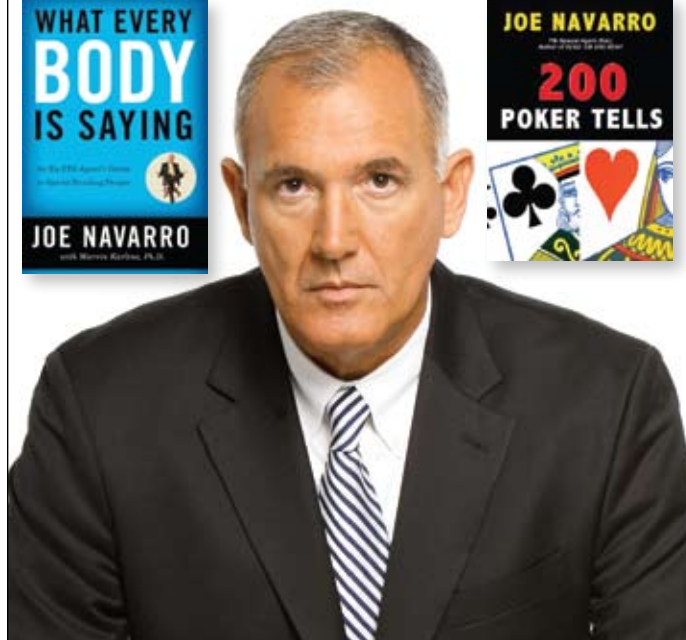
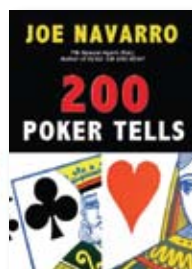
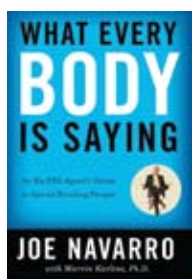
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ARKANSAS

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
OAKLAWN RACING & GAMING (501) 623-4411 • oaklawn.com	Tue. \$5 for \$500 (\$5, 10a); Ladies Night Freeroll w/\$600 guarantee on Thurs. (7p); Sunday \$750 guarantee (\$10, 10:30a). Call for complete schedule.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$48K at press time); high hands (Fri.-Tue., 10a-1a).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING (870) 735-3670 • southlandgreyhound.com	Mon.-Tue. (\$20, 2p); Wed. (\$35, 2p); Thurs. KO (\$30, 7p); Sat. KO (\$35, 5p). 2K freeroll (call for details and dates).	Bad-beat jackpot is aces full of jacks beaten by quads (\$150K at press time); player reward cards offer comps based on play.

CONNECTICUT

FOXWOODS CASINO (800) 369-9663 • foxwoods.com	Daily (9a-8p). DeepStack events Mon.-Fri. (\$120-\$340, 6p). Foxwoods Poker Classic, April 1-3 (\$2500, 11a). Mega Stack Challenge, May 14-22 (call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot is quad eights in hold'em (\$156K at press time) and quad deuces in stud (\$18K at press time).
MOHEGAN SUN CASINO (860) 862-8000 • mohegansun.com	Daily (\$50-\$200). PokerStars.net NAPT, April 5-15 w/buy-ins ranging from \$180 to the \$10K main event (April 9-13). See website for full schedule.	High hands paid every three hours daily, seven days a week; "Add-On" tournaments, Mon. (7:30p) and Tue. & Thurs. (noon).

DELAWARE

DELAWARE PARK (302) 355-1050 • delawarepark.com	Daily (\$65-\$150), w/events on Fri. & Sat. (7p). Delaware Park Poker Classic, April 1-17 w/\$400K in guar. prize money (see preview on Page 35 or call for details).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em w/descending qualifier (\$108K at press time); mini bad beat (4K at press time); high hand pays up to \$250.
DOVER DOWNS HOTEL & CASINO (302) 674-4600 • doverdowns.com	Twice daily (noon, 7p); Sun.-Fri. (\$65, noon); Sat. (\$80, noon) & (\$120, 7p); \$5K guarantee on Fridays (\$125, 7p). \$10K guarantee, April 29 (\$125, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of jacks (\$118K at press time); Crushed Quads (Sun.-Fri.); \$2K freeroll (April 10) for frequent cash-game players.
HARRINGTON RACEWAY (888) 887-5687 • harringtonraceway.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$60, 11a); Wed. (\$115, 7p); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuy, 11a). Tournaments are limited to first 70 players. Freeroll for qualifying players.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is aces full of kings beaten by quads (\$22K at press time); aces cracked (daily, 3a-11a).

