

ANTE UP

FLORIDA'S POKER MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2009 | anteupmagazine.com

GAVIN SMITH

THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION
HOSTS AN INVITATIONAL
AT ONE-EYED JACKS

JONATHAN LITTLE

PENSACOLA RESIDENT CAPTURES
WPT FOXWOODS AND NEARLY \$1.2M

ROAD TRIP

WE VISIT CAPE CANAVERAL,
DAYTONA BEACH, FORT PIERCE
AND MELBOURNE

STATE NEWS
PHOTOS AND RESULTS

HEALTHY BET
YOUR BLADDER AND YOU

PRO CORNER
LEE CHILDS, JOE NAVARRO

STOP CHEATERS
LEARN THEIR SECRETS

UNIQUELY FLORIDA: EACH CARD ROOM IN THE STATE HAS SOMETHING THAT SETS IT APART

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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



WILL NEW YEAR MEAN NEW LIMITS?

Most magazines in their January issues include the obligatory resolutions, wish lists and/or predictions for the upcoming year. We've decided to spare you the long-winded articles that focus on pie-in-the-sky thinking and ridiculous clairvoyant ramblings. Instead, we'll take these three facets and package them neatly into one thought.

If we could have one wish granted for Florida poker in 2009 it would be for legislators (chock full of new blood) to allow betting limits for all of our poker rooms to be more in line with Las Vegas, California and Atlantic City. To a man, all poker room managers we've asked have echoed these same feelings. Here's what Mark Hayes of Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room had to say when asked what he'd like to see happen with Florida poker.

"I'm hoping pretty soon the limits would be upped a little bit from what the buy-ins are because the \$100 buy-in is not really helping the players. If you could get maybe a \$300 buy-in or a \$500 buy-in it would be a better game."

A better game indeed. And of course bigger buy-ins for cash games go hand-in-hand with bigger tournament buy-ins. This is a *must*. One of the biggest raps against Florida poker: Even if you play in a large buy-in tournament, what do you do when you get knocked out? Larger cash games would attract players from all over the country and may entice the World Poker Tour to bring its events here. What could be more inviting to a serious poker player in Bitter Cold City, USA, than a WPT winter event in balmy Florida where the family can go to the beach or theme park?

A keen eye would notice Florida legislators tend to work in cycles, loosening up one year and then tightening up the next year (or so). In 2007 we finally got no-limit hold'em cash games and slightly larger buy-ins, but last session Florida poker was essentially ignored. So it's time for another landmark law to be passed, right? We know the economy is on everyone's mind and gambling legislation takes a backseat to more pressing issues, but we predict something positive and significant regarding Florida poker's limits will emerge in 2009. Call it a hunch.

If you'd like to help the cause, be sure to visit www.pokerplayersalliance.org. There you'll find links to your representatives and senators, plus you'll learn their stances on poker and get help in crafting an effective letter to these politicians. You'll be able to contact them via the PPA Web site and let your leaders know exactly what's on your mind. And we resolve to do everything we can to support legislation that would increase limits and make Florida poker the best it can be.

Speaking of the best Florida poker has to offer, in this issue we take a look at what makes each of our Florida poker rooms unique and worthy of a visit anywhere in the state. We also spend some time with poker pro Gavin Smith, the former WPT Player of the Year who recently hosted a no-limit hold'em series at One-Eyed Jacks in Sarasota, and we review a book that teaches you the signs of poker cheating so you can catch those mechanics and colluders.

We'll see you at the tables.

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long
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NEWS

You can lead a poker player to water . . .

Are you tired of hold'em? We have the cure. It's the Ante Up H.O.R.S.E. Course! Learn structures and strategy for Omaha/8, Razz, Stud and Stud/8 and much more at One-Eyed Jacks in Sarasota on Jan. 31. **10**



Little's big moment

Pensacola's Jonathan Little, the defending World Poker Tour Player of the Year, sets a few records on his way to winning the WPT's Foxwoods World Poker Finals main event and the \$1.1 million first-place prize. **15**



A Gross victory

Sheldon Gross takes down the Isle's \$30K guarantee, plus dates for the Isle Poker Classic are announced. **6**

Offshore poker

The winter leg of SunCruz's World Offshore Poker Championships will be Jan. 23-25 at Port Canaveral. **9**

Derby Lane's face lift

The multimillion-dollar reconstruction of Derby Lane's poker room will be completed in early January. **10**

COVER STORY

One of a kind

We have a great bunch of poker rooms here in Florida. But what makes them unique? We explore every room and give you the lowdown on that special reason why you need to visit every poker facility in the Sunshine State. **26-32**



People's Champion

Canadian poker pro Gavin Smith, who hosted a four-day tournament series at One-Eyed Jacks during Thanksgiving week, opens up in this exclusive interview with *Ante Up*. **13**



ROAD TRIP

East Coast Poker

Whether you're looking for new rooms to play in or you fancy buy-ins higher than the state allows, the east coast of Florida has something for you. **20-23**



World Series Report Card

Yes, we have a new world champion in Peter Eastgate, but how did the delayed final table go over? **16**



REVIEWS

Are poker dramas next?

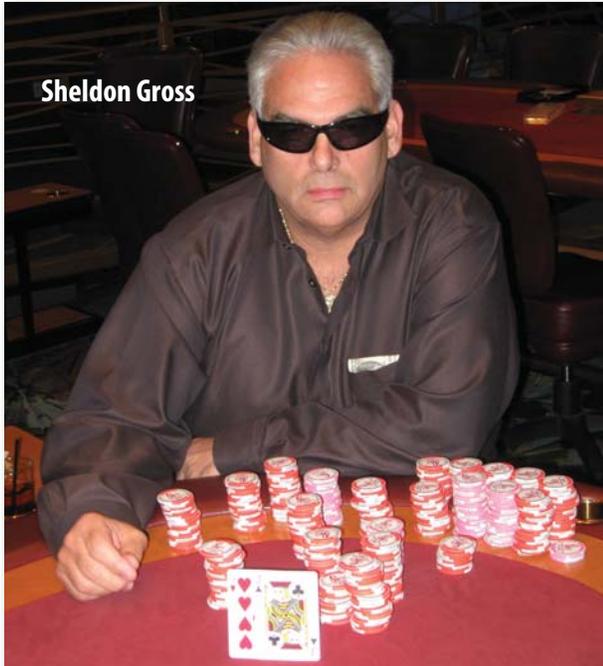
Quite a few poker shows are on television, but is there really room for reality poker? Isn't poker already reality TV? We poke fun at some of the possibilities in our PokerVision column. **42**

ON THE BUTTON

Meet Brandon Cantu

The very aggressive poker pro had a real chance to win the WSOP Main Event this year, but he fell just short. He discusses the infamous 10-5 hand plus topics such as playing high stakes blackjack as an 8-year-old. **44**

GROSS WINS ISLE'S \$30K GUARANTEED



Sheldon Gross

At the Isle Casino at Pompano Park it was Sheldon Gross who outlasted 176 players to capture the \$440 buy-in \$30K guarantee event in November. In the end it was his 9♥J♣ that bested John Perrotta and earned him \$21,242. Perrotta pocketed \$12,319. Here are the payouts for the remaining final-table players: **3.** Emil Soffer, \$8,000; **4.** Alex G., \$5,168; **5.** Avi Indirk, \$3,752; **6.** William Gaff, \$3,186; **7.** Edward Fitzpatrick, \$2,336; **8.** Chester Buttonow, \$1,699, and **9.** John J. Hartnett, \$1,628.



Isle Poker Classic

The dates for the 2009 Isle Poker Classic have been announced, and the championship event is a \$150K guarantee. Here's the schedule:

Jan. 1, 1 p.m.: Preliminary event, \$550 buy-in 8,000 units.

Jan. 2-5: Championship event, \$900 buy-in, 20,000 units (Jan. 2, 1:30, Day 1A; Jan. 3, 1:30, Day 1B; Jan. 4, noon, survivors return; Jan. 5, if necessary).

For more information call (954) 972-2000 x5123.

Ayzenshtat takes November LeBatard event

Anatoliy Ayzenshtat of Hollywood won the November Dan LeBatard Celebrity Poker Tournament at Dania Jai-Alai. The \$50 Tuesday night tournament, usually played monthly on Wednesdays, drew 231 players.

"This tournament continues to be the most popular poker event going in South Florida because of the efforts of Dan and the other on-air guys from the station," Dania assistant GM Marty Fleischman said.

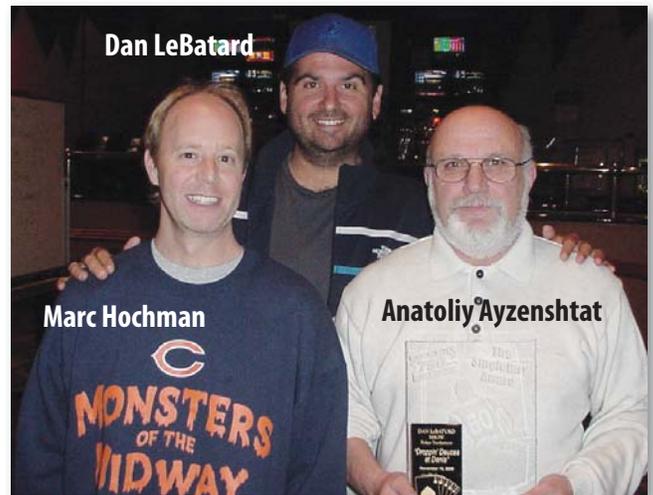
"It is like a four-hour party, with the celebs buying hot dogs and beers for entire tables, prize drawings throughout the night, and let's not forget the big prize money," Fleischman said.

Payouts, however, were not provided.

Dania to host High Heels tournament Jan. 17

The High Heels Poker Tour will be digging in at Dania Jai-Alai on Saturday, Jan. 17 at 4 p.m. The all-ladies event is \$100 and will feature 7,000 units with an optional \$5 add-on for 1,000 more chips.

For more information contact info@highheelspokertour.com.



Dan LeBatard

Marc Hochman

Anatoliy Ayzenshtat



Lindsay

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

The successful Main Event Poker Tournament series at Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood's Paradise Poker Room continued Oct. 6-12



Brian Michael Lindsay was the big winner, taking down the \$1,100 Main Event Heavyweight Division title and \$38,610. The tournament was a three-day event that began with 20K chips and 60-minute blind levels.

Robert Fava (inset) won \$7,650 in the \$575 buy-in Cruiserweight event and Isam Qwad Sayegh won \$6,155 and the \$350 buy-in Middleweight Division title.



Sayegh

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Fantasy Poker



On Nov. 25 the Fantasy Poker League held its final at Duffy's in Boca and had a great turnout. These guys decided to chop the prizes, which were MasterCard gift cards that totaled \$450. Top row left to right: Bill, who wasn't at the final table but was league points leader, Chris H. and Steve Williams, the league owner. On the bottom row is Marcos, Steve the dealer and Barrett.

Miami Jai-Alai



Chester Adamson shows off his bracelet and trophy after winning the \$30K guarantee that attracted 115 players Nov. 23. He won \$12,965 and Juan Naranjo earned \$6,895 for second. Omar Zalihka (\$4,985), Rey Hermoso (\$3,555) and Lazaro Rojas (\$2,975) rounded out the top five.

WPTAPL player from Pompano Beach wins WPT Boot Camp seat in the D.R.

Toby Smith of Pompano Beach won a spot in the WPT Boot Camp Battle for the Season Pass III, which was in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic on Dec. 1-7.

Smith was selected from among players who attended April's WPTAPL national championships in Orlando.

As part of the WPT Boot Camp experience he learned from and played against some of the biggest names in poker, such as Scotty Nguyen, Clonie Gowen and Nick Brancato.

"I told Toby the folks in Florida will be rooting for him and to make sure he takes some time to just enjoy the island," said Jason Horn, WPTAPL's South Florida regional manager.

Also, on Nov. 15 Mike Arlt outlasted the field at Gator's Dockside in Lake Worth to become the latest WPTAPL player headed to Mexico. His prize includes airfare for two and a stay at a resort, including food and drinks.



Toby Smith



Central Florida Poker Scene



Linda Schreiber has won five WSOP buy-ins with Hold'Em or Fold'Em.

As avid poker players, Bill Shinker and Griselle Ellin started their company, the Hold'Em or Fold'Em Poker League, in late 2006 out of love for the game. The league caters to the Central Florida area, and Shinker and Ellin even have backed four poker enthusiasts who play in their league to the World Series of

Poker. "We focus on bringing the best opportunities to our players while offering excellent customer service to the bars and restaurants that help promote our company," Ellin said. Visit their Web site at HFPLpoker.net.



All In Poker Series

Tearsa Smith, who's been playing at All In Poker Series events for a little more than a year, defeated a field of about 50 players in the October event to win top prize.

She took home the trophy plus \$800 worth of restaurant, bar and grocery gift cards.

Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai



The folks at Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai's Crystal Card Room held a Food Bank Tournament just before Thanksgiving. "We called it 'From our table to yours,'" said poker room manager Lesley Mims, pictured on the right. "Our staff and regular players donated four huge boxes of food to replenish the food bank and for Thanksgiving to those who need it." In this photo the room also donated \$220 to the Elks food bank.



World Offshore Winter Championships Jan. 23-25

SunCruz will host the World Offshore Winter Poker Championships Jan. 23-25 on its Port Canaveral flagship. Here's the itinerary:

Jan. 23 (Friday), 7 p.m.: \$150 buy-in, \$20 entry fee, 20-minute blind levels.

Jan. 24, 7 p.m.: \$100 buy-in, \$15 entry fee, 20-minute blind levels.

MAIN EVENT, Jan. 25, 11 a.m.: \$500 buy-in, \$50 entry fee, 30-minute blind levels.

Players may buy tournament seats by calling the SunCruz Port Canaveral reservations line (321) 783-2770 ext. 1, or by winning seats via satellites beginning Jan. 5. The satellite tournament schedule will be available on board or at www.sun-cruzcasinosa.com.

ONE-EYED JACKS POKER ROOM

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ANTE UP TO HOLD H.O.R.S.E. COURSE JAN. 31

While no-limit hold'em still is top dog in poker rooms, H.O.R.S.E. is quickly gaining popularity thanks to the \$50,000 buy-in championship at the World Series of Poker.

So to help introduce Floridians to the five-game rotation, *Ante Up Magazine* has announced its first Ante Up H.O.R.S.E. Course for Jan. 31 at Sarasota Kennel Club's One-Eyed Jacks poker room.

"*Ante Up* has long been proud of introducing its fans to different poker games on its Ante Up podcast," said Scott Long, who publishes *Ante Up* with Christopher Cosenza. "And now, we're very excited to bring that instruction to a live setting."

H.O.R.S.E. is a five-game rotation consisting of Hold'em, Omaha/8, Razz, Stud and Stud/8. It's played with a limit structure, and the variety is a true test of a poker player's ability, most pros say.

"H.O.R.S.E. really keeps you focused," Cosenza said. "The different games and strategies really make you feel like you're getting your money's worth. And what's great about this seminar is you can learn so much in just a few hours. If you don't have the time to commit to a whole weekend for a



camp, this is perfect for you."

The course is a one-day event, with nearly four hours of instruction and practice, followed by the opportunity to play in the 1 p.m. satellite for the Feb. 13 H.O.R.S.E. tournament at One-Eyed Jacks. Or participants can hone their new skills in H.O.R.S.E. cash games.

The \$249 tuition includes all instruction, an \$85 tournament voucher, instruction manual, gift bag, continental breakfast, lunch, *Ante Up* T-shirt and raffle prizes.

Tampa pro/WSOP Circuit champ John Racener is scheduled to be a special instructor and Lon McEachern, half of ESPN's World Series of Poker commentating duo, is one of the special guests expected to attend.

"We believe this is a value-packed, affordable way to learn these great games, and are looking forward to taking the H.O.R.S.E. Course to other poker rooms around the state very soon," Long said.

For more information go to the Ante Up Web site at www.anteupmagazine.com.



Giddy-Up!

When: Saturday, Jan. 31

Where: One-Eyed Jacks, Sarasota Kennel Club, Sarasota

Price: \$249

Registration: Limited, and required in advance at www.anteupmagazine.com.