FLORIDA

CALDER CASINO (305) 625-1311 • caldercource.com/poker	Two guaranteed tournaments daily. Please see ad on Page 9.	Flopped progressive straight flushes have five different payouts per suit; \$1K high hands every Fri. & Sat. plus \$500 high hands every Wed. & Thurs. (10a-2a).
DANIA JAI-ALAI (954) 927-2841 • dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (12:30p & 6:30p), including a \$15K guarantee every Friday (\$105, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$6K at press time), Omaha and stud; Win It or Spin It promotion can win \$500 (call for details).
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB (386) 252-6484 • daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily (\$25-\$275), including Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Saturday DeepStack (\$225, 2p or 4p); Sunday Super DeepStack (\$275, 2p).	Bad beats in limit, no-limit (\$224K at press time) and Omaha. Daily high hands paid every hour; aces cracked (Mon.); hourly high hand (Mon.-Sun.).
DERBY LANE (727) 812-3339 x7 • derbylanepoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$330) on Sun.-Thurs. (1p, 4p, & 7p) & Fri.-Sat. (1p, 6p, & 8p). Florida Million III (Day 1) on April 3 (\$550, 1p).	Daily cash and prize promotions (please see website for times and details); royals pay up to \$500. See website for more promotions.
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK (850) 234-3943 • ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily, except Friday (\$20-\$330), including a Mega Stack on the last Sunday of month (\$330, 2p, 10K chips, 30-minute levels). See ad Page 21.	Big Easy Bad Beat is quad eights (\$27K at press time); Big Easy Backup Jackpot (\$21K at press time); royal flushes pay \$250.
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER (772) 464-7500 • jaialai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). \$12.5K guar., April 2 (\$150, 3p); DeepStack tournament, April 16 (\$100, 3p).	Bad beats in hold'em, Omaha and stud (see website for complete rules and payouts).
GULFSTREAM PARK (954) 457-6336 • gulfstreampark.com	Daily (6:30p); Mon., Fri., Sun. (\$60); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80); Wed. (\$100). Mon.-Wed. tournaments are bounty tournaments and Sat. is a rebuy.	Bad-beat jackpot is quad deuces; royals pay \$500; high hands (11a-12a) pays \$100-\$300 (see website for times and payouts). Win a WSOP seat; see ad Page 13.
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER (800) 941-4841 • hamiltondownsjaialai.com	Almost Freeroll \$600 guarantee on Sundays (\$5 w/\$30 in add-ons, 3p).	Progressive royal w/hearts paying \$2K; tournament high hand pays \$75; Fri. & Sat. high hand (\$300 for first, \$100 for second).
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANOA PARK (954) 972-2000 x5123 • theislepompanopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$350); Battles at the Beach series, April 1-26 (\$150-\$3200) w/\$1 million in guaranteed prizes. See Page 16 for preview and website for complete schedule.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$77K at press time) and Omaha (\$13K at press time); high-hand jackpots (call for details).
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB (850) 997-2561 • jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays (\$50, 7:30p, 2K chips, 15-minute levels).	Royal flushes win jackpot (\$5K at press time).
MAGIC CITY CASINO (305) 649-3000 • flaglerdogs.com	Sunday KO (\$40, 1p) w/ bounties being \$5.	Big Slick Jackpot pays progressive w/all other royals paying \$1K; high hands pay \$150; progressive hot table (2p & 2a) pays a minimum of \$500.
MARDI GRAS CASINO (877) 557-5687 x3167 • playmardigras.com	Mon. \$5K guarantee freeroll (7p); Tue. is an Omaha/8 tournament (\$100, 7p). See ad on Page 25 for special upcoming events.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays minimum of \$50K; high hands (\$150K in prizes each month); royals pay \$599 or high-hand jackpot (larger amount paid).
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK (321) 259-9800 • mgpark.com	Mon. (\$65, 1p & 7p); Thurs. KO (\$90, 7p); Fri. \$5K guarantee (\$45, 7p); Sat. SuperStack (\$120, 2p); Sun. (\$65, 1p). See ad Page 36.	Bad beat jackpot in hold'em (\$44K at press time); straight flush pays \$100; royals pay \$500. Spin to Win (Sat., 3p).
MIAMI JAI-ALAI (305) 633-6400 • fla-gaming.com	Daily (\$20-\$165).	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day are progressive; hourly \$100 high hands plus tickets for Sunday raffle.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT (877) 242-6464 • miccosukee.com	Friday and Saturday (\$110, 8p). Free buffet for all tournament players.	Spade royal flush pays jackpot (\$323K at press time); high hands pay \$200 (Sun.-Thurs.) and \$300 (Fri.-Sat.).
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK (239) 992-2411 • naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Mon. (\$40, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sat. (\$115, 2p); Sun. KO (\$125, 2p).	Diamond Big Slick Royal Progressive (\$25K guaranteed); all other royals pay \$1K; high hand pays \$1K hourly (April 16 & 27).
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI (352) 591-2345 • ocalapoker.com	Mon. (\$25, 7p); Tue. (\$30, 7p); Wed. (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 7p); Fri. (\$50, 7p); 1st & 3rd Sat. (\$100, 1p); 2nd & 4th Sat. (\$220, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (\$150K at press time) and Omaha (\$3K at press time); aces cracked (Mon.-Thurs.); high hand (Fri.-Sat.).
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$45-\$550). Florida Million III (Day 1) on April 3 (\$550, 1p) w/final days playing out on April 9-10. See ad Page 19.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (\$115K at press time), Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500).
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB (561) 683-2222 • pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120, noon & 6:30p). Florida Million III (Day 1) on April 2 (\$550, 1p). WSOP Main Event satellite every Sun. in April (\$550, noon).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud (please see website for details). Ask about freeroll tournaments on Saturdays and see ad in Page 35.
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK (850) 455-8595 • pensacolagreyhoundtrack.com	Daily (\$50-\$350); Mon. & Fri. (\$50, 7p); Wed. & Sat. (\$100, 7p); Sun. (\$50, 4p); Florida Million III (Day 1) on April 2 (\$550, 1p). See ad Page 34.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad jacks) and stud (quads); full house or better (daily, 10a & Tue., 7p); mini bad beat (daily, midnight-4a).
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB (941) 355-7744 x1054 • skcpoker.com	Daily (\$40-\$440), plus Fri. (\$110, 1p, 25K chips); Sat. (\$160, 1p, 15K chips, 30-minute levels). DeepStack on first Saturday of the month (\$440, 1p).	Bad beat is quad deuces (\$10K); progressive jackpots in all games; \$599/\$299 high hands (Fri.-Sat.). See ad Page 15.
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON (866) 222-7466 x121 • seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. & Wed. (\$20, 6:30p); Sat. (\$40, 6:30p).	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad 10s (\$332K at press time); Rolling Cash Fever (Wed.); Full House Drawings (Fri.). Call for more promotions.
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK (866) 222-7466 • seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	Call for information on scheduled single-table tournaments.	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad 10s (\$332K at press time).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Daily (\$35-\$300); WPT Seminole Hard Rock Showdown (April 8-29) w/\$10K event on April 27 at noon (see story and schedule on Page 12).	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad 10s (\$332K at press time); hourly high hands in limit and no-limit (daily).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including a re-entry Night Owl tournament every Wednesday (\$60, 12:30a). See ad on back page.	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad 10s (\$332K at press time); WPT super satellite, April 15 (\$400, 10a) into the \$25K WPT Bellagio championship.
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC (866) 222-7466 • seminolehollywoodcasino.com	Call for information on scheduled single-table tournaments.	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad 10s (\$332K at press time); aces cracked is a Spin to Win (Mon.-Thurs.), which pays up to \$250.
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE (866) 222-7466 • theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7:30p); Thurs. NL O/8 (\$50, 7:30p); Fri. HA (\$60, 7:30p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & DeepStack (\$115, 6:30p); Sun. (\$30, 6:30p).	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad 10s (\$332K at press time), \$100 payout if Mega hits in Immokalee. WPT/Hard Rock Hollywood satellite, April 12 (\$530, 7p, ad Page 20).
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550, 1p & 7p); Fri. KO (\$100, 7p); Saturday \$10K Mega Stack (\$225, 7p). Sunday PLO/8 (\$80, 1p). See ad Page 19.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (\$115K at press time), Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500).
TAMPA BAY DOWNS (813) 298-1798 • tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$80). Sun. (1p, 4p, 7p); Mon.-Sat. (1p & 7p). Monthly event, April 17 (\$350, 1p, 8K chips, 30-minute levels). Satellite seat giveaways daily.	Progressive payouts for all quads and higher (bonus payouts up to \$4,999 in April); \$599/\$299 high-hand payouts (Fri.); see website for details and ad on Page 17.
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK (813) 932-4313 • luckyscards.com	Daily (\$30-\$80); Sun.-Thurs. (2p & 6:30p); Fri.-Sat. (2p, 7:30p). Sunday Challenge, April 24 (\$115, 1p, 15K chips).	Quads (\$50-\$75), straight flushes (\$150) & royals (\$300) Mon.-Thurs. (4p-11p); \$150/\$50 half-hour high hands Sat.-Sun. (4p-11p); tournament high hands.