Schedule

8-8:30 a.m.: Registration and continental breakfast

8:30-10:30 a.m.: Introduction to/strategy for Omaha-8/Razz/Stud/Stud-8

10:30 a.m.-12:15: Practice

12:15-1: Lunch

1 p.m.: No-limit hold'em satellite tournament and H.O.R.S.E. cash games

Tampa Greyhound Track

Lucky's Card Room at Tampa Greyhound Track hosted a \$15,000 guaranteed no-limit hold'em tournament on Nov. 28 as Arther Agostino took first place and won \$5,218.

Greg McNaley pocketed \$3,013 for second and Jaciel Delrosario earned \$1,851 for third as the \$200 buy-in tournament attracted 91 players (32 entered via super satellites).

The rest of the top 10: **4.** Bill Cole won



1, \$1,430; **5.** Rob Arvay, \$1,262; **6.** Marty Eshkov, \$1,094; **7.** Oliver Agostino, \$925; **8.** Marsha Coke, \$841; **9.** John Ackerman, \$673 and **10.** Dan Alvarez, \$505.

Tampa Bay Downs

The popular Halloween tournament at the Silks Poker Room in Tampa featured an anticlimactic ending this year as the top eight decided to chop the remaining prize pool. There were 272 players with the top 27 getting paid.

Places 1-8 each received \$8,475 a piece, but here's the order according to chip counts in case the guys want to brag. **1.** Andy Greenberg, **2.** Greg McNaley, **3.** Emilio Perez, **4.** Bill Burdick, **5.** David Nguyen, **6.** Mark Coriaty, **7.** Mike Cappiello and **8.** Joe Koebel. Tuan Phan finished ninth and earned \$1,100.

One of the players in the field was David "Fingers" Bell, who earned his \$330 seat by winning the WDAE Poker Club freeroll in October at the Silks. Though Bell didn't place in this event (he exited around 60th), he wanted to clarify some misinformation given to *Ante Up* for our December issue. In a critical hand he held AJ and his opponent held QQ, not the other way around. In the end he defeated Pam Cohen of Dunedin, who won \$300.

POY race: With just one month left Mickey Mazzatta still leads the race for \$25K, which is given to the winner at year's end. Players 2-9 will share \$25K (see chart at right). Gil Tai needs some help!

Derby Lane

The four-month, multimillion-dollar construction of Derby Lane's new poker room is almost finished. When it's completed there will be more than 50 poker tables, casino style carpet, plasma TVs and even new games may be spread, so stay tuned.

"Everything will be new," said Jeff Gamber, director of poker operations. "New tables and new felts have been ordered, stylish new uniforms, new dealers and new daily promotions will be awaiting Florida's finest poker players."

Derby Lane also has partnered with Casino Massage Services to provide tableside massages, and the poker room is attached to a new parimutuel wagering area. Players will be able to valet right outside the poker room, for which a grand opening is planned Jan. 2.

POY leaders as of 12/01/08

1.	Mickey Mazzatta	1,706
2.	Vincent Griffo	1,565
3.	Steve Darr	1,232
4.	Jim Larsen	1,193
5.	Henry Symulevich	1,027
6.	Muriel Yantiss	959
6.	Andre Papangelou	959
8.	Andrea Bauer	860
9.	Tom Huynh	755
10.	Gil Tai	694



Get in the Game

AT THE DERBY LANE POKER ROOM.

Derby Lane's Multi Million Dollar construction of the new Poker Room is finished, and the 2009 season promises to be an exciting one. Over 50 new tables, (literally new - new felt, new dealers, new chips - you get it) await Florida's finest poker players.

The New Poker Room, complete with casino style carpet, plasma screens and a new West Coast Style of play, is sure to be a welcomed treat for the loyal card players who have kept Derby Lane as one of the state's top poker rooms for years.

Derby Lane™

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Treasure Chest Poker



Marli Linville, right, captured the October monthly tournament Nov. 8 after besting 111 players at Stokers Billiards in Palm Harbor.

For her effort Linville wins a trip for two to Vegas. Here is how the final table finished:

1. Marli Linville
2. Marc Shenandoah
3. Marc Lowe
4. Bill Caples
5. Mary Mares
6. Kris Hannon
7. Doug Fletcher
8. Leo Kimi



The November Battle of the Bars came down to Stokers in Tampa and Bilmar Station (the returning champions).

The tournament was slow to eliminate players, but as the blinds escalated the final table started to take shape.

Will Clark was a massive chipleader (playing for Stokers) until he got heads up with Kris Hannon.

Hannon, who also finished sixth in the October monthly tournament, was at a slight chip disadvantage when Clark called his all-in. Clark, pictured above, won the title, a \$50 gas card and the trophy, which stays at Stokers in Tampa until the next Battle.

Pleasure Island Poker



On Nov. 14, Pleasure Island Poker, which holds nightly tournaments in the Panhandle, held its 10th monthly tournament at the Fantasy Lounge in Fort Walton Beach. It was the largest field to date with 87 players qualifying in October.

The winner was no stranger to the top spot as Dan Baggish, above, defeated the field to win his second monthly tournament.

Each month Pleasure Island Poker sponsors one player to compete in a tournament in Biloxi, Miss. at the casino of their choice.

Palm Beach Princess



Larry Shawe poses with his winning cards after taking down the Nov. 29 WPT Foxwoods main event satellite. He'll head to Connecticut in April.

Seminole Casino Immokalee



The \$50K Bad Beat Freeroll tournament at Seminole Casino Immokalee wrapped up on Nov. 13 with the top six players chopping the prize pool at the final table.

In the back row, from left, are: Jade L., Shake K., Leng K. and Anthony L. In the front row are James D. and Robert T. Each player took home \$6,400.

The poker room will begin qualifying for a monthly \$10K bad beat free roll Jan. 1. Players may qualify in live games and by winning weekly tournaments. Qualify daily from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with aces cracked or have a flush (or better) beaten. From 5-7 p.m. and 1 a.m. to 4 a.m. if you get a full house (or better) beaten you qualify. Both hole cards must play.

Freerolls will be the second Tuesday the following month.

THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION

Gavin Smith is revered by thousands of everyday poker players because he's one of them.

By Christopher Cosenza

When you're dubbed the "People's Champion" it's considered a compliment by those who name you. Average Joes can relate to you because you seem like one of them, sans the celebrity status and million-dollar paydays, of course. But when it comes to Gavin Smith you really believe he's just one of your home-game pals tossing a few back and playing cards. He even earned that moniker in a very Average Joe way.

"I thought it was funny," he said after busting out of the Nov. 28 main event that bears his name at One-Eyed Jacks in Sarasota. "We came up with it some time when we were out drinking. (Sam Minutello) called me that. It's pretty funny."

Minutello, the poker room manager at One-Eyed Jacks, and Smith have been close friends since Smith won the World Poker Tour's Mirage Poker Showdown in 2005. He's invited Smith to play in Sarasota's Pros vs. Joes tournament series more than once, and this time Minutello decided Smith deserved a tournament all to himself: The Gavin Smith Invitational.

"I don't care," Smith said when asked what it was like to have an event named after him. "It's cool when you come down here 'cause they're all really nice to me. The people are really friendly."

The local players weren't *that* friendly, however, as Smith had a bounty on his head for all four tournaments, including a whopper in the main event. Smith says he just played his game.

"I did not adjust at all," he said. "Maybe I should've, I don't know. I generally just try to play the same way I would normally play. But I think it's possible I should've adjusted. People definitely come after me a little more, especially today because it was a big bounty. It was \$1,100. To win \$1,100, a lot of these guys got in here on satellites and stuff so if they win \$1,100 that's a big deal to them. So, yeah, I probably should've played harder."

He admits it's too difficult to focus when he's playing tournaments with paltry buy-ins (the largest in this series was \$800).

"It's really pathetic how little I care about it," he said inside the Hungry Jacks Café. "If I do well, I do well; if I don't then I just play some sit-and-go tournaments or something."

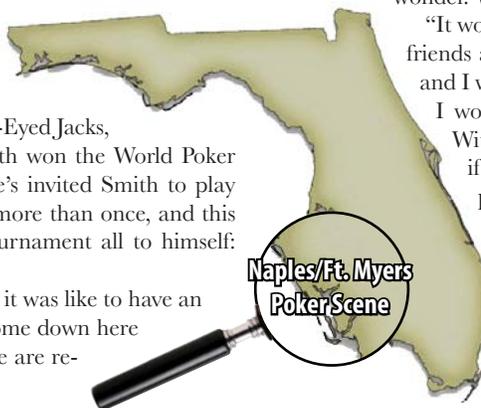
One time when he did focus came this past October at the WPT's North American Poker Championships in Ontario. He finished runner-up and won \$600K, which really upset him. "Upset him?" you may wonder. Well, you see, Smith hails from Guelph, Ontario.

"It would've been very special," he said. "I had tons of friends and family there so it was a very pro-me crowd and I wanted to win ... not to mention the extra \$600K I would've won. I was playing against a guy (Glen Witmer) that I felt very confident I could easily beat if I had stuck with my plan of playing really small pots."

But once again his lack of focus reared its ugly head. "All of a sudden I brain-farted. I knew what he had (ace-king) and I had a pair of fives and decided to move in to race with him, which was so stupid. I could've just kept plugging away ... It was a big f*ck-up."

It's a struggle to play his "A" game on a consistent basis, he says, but then he rattles off why it's so difficult with the ease of someone who's been asked that question a hundred times a year.

"You'd think you could always come and play your best, but nobody can," said Smith, who has nearly \$5 million in career tournament winnings. "There's a lot that goes into it. You have to have the right feel; you have to have enough sleep; you have to have a good table dynamic; you have to have a whole lot of things go right to play your very best. And you know your life has to be all right. When things go wrong in



Theo Tran steals the show at Smith Invitational



Theo Tran

The series may have been held in honor of Gavin Smith, but Theo Tran was the pro who put his mark on this event. The Gavin Smith Invitational, held Thanksgiving week at One-Eyed Jacks, got off to a great start by selling out its first event, which Mitchell Menes won, pocketing \$11,550.

Tran cashed in the initial tournament, but Event 2 belonged to him, besting a field

of 200 and taking home \$7,400 from the \$150 buy-in event.

The main event saw Smith and Tran exit early as did local pros Bill Burdick of Palmetto, Tampa's Manny Manelic and Fort Myers' Brian Hawkins. Also, Tampa Greyhound Park's director of poker operations **Jody Russell** was in attendance but failed to cash in the main event.

GAVIN SMITH INVITATIONAL

Nov. 26-29, One-Eyed Jacks, Sarasota

Event #1, 180 players, \$250

1. Mitchell Menes \$11,550
2. Kevin Killoran \$6,200
3. Evan Larychak \$4,040
4. William Richardson \$2,890
5. Gregor Dornon \$2,310
6. Chris Fullone \$1,920
7. Richard Lopez \$1,540
8. Pat Nichols \$1,350
9. Mike Raimon \$1,150
10. Jesper Sallander \$850
11. John Barnosky \$850
12. Dave Dibble \$850
13. Mike Hasson \$615
14. Brian Sealke \$615
15. Ron Durham \$615
16. Cindy Goodale \$380
17. Theo Tran \$380
18. Dwight Jefferson \$380

Event #2, 200 players, \$150

1. Theo Tran \$7,400
2. Noe Flores \$3,980
3. Ryan Manzer \$2,600
4. Dave Henry \$1,850
5. Curt Renard \$1,480
6. Elmo Mariathan \$1,230
7. Richard Taylor \$990
8. Walter Behrmann \$865
9. Isabella Loiaco \$740
10. Keith Netterwald \$540
11. Pat Thomas \$540
12. Rich Kessler \$540
13. Richard Sinclair \$400
14. Richard Bratter \$400
15. Hank Riley \$400
16. Ryan Gallant \$250
17. Joe Parrish \$250
18. Chris Zametz \$250

Main Event, 169 players, \$790

1. Stephen Hyvonen \$25,833
2. Spencer Cossette \$25,833
3. Joseph Parrish \$25,833
4. Dominic O'Connell \$11,000
5. Kurt Gregory \$4,400
6. Dustin Murphy \$3,450
7. Barry Hutter \$3,000
8. Mike Brown \$2,550
9. Byron Schenk \$2,100
10. Jack Lanson \$1,600
11. Mike Collins \$1,600
12. Ebony Kenney \$1,600
13. Joe Biela \$1,300
14. Dave Tiffenberg \$1,300
15. Rory Malisoff \$1,300
16. Ed Stambrosky \$1,000
17. Karen Longfellow \$1,000
18. Jerry Dunning \$1,000



2nd-chance 102 players, \$330

1. James Ross \$5,120
2. Rory Malisoff \$5,120
3. Frank D. \$5,120
4. Aaron Frank \$5,120
5. Larry Nievkirk \$2,150
6. John Micelli \$1,860
7. Eric Watkins \$1,570
8. Wally Naghtin \$1,430
9. Nick King \$1,140

Continued from previous page

your life that really can affect your poker, which is what happened to me during the World Series. If I could play my best all the time I'd be pretty f*cking good."

Speaking of the Series, many feel the measure of a poker player is judged by how many bracelets he's won. Don't say that to Smith, who has yet to put a gold bracelet on his wrist. The former WPT Player of the Year weighs certain events more than others.

"I guess it depends on the bracelet. Winning in Canada would be a huge deal for me. I think (the NAPC)'s probably one of the top four or five tournaments of the year I would want to win. There are some bracelets I would take over it, but for like a little \$1,500 thing? I'm not as bracelet-(driven) as a lot of people are, you know? If I get it, I get it. If I don't, I don't. I'd rather win the money."

Does he feel he's the best player never to have won a bracelet? "There are some pretty good players out there without a bracelet. I think it all depends on which "me" is there. I think when I show up and I'm playing my best, quite possibly I'm the best player out there without a bracelet. But I think when I'm out there and I'm playing the way I played the World Series (in 2008), I don't think I have any f*cking right to be mentioned in the same breath with the people that deserve that because I can play awful f*cking bad when I want to."

To know Gavin Smith is to know a person who loves action. He often plays Chinese poker and even hearts with his fellow poker pros. And the stakes are pretty steep.

"Growing up I played a lot of hearts ... it's a lot of fun. Brandon Cantu, Jeff Madsen, Brian Devonshire and Layne Flack, lately we've been getting together at my house and playing fairly high-stakes hearts, \$100 a point and paying everyone out. So at \$100 a point you can win \$20K a game, so that's kinda big. But it's fun, and I'm better than them. Cantu's probably a little better than me, but the rest of

them I'm much better than."

But to know Gavin Smith is also to know someone who loves to drink, even more than he loves action. Combining the two is like bliss for Smith, and recently his friends approached him with an offer he couldn't refuse.

"Going through the World Series I was on life-tilt," he said, pausing a minute from chatting with poker pro Theo Tran, who Smith says looks like Abu from the movie *Aladdin*. "I had just broken up with my fiancée. I torpedoed the entire World Series and got drunk every f*cking day and was a complete mess. So every year before the main event we go up to Tahoe on a golf trip. This year we were up there and we were sitting around having dinner and my buddies brought up the fact that I was drinking way too much or whatever and offered to make me a bet. So I ended up that night, on a Saturday night, quitting drinking. It was July 6th and I gave them till Nov. 6th. So my buddies basically did a little intervention and decided to try to help me. I ended up betting a pretty big number, and it really wasn't even a bet so much as it was a freeroll. They were helping me out. A lot of it was a freeroll. I couldn't have lost very much. ... only about \$20K-\$30K. They rest was pure win so I did it."

Four months with no Bacardi and Diet Coke? That must've been an eternity, right?

"It wasn't hard. It's not hard to not drink. It's just a helluva lot more fun to drink."

An "intervention" and a four-month drought might make someone think twice about returning to the bar.

"I'm trying to drink less," he said, "but it's a big part of my life. It's sort of the way I've always done things."

And that's Gavin Smith in a nutshell. What you see is what you get. He's not a reflective kind of guy. He's an Average Joe.

He's the People's Champion.

Pensacola's Jonathan Little, the defending WPT Player of the Year, set numerous records en route to his second WPT title, the Foxwoods World Poker Finals.



BIG DAY FOR LITTLE

The path to Jonathan Little's second World Poker Tour title was anything but easy. The Pensacola resident and reigning WPT Player of the Year had his work cut out for him at the Foxwoods World Poker Finals in Connecticut on Nov. 12.

David "The Dragon" Pham and Mike "The Mouth" Matusow were among the finalists who stood in the way of Little and the \$1.12 million first prize, but that was only the

beginning of his cross to bear. Little came to the final table third in chips and eventually got heads-up with Jonathan Jaffe of Enfield, Conn.