GEORGIA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
DIAMOND CASINO SAVANNAH (GA.) (912) 897-3005 • diamondcasinosavannah.com	Call for information.	Call for information.
EMERALD PRINCESS II (GA.) (912) 265-3558 • emeraldprincesscasino.com	\$125 event every Saturday night.	Call for information.
HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (N.C.) (828) 497-7777 • harrahsherokee.com	Tue. (\$60, 6p); Sat. (\$120, 10a); Sun. (\$120, 2p). WSOP satellite event, May 6-15 (see website for details).	Call for information.
SUNCRUZ AQUASINO (S.C.) (843) 280-2933 • suncruzaquasino.com	Mon. cruise (\$110, 7p) and Fri. cruise (\$110, 11a). Daily freerolls (call for schedule).	Bad-beat jackpot is aces full of jacks beaten by quads; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200).

LOUISIANA

AMELIA BELLE CASINO (985) 631-1745 • ameliabellcasino.com	Sunday Poker Challenge (\$50, 1p); Players can earn a free seat by playing 10 hours between Thurs. (4p) and Sun. (4a).	Bad-beat jackpot is quads over aces full of 10s (\$11K at press time).
BELLE OF BATON ROUGE (800) 266-2692 • belleofbatonrouge.com	Wed. & Sun. (\$50, 10a, 1K chips, 15-minute levels).	Bad-beat jackpot is any quads (\$101K at press time); aces cracked pays \$100 (Mon., 9a-3p); hourly high hand pays \$50 (Tue., 9a-3p).
BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS (800) 366-7711 • boomtownneworleans.com	Tuesday freeroll (11a) for 4- or 5-Star Players; Wed. & Thurs. (\$35 w/\$10 add-on, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (\$78K at press time) and Omaha (\$3K at press time); Early Bird Special (Mon., Wed., Fri.); ask about high hands.
COUSHATTA CASINO (800) 584-7263 • coushattacasinoresort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230); Tue. (\$15, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Sat. (\$220, 2p); Seven Clans Poker Cup main event, April 1-3 (\$1,000, 10a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$243K at press time); Big Bonus Hands are progressive.
CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S CASINO (800) 284-4386 • cypressbayou.com	All tournaments are rake-free. Wed. (\$40 w/two \$20 rebuys and add-ons, 6:30p); Sat. Super KO (\$60 w/two \$20 rebuys & add-ons, 3p).	Progressive bad-beat jackpot is quads (\$126K at press time); aces cracked pays \$100 (1st & 3rd Thursday, 2nd & 4th Monday).
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT (318) 220-5274 • eldoradoshreveport.com	Sun. (\$150, 11a); Mon. \$2K guarantee (\$130, 11a); Tue. (\$75 w/\$25 or \$50 rebuy & add-on, 6:30p); Sat. (\$125 w/rebuy & add-on, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (\$77K at press time); aces cracked wins \$100 (Mon. & Thurs.); high hand pays \$100 (Thurs.); royals pay \$250 (24/7).
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS (504) 533-6000 • harrahshneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad beat (quads); aces cracked.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY (800) 895-0711 • horseshoebossiercity.com	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat., Sun. (\$100-\$200 w/ optional rebuys & add-ons), including a DeepStack event every Thursday (\$200, 6p, 7.5K chips, 25-minute levels).	High hand (Sun. & Wed.); aces cracked (Mon., Tue., Fri.); Splash Cash (Thurs.). Call for details and times.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES (337) 430-2407 • lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$70, 6:30p); Fri. (\$60, noon & \$90, 6:30p); Sat. (\$115, noon); Sunday (\$60, 2p). Louisiana State Poker Championship (April 25-May 8, see Pages 30-31).	Bad-beat jackpot (\$40K at press time); minor jackpots (both jackpots are 24/7); cash giveaways Mon.-Thurs.
PARAGON CASINO (800) 946-1946 x1975 • paragoncasinoresort.com	Mon. KO (\$20 w/\$15 rebuys, 7p); Tue. (\$18, 10:30a); Fridays (\$60 w/one \$50 rebuy, 7p).	Bad beat in hold'em (\$22K at press time); get paid (24/7) for quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125); high hands pay \$50 (Wed.).

MISSISSIPPI

AMERISTAR VICKSBURG (601) 630-4996 • ameristar.com/vicksburg	Thursdays, (\$70, 7p) w/one optional add-on.	Mini bad beat (quads over aces full) pays 10 percent of full bad beat (any quads).
BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO (228) 386-7092 • beaurivage.com	Mon.-Thurs. (6p); Tue., Thurs, Fri., Sun. (noon). Tournaments vary and include guaranteed prize pools, bounty tournaments, and deepstack events.	Bad-beat jackpot; aces cracked; Omaha/8 promotion, cash drawings, tournament leaderboard. Call for promotion details.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI (228) 436-8999 • boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad-beat jackpot is aces full of kings (more than \$50K). Mini pays 10 percent (aces full of jacks); aces cracked pays up to \$100 and runs 24/7.
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT (662) 357-1136 • goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340). \$15K guarantee on first Saturday of the month (\$340, 1p); \$5K guarantee on the first Sunday of the month (\$230, 1p).	Call for bad-beat and royal flush totals. Cash drawings (\$100 hourly, Tue. from 1p-10p); Graveyard Cash Drawings pays \$100 (Mon.-Fri., 3a-9a).
HARD ROCK BILOXI (228) 374-7625 • hardrockbiloxi.com	Mon. (\$35, 3p); Thurs. (\$25, 3p); Fri. (\$45, 3p); Sat. (\$50 w/add-on, 3p); Sun. (\$55, 3p).	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads (\$50K at press time); Hard Rock Jackpot Hands; Four of a Kind Blows My Mind.
HARLOW'S CASINO (662) 335-9797 x144 • harlowscasino.com	Tue. (\$65, 7:30p, 6K chips); Saturday satellites (\$35-\$65, 4p); Battle at the Foot of the Bridge (\$65-\$250). Call for full tournament and satellite schedule.	Bad beat is aces full of 10s beaten by quads or better; hourly high hands (Wed.); Friday Flat Screen Frezzy (tickets to raffle on first Friday of every month).
HARRAH'S TUNICA (800) 946-4946 x33760 • harrahstunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110), including a Thursday \$1.1K guarantee (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p). Thursdays also feature a \$50 event w/one free rebuy (6p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud; progressive royal single-table promotion (call for current payouts).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS (866) 758-2591 x4026 • hollywoodcasinobs.com	Monday and Wednesday (\$30 w/rebuys, 6:30p).	High hand wins \$50 (Mon. & Wed.); Early Bird Special and aces cracked (\$100) from Fri.-Sun. (10a-2p); aces cracked progressive (Tue., 10a-10p) pays up to \$500.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA (800) 871-0711 x5005 • hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$40). Mon., Wed., Thurs. (6p); Fri. & Sat. (7p); Sat. & Sun. (2p); Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 w/ rebuys & \$20 add-on, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads or better) must be in \$3-\$6 or higher and Omaha.
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA (662) 357-5608 • horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$65-\$160), including a Saturday \$10K guarantee (\$150, 4p, 10K chips); Sunday Super DeepStack (\$100, 2p, 15K chips).	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em. Flush Frezzy (\$100) if you make a flush in every suit during your session.
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA (888) 946-2847 x8554 • ipbiloxi.com	Daily, except Fri. (\$60, noon, 4K chips). IP Poker Classic, April 7-17 (call for complete schedule).	Poker Squares Sun. & Mon. (\$1K up for grabs daily); aces cracked pays \$100 on Fri. (8a-5p).
ISLE CASINO HOTEL BILOXI (228) 436-7967 • biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$45, 3p), Tue. KO (\$60, 2p), Wed. KO (\$40 w/rebuys, 7p), Thurs. (\$45, 2p), Fri. (\$60, 3p), Sat. KO (\$60 w/rebuys, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$78K at press time), Omaha (\$24K at press time) and stud (\$11K at press time).
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA (800) 456-0711 • samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$80), including a \$3K guarantee on Saturdays (\$20, 7p).	Bad beat is any quads; live action bonus (Sat. & Sun., 7a-11a); single-table mini-bad beat pays up to \$3K.
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO (866) 775-4773 x3766 • silverslipper-ms.com	Mon. Turbo KO (\$45, 6p); Thurs. KO (\$75, 7p); Sat. Turbo KO (\$45, noon); Sun. PLO (\$65, 6:30p).	Bad beat in hold'em (\$58K at press time) and Omaha; aces cracked wins up to \$300 (Tue., Thurs., Fri., Sat.). Splash the Pot (Mon. & Wed.).
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) (601) 650-1234 • pearlriverresort.com	Daily (\$35-\$60), including a \$2.5K guarantee on Saturdays (\$60, 2p). Start times for events are Mon.-Thurs. (7p) & Fri.-Sun. (2p).	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad 7s) and stud (quads). Diamond royals pay \$500; \$3.5K freeroll is last Sunday of every month (5p).

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BENNING STREET POKER ROOM (603) 298-6688 • benningstreet.com/poker	Mon. & Wed. freeroll w/rebuys (7p); Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$25 w/rebuys, 7p); Sat. (\$25 w/rebuys, 6p); Sun. (\$125, 2p).	Freeroll tournaments throughout the week (call for details).
GRANITE STATE POKER (603) 396-0389 • granitestatepoker.com	Fri. (\$50, 6p; \$250, 7p. for VIP members; \$100, 8p); Sat. (\$50, 1p & \$100 KO, 4:30p); Sun. (\$50, 4p & \$50 rebuy, 7p).	Ask about satellites to NAPT events. *Closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
THE LODGE AT BELMONT (877) 872-2501 • thelodgeatbelmont.com	Daily (\$5-\$50). Times vary by day (1p, 4p, 4:30p, 5p, 7p). Big Stack events on Saturdays (\$50, 7p, 15K chips).	Call for future jackpots.
POKER ROOM AT HAMPTON FALLS (603) 601-2486 • thepokerroomnh.com	Daily (\$80-\$150); Mon.-Thurs. (5:30p, 7p, 8:30p); Fri. (1p, 5:30p, 7p, 9p); Sat. (11a, 4p, 7p, 8p); Sun. (1p, 4p, 7p, 8p).	High hands pay \$50 (Fri.-Sun.); royals pay \$100 (Mon.-Thurs.); aces cracked pays \$25 (Mon.-Thurs.).
RIVER CARD ROOM (603) 249-5548 • riverpokerroom.com	Daily (\$5-\$60). Times vary by day. Many of the tournaments have optional rebuys and add-ons. See website for complete schedule.	Mini-Monster (Wed. & Fri.); River 4,000 (call for details).
ROCKINGHAM PARK (603) 898-2311 • rockinghampark.com	Daily (\$50-\$150). Start times vary from 2p-9p (see website for schedule). Spring Two Day, April 16-17 (\$250, noon, 50K chips).	Call for future jackpots and promotions.
SEABROOK GREYHOUND PARK (603) 474-3065 • seabrookgreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$30-\$200); Tournaments times vary (see website for complete schedule). Patriot's Day Mega Stack, April 18 (\$250, 1p, 30K chips).	Call for future jackpots and promotions.

* SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted. Poker room managers email roth@anteupmagazine.com

NEW JERSEY

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
ATLANTIC CITY HILTON (609) 347-7111 • hiltonac.com	No tournaments. Poker only spread Friday-Sunday if there's enough interest, and generally only a \$1-\$2 NLHE cash game gets going.	None at this time.
BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-2000 • ballysac.com	Daily (\$50-75); Mon.-Thurs. (1p & 7p) & Fri. (1p); Fri. (8p) and Sun. (6p). All tournaments are KO events.	Harrah's AC multi-room bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$248K at press time).
BORGATA HOTEL CASINO (609) 317-1000 • theborgata.com	Daily (\$120, 11a & 7p) w/ \$30K guar. (Wed. & Fri.); Borgata Spring Open, April 13-29 featuring a \$500K guarantee championship, (\$2,700, April 24-27).	Bad beats are quad 10s (\$216K at press time) and quad 2s-9s (46K at press time).
CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY (609) 348-4411 • caesarsac.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$50, 3p & \$80 turbo, 9p); Sat. (\$60, 1p & \$80, 9p) and Sun. (\$50, 1p & \$80 turbo, 9p).	Harrah's AC multi-room bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$248K at press time).
HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 441-5000 • harrahsresort.com	Daily (\$70, 10:15a & midnight); Sun.-Fri. (\$80, 1:15p), Sun.-Thurs. (\$80, 8:15p), Fri. (\$125, 8:15p) and Sat. (\$125, 1:15p).	Harrah's AC multi-room bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$248K at press time).
SHOWBOAT ATLANTIC CITY (609) 343-4000 • showboatcasino.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$65, 11a, 2p, 7p); Fri. (\$65, 11a, 2p); Sat. (\$100, 11a, 2p, 7p); nightly (\$50, 11p). All first-place tournament winners entered into monthly freeroll.	Harrah's AC multi-room bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wednesday if it doesn't get hit (\$248K at press time).
TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-4000 • tropicana.net	Daily (\$62, 11:15a & 7:15p), including a Fri. (\$122, 7:15p) and Sat. (\$122, 11:15a & 7:15p).	Bad beat in hold'em is quads (\$279K at press time). Tournament bad beat is \$63K at press time; Crack the Straight (see website for details).
TRUMP TAJ MAHAL CASINO RESORT (609) 449-1000 • playtajpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$230 at 12:15p, 4:15p, 7:15p, & midnight), including two DeepStacks on Saturdays (\$230, 7:15p) & (\$120, 4:15p & midnight).	Bad beat in hold'em is quads (\$606K at press time). High hands are entered into drawings to win \$1K; 50-50 club (call for details).

NEW YORK

SENECA NIAGARA (877) 873-6322 • senecaniagaracasino.com	Daily (\$35-\$190). Mon.-Thurs. (10a & 7p); Fri. (10a & 8p); Sat. (11a); Sun. (10a, 6p). DeepStacks Poker Tour championship, April 30 (\$1,500, noon).	Bad-beat progressive is quad deuces in hold'em (\$31K at press time), Omaha (quad 9s) and stud (quad 7s); Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
SENECA SALAMANCA (877) 860-5130 • senecagames.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 11a & 7p); Thurs. (\$90, 6p); Sat. & Sun. (\$60, noon). Ask about satellite into the DeepStacks Poker Tour, April 30 (\$1500, noon).	Bad-beat progressive is quad deuces in hold'em (\$37K at press time), Omaha (quad 9s) and stud (quad 7s); Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
TURNING STONE RESORT (800) 386-5366 • turningstone.com	Daily (\$60-\$125). Mon.-Thurs. (noon & 7p); Fri. (11a, 2p, 7p); Sat.-Sun. (11a & 7p). East Coast Poker Championship, May 12-22 (\$70-\$1,650, see website for details).	Bad-beat jackpot is in hold'em (\$18K at press time).

PENNSYLVANIA

HARRAH'S CHESTER (800) 480-8020 • harrahschester.com	Daily (\$60-\$195). Starting times are Mon.-Fri. (10:30a & 6:30p) and Sat.-Sun. (11:30a & 6:30p). WSOP Circuit, April 27-May 9 with buy-ins ranging from \$120-\$1,600.	Bad beat in hold'em is quad deuces (\$407K at press time).
HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL (717) 469-2211 • hcpn.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$85, noon); Wed. & Thurs. (\$125, 7p); Friday PLO (\$85, noon). Call for future jackpots.	
MEADOWS CASINO (724) 503-1200 • meadowsgaming.com	Twice Daily (\$40, 10:30a) & (\$65, 7:30p), including a DeepStack bounty event on Saturdays (\$225, 3p).	Call for information.
MOHEGAN SUN/POCONO DOWNS (570) 831-2100 • mohegansunpocono.com	Daily (\$60); Mon.-Fri. (noon & 7p), Sat.-Sun. (10a & 7p); Tue. KO (\$120, 7p). Saturday DeepStack, April 30 (\$280, 2p).	Bad beat or high hands coming soon.
MOUNT AIRY CASINO (570) 243-5184 • mtairycasino.com	No tournaments as of yet.	Bad beat is aces full of kings.
PARX CASINO (215) 639-9000 • parxcasino.com	No tournaments as of yet.	Call for details.
RIVERS CASINO (412) 231-7777 • theriverscasino.com	Daily (\$65-\$555). Mon.-Fri. (noon & 7p); Sat. (noon); Sun. (2p).	Bad beat in hold'em is aces full of jacks (\$27K at press time).
SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM (877) SANDS-77 • sandsbethworks.com	Likely coming this spring.	Bad beat is quads and is a one-table winner.