Starting at 10:30 p.m., the two Jonathans played 275 hands (breaking the record of 271, also shared by Little), lasting more than five hours, another WPT record. Along the way there were nine all-in showdowns, including one in which Little needed runner-runner

spades to make a flush to survive. On the final hand, just before 4 a.m., Little raised with AQ and Jaffe shoved with A10. Little called and Jaffe never improved.

But Little wasn't the only Floridian enjoying success in the Nutmeg State. Tampa's Tom Nguyen finished 10th in the main event and Joshua Flamm of Jacksonville earned his second cash during the weeklong tournament series, placing 50th (\$21,320).

Here are the Sunshine State cashers from all of the Foxwoods events (Oct. 20-Nov. 12)



\$10K NLHE Championship

Entries: 412 Prize Pool: \$3,876,508

- 1. Jonathan Little, Pensacola, \$1,120, 310
- 10. **Tom Nguyen**, Tampa, \$36,828
- 33. Daniel Shiff, Aventura, \$21,320
- 50. Joshua Flamm, Jacksonville, \$21,320

\$600 NLHE

Entries: 640 Prize Pool: \$484,166

- 64. Lawrence Bass, Tamarac, \$1,316

\$600 Omaha/8 Championship

Entries: 156 Prize Pool: \$80,199

- 3. **David Brooker**, Stuart, \$7,218

\$600 Seniors NLHE

Entries: 366 Prize Pool: \$188,161

- 6. **Dale Phillips**, Naples, \$13,052



\$1K NLHE

Entries: 443 Prize Pool: \$391,142

- 27. Belal Assi, Boca Raton, \$2,364

\$1,500 NLHE

Entries: 231 Prize Pool: \$317,625

- 10. **Manny Minaya**, Tampa, \$4,005

\$2K NLHE

Entries: 226 Prize Pool: \$405,557

- 3. **Arthur Evans**, Davie, \$55,584

\$3K NLHE

Entries: 105 Prize Pool: \$285,180

- 4. **Michael Glassner**, Plantation, \$19,962

- 18. Joshua Flamm, Jacksonville, \$5,133

— Results compiled from Foxwoods reports



Jonathan Little photo courtesy of WPT

WSOP REPORT CARD

We have a new world champion in poker, and his name is Peter Eastgate of Odense, Denmark. But do we really know him any better than if he had won four months earlier? The idea behind the delayed final table was to build excitement, which it did. But what grade would you give this publicity stunt? The 117-day culmination of the World Series of Poker Main Event was supposed to have the type of buzz associated with college national championship games and Super Bowls, which it did not. And, we were going to get to know these nine individuals through an unprecedented media blitz. Did we? Now that it's all over, here's our report card on the November Nine experiment.



EVENT PUBLICITY: B-

If you weren't a poker player, and didn't read poker magazines or listen to poker podcasts or watch the WSOP coverage, would you have known about this delayed event? Probably not. When WSOP commissioner Jeffrey Pollack announced the creation of the delayed final table he said a major goal was to attract the Average Joe. Ask a friend who doesn't play poker if he/she knew about this. You won't be surprised by the answer. But more stories were written/produced than ever before about the WSOP, and you can't put a price on that.

PLAYER PUBLICITY: C+

Sure, news got out David "Chino" Rheem was wanted by police here in Florida, but that proved to be more of a joke than anything. It certainly wasn't the type of publicity Harrah's had in mind, but those are the consequences for such a bold move. You may know Rheem a little better now because he landed on our cover in November, but if he didn't have a connection to Florida we likely wouldn't have written anything about him. Maybe the hometowns of the November Nine were a little more enlightened and a tad more stoked because of local reports and ties, but that doesn't mean the nation (and world) got to embrace these guys. Here's the big question: If you had to, could you name all nine final-table players and something personal about them now?



SECRECY: F

The whole idea was to give this event a "live" world championship feel. That was why Harrah's waited until ESPN's undercard coverage had concluded before playing out the final table. So what does ESPN do? It announces the winner on *SportsCenter* the day before the final table is set to air. Unsuspecting poker fans who NEVER see poker news on *SportsCenter* had four months of anticipation blown by one anchorman. Would it have killed ESPN to wait until the 11 p.m. *SportsCenter* on Nov. 11 to announce it?

PRODUCTION: A

If you lived on Mars for the past year and then came back on Nov. 11 and tuned in to ESPN at 9 p.m. you never would have known ESPN and 411 Productions had to frantically edit like 16 hours of poker play and put together the show in less than two days. And that's the biggest compliment we could pay them. There probably were a few too many all-in shoves shown, but overall, job well done.



RATINGS: B+

We thought about giving this an "I" for incomplete, or maybe intangible, because it's difficult to know what these numbers actually mean as far as who is watching. The ratings increased about 13 percent overall and 46 percent for the final-table broadcast, which is significant. We applaud those who continue to try to evolve the WSOP (an A for effort) and congratulate them on increasing awareness and viewers.

OVERALL: B-

There were some good things about this final-table experiment and some bad things. In the end, it was just a poker tournament that may or may not have enticed you to watch. Given it was the first time the WSOP attempted this we think it was a success and look forward to what it has in store for us next time. Be sure to listen to Ante Up's Nov. 14 show on anteupmagazine.com to hear what the Ante Up Nation thought of the delayed WSOP final table.



ANOTHER P[♠]OKER STAR IS BORN

Congratulations to yet another PokerStars World Champion

More than 2000 players qualified for this year's WSOP* Main Event at the world's largest poker site. That's more than at every other poker site combined.

Six out of the nine finalists were PokerStars players, and now we are very proud to welcome yet another World Champion into our fold.

Congratulations Peter.



 **PETER EASTGATE**
PokerStars player and WSOP* World Champion

P[♠]okerStars.com
Find the Poker Star in you

NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

JOHN LANIER • A look at Florida's online players and beyond



WANT MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK? JOIN THE CLUB

Some folks play tournament poker for fun, while some play for a living. But one thing is universally true: Everybody wants good value for their money. I'd like to introduce you to a relatively new concept called membership poker, which ensures good value.

There are two major players in this market: SpadeClub, which is promoted and owned by *CardPlayer*, and ClubWPT, owned by the same World Poker Tour we know from television.



These sites operate under sweepstakes and promotional law, so they're allowed to operate legally in 35 states, Florida included. Major selling points include low cost, no credit card or deposits required and no commitments or obligations. You play when you want, though game selection is limited compared with large online sites.

SpadeClub offers free money games, \$500-\$1,000 daily cash tournaments, \$5,000 weekly cash tournaments and a \$30,000 mega-monthly tournament. SpadeClub offers members a place to develop a poker profile, earn badges of accomplishment, keep track of friends and improve their game.

Notably, SpadeClub players are divided into two major groups, regular non-paying members and exclusive members. Extra features are available to exclusive members, of course, but they come at a price (\$19.99/month or \$149.95/year). The yearlong package is the better

deal if you expect to remain a member, as it will save you close to \$90 in membership fees.

All exclusive members have access to larger tournament prize pool events, the hand helper and the odds calculator, plus they can use winnings to pay for their membership and get a free digital subscription to *CardPlayer*.



ClubWPT operates in most respects like SpadeClub, but with a few extra features. The main attraction is the site offers a tournament where the payoff is a chance to play on television. Now that Fox Sports Net has the rights to the new season of the WPT, it also is airing a new series bearing the name of ClubWPT.com.

Some would argue the show is little more than an infomercial for the site. Players who make it through a series of satellites and large fields win a chance to fly to Los Angeles to participate in these \$5K Winner-Take-All televised tournaments.

ClubWPT also offers Elimination Blackjack for your membership, a digital subscription to *Bluff*, and it recently announced a partnership with Stats LLC, provider of major-league sports statistics, to create and report tracking statistics for poker play.

— John Lanier plays as "WildHare" on most poker sites and lives in Lutz.

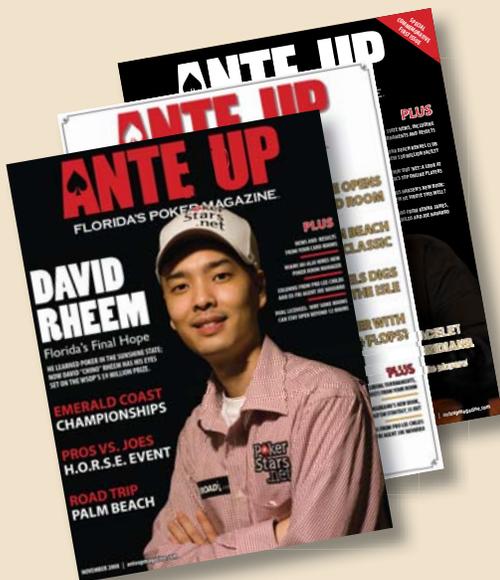
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ANTE UP

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Poker Stars

PokerStars

The world's largest online poker site continues its Boris Becker Challenge through December. Qualify to meet the former Wimbledon champ and play against him in the upcoming PokerStars Caribbean Adventure on Jan. 5-10. Events for the PCA at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas include the \$10K main event buy-in on Jan. 5 and a \$25K no-limit hold'em championship on Jan. 7. For more details see the PokerStars ad inside the front cover of *Ante Up*.



Doyle's Room

Doyle's Room has introduced a new no-limit tournament every Saturday with a \$30,000 guaranteed prize pool for a just a \$25 buy-in. The site has more than \$4 million in monthly guarantees and has paid more than \$7 million in casino jackpots. Don't forget the Bounty Tournament on Wednesday nights at 9:30 ET with more than \$25K up for grabs. Poker legends Doyle Brunson, Todd Brunson, Mike Caro and Hoyt Corkins all participate, and if you knock them out, you get cash.



UltimateBet

Enjoy your holidays at UltimateBet with the Days of Deals promotion during December, including freerolls, bonuses and special tournaments. Also, UB is promoting its rewards program as one of the best online by letting players use their points to bid in auctions for prizes, purchase lessons from Phil Hellmuth and even buy a Mercedes-Benz ML350. Plus, players can cash in their points for tournament entries or make donations to a worthy charity. For more information go to www.ultimatebet.com.

ABSOLUTE POKER

Absolute Poker

Want to go to the big game in Tampa? Absolute Poker is giving away tickets to Super Bowl XLIII in its Wild Cards promotion. This online poker event starts with daily satellites that have low buy-ins and Sunday tournaments that get you a shot at the main event. Or you can buy-in directly to the Wild Cards main event for \$530. The Super Bowl will be played at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa on Feb. 1, and Bruce Springsteen will perform at halftime. Isn't that reason enough to play?

ANTE UP E-NEWSLETTER



Can't wait for next month's issue of Ante Up? Sign up today for our e-newsletter! Get updated Florida poker news and more, delivered straight to your e-mailbox. And the best part? It's absolutely **FREE!**

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East Coast Poker

Looking for a new room to play in on Florida's Atlantic side? Take your pick.

Melbourne Greyhound Park

As the elevator stops on the second floor of Melbourne Greyhound Park, you're not exactly sure what to expect when the mahogany doors open. The building has been around since 1971 and is a converted jai-alai fronton, so anything can be on the other side. But you'll be delighted when you're greeted by Club 52, a plush poker room built after the 2004 hurricanes ravaged the state.

"Most people get a vision of an old jai-alai or old dog track and think 'Oh gosh, we're gonna go to some old place



that's been around a long time,' " poker room manager **John Niebler** said. "But we tried to make it different. The tile floors, the mahogany elevators ... the restrooms are touch-free, like you should find anywhere now, and it makes the game a little nicer, a little cleaner."

The first thing you notice in the vast poker area is the bar, which is centrally located and just left of the brush.

"They wanted to tear it out and I said 'No! Leave it!' It's the center focus of the poker room," said Niebler, whom everyone in the industry knows as OB, but more on that later. "If you want to come out here with your wife and she's not interested in playing poker, she actually has a central location where she can be close to you and the game, not necessarily hanging over your shoulder, but right there where she can have a cocktail or two and there are a couple of TVs there right at the bar she can watch. It makes it family-friendly."

And friendly is the key word there.

"We want it to be safe," said Niebler, who's been with Club 52 all four years of its existence but has been in the parimutuel game since 1996. "We want it to be that you can bring your family out here. My floor people are really good about making sure the game is run well. We have a lot of business people here and we tend to cater to them during the day."

He has a staff of around 120, and it's a staff he's glad to have because he's not a player, he's a manager. "You won't find me sitting in on a game. I won't. But I have plenty of people who can do it for me. And that's my mission, to make sure they have the tools they need to get their job done and get the room to run as it should. I'm very proud of my team; they do a great job."

The room is open from noon till midnight and the games spread are traditional (stud, hold'em, Omaha), though OB says they'll spread whatever the players are clamoring for.

"We recently added a stud bad-beat

Please turn to Page 22



Where: Melbourne
Phone: (321) 259-9800
www.melbournegreyhoundpark.com

Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room



If you're going to spend \$30 million on a new building you may as well do it right. That's exactly what the folks at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room have done. The new 53,000-square-foot facility on Williamson Road, which replaces its 60-year-old building next to Daytona International Speedway, is unlike anything in the state, and in some instances, the country.



And with the new poker room came a new manager, **Mark Hayes**. On Valentine's Day he will have been with DBKC one year, but Hayes oversaw all of the construction of the new poker room.

"I had similar dealings with other companies," said Hayes, a native of London. "The casino we had in Fresno (built) a new addition, so I knew what was going to happen. But I didn't think it was going to turn out as fantastic as this. We have 50 poker tables and 36 TVs. As far as I'm concerned it's the best looking room around."

Hayes has been in the casino business for more than 26 years, starting in England before moving on to the Princess Casino in the Bahamas in 1986. He eventually worked his way through gambling boats and card rooms around America, but most of his time has been spent in Florida, from Tampa to Ybor City, from Tarpon Springs to Daytona Beach. And he isn't afraid to say he's strict when it comes to his staff and clientele.

"First thing I do is customer service," he said. "That's the main thing. The dealers know if they screw up they're going to get talked to ... so do the players. We like to keep it nice and friendly with good customer service. But we also like to keep the customers dealer-friendly, so it goes both ways. Follow the rules. Everybody knows, whether it's dealers or players, that I run a tight ship. And if they step out of line they get spoken to."

But is it zero-tolerance? "A little softer than that," he said.



Where: Daytona Beach
Phone: (386) 252-6484
www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom

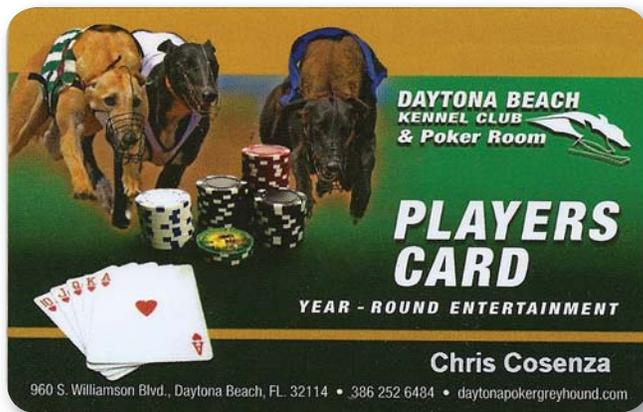
The poker room spreads the usual cash games (hold'em, stud, Omaha), though an old-school 25-cent-50-cent cash game still remains (Please see our story on page 26). DBKC also has a variety of tournaments, including satellites for World Series of Poker seats (there's one Dec. 21), but two behind-the-scenes attributes really set this poker room apart: a players card and state-of-the-art security.

"We have the Bravo System by Genesis Gaming that we have for player tracking," Hayes said. "As far as the poker side of it, players can sign up at the kiosk outside; they can come into the poker room and sign up at the podium. Once they're signed up they go on a waiting list. When they go to a table they give the dealer their card. The dealer will then swipe them into the system. There's an LED board where the players' name comes up so all the dealers know who the players are. Those names also come up at the podium on the computer. Once they're put in the system they start accumulating points, like a reward card. Also, the card can be used in the (simulcast wagering) room and they get points on that as well."

And that's not all. "They can put money on the cards," Hayes said, proudly. "We're the first casino-poker room to do this in the country. And if they lose the card we just change the card out and change the number. And if they do try to get any rewards they have to have ID."

That leads to security. "We have, as far as I'm concerned, the best security system in the state, by far. We've had other companies and casinos, poker rooms come down to look at it to see what it's like and they were extremely impressed. You can see everything, everywhere. You can not get away with anything whether it's inside or outside of the room." Secrecy precludes us from giving out details, but the system is impressive and includes dealer tracking.

So, if you're looking for a variety of games and tournaments in a safe, tightly run poker room, you can't go wrong at Daytona Beach Kennel Club.



Meet Lesley Mims, Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai and Poker's card room manager

Where are you from originally? Black Oak Arkansas, population 272.

How old are you? I will not tell you my age. I will tell you my birthday is 08/07/65 and exactly what I tell my dealers: You do the math.

What is your official title with Ft. Pierce's Crystal Card Room? My official title is card room manager.

It's a great working environment. They gave me whatever I needed to open and allowed me to hire the best dealers and train the rest. The weather in Florida is great, and the poker is getting better. If we were allowed larger buy-ins I would be in heaven.

There are a couple of cashes listed for you on the Hendon Mob Web site. How long have you been playing

and is limit hold'em your favorite game? I made a few final tables in Tunica in limit hold'em and Omaha. Limit hold'em just came easy. The odds made sense. However my favorite game is pot-limit Omaha. As limit hold'em is for grinders and no-limit is for dreamers, pot-limit is for trappers. I had the honor of flooring one of the largest pot-limit games for years at the Horseshoe. This fine group of poker players taught me a lot about the game and money management. Playing poker has always been a hobby. I made my living from the other side of the table. I enjoy dealing and playing big tournaments. I love tournament poker because it levels the playing field. A millionaire can sit next to a janitor and they start with the same chips. They bring to the table their skills, knowledge and the ability to maneuver chips.

How long have you been in poker and what was your path to this job? My family played cards, rook, gin, spades and poker. I was taught early to play aggressive. Check-raise my mother, whatever it took to win a hand. I graduated from the University of Memphis, when the casinos opened in Tunica. ... I have worked for Jack Binion, Sam Boyd, and all the top dogs with Harrah's. I worked for Classic Cruises for eight years, working as many as four cruises a year. I learned a lot from June Fields, the original founder of *CardPlayer*. ... I worked briefly in "Vegas" and hated every minute of it. The nicest most respectful players play in the southern card rooms.

What's the situation at Ft. Pierce with you and Ken Lewis? What's his title?

Ken's the director of operations. He oversees the entire operation. He has worked for Florida Gaming Corp. for more than six years.

No one knows the building better than he does.

How many poker tables are in your room and how many people do you have on staff? We have 37 tables, more than 80 people on staff.

What are the games you typically spread (and buy-ins, etc.), and does that ever change? Our premier game is \$5-\$10 no-limit hold'em. They line up in the morning to get their favorite seats. We also have multiple games of \$1-\$2 and \$2-\$5 no-limit, as well as \$2-\$4 and \$2-straight limit. We also offer Omaha H/L and \$2/\$4 limit seven-card stud.

What sets your poker room apart from the others? Our greatest asset is our employees. We have a diverse staff from the "Turkinator" to the Asian sensation Gus, to our gorgeous female dealers. All of which make their jobs look easy.

Funny thing about dealers, it looks easy until there's a problem. How they handle adversity sets them above the others. I treat our dealers like they were police officers, giving them the authority to control the table. The floormen do a great job mediating controversy. Dealing is a great job as long as you have the correct disposition.

What can a player expect from a room run by you? A player can expect a fair game, that the integrity of the rules will be upheld. Poker isn't always black and white. Our staff is exceptional at handling the gray area. We have zero tolerance for shenanigans. We create a comfortable environment to enjoy poker. We have a well-lit, clean room with 48 flat screens to watch news, sports or simulcast betting. I have one rule "Have fun and play nice."

And finally, what's with the license plate? It reads ANTE UP 2 because I believe in antes! The ante is a fundamental catalyst to a great game. The only thing I love more than poker and that car is my daughter, Emily.



Where: Ft. Pierce

Phone: (772) 467-0790

www: www.jaialai.net

Review: A full look at Ft. Pierce's Crystal Card Room can be found in our October 2008 issue. Go to anteupmagazine.com and click on our Archive link.



Continued from Page 20

jackpot, and it's seeded at \$1,000. ... We try to throw different promotions out there (during the down season) to keep our regulars coming," he said. "That's important; they like to feel recognized (Club 52 gave away a Pontiac Solstice over the summer). Those kind of promotions get us through the summer, fill in the nap time when the place is a little slow. Come January (Melbourne's live racing season is January through Tax Day) it'll be standing room only again around here."

The main poker room has 43 tables and 24 flat-screen TVs. But there's also a VIP room that OB says has been successful.

"We'll use it for tournament play on larger events, but if a local group wants to hold their own little employee party and private

poker tournament as a part of it, they can come here and we can have 110-120 people in there."

Eight flat screens are in the VIP room, which is isolated from the main action.

"We've had the Chamber of Commerce here to do an event, and it's been a lot of fun, and it's an untapped segment of the market. What it does is it exposes Club 52 to all of those people who are kind of on the fence. And they come in and they take a look around and say 'Wow, it's nice in here. It's not a bunch of old guys sitting around with cigars. It's a nice game in a nice friendly atmosphere.' It's a lot of fun."

And what about that nickname?

"The real story's not out there much," OB said. "It's a nickname I've had ever

since I've been in the parimutuel industry. It's actually short for Oddball. In 1969 there was a Clint Eastwood movie called *Kelly's Heroes* ... One of the characters was Donald Sutherland who played a tank commander and his name was Oddball. He was rather aloof and usually drunk. And somehow the name came up and it's just one of those things that just stuck. Professionally, Oddball doesn't look good on a business card so it got shortened to OB over the years and it stuck. My real name is John, but everyone in this industry knows me as OB."

But what's not odd is OB's desire to stay in-tune with what makes his players happy.

"That's why we're all here. If you don't have your finger on the pulse you'll lose the pulse."

SunCruz Casino — Port Canaveral

You can't talk about SunCruz poker without mentioning two things: The World Offshore Poker Championships and Dan Malka. We'll get to the WOPC in a bit, but first you have to get to know Dan.



What was **Dan Malka's** first job in poker? Dealer at the Las Vegas Dunes in 1979. Who gave him that job? The late Chip Reese, who was card room manager. Oh, and Malka's first shift boss was Doug Dalton, who now is director of poker operations at the Bellagio. In 1980 Malka went to the Silverbird and worked with a card room host named Doyle Brunson ... perhaps you've heard of him? And Eric Drache ran the Silverbird poker room in those days. Drache is most known for inventing tournament satellites and must-move tables.

The list of famous poker characters who have crossed Malka's path only grows from there. So it should come as no surprise Malka, 53, has dozens of stories steeped in poker history, from Stuey "The Kid" Ungar to Johnny Moss. When asked to tell his favorite, he just couldn't.

"In the late 1970s in Vegas all the greats played against each other," said Malka, who's originally from Edison, N.J. "I have many stories I like to tell about them, though my stories aren't about the hands they played, but rather about the kind of guys they were. They were the most interesting guys from the most diverse backgrounds. Each one deserves a book about his life."

Ante Up isn't in the book-publishing business just yet, so Malka has agreed to share his stories with the *Ante Up* Nation in future issues. Stay tuned.

In 1992 Neil Gelbert, former card room manager at the Frontier in Vegas, brought Malka to Florida as part of a three-man team charged with training the initial poker dealers, floors and card room managers for the first Seminole card room (now the Hard Rock in Tampa.) From there Malka made the transition to cruise ships, first in Tampa, then Hollywood before finally docking at Port Canaveral as SunCruz's director of poker in 2003.

What can you expect from his poker room? Malka says it's "a fun place to play, with professional rulings that protect the integrity of both the live games and tournaments." It's also one of the few rooms in Florida not limited by the \$100 maximum buy-in or \$5 max bets in limit games. And Malka takes advantage of that.

"We regularly spread a \$500-\$1,000 min-max buy-in no-limit hold'em game with \$5 and \$10 blinds every Saturday 7 p.m. cruise," he said. "We also spread \$2-\$5 blind no-limit hold'em with a max buy-in of up to \$500, and a \$1-\$3 blind no-limit with a \$50-\$200 min-max. buy-in."

Malka said the most important aspect of the games he spreads is the rake, "which is in accordance with Vegas procedure, with a 'no flop, no drop' so players with skill can beat the game."

He spreads a \$10-\$20 limit Omaha H/L with a half-kill every Wednesday and Saturday 7 p.m. cruise and he says the ship



They really pack 'em in for the World Offshore Poker Championships on the SunCruz Port Canaveral ship.

has rekindled interest in limit hold'em as low as \$1-\$2, \$2-\$4 and \$5-\$10. The room also has \$40 and \$60 single-table tournaments and \$100+\$15 multitable events.

Players enjoy a free buffet and free drinks while playing, plus the occasional comp for tableside *a la carte* dining, a "\$55 for \$50" buy-in coupon for live games, per-table cash high-hand bonuses and jackpots for royal flushes and bad beats.

"I even buy my players \$200 worth of tickets for the Florida Lotto drawing on every Wednesday and Saturday 7 p.m. cruise," he said. "If a ticket hits, players in the card room that evening would divide the money equally, with SunCruz taking a 10 percent promotional fee of the jackpot, which we would use to dwarf every other poker room's bad beat. I know it's wishful thinking, but the lottery drawing is just one more thing that adds to the fun of the room."

Another fun aspect of the SunCruz Port Canaveral ship is its World Offshore Poker Championships, now held quarterly. The next event will be Jan. 23-25, which includes two undercard events leading up to the \$550 main event on Jan. 25.

In 2006, SunCruz used its WOPC final to launch Florida's first televised poker tournament. Seats were won through satellites on SunCruz ships around Florida and South Carolina. First place received \$50,000, a \$5,000 gold-and-diamond bracelet and a crystal-illuminated trophy. Regional markets televised the tournament throughout the Southeast and later was shown nationally on the Travel Channel. Through Malka's efforts the tournament has continued to grow, including adding a \$10K WSOP Main Event seat (plus expenses) to the \$88K first prize and \$5K bracelet in 2007.

So, after 30 years in poker and a very successful run here in Florida, will the Sunshine State be just another stop for Malka?

"I love the cruise ship life!" he said. "My wife, Daniela, says she loves our home here, and I still have the sea."

With Mrs. Malka happy there's reason to rejoice: Dan's not going anywhere and Florida poker is better for it.





Dania Jai-Alai

Phone: (954) 927-2841

www.dania-jai-alai.com

Tournaments: \$25 with \$5 bounty daily at 12:30; M-F at 3 (Fridays are \$50); M&W at 6:30 and Sat. (12:30, 4, 7:30 & 11); \$50 w/high hand award Tue. at 6:30; \$50 with \$10 bounty Thurs. at 6:30 & Sun. at 5; \$100 w/7K chips & 30-minute blinds Fri. at 6:30; \$55 every Sun. at 8. Re-entry is allowed into all tournaments for one hour.

High hands: Noon-3 p.m. wins \$200; separate royal flush jackpots for each suit.

Promotions: Every Wednesday night a hot dog & fries, wings (3), 20-ounce soft drinks, 16-ounce drafts, frozen drinks or regular soft serve cone are each just 99 cents.

Daytona Beach Kennel Club

Phone: (386) 252-6484

www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom

Tournaments: Daily, including Wednesday Ladies Only at 1 p.m. (\$25); Saturday, Pot-Limit Omaha/8 (\$65) and deep-stack hold'em at 2 p.m. (\$225).

Special event: WSOP qualifier, Dec. 21 (\$150).

SNGs: \$40-\$220.

High hands: M-T paid every hour, W-Su every two hours; high hands win \$50-\$100; royal flushes in tournaments win \$1K, cash games \$250-\$500.

Bad beat: Aces full of kings.

Derby Lane

Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7

www.derbylane.com

Tournaments: Daily, including Knockout Deep Stack (\$65, 4K units); Knockout Double Deep Stack (\$110, 8K units); Monday KO Madness, 4 p.m. (\$70); and Midnight Madness (\$60).

High hands: Royals in hold'em and stud.

Bad beat: Aces full of jacks.

Ebro Greyhound Park

Phone: (850) 535-4048

www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com

Tournaments: Big Stack Sundays, (\$150, 2 p.m.); Monday (\$40, 7) and Thursday bounty (\$75, 7)

High hands: Royal flush jackpots and two high hands per day.

Bad beat: Quad deuces.

Flagler Greyhound Track

Phone: (305) 649-3000

www.flaglerdogs.com

Tournaments: Sunday 2 p.m. Winner Take All, 50-player limit (\$25); Monday, 7 (\$75).

SNGs: \$65-\$800.

High hands: From opening till 3 p.m. wins \$100, others at table each win \$25; Happy Hour from 5-7 pays \$250; Every Fri.&Sat. in December from midnight till closing pays \$500; New Year's Eve drawing for Dec. high-hand winners pays \$5K each to five winners; non-heart royal flushes win \$500.

Other: VIP card raffles at 3, 6 and 9 p.m. Sundays.

Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai and Poker

Phone: (772) 464-7500

www.jaialai.net/poker.php

Tournaments: Monday 7 p.m. (\$75); Tuesday 12:30 (\$55); Wednesday bounty 6:30 (\$85).

SNGs: Thursday-Saturday (\$65-\$110)

Special event: Super Bowl tourney, Jan. 4. Win tickets to the big game in Tampa (see ad).

High hands: Every two hours Monday and Tuesday.

Bad beat: Aces full of queens (hold'em), quads (stud) and quad jacks (Omaha).

Other: Happy Hour drink specials from 4-7 p.m.; free coffee and doughnuts 11:30-1 p.m. M-Th.

Gulfstream Park

Phone: (954) 457-6336

www.casinoatgulfstream.com

Tournaments: Daily at 6:30 p.m., including \$50+\$5 bounties M-W-F and Saturday Special, (\$100, 10K).

SNGs: \$100-\$500.

Promotions: Call for current offers.

Hamilton Jai-Alai and Poker

Phone: (800) 941-4841

www.hamiltondownsjaialai.com

Tournaments: Thursday 7, Sunday 3, \$65; Friday 7 (w/rebuys), \$65; Saturday, bounty event, \$100. Freerolls every other Sunday. Be one of the first 50 to sign up. Prize pool is \$1,000, first place wins \$300, second \$250, third \$200, fourth \$150 and fifth \$100.

High hands: Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday wins \$500; quad jacks win \$50 on Thursdays; jackpot for royal flushes.

Bad beat: Aces full of kings.

Promotions: Splash the Pot (Mondays): Every hour, a table is picked at random and \$50 is added to the pot. **10s or Better (Tuesdays & Thursdays):** Win with quad 10s or better and you win \$50 extra. Only one card needed in your hand. **Double Win (Wednesdays):** The highest hand by 5 p.m. wins \$200, and then the same from 5-10 p.m.

Isle Casino at Pompano Park

Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 or x5124

www.theislepompanopark.com/casino-poker.aspx

Tournaments: \$60-\$550. **SNGs:** Including heads-up, winner-take-all and bounties (\$60-\$840).

Special event: Isle Poker Classic, Jan. 1-5 (\$550 preliminary event on Jan. 1; \$900 championship event, Jan. 2).

High hand: Full house earns a ticket for a \$1,000 drawing on Sundays; royal flushes win \$599.

Bad beat: Call for details.

Jefferson County Kennel Club

Phone: (850) 997-2561

www.jckcpokerroom.com

Tournaments: Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. (\$50).

High hand: Royal flushes win jackpot.

Mardi Gras Gaming

Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167

www.playmardigras.com

Tournaments: M-T-W-S (buy-ins vary, \$65-\$150).

SNGs: \$55-\$110.

High hands: Royal flushes win \$599.

Bad beat: Aces full of jacks (HE), quad jacks (O/8) and aces full of kings (stud).

Melbourne Greyhound Park

Phone: (321) 259-9800

www.melbournegreyhoundpark.com

Tournaments: M-T-W-S, includes shootout, ladies, heads-up and bounty events.

SNGs, bad beats and promotions: Call for details.

Miami Jai-Alai

Phone: (305) 633-6400

www.fla-gaming.com/miami/poker.htm

Tournaments: Saturday Freeroll, 3 p.m., Sunday \$1,500 guaranteed, 1 p.m. (\$30).

Special event: Jan. 25, \$30K guaranteed, 1 p.m., (\$330) 7,500 units, 30-minute levels.

Promotions: Call for current offers.

Miccosukee Resort

Phone: (877) 242-6464

www.miccosukee.com/entertainment_poker.htm

Tournaments: Super Hold'em Saturday, 7 p.m.

SNGs: NLHE, 7-card stud and Omaha/8.

Promotions: Call for current offers.

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track

Phone: (239) 992-2411

www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com

Tournaments: Sunday 2 p.m. (\$125); Monday 7 (\$65); Wednesday bounty, 7 (\$125); Thursday noon (\$65) and Saturday 2 (\$230).

High hands: From noon to 2 p.m. wins \$300; any royal flush pays \$2,500.

Continued on next page

* Please call the poker room to confirm, and ask for hours of operation, games spread, details, rules and limitations.

DON'T SEE YOUR EVENT?*

Tell your poker room managers to email us at editor@anteupmagazine.com

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai

Phone: (352) 591-2345
www.ocalapoker.com
Tournaments: Daily (\$65-\$240). **SNGs:** (\$45-\$80).
Special event: Dec. 28, Main event (\$550).
High hands: Noon to 5:45 and 6-11:45 p.m.; diamond royal flush wins jackpot.
Other: Starting Dec. 15 a limited tableside food menu will be offered. **Sundays:** High hand of the hour gets to spin the Poker Money Wheel for a chance to win up to \$500.

Orange Park Kennel Club

Phone: (904) 646-0002
www.jaxpokerroom.com
Tournaments: Daily, except Tuesday (\$35-\$100).
High hand: \$100 every four hours; royals \$200.
Bad beat: Call for details.

Palm Beach Kennel Club

Phone: (561) 683-2222
www.pbkennelclub.com
Tournaments: \$65-\$200; bounty tourneys on Tuesdays at noon (\$65+\$25).
SNGs, bad beats and promotions: Call for offers.

Palm Beach Princess

Phone: (561) 818-5771
www.palmbeachprincess.com
Special event: Jan. 10, WPT Foxwoods satellite (\$340 buy-in).
Promotions: Call for offers and WPT details.

Sarasota Kennel Club

Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054
www.skcpoker.com
Tournaments: \$40-\$100, plus Saturday \$330 at 3:30 p.m.
SNGs: \$40-\$300.
Special event: Ante Up H.O.R.S.E. Course, Jan. 31, \$249 (See ad on page 33).
High hands: Quads (hold'em), quad 10s (stud) and straight flushes (Omaha) or better.

Seminole Casino Brighton

Phone: (866) 222-7466
www.seminolecasinobrighton.com
Tournaments: Monday 7 (\$100); Tuesday 7 (7-card stud, \$80); Wednesday 7 (\$20 w/rebuys); Thursday 7:30 (Omaha, \$130); Friday 7 (\$100) and Saturday 2 (\$65) and 7 (\$200).
SNGs: \$42-\$250.
Promotions: Call for current offers.

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

Phone: (866) 222-7466
www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com
SNGs: \$55, \$85, \$135.
Bad beat: Aces over jacks.
Promotions: Call for current offers.

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

Phone: (866) 502-7529
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com
Tournaments: \$100-\$1,100.
SNGs: \$140-\$1,050
High hands: Prizes range from \$100 to tournament entry fees. Call for details.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Phone: (866) 502-7529
www.seminolehardrocktampa.com
Tournaments: \$100-\$550.
SNGs: \$125-\$1,075.
Promotions: Call for current offers.

Seminole Hollywood Classic

Phone: (866) 222-7466
www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com
Tournaments: \$30-\$150.
High hands: Mondays, every hour winner gets \$200 (hold'em) or \$100 (Omaha) from noon-8 p.m.; Saturdays-Sundays, every hour top-two get \$100.
Other: First 25 hold'em players (Tue. & Thurs.) with aces cracked win \$100.

Seminole Casino Immokalee

Phone: (866) 222-7466
www.theseminolecasino.com
Tournaments: Wednesday, 7 p.m. (\$15+\$5+\$5 dealer toke, with \$10 rebuy); Thursday, 7, (\$30+\$5+\$5 dealer toke, with \$10 rebuy); Friday, 7 (\$50+\$5+\$5 dealer toke); Saturday, 1, Knockout (\$30+\$5+\$5 dealer toke, with \$10 rebuy), 4 Big Stack (\$225, start with 15K chips; \$40 satellites available Mon. and Tue.); On Sundays, Deep Stack, \$115, 10K chips, 20-minute levels.
High hands: Quad Aces (hold'em) wins \$50, straight flush (hold'em) wins \$100, royal flush (hold'em and stud) wins \$500. Payouts doubled between 12:01-6 a.m. and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. M-Th.
Bad beat: Aces full of jacks (hold'em), Aces full of kings (stud).
Other promotions: Hot dog and a beer for \$2 from 7-midnight Fridays and Sundays and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays.

St. Johns Greyhound Park

Phone: (904) 646-0002
www.jaxpokerroom.com
Tournaments: \$35-\$100, including shootouts, bounties and deep stacks.
High hands, bad beats and other promotions: Call for details.

SunCruz — Port Canaveral

Phone: (321) 799-3511
www.suncruzcasino.com
Tournaments: \$115.
SNGs: \$40-\$60.
Special event: World Offshore Poker Championships, Jan. 23-25 (buy-ins range, \$115-\$550)
Promotions: Call for details.

Tampa Bay Downs

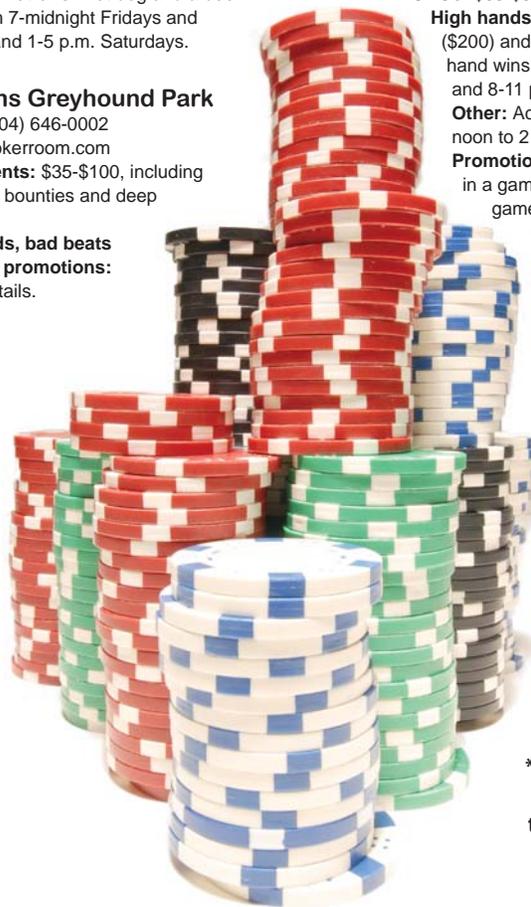
Phone: (866) 823-6967
www.tampabaydowns.com
Tournaments: \$20-\$120. **SNGs:** \$65-\$800.
Special event: Par & Poker Celebrity Challenge, Jan. 29, 7 p.m. (See ad on page 41)
High hands: Royal flushes win jackpots in hold'em cash games and tournaments; royals in Omaha win \$200-\$599, straight flushes in hold'em win \$200; quads and straight flushes in Omaha win a hat, T-shirt and \$10 food voucher.
Promotions: All day Sunday and 8 p.m. to close Mondays, draft beer is \$1, hot dogs are \$2 and hamburgers are \$4. Prizes, including jerseys and cash, will be given away.

Tampa Greyhound Track

Phone: (813) 932-4313
www.luckyscards.com
Tournaments: \$45-\$200, and bounty event on Fridays; \$45 no-house-fee tournament on Saturday nights; \$80 no-juice tournament Sundays at 3; a Mega Deep Stack Friday and Saturday at 1 and Sundays at 6:30 (\$60 buy-in with 10K chips, 20-minute levels, no antes.)
SNGs: \$65-\$500.

High hands: Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royal flushes (\$599). Plus high hand wins \$100 on Sundays from noon-3 and 8-11 p.m.
Other: Aces cracked wins \$100 from noon to 2 p.m.

Promotions: Every time the Bucs score in a game televised in the room, a live game table will be chosen and \$50 will be added to the next pot (\$100 for playoff games). Get aces full or better and you'll get one of the 100 squares for the next football playoff pool. The prize pool during the game started at \$1,000, and winning squares get 5 percent of the pool, but only if they claim it before the next kickoff. If not, the money is returned to the pool for the next winner. Any money not claimed by 11:55 p.m. rolls over into the next game, plus \$500 more.



* Schedules and events are subject to change; SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted.



UNIQUELY FLORIDA

By Scott Long

u•nique \yoo-neek\ *adj.* existing as the only one or as the sole example; single; solitary in type or characteristics

That's how unique is defined, but Florida poker rooms are keen on defining themselves.

It's easy to be a cookie-cutter poker room in Vegas or AC, where the laws let you deal poker the way it's meant to be dealt. But here in Florida, creativity is a potent, and often necessary, weapon in the land of \$5 bet limits and \$100 max buy-ins.

Ante Up has circled the state, checking out every room and, without fail, we came away impressed with the surprises Florida poker players will find when they take a seat in their favorite room.

No doubt, there's plenty more to be impressed with in every room, but on the following pages we'll tell about those unique reasons why you, too, need to circle the state to play in every room.



Dania Jai-Alai

Free drinks

We're sure it happens somewhere every day in Florida. Friendly out-of-town visitor sits down at a table, orders a frosty beverage and then whispers, "Come again?" when the cute cocktail waitress says, "That'll be four bucks." Drinks flow as free as mountain streams in most casinos, but in Florida it's been a mirage until Dania began offering them up to cash-game players. Don't forget to tip that cute waitress. We want her to keep coming around.

... and don't miss: Crazy cheap promotions, like 50-50 night, where dogs, beer, bets and more will set you back just two quarters. Check those couch cushions before you leave home.



Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room

25 cent-50 cent games

Florida players cried tears of joy the first day their rooms were allowed to deal \$2 poker, banishing those only-winner-is-the-rake coin games to the annals of yesteryear lore. But some players still want those games, and hey, after looking at our 401(k) statements, we can't say we blame them. Fortunately, Daytona Beach still deals them for devoted regulars seeking friendly interaction at a fraction of the price.

... and don't miss: Plenty of poker rooms have greyhound tracks, but check out the sight lines on this new one. It's just like having court seats at a Magic game.

Derby Lane

New poker room

The Derby Lane poker room we know today will be history this month. *Ante Up* recently got a hard-hat tour of the future, and while it took some imagination to turn the concrete floors and construction tools into the finished product, it's safe to assume Florida poker is taking another big step forward very soon. Separate tournament and cash-game wings, a players lounge and a varied food court are among the intriguing promises that'll be open to the public by the start of the new year.

... and don't miss: While Derby Lane looks to the future with its new poker room, its greyhound track is steeped in history. Wander out to the finish line, and you might find yourself standing where Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and other titans of the past once did.



On the far left is Lou Gehrig and on the far right is Babe Ruth at Derby Lane.

Ebro Greyhound Park

Colored dress shirts for tournament personnel

Manager Dennis Hune brings a lifetime of California poker room experience to Florida, and one thing he's very particular about: the appearance of his staff. That's hardly unique in a state where suits and ties are required uniforms in most rooms, but Ebro takes it a step further. Tournament personnel wear colored shirts, while cash-game personnel wear white shirts. Hune wants his players to be able to tell who's who in the blink of an eye. Hallelujah! When we're in the poker room, we want to be playing poker, not going from employee to employee to get an answer. Color us impressed.

... and don't miss: We knew we were in the big leagues when our World Series of Poker seat card came from a printer, not a deck of plastic cards. And that's how it's done in Ebro now, too.



Babe Ruth-Lou Gehrig photo courtesy of Derby Lane

ANTE UP

Listen to *Ante Up's* tour of Florida poker rooms at anteupmagazine.com/podcast. Click on the "Florida Poker Road Trip" show. Each month, check out the Road Trip feature in our magazine, which looks at rooms in a specific section of Florida. Read past Road Trips at anteupmagazine.com/archive.html



Flagler Dog Track

Dealers carry their trays

Two things that impressed us about L.A. poker rooms: pipin' hot bowls of Asian noodles delivered to the table, and dealers who carry their trays. Our stomachs may disagree, but we'll take the latter first. It just makes sense, doesn't it? Dealers tote around the toke can, so why not the whole tray? Those extra couple of hands we get when we'd be waiting for a dealer to count down the tray at another room can turn a losing session into a winning one at Flagler's Magic City Poker Room.

... and don't miss: *Ante Up* has spent many a night sipping a cool Presidente on the beaches of the Dominican Republic, waiting for hold'em to wash in, so the large Presidente ad on the tote board didn't go unnoticed.



Neither did the United Nations of players around us. Flagler is the melting pot of Florida poker.

Jefferson County Kennel Club

Manager runs the desk

Every poker room manager would love nothing more than to be on the floor at all times. But as Florida's rooms get bigger and bigger, a host of duties makes that a tall order for most room execs. But at Jefferson County, being small pays big dividends. When you walk into JCKC, the man who puts your



name on the wait list is the man who runs the room, John Lyons.

... and don't miss: As *Ante Up* headed north to JCKC, it had to do a double take to make sure we weren't riding in a flux-capacitor-fueled DeLorean. The historic town of Monticello would make Marty McFly yearn to go back to the past.



Hamilton Jai-Alai and Poker

Players lounge

Poker players want to be playing, but sometimes we just need to wait our turn. And when we're twiddling our fingers waiting for our seat to open, we like to twiddle away in a lounge like this one. Sink into one of these couches and watch the big screen, or kick up the leg rest of the recliner and flip through the latest issue of *Ante Up*. It's the rec room we always dreamed about for our basement. (And, yes, we dream about having a basement in Florida.)

... and don't miss: Jai-alai! In the Panhandle! Sadly, this thrill-a-minute sport is dying, so we need to hold on to the remaining frontons with a death grip that you use only for pocket aces. And this far north, it's a treat to find a fronton. Enjoy it.



Gulfstream Park

Slot machines

Yeah, slot machines aren't unique, or even unusual, in Florida. But when Gulfstream decided to move its poker room from a grand room that was proving tricky to manage, it was deliberate in creating an exciting environment in its new home. And that means poker tables, (quiet) slot machines and dining options party together in one room. Now, that's exciting!

... and don't miss: Close your eyes and imagine the perfect way to watch pro football on TV. How big was the screen in your dream? Doubtful it was a big as the one just outside the poker room in Gulfstream's expansive coliseum-like environment. Poker and pignskin. What could be more perfect?



Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai and Poker

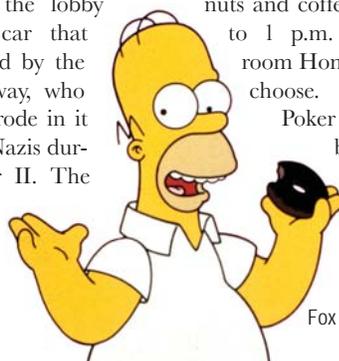
Early '30s Buick

Ante Up loves history, and Florida parimutuels are rich in it. At Ft. Pierce, the history has four wheels. Inside the lobby you'll find a car that was once owned by the queen of Norway, who reportedly last rode in it as she fled the Nazis during World War II. The car was moved into the lobby

in the late '90s to protect it from the threat of hurricanes.

... and don't miss: Free doughnuts and coffee from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. We know which room Homer Simpson would choose.

Poker players like freebies, especially ones made for their bellies. Mmm... dooough-nuuuts!



Fox

Mardi Gras Gaming

Open 24 hours

Sure, Indian poker rooms are open around the clock, but it wasn't until Mardi Gras' Bobby V. got creative that some parimutuel rooms had the same option. By combining operating permits, Mardi Gras' Big Easy Poker Room became the first parimutuel facility that never has to close (though it needs to swap out cards and drop boxes twice a day). And that's music to the ears of any player who's been in a 10-way all-in hand at midnight with the second-best cards.

... and don't miss: *Ante Up* takes pride in proper hygiene (poker rooms can be more unsanitary than that tunnel Tim Robbins used to escape from Shawshank), so we were happy to see hand-sanitizer dispensers throughout the room. Bye, bye germs!



Miami Jai-Alai and Poker

Dominoes

It always was odd to us that every piece of poker legislation in Florida seemed to have "and dominoes" included. Do people really play dominoes for money? You betcha. And it's awesome to see table after table dedicated to the game in the Crystal Card Room. After we bone up with our *Dominoes For Dummies*, you just might see the *Ante Up* brass losing a couple of buy-ins to the local pros.

... and don't miss: Bobblehead giveaways are old news at the baseball park, so it's way cool when you catch a peek at a bobblehead that's not wearing a jersey, whether it's Warren Buffett, Col. Sanders ... or the heroes of jai-alai, which you can buy in the gift shop.



Naples-Ft. Myers Greyhound Track

What you see is what you get

We spent so much time trying to pinpoint what makes Naples unique that we called "clock" on ourselves. And then it dawned on us: What makes this room so unique is it isn't trying to be unique. No, it's just happy being what it is. And it's darn good at it. This fantastic, friendly room gives you a good gamble in a great setting. If you need anything more than that, well, then, you're just not a poker player. But for good measure, they just gave away a car. That should rev your engines.

... and don't miss: Cindy Fra's smile. You just can't beat a pleasant disposition from the poker room manager.



Melbourne Greyhound Park

Training/practice room

Remember the first time you visited a poker room? If you're like us, it probably took a few more visits before you felt comfortable enough to get in the game. Poker's intricacies can be intimidating for newbies, and that's why we love what Club 52 does. Its VIP room is used for tournaments and rented out for parties, but it's also used to give instruction to first-timers who want to learn the game without being circled by gritty sharks. Check out our Road Trip on Page 20 for more on Club 52.

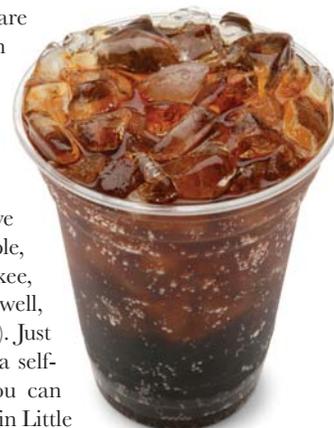
... and don't miss: Just look up. Those chandeliers will dazzle you.

Micosukee Resort and Casino

Self-serve soda machine

In our hearts, we poker players are simple people. We don't ask for much (we usually whine), but we want to be properly hydrated while at the table. As much fun as it is to have "Cocktails, Table 6!" screamed in our ear, sometimes it's just best to depend on yourself. Some rooms have added cocktail call buttons at the table, which is pretty neat, but at Micosukee, you're in control of your beverage (well, at least your non-alcoholic beverage). Just mere steps from the poker room is a self-serve soda machine. Fill 'er up (you can even make a suicide, just like you did in Little League baseball) and then mosey back to your cards.

... and don't miss: The world is on health kick, but if you find it irritating that you have to miss a hand to run outside to light up, this is your place to play. Smoking is permitted at the tables.





Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai

Non-hold'em days

Faithful readers of *Ante Up* know that, while we appreciate the action of no-limit hold'em, we yearn for more opportunities to enjoy the subtleties of other poker games. The reality, however, is that rooms need to spread the games their players want, and predominantly, that's no-limit hold'em. But we have a special place in our hearts for rooms that try to stir any interest in other games. Ocala designates one day a week each to spreading Omaha, stud and **Pineapple**. No guarantees a game will get going, but at least you know when like-minded folks are most likely to be in the room.

... and don't miss: Poker rooms tend to be dead on football Sundays. Surely we can enjoy our favorite card game while watching our favorite team on the tube at the same time, right? Ocala embraces football Sundays with special promotions, and we embrace Ocala for that.

Palm Beach Princess

WPT satellites

You can find World Series of Poker satellites in most Florida rooms, but only one Florida room offers satellites to the World Poker Tour. That's pretty cool in of itself, but get this: poker room manager Bob Bush accompanies all of his satellite winners to the Big Dance. He takes care of the transportation and hotel and just about everything so you can focus on your cards. And when you make that final table, be nice to the TV hostess. *Ante Up* seems to have a history of being bad luck for them.



... and don't miss: Yes, the Seminoles have a compact, but even it doesn't allow for full casino gambling. But the Princess sails into the Atlantic, so after you double through that dude in Seat 1 who calls you an idiot, take his money and put it all on black like Wesley Snipes would. Only pay your taxes.

Isle at Pompano Park

Come one, come all



Ante Up's dream from the start was to bring Florida's diverse poker community together. It's a highly competitive environment, and that doesn't always spirit cooperation. But the Isle has shown it's willing to be an unofficial Welcome Wagon of sorts for all kinds of poker events. The room has hosted a High Heels Tour event, a WPT Boot Camp and free league championship tournaments, and in doing so, has made a name for itself as a place where everyone is welcome.

... and don't miss: Poker players are a lazy bunch. But PTSeats.com lets you register for tournaments from the online comfort of your computer. In your undies. (But please put some pants on before you drive to the room). The Isle was the first Florida room to use this online service.



Orange Park Kennel Club and St. Johns Greyhound Park

Sushi bars

A sushi bar? In a poker room? Yes, yes, yes! Let's face it, poker players aren't the healthiest bunch of humans this side of the industrial-grade scale. We love to stuff our pieholes full of chicken wings and french fries, but we really should do our body better. Both of these Jacksonville rooms have a sushi bar manned by well-trained sushi chefs. How well-trained? We didn't know what we wanted. He did. And we loved every bite of it.

... and don't miss: If you look like a deer caught in headlights, you won't be for long here. A lovely poker host is sure to find you right away, and cheerfully explain to newbies how to find the game you want, how to get a seat and how to get your chips. Game on.



Palm Beach Kennel Club

Bracelets

Players at the World Series of Poker say never mind the money, they're in it for the bracelet (liars, all of them, but we know what they mean). These days, you gotta have the bling. And Palm Beach is happy to make you sparkle a bit. Winners of their big events take home not only rent money for the month, but also a bracelet to show off to the guys and gals at the office.

... and don't miss: If you're sporting one of those bracelets, then you know about the expansive tournament room on the second floor. If not, check it out.



Sarasota Kennel Club

Rack attacks

Now that rooms are allowed to drag a buck from every pot for jackpots and the like, we're seeing oodles of creative ways of sharing that cash. One of the most fun to watch are rack attacks, where lucky high-hand winners at One-Eyed Jacks sit in front of a table full of chips. On the mark, they stuff as many chips in a rack as possible. Oh yeah, and they're blind-folded. Hilarious! All promotions should be this entertaining.

... and don't miss: We know you all take hygiene as seriously as *Ante Up* does, and you always wash your hands after using the Little Doyle's Room. But sometimes paper towels just don't get the job done. And those old-school dryers take too long. But after using the Xclerator high-speed dryer in Sarasota's powder rooms, we're asking Santa to bring us one for the *Ante Up* offices.

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

Bad beats

Or, to be more accurate, the lack of them. The collective eyes of the state's get-rich-quick poker players were firmly on Coconut Creek in October as its bad-beat jackpot grew and grew and grew and then grew a little more until it was finally hit for more than \$173,000. And how's this for irony, Alanis Morissette? The jackpot was hit again later that same day. Some people aren't keen on bad-beat jackpots, but there's no denying big ones create anticipation and excitement, and that's always a good thing to have when playing cards.

... and don't miss: A lot of unique promotions pass the desks of *Ante Up* every week, but how cool is winning a trip into **outer space**? (Or even inner space?) That's exactly what Coconut Creek gave away in a promotion in the casino this year. Far out!



Seminole Casino Immokalee

Wooden Indian

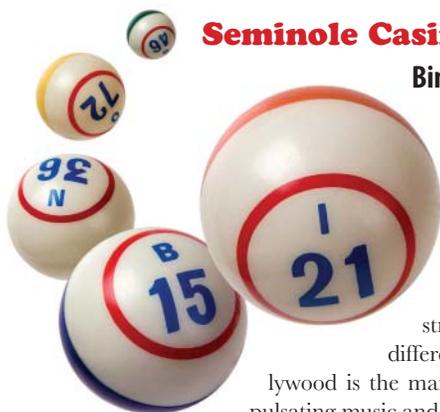
No doubt it's a small thing. And we'll be the first to admit it's an odd item to highlight in Rick O'Connell's well-run room. But here's the thing: We've been to countless casinos across the country that have spent millions or even billions to re-create history that exists elsewhere, whether it's an Eiffel Tower or a gondola. So it's refreshing to see a casino embrace its history, no matter in how small of a way.

It might be easy to miss this silent sentinel in the back of the room. But please don't.

... and don't miss: OK, back to more practical matters. Poker makes us hungry. And it makes us thirsty. How does a \$2 beer-and-hot dog special sound? Tasty, refreshing ... and cheap.

Seminole Casino Hollywood

Bingo



At first blush, it strikes one as odd the Seminoles built the shiny Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, and yet kept open its smaller, less opulent cousin across the street. But the casinos serve different markets, and Hollywood is the market that's not looking for pulsating music and pricey cocktails. The tribe built its bankroll on bingo, and you can still play

it here in a big-time way.

... and don't miss: Don't play poker on an empty stomach. For \$5.99 all day, every day, you can make sure your tummy is full of prime rib at Hollywood's buffet.



Seminole Casino Brighton

Renovations

"Park's closed. The moose outside should have told you." That John Candy line was the first thing we thought of when we rolled up to Seminole Brighton and saw the "Closed for Renovations" sign hanging in front of the poker room. But the dust was swept away in late October, and we're looking forward to getting back. It's always promising to hear of casinos investing the time and money to renovate their poker rooms.

... and don't miss: You can't miss anything here. It's so small! And that comes as welcome relief to anyone who has ever taken a wrong turn at the baccarat table at a behemoth like the Bellagio and ended up at the parking garage 46 minutes later. Big things come in small packages.

SunCruz Port Canaveral

World Offshore Poker Championships



Four times a year, these day cruises host the World Offshore Poker Championships. If you can't make it to Las Vegas, or fail trying, here's your chance to earn a world title.

... and don't miss: If you can't win at the tables, maybe you can win the lottery. The Port Canaveral room buys lottery tickets for all players on Wednesday and Sunday.

Tampa Bay Downs

Player of the Year

Other rooms may have a similar promotion, but no one attaches as much cheddar to its Player of the Year contest than The Silks Poker Room. Players earn points based on tournament finishes during the year. At the end, the top-nine players split a cool \$50,000, plus \$50K more is spread out in monthly events. Rooms definitely want to attract new customers, but you have to reward the ones who come day in and day out. Here are 100,000 thank-yous to them.

... and don't miss: It's impossible to miss the 50 plasma TVs that ring the room. There's nothing worse than taking your seat to watch your favorite track, or the big game or the tournament clock, and not being able to see it. It's hard to imagine that ever happens here.



Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Artwork

It's a given you'll find rows and rows of rock memorabilia when you set foot in any Hard Rock, and Tampa doesn't disappoint. But all that history doesn't do you much good when you're sitting at the tables. But here, large artwork of music's heavy-hitters hang on the walls of the poker room, like the rockers are invited guests. We can't tell you how much money we've dropped playing stud while staring at a bigger-than-lifesize Jewel.

... and don't miss: Blackjack and other table games have debuted here, as they have at the Hard Rock Hollywood. Among the offerings: Texas Hold'em Bonus, a table game that is a much more fun way than blackjack to blow some time while waiting for your live poker seat to open.

Tampa Greyhound Track

No-juice tournaments

What's the first thing any poker player evaluates before entering a tournament? That's right, the rake. Heavy house fees can send you screaming for the exits. But at Lucky's you get not one, but two, juiceless tournaments every day Monday through Thursday and once on Sunday. That means every dollar you fork over at the registration desk goes right back into the prize pool. Don't forget to tip your dealers. You can afford it.

... and don't miss: Grab a to-go meal from the adjoining restaurant and dig in at one of the semi-private booths that ring the poker room. They have small, individual TVs and are a great place to swap bad-beat stories. Not that we encourage swapping bad-beat stories.



Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

Two levels

The bottom floor hosts cash games, but wander up the winding staircase and you'll find a separate tournament area. ... with a bar. A couple of Florida rooms have split their space, but the Hard Rock Hollywood has found a way to do it that makes it all still seem like one, big happy locker room. And the sports memorabilia helps.

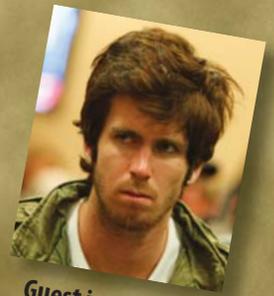
... and don't miss: If you're looking for the poker room in the Hard Rock Proper, you'll be looking for a while. It's outside among the massive retail promenade. Before or after your game, you'll find plenty of places to spend that hard-won cash. Buy *Ante Up* something nice, please.

Drop us a line

Tell us what you find unique about your Florida card room.
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DR. FRANK TOSCANO • A look at how to stay healthy at the poker table.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR BLADDER? DEPENDS

Recently I was watching a rerun of a 2005 WSOP event and I noticed Josh Arieh seemed very nervous. As he glanced at his cards, a tiny bead of sweat formed on his forehead. He sighed and then rubbed the back of his neck. He glanced briefly over his shoulder toward his wife behind the rail and gave her a slight nod. He was giving off a series of significant tells but I wasn't sure what they meant.

Clearly Josh was under considerable stress. Did he have a big pair? Was he contemplating a bluff with rags? Maybe he was going to shove. If fellow *Ante Up* columnist Joe Navarro were watching this, he'd know what was going on.



FRANK TOSCANO M.D.

When the action came around to Josh, the cause of his distress became clear. He tossed his cards into the muck and leaped up from his chair knocking it over. He sprinted off toward the rail reaching it just as his wife unhooked the velvet rope. He then dashed toward the bathroom, a victim of too many bottled waters, coffees, Red Bulls and/or beers.

Bladder control: the nemesis of tournament poker. Jack McClelland, director of poker operations at the Bellagio once said, "To be a poker champion, you must have a strong bladder." The breaks are too few and too short; the distance to the facilities is too far and the lines are too long. Are there any solutions to this dilemma?

First, let's establish some baseline information. The kidneys dump about 50 cc (a little less than two ounces) into the bladder every hour. This number can change a lot depending upon how much you've had to drink and whether you've taken in anything with a diuretic effect (more on this later). The average bladder feels the urge to go at about 350 cc (about 12 ounces or 1.5 cups). This urge can be voluntarily suppressed up to about 600 cc before it becomes unbearable. There are some muscular exercises to suppress that urge, but ignore it too long and the muscular wall can become overstretched and may not be able to empty completely. Incomplete emptying is a common cause of infection.

There are some sex differences. Any guy who has taken a lady on a road trip knows that generally men have larger bladders than women. ("Would you pull over at the next McDonald's, Sweetheart?")

Also, external male anatomy provides an extra measure of muscular control. If you don't understand this difference, you are playing

far too much poker.

Normally, in a cash game, there's not too much of an issue. Skip a hand or two. Hit the head. Get back in action.

Tournaments, live and online, are what cause the problem. Once the blinds and antes start eating up a significant portion of your stack, missing even a few key hands can really affect your chances to cash. So, what can you do?

First, cut back on the fluids. Despite what you've heard, there's absolutely positively no medical literature to support the common belief that you should drink some magic number of glasses of water every day. If you can find a real medical research paper that says otherwise, show me. Otherwise, as you near the final table, you can cut back on your fluids. It's OK.

Second, avoid things that make you want to go (called diuretics) like caffeine, colas, coffee, tea, chocolate, artificial sweeteners and beer. Of course, if your doctor has you on a prescription diuretic for health reasons, for gosh sakes, take it. Also, you should avoid spicy and acidic foods like citrus juices and fruits and especially tomatoes that can irritate the bladder wall and give you that urge to go.

Now, for a radical idea, what about a catheter? At first look, it seems a bit extreme to have a tube inserted into your bladder and attached to a bag just to play poker, but there are some people with control problems who truly need this level of help. There have been armless players and blind players in the WSOP. I'm guessing there are probably dozens of players discretely using catheters and leg bags.

"Not for me!" you say? Well, what about something not quite so extreme? There is a medical device that resembles a condom with a very long reservoir tip that ends in a leg bag. The name of this device is oddly appropriate: the Texas Catheter. Nothing is inserted anywhere and it's relatively comfortable (I'm told).

So, maybe this has gotten a little out of hand. The point is you don't want to overstress your bladder by holding it too long, yet you don't want to miss too many crucial hands because you need a potty break. Cut back on fluids, avoid diuretics and understand that if your control isn't as pristine as you'd like, there are some devices that can help. Then buy a round of drinks for the table and smile as they squirm.

— 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. Email your poker-health questions to ftoscano@redbamboomedispa.com

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LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way.

THE RIGHT MIND-SET IS KEY TO WINNING

My dad always used to say, “Your attitude will determine your altitude.” Translation: Having a positive attitude will determine how high you’ll go or how much success you’ll have. You don’t have to be the smartest, craftiest, most intimidating or most famous player to succeed. You have to expect to succeed and you have to play every hand and situation with a focus on winning. You must *Decide to Win!*

Many players really *want* to win, and they *hope* to win, but there’s only a select group that’s *decided* to win. I spend a lot of time with my students on developing and maintaining a proper mind-set as I see this is usually the biggest factor holding them back.

When I first started playing several years ago, I was intrigued by the game. Since the closest casinos are about four hours from where I live, I spent a lot of time playing online. Sure, I read some books and developed a basic understanding of what I was doing, but for the most part, I just

played and played. I’d see flops in and out of position with a wide range of starting hands (definitely if they were suited, of course) with no real regard to whether I was making correct decisions. I had sporadic wins and loved telling my friends about the latest cash-session win or deep tournament run. But, to be honest, I was only barely above break-even for three years.

One day I stumbled across a blog of a well-known online female

pro, Rex55. In her blog she described her transition from live to online poker. She was struggling with the online game, but noticed the names of so many top players who were consistently winning. In her quest to succeed she realized she needed a mind-set change. She spent countless hours working on her game to develop a style that worked for her and got her mind right: She decided to be one of the winners. This blog served as inspiration for me, and from that point I decided to be one of the winners.

If you really want to win, you have to make a commitment to yourself that you’re going to be a winner. You have to stop simply hoping to win and wanting to win. You must *decide* to win and strive to put yourself in good situations while making correct decisions. You must maintain discipline in every hand. Don’t call raises with trouble hands. Don’t limp into multiway pots with hands better suited for heads-up or three-way action. Look for situations developing throughout the game, tournament or even a hand and take the correct action.

Commit to focusing on maintaining a positive attitude. Commit to not getting mad about bad beats. Commit to playing the right cards in the right position and put yourself in situations to succeed. You can’t change the cards, but if you take control of all of these things you’ll see a positive difference in your results.

Decide to Win!

— Lee Childs is founder and lead instructor of Acumen Poker. He also is an instructor with the WPT Boot Camp. Check out his site at www.acumenpoker.net.



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A look at non-Texas Hold'em games — This month: Seven-card stud

BECOME A STUD ... PLAYER THAT IS

“You’re good, Kid, but as long as I’m around, you’re second best.” With that defining quote from Edward G. Robinson, I immediately knew three things:

1. *The Cincinnati Kid* was my favorite poker movie.
2. All poker players will find themselves in Steve McQueen’s shoes sometime.
3. Stud was a game I couldn’t wait to play.

Of course, the game played in the 1965 classic movie was five-card stud, a variation that’s nearly impossible to find these days (though it may someday be a subject of this column).

But the ideas translate well to its bigger, more popular cousin, seven-card stud, and that’s what we’re going to talk about this month.

For my money, stud is the most complicated of popular

poker games out there, and for that reason, if you’re able to tame it, you’re well on your way to becoming a solid poker player.

Why is it so complicated?

Because unlike in hold'em, where all players share five community cards, stud players have their own “boards” if you will. And if players fold before show-down, those exposed cards are mucked, and you must remember what they were, because no one is going to remind you. And finally, while the game is mostly played in a limit structure, you occasionally will find it dealt “spread limit,” in which you not only need to decide whether you want to bet or raise, but also *how much* you want to bet or raise. Heady stuff, indeed.

But stud is the most beautiful poker game, in my opinion. With four cards exposed, and three concealed, your Sherlock Holmes skills are put to the test every hand.

So how do you play?

Stud begins with antes, often a fraction of the smallest unit, instead of blinds. Each player is then dealt two down cards, and one up (known as the door card). The player with the lowest up card is forced to begin the action with a “bring-in,” which usually also is a fraction of the smallest unit (though the bring-in is allowed to bet the full bet amount if the player chooses).

Play then proceeds clockwise from the bring-in. Players can call the bring-in bet or elect to “complete” the full bet amount. If the bet is completed the remaining players will need to call that amount to re-

Where to play

Most Florida rooms will spread stud if there’s enough interest. Some even hold monthly tournaments.

main in the hand. The next three rounds (fourth, fifth and sixth streets) give each player another up card, and the final round (seventh street) is dealt face down. In structured play, the bet doubles on these streets.

As in hold'em, the best five-card hand wins.

So how do you win? With lots and lots of practice. Luck is not nearly the lady in stud as she is in hold'em. But to get you started, here are some tips:

Extra! Extra! Extra! Stud has one more round of betting than hold'em, and if you’re in a structured game, that extra round comes at the higher bet limit. So that means chasing is a lot more expensive than in hold'em. Don’t do it.

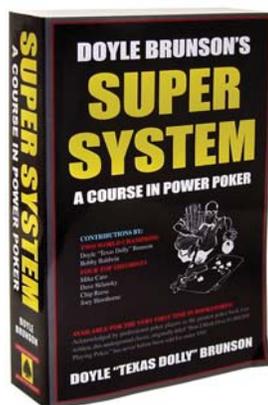
Slow, slow, slow ... no, no, no: Most poker players finally are realizing slow-playing isn’t often the optimal way to play in any game, but it’s definitely true in stud. When you have a strong hand, bet it with rare exception. Make those chasers pay for their foolishness.

Switch, switch, switch: Position is everything, poker pros will tell you. And you should heed that advice. In hold'em, your position is anchored throughout the hand. But in stud, it can change with every street. The best up hand is the one that begins the betting each round. So if you have a deceptively hidden hand, you’re in great shape because you’ll often get to follow someone else’s action. Use that to your advantage. Conversely, be careful of betting too strongly with a weak hand just because your up cards look good.

Watch, watch, watch: This is what separates winning stud players from losing ones. You absolutely must keep track of every card that’s dealt. Doing so will let you know the odds of improving your hand and, more important, the odds of your opponents improving theirs. It isn’t easy, that’s for sure. That’s why I suggest easing into stud by playing razz, the lowball version where straights and flushes don’t count. But if you’re playing stud, start by tracking cards that help your hand. Once you get good at that, then track

flush cards. And then keep an eye on 10s and 5s, which are necessary for straights.

If you can keep track of all of that, you’re well on your way to becoming a poker stud.



Learn more

Chip Reese, who died much too young, was widely considered the best stud player ever. Any player wishing to learn the game must read his chapter in Doyle Brunson’s famous *Super System*.

Does he have aces-up, trips, a boat, flush, Broadway, quads, a royal or just a pair? That’s why stud’s so hard, yet so beautiful.



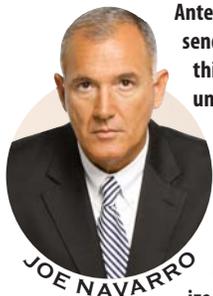
SCOTT LONG

WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

YOUR JOB IS TO BREAK THEIR PERSONAL CODE

Readers are invited to send Joe their questions regarding nonverbal tells to editor@anteupmagazine.com and we'll print the best letters.



JOE NAVARRO

Joe, thanks so much for your generous time with us in the Ante Up Nation. I'd like to know if there are suggestions for sending out false tells. In other words, what are some basic things we can do to pretend we are weak/strong, etc.? I unwittingly gave a false tell last week in a cash game. I was strong (top two pair) but this huge guy stared me down so hard that I looked away kinda sheepishly because just his look was intimidating. He immediately pushed all-in and when I called he was shocked. I won the hand and more chips and I really think it's because my physical signs were of weakness. Certainly I realize traditional thinking states that "weak means strong,

and strong means weak" so one has to be careful here when trying to send a false tell. What are your thoughts?

— Jerram

Jerram, thank you for your comments and for your story. I love stories like this because they show you're reading your opponents as well as yourself and that's terrific. Signs of weakness can be very subtle, looking away, biting your lip, wringing your hands, licking your lower lip, touching your neck, etc. When done properly they can make the observer believe you're very weak. I've worked with pros on this, and just two weeks ago, one called from the table he was playing in Los Angeles just to say he had used it and it worked. He had trips after

the flop, and when his opponent raised, he sat there and massaged his neck as if he were, and these are his words, at a "spa." Reluctantly, and without making eye contact, he called. The other guy had a pair. I would not hesitate to look weak, but do it subtly – that's the key.

The following happened to me at Binions. It was a six-max tourney and I played the first few hands aggressively and had taken down a few small pots. I got KQ and raised. There was one caller to my right and the flop came queen-high. He checked and I bet. Then the guy suddenly shifted his entire stack in. He had one long stack and very quickly kind of "threw" it all in. My first thought was he didn't believe me because I had taken down the last few pots already and he was "taking a stand." He didn't say anything after that, he just sat very still and looked a little nervous. I was pretty sure he was weak, but online this would be a good fold nine out of 10 times. So I folded and showed my KQ. The old man showed me K-10. Grrrrrr! Was there really enough information for me out there to confidently make the call and risk my tournament life?

—Acehighness

You did the right thing. Better to make a mistake and stay in, than to do what I most often see, is to make a mistake and get completely taken out. I also would've folded. As I often say, if you're not sure, do what is safe, which is why we go by statistics in the absence of any other information.

— Ex-FBI counterintelligence officer Joe Navarro of Tampa specialized in behavioral analysis for 25 years. He's star lecturer with the WSOP Academy and has penned *Read 'Em and Reap*, which you can find on Amazon.com. Email Joe at editor@anteupmagazine.com and he'll answer your questions.

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LAUREN FAILLA • Founder of High Heels Poker Tour

FEMALE PLAYERS DESERVE MORE MEDIA COVERAGE

My name is Lauren Failla and I'm CEO and founder of the High Heels Poker Tour and co-founder of the Women's Ultimate Poker Academy. I've been involved in the poker world for many years as a player and the past few years engaged in a female-owned poker business. I reside in Hollywood and play predominately at South Florida casinos such as Seminole Casino Hollywood, Seminole Hard Rock, the Isle at Pompano Park and Mardi Gras. Wherever there's a good tournament, you can find me. I'm mainly a tournament player but now and again you'll see me in cash games (though my game lately could use a little help).

In this column and beyond, I will highlight the issues women face at the tables, strides we're making and take a look at local up-and-coming players in the women's poker market. Just so you men out there don't get envious, I'll also highlight from time to time the men's perspective on various issues on women in poker. I promise this column will be lighthearted and fun because for me the game is just that "a game" and games are supposed to be fun, right? Well here we go!

We all know there's an inequity when it comes to reporting on, writing about and sponsoring women who play poker professionally. It seems when female players have interests away from the felt that these interests are what garner attention rather than their playing ability. Why is it when 10 guys sit around a table it's news? Who knows, but I would love for more attention to be paid to women-only tournaments because this is where you'll see some of the new fantastic players.

Let's also squash the misconception we're trying to be segregated. That's simply not true. I've heard from many of the opposite sex: "Why

are there women-only tournaments? There aren't men-only tournaments." Well, all I can say is, why do you care? As much as we would like to think men and women are treated equally at the poker table that's just not the case. Professional players such as Linda Johnson, Jennifer Harman-Traniello, Barbara Enright and others continue to pave the way for women who play. As professional players they probably rarely hear comments or sneers at the table, but if we polled all female players, you would find those actions or comments from men are the norm, not the exception.

I can say, with a great deal of pleasure, that women in 2008 definitely received more exposure for their play than ever before. As the gap between the number of men vs. women at the tables closes, this upcoming year and World Series of Poker will see an increase in women playing more tournaments and cash games. I encourage women interested in poker or who play poker to go to Web sites such as ladypokersharks.com or womenspokerclub.com to see what's available. Many sites promote everything poker and women who play. They discuss the trials and tribulations, kudos, blogging and ladies poker news. They're a great resource and you'll never know who you might find blogging.

I hope you'll make every effort to promote women in poker because we're here and growing every day. High Heels Poker Tour and the Womens Ultimate Poker Academy always will do what we can to make sure everyone gets their shot at poker stardom (if that's what they want) and help bring women to the forefront of the poker community.

— Email comments and questions to lauren@highheelspokertour.com.

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DEAL WITH IT!

An occasional column from a Florida card room dealer

PITCHING CARDS ISN'T JUST A JOB, IT'S AN ADVENTURE

By Michael Zumpano

From the first hand of poker I dealt I knew I'd be doing this for a long time. As a guy who also likes to play poker I can equate dealing to playing in the minor leagues. I get paid pretty well to play a game. In a time when the economy is not at its best I am lucky just to have a job to have one I love is a major bonus. We all know work is not just the eight hours you're clocked in, you take it home with you and if you like your job enough it can become your life. If you're not a fan of the game I don't think you can enjoy the job like I do.

Being able to pick up tells and sharpen my game while I'm at work is an invaluable tool to my success. But don't get me wrong; there are aspects of my job that make it difficult to handle at times. You have to have thick skin because when a player is running bad it's obviously the dealer's fault, but when they're running good a dealer can be greatly rewarded.



I play poker as well, and run my game the way I want to be dealt.

There are players who'll say I'm a stickler for the rules, but that I run a clean game. In this business if you don't have the respect of the players you will lose control of the table in no time. Running your game is the most important factor to being a good dealer. I know there are times when a player takes a bad beat and a four-letter word or two slips out. I have no problem with that, but when it's a distraction at the table that's when I have to object.

A note to all my fellow dealers: Don't forget to show respect. Respect for your room, respect for the game and, most important, respect for the players. If you think of it as a 9-to-5 job then you will have a better attitude while in the box. Don't forget, without those players you'd be sitting at a dead spread.

— Michael Zumpano is a dealer at the Silks Poker Room in Tampa. If you're a dealer and would like to submit a column send it to editor@anteupmagazine.com.



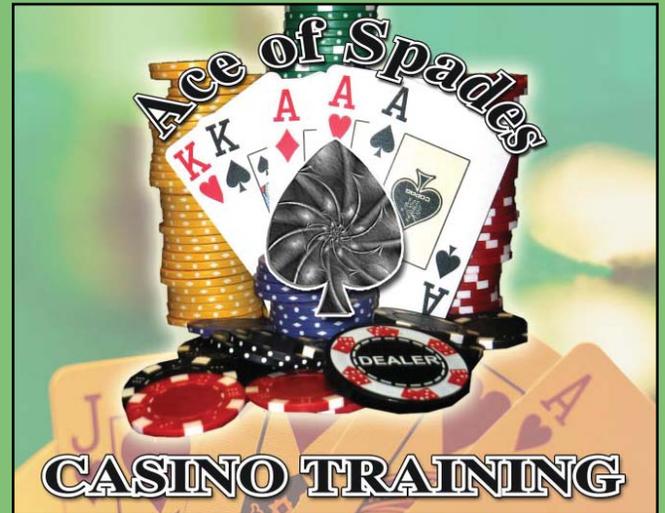
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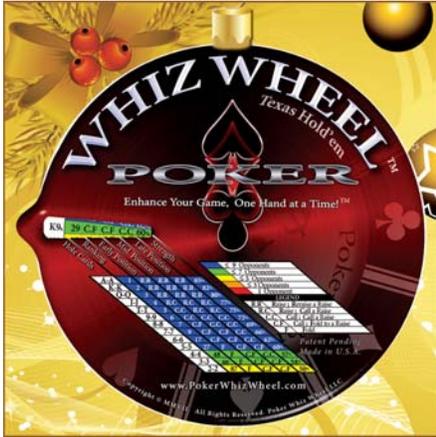


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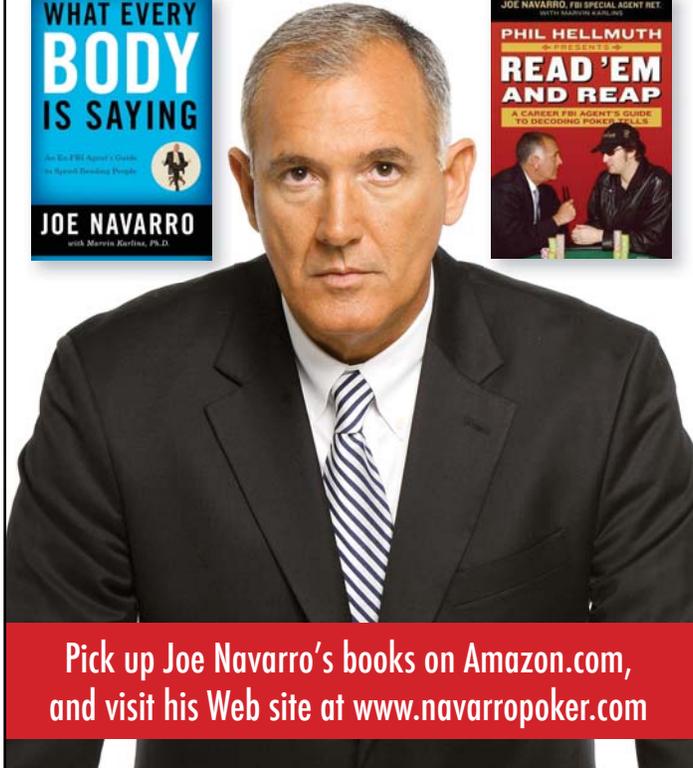
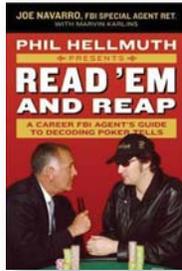
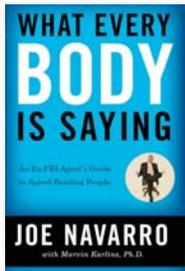


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POKER ALREADY IS REALITY TV!

As a Poker TiVo Junkie I realize I should want as many poker shows to air as possible, but shouldn't we draw the line somewhere? Out of Los Angeles comes word of a program called *Lucky Pro 7*, a reality show that pits seven amateur female poker players against each other. They'll ultimately play in tournaments as cameras capture their every move on the way to poker "stardom."

There's no word yet on whether these ladies will be living together in the same house (a la *Big Brother* with producers praying for catfights) or teaming up against each other like *Survivor*, complete with those whiny isolated interviews: "When Cindy check-raised me I knew she was a bitch!"

But doesn't the mere game of poker qualify as reality television? Shouldn't watching a tournament be entertaining enough?

When Phil Hellmuth calls Orlando's Adam Levy an idiot at the World Series of Poker on ESPN doesn't that hold your attention?

Believe it or not there are other reality poker shows, including David "Devilfish"

Ulliot's *How to Become a Poker Millionaire*. That show, thankfully, only aired in the U.K., but if you're truly sadistic you can find it on the Web. And poker players have been popping up in other reality shows. Annie Duke guest-starred as one of the "mob" in *I vs. 100*, Antonio Esfandiari and Phil Laak star in *I Bet You*,

and who could forget **Jean-Robert Bellande** in *Survivor: China*? This kind of gradual slide into pop culture is fine by me, but a full-fledged reality poker show just puts our game one step closer to cliché.

If there's going to be a reality poker show, why not go over the top? My show would star Layne "Back to Back" Flack, Scotty "The Prince of Poker" Nguyen, Hollywood's Michael "The Grinder"

Mizrachi, Mike "The Mouth" Matusow and Scott "I'm not in The Crew anymore" Fischman. Here's the voiceover that opens the show: "This is the true story ... of five former dealers turned poker pros ... picked to live in a mansion on Dean Martin Drive in Las Vegas ... who work together and have their lives taped ... to find out what

happens ... when poker players stop being pros ... and start dealing cards ... *The Deal World*."

Poker millionaires return to the felt to deal cards for drunk-en tourists who give them attitude at the \$2-4 limit tables? That's ratings gold! And what about the alliances? Nguyen

and Matusow are buds, but Flack and Fischman are Matusow's Full Tilt brethren. Watch Nguyen and Flack jockey for Matusow's favor. And while all of this is coming to a head, Grinder plays practical jokes on everyone, hiding Matusow's meds and drinking Nguyen's Michelob Light. "Where the f*ck is my cocktail, baby?!"

Fischman, who in real life stopped dealing because of severe rheumatoid arthritis, in a twist only reality shows can provide, gets promoted to floor manager to become everyone's boss. Hilarity ensues as a *coup d'etat* is executed to get Fischman fired. The first person to make poker room manager wins \$1 million! And, in true TV network fashion, the players put up the prize money but never see one red cent of the revenue generated from incredible ratings.

What's next, a poker drama? I can see it now: *Las Vegas 89109*. It stars Daniel Negreanu, Evelyn Ng, Jennifer Harman, Todd Brunson and introducing Adam Schoenfeld as Ng's brooding ex-boyfriend.

Adam blames Evy's past relationship with Daniel as the reason they split and he then goes on a bender. And when Daniel asks Evy to write a chapter for his new book all hell breaks loose. Jennifer confides in Todd that she's jealous she wasn't asked to write a chapter because, after all, she is Daniel's best friend. But Todd, who used to date Jennifer, is torn. He, too, was asked to write a chapter! (*dum-dum-dummmm*) So, in an effort to deflect her pressing questions, Todd affectionately reminisces with her about the old days. Marco Traniello, who makes a guest appearance as Jennifer's husband, walks in on Jen and Todd hugging it out. Will this tangled web ever be unwoven?

What will happen when Marco contacts Todd's wife in an effort to level the playing field? Tune in next week when we learn ...

Um, remember when I mentioned a need for a line to be drawn when it comes to poker on TV? I think I just crossed it.

WSOP COVERAGE: Hats off to Lon McEachern, Norman Chad and the ESPN crew for putting together the final-table show in less than two days' time. The announcing duo was in perfect form and never missed a beat.

Years from now, when that episode is in its 2,794th showing on ESPN Classic and everyone has forgotten about the 117-day delay, viewers will watch this episode and think nothing of it, as if it were just like all of the other WSOP episodes they've watched.

— Email chris@anteupmagazine.com and tell me your poker reality show ideas ... or better yet, don't.



CHRIS COSENZA



Laak and Esfandiari



Learn how they cheat to keep them from cheating you

By Christopher Cosenza

No, this isn't a book to teach you how to cheat when playing poker, though in theory you could take what you learn here and use it for evil. Allan Zola Kronzek's *52 Ways to Cheat at Poker* is, in fact, a how-to book, only it shows you how to catch people cheating while playing cards. Remember the scene in *Rounders* when the state cop grabs Worm's arm and says "Caught a hanger, Sarge!" and the bar explodes in a huge brawl? After reading this book that could be you!

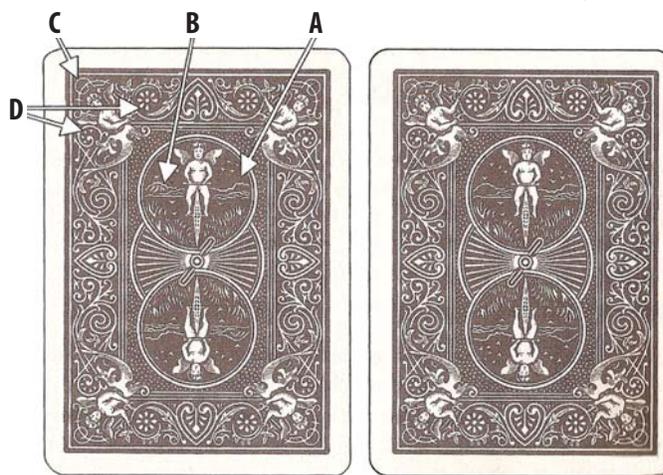
Other titles have taken this approach, most recently Penn Jillette's *How to Cheat Your Friends at Poker: The Wisdom of Dickie Richard*, but that book obviously used funny anecdotes to get its point across to the reader. Kronzek, a professional magician and bestselling writer, uses a more serious and studious approach to teach you the intricate and dark world of card cheating. Collusion, false shuffles, culling, top- and bottom-card peeking, marking cards in play, shade and flash, blackout and cutout work, skinning the deck ... all of it, and more, is in this book.

At the end of each chapter, or "Way" to cheat, is a short graph, usually titled "Detection and Prevention" that helps you recognize the method of crooked behavior and how to combat it. In some instances it's simple: Shouting "Hey, no looking through the discards!" Seems like everyone should know this, but in some casual or social games players often ignore the strict rules of an above-board poker game. At the very least it will give you peace of mind.

In other instances, trying to catch a cheater (or cheaters) is much more difficult. In the chapter "Cheating at Draw: The One-Card Transfer," Kronzek writes of palming cards and working with a partner (a common theme throughout the book): "Over time you may notice that when a certain player deals draw, the guy to his left usually wins. But proving that it's collusion is very difficult, unless you catch the dealer red-handed. And the only way to do that is to grab the wrist en route to the deck and demand to see the palm. If the movies are any indication, this often leads to gunplay. Proceed at your own risk."

When one thinks of cheating at cards, it's inevitable marked decks jump to mind. It's no wonder seven chapters are dedicated to this premise, and the level of sophistication for marking cards is mind-blowing. The subtlety with which cheats mark cards is remarkable and carefully dissected throughout these chapters.

One of the most fascinating chapters dealt with "blockout and cutout" work. This is when a cheat acquires the same colored ink as the backs of the cards and "blocks out" some of the white designs to indicate what type of card it is. The system he uses for identifying cards is completely up to him and therefore virtually foolproof. Also, a cheat may take a scalpel or X-acto knife and cut out markings that blend with the other white markings. In the above diagram you can see differences because they are pointed out, but to the untrained or unsus-



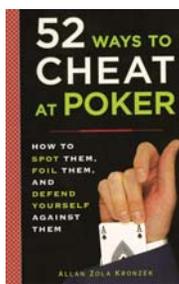
pecting eye, this type of marking can go undetected forever and will pocket mounds of cash into the cheat's pockets.

So what are the differences? **A)** The cheat has used ink to block out some birds on the horizon, which could instantly tell him the rank of the card. **B)** The mountain is now snow-capped, which could mean any number of things, including the card's suit. **C)** A tiny bit of ornamental line has been removed. Very subtle. **D)** These petal-like designs are often found on the backs of cards, and in this case the cheat can control how many petals are remaining to again indicate rank of a card.

And in some cases, cheats don't even have to mark cards to know what's in your hand. How's that possible? Manufacturers of cards can't account for the differences of decks printed at one time of the year vs. the cards printed, say, six months later. It's the same as when you go to the hardware store and the guy tells you to buy all of your ceramic tiles with the same lot number to ensure the color of the tiles will match. A cheat will buy decks from different time periods, remove the high cards, such as aces and kings, from one deck and swap them out with the other deck. The ink on the backs of these cards may be a shade or two lighter (or darker) making it easy for the cheat to spot the high cards. Other methods include luminous readers, marking cards in play, playing paint (the act of having ink on your person and marking the cards as you get them) and more.

52 Ways makes for captivating (and eye-opening) reading. Most of the situations deal with cheats using partners at home games (though cheats obviously often work alone, too), but Kronzek makes sure to cover collusion at card rooms as well. Some of his descriptions of how plays are worked can get convoluted and downright confusing. It's a lot to digest, but he offers some simple defensive moves that can be used to indiscreetly thwart actions you may deem shady.

If you intend to catch cheaters at your home game or elsewhere, you better be sure you understand this text front and back, otherwise you might suffer more than just a losing session. You'd be better off surrounding yourself with trustworthy friends and reading this book for entertainment value only.



52 Ways to Cheat at Poker

By Allan Zola Kronzek

Price: \$13, but get it on Amazon.com for \$4.99

Publisher: Plume, 192 pages



WITH BRANDON CANTU



Brandon Cantu is one of the most dangerous and unpredictable players on the poker scene. He recently shared his thoughts with *Ante Up* about his clairvoyancy, his WSOP Main Event exit, hearts and his high-stakes blackjack sessions as an 8-year-old with his grandfather.

Let's talk about 10-5 offsuit, is that OK with you?

Yep, that's good. I knew that'd be the first question, so go ahead. Can you tell us a little bit about the hand on Day 6 of the WSOP Main Event this year (his opponent ended up having aces) and what your thought process was?

First of all, in the hand, it's so different when you watch stuff on TV. It's all edited in its own way. But still, I'm gonna say before I discuss the hand, going back I wouldn't do the same thing. But I don't think it's as bad as people think. When people see it they think "Oh my God that's just terrible!" First of all, I was kinda watching the table out of my peripheral vision. And the guy was looking at his cards before it was his turn. And I thought I could kind of see if he had a really strong hand by how he was looking at his cards and by how people were reacting. So he checked his cards and for some reason I thought he was weak. ... He raised it to 300,000. ... I made it a million. The next guy goes all-in for a total of 2.4 million. So it was the guy from the cutoff who raised and I raised from the button. Now, I have a pretty crazy image; it's not like I was a real tight player that was making this move. ... I was getting creative, making a lot of moves. So people knew I didn't necessarily have to have anything, and this is my thought process. So then when the guy moves all-in I just don't think he has to have aces or kings right there. I thought he could easily have ace-king, ace-queen, even like nines or eights, or something in that range, just trying to catch me bluffing. So I went and took a chance. ... So I decided there was a good chance he had ace-king or something like that so I went and took a chance. You know I really wish I wouldn't have, obviously going back. But that was kind of my

thinking behind it.

Some of the comments you made on TV made it seem like you really believe in things like destiny. That's usually not the mantra of pro players. Are there really occasions where you think you're destined to win like that?

Yeah, I think so. I had actually gotten it in bad a lot of times in that tournament, again because of my aggressive style and my nature and I got it in bad a lot of times, and I just thought maybe it could happen again.

That call with 10-5 seemed to combine your gut feelings with math. Is there ever a moment where you ignore the math and just fold? Like, if you were getting 3-to-1 on your money in a cash game, but it would cost you a third of your net worth to call with 10-5, would you still do it?

In situations like that I would fold. For the situation at the time I just didn't think he had to have that big of a hand. In a cash game it would be a completely different scenario. But at the time I really didn't know that much about my opponent and that didn't help.

In our eyes you're having a fantastic year. You won the Bay 101 Shooting Star; you played unbelievably well at the Wynn Poker Classic, and you were on the cover of *Bluff* in October. But would you say the way you went out of the main event soured your year?

Yeah, actually, in my article in *Bluff* I wrote about that. I was really upset. I did not even play close to my best poker, like compared to Bay 101. At Bay 101

I thought I played unbelievable at that final table, just played great. In the main event I made a lot of errors. I really shouldn't even have gotten 20th place. I really made that many errors. You know, sometimes you're running good; I was really running good during the main event.



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There were a lot of situations where I'd get it in bad and come out good. But you know that's how poker is, situations like that. ... I was really upset, I mean, after I busted out of that tournament I was in tears. I couldn't believe I could blow a situation like that. It completely took a lot out of me. I was really depressed after it. I'm a lot better. It's hard to watch, that coverage for me is really hard to watch.

Will this motivate you now?

This did motivate me, and I really thought I was gonna win a tournament right after that ended. I just really did and I made a couple of good runs at it. ... I still think I'm gonna win something else.

Tell us about the home games and blackjack games you played as a kid.

When I was really young, like 8 or so, I was playing blackjack with my grandpa, and he would give me the money. But I was still playing for those stakes and he let me keep what I won. So it got my gambling juices flowing at a pretty young age. ... I was thinking back, on how high stakes \$20 a hand is now, because that was like almost 20 years ago.

Is there any better preparation for life as a poker pro than the childhood you had at playing those levels?

I really think as a kid, playing all the games that I did, because I was playing all of the poker games really, really young, just playing cards it seemed every day for so many

hours a day, that it really did help my mind. Even if it comes to a new game now I'm pretty fast at picking it up. ... It just seems like it doesn't take me as long as it does a lot of people.

What's your favorite game now besides no-limit hold'em?

You're gonna laugh but it's hearts actually. Me, and Gavin Smith and Layne Flack and a couple of other people have been playing hearts, and we've been playing pretty high stakes; \$100 a point and you have to pay every person below you. We've been having marathon sessions at it. That's our new favorite game to play.

Do you still consider short-stack play to be one of your weaknesses?

Yeah, I do. I try too hard to get a big stack and I know it's one of my weaknesses. I have a hard time sitting there and just waiting things out and waiting for the perfect spot, and I know it. I just try to get in there way too much, just try to get all the money in there and see what happens.

Is it because you play so aggressively that it's hard to play when you don't have the ammunition to fire back?

Yeah, I think so. I would say that is exactly why.

So what would you say is your best attribute as a poker player?

My big-stack play. Usually, except for the main event this year, if I can really get a big stack I can usually do something with it. It's by far one of my strengths.



Cantu says his best attribute as a poker player is his ability to play the big stack.

Photos courtesy of IMPDI (top) and WPT



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Altamonte Springs

All In Poker Series events
Final Table Tour events

Atlantic Beach

Final Table Tour events

Auburndale

BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Bellevue

WPTAPL events

Boca Raton