WEST VIRGINIA

HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN (800) 795-7001 • ctowntables.com	Open 24 hours, but no tournaments yet.	None at this time.
MARDI GRAS CASINO AT TRI-STATE (800) 224-9683 • tristatetrack.com	Generally events are Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p), Wed. (7p), Thurs. (1p & 7p), 1st and 3rd Sat. (10a), and Sun. (2p). Buy-ins vary (\$45-\$150).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (\$80K at press time), Omaha (\$5K at press time) and stud (\$6K at press time).
MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM (304) 387-8458 • mountaineerpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$225). Tournaments are at 12:15p & 7:30p except Wed. (10:30a) & Sun. (2p). DeepStack event, April 9 (\$550, 11a, 15K chips, 30-minute levels).	Bad beat is aces full of kings (\$50K at press time); high hands pay \$100 (call for details).
WHEELING ISLAND CASINO (304) 232-5050 • wheelingisland.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 7p); Fri. Turbo (\$50, 7p); Sat. KO (\$75, 7p); Sun. KO (\$50, 7p). Heartland Poker League on Sat. (\$60, 10:45a, 5K in chips).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$95K at press time); quads or straight flush lets you spin the wheel; Early Bird Special (Mon., Tue., Thurs.).
THE GREENBRIER (304) 536-7806 • greenbrier.com	The poker room open only to guests; call for information.	Call for details.

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WITH NOLAN DALLA

Nolan Dalla is much more than media director of the World Series of Poker. He's a respected author and leading advocate for poker players. *Ante Up's* Scott Long recently chatted with him about the WSOP brand and online poker's failure to get a federal regulation bill passed.

Talk a little bit about how the World Series has changed since you first got involved with it, to where it is now and where you think it's going to be going in the future. I go back to the Binion's Horseshoe days, and of course I remember when it was in one room and the room wasn't much bigger than a movie theater. It was not a very large room or space for poker. Then, of course, the Moneymaker Effect in 2003 and everything changed. And I was fortunate to be in what we call the center of the hurricane. I saw the changes first-hand. I think Harrah's has managed the growth very well.

There's been some bumps in the road, some learning experiences ... but I think each year most people that come out to the Series notice things get a little better. It's not perfect; it's still got some ways to go, but I do believe people enjoy themselves, otherwise why do they keep coming back?

Everyone looks forward to the World Series of Poker. As far as the future, I think it continues to get bigger, although the growth probably won't be like we saw three or four years ago. But we have World Series of Poker Europe now, which will have seven bracelets in Cannes, France. ... It's going to be exciting to go to France for the first time. ... The reception over there in Europe, you wanna talk about exciting? To have the WSOP in Europe is really exciting. ... I think down the road you'll see WSOP Latin America, maybe WSOP Asia. I think that's inevitable, I believe.



With so many circuit events do you ever think about diluting the brand? First of all, let me say who wins in this expansion of tournaments, and the proliferation of events around the world. The ones who win are the players because now they have more choices. Back, many years ago, you'd find maybe one or two tournaments a month, and then those casinos at those respective properties that hosted the events had a monopoly and they could charge whatever they wanted for hotels or the rake. ... Now casinos and hosts are forced to be very competitive.

You have to provide a better service than just "Hey, we have a tournament." I do believe the players are the ones who win with the expansion of tournaments.

As long as people continue to come in the door in each tournament, for example the WSOP and the circuits seem to be doing pretty well. I think most people would look at our numbers and say despite recession and the economic challenges we've weathered the storm pretty well.

Other tournament circuits have done pretty well, too. ... If it was just one tournament being held we'd have bigger numbers. ... But again the best thing is the players have a lot to choose from now. They can always play poker almost 365 days a year, and that's a good thing.

Should the WSOP Main Event stay at \$10,000? I think it should, (but) you
Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

never say never. In 100 years \$10,000 won't be worth what it is today. So inevitably there will be some (buy-ins) that will be looked at. I don't think right now or any time in the next few years or foreseeable future you'll see it raised.

I personally am in favor of keeping it the same, and here's why: The WSOP Main Event, I don't want to say it's not about the money because that sounds ridiculous, but it's about something much more than that. In fact, most people who come to the WSOP, if you ask them, "Do you expect to win?" Let's be frank, most of them don't expect to win. They expect to play; they wanna cash; they wanna go as deep as they can. It's about the experience; it's about going to this thing that takes place once a year. It's a Christmas, in a sense, for poker players. They look forward to this thing with great anticipation, to come and enjoy the experience.

I think that by raising the price of admission you are denying a certain element of the poker community its opportunity to enjoy that experience. I think as many people can fit in the door and participate; I think that's great. I think the World Series, and I stress WORLD Series of Poker, is all about allowing as many people to chase their dream as possible. And I hope that's always the case.

What happened in Congress to derail the federal regulation of online poker? I called this recent article (I wrote for Poker News Daily) *The Blame Game*, and it was basically a pointing out of all the different institutions, people, forces, if you will, that were against us and essentially derailed the movement to legalize online poker in the United States, and when I say legalize I mean where you can operate a site within the United States. It's not illegal (to play online poker); I want to make that real clear. My article is geared toward that.

I took a very aggressive approach because I think the one thing we in the poker community are is somewhat docile, we're afraid to ruffle feathers and maybe call out people for maybe not being with us. Well, I tore off the niceties and said here are the people who stood in our way and derailed the movement.

The laundry list is not pretty; it's somewhat broad. I didn't necessarily go in with the attempt to be partisan ... but I didn't want to come out that it was the conservatives or the Republicans, or whatever else. I thought there was enough blame on both parties to go around where, really, both parties in a partisan way shared the blame almost equally. It was certainly the Republicans, Sen. Kyle, Sen. Bill Frist as majority leader, people like Goodlatte, Wolf in the House, Bachus from Alabama.

There's a lot of people currently on the right that are against us and will always be against us. And certainly in 2006 when the UIGEA was passed it was a Republican initiative that forced it through.

However, my point was in 2008 everything changed and essentially the Democrats had complete control over both House and Congress and the White House and we had a poker-playing president supposedly elected. No one disputes this. I think most people felt, even people who are conservative, would say, what is better for online poker's legalization? I think most people in 2008 would have said, "Well, probably not the Republicans because of what they've done, so let's roll the dice with the Democrats."

So here it is, the Democrats sweep into office in 2008 and sure enough nothing changed for two years. ... Obviously Barney Frank's bill ran into several obstacles. And in the 11th hour of the last Congress we get into Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid being lobbied very hard by the casino industry ... to try to push this thing through in the 11th hour, essentially doing a reverse Bill Frist of what he did in 2006 (with the UIGEA), which is to latch it on to some resolution that

would pass. It failed, and again, this entire convoluted-type thing just shows how disorganized our movement was, maybe from the start. How many miscalculations we made, how few political allies we really had when we thought we had more.

And I wasn't afraid to call out those political leaders for failing us, and crediting those who did stand with us. It was obviously a great disappointment, because I don't see things changing much in the next two to four years.

You also called out brick-and-mortar companies and online rooms for the role they played. Let's talk about land-based casinos, who came rushing in at the end with Harry Reid, but they stood in the way of it for quite a while before. If you've been around the gaming industry for a long time like I have, I've seen in certain battleground states, where essentially it use to be just Nevada and New Jersey that had legalizing gambling, and I've watched legal maneuvering in the states and usually the mantra is the same, from the casino industry which is, let's give people a choice. Let's open up a casino, and if they want to come to the casino they can play. It's the free market, sort of a libertarian philosophy. Provide the service and if people want to come let them come. And if you don't like casinos then stay away. Do whatever you want to do. That is a free-market approach to this issue.

Sure enough, once they locked up a state or a region or form of gaming, they want to protect it. And all of a sudden they throw those arguments about free market (out the window). They have no interest whatsoever in anything free market once they lock up a monopoly on gaming. And that's what we've been seeing with a lot of California cardrooms coming out against online gaming. I called out Sheldon Adelson, the owner of the Venetian. I think his position is a disgrace. I have heard he called Harry Reid personally and said he wouldn't contribute to his campaign. I just think that's remarkable that someone who has a poker room in Las Vegas, a very good poker room, owns a big property in Las Vegas, is sabotaging our freedom.

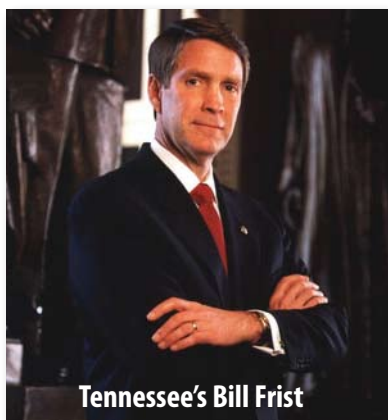
Steve Wynn has been on the fence for some time; he was actually against the legalization of online gaming for some time. ... Steve Wynn, a maverick, a visionary, a man a lot of us admire, how could this man be so behind the times and not see the great potential of online gaming? It's been quite an eye-opener to see some betrayal within our industry, people we thought who would stand with us were very much against us.

You also said, essentially, that the online giants are staying too much in the shadows. Is that a fair assessment? I think that's more than a fair assessment. ... In my view the (Poker Players Alliance) has done some very good work, but still, I think the movement and the game plan from 2005 or so on, has been very mismanaged. This isn't just opinion, this is fact. We're five years into this thing now and we've seen no progress at the federal level. And I think it's time for some heads to start rolling.

What is your view on intrastate online poker, and if enough of them work will that push it into a federal realm at some point? I think it's a positive thing for us, and if you can't win the big battle, let's win some small ones. Let's win one battle somewhere, whatever it takes. I don't care if it's Rhode Island. Just win somewhere and get some beachhead on this movement and say we have something legally in the U.S. And that probably should've been the tactic from Year 1.

I gotta say I'm not involved in any state movement. ... I just observe what's going on. Obviously what the intent is, once one or two or three of the states do legalize poker, then you'll see some pacts form. ... And then other states would see the financial windfall.

Fortunately a few states seem to be pulling the movement and we'll see what happens. ♠



Tennessee's Bill Frist

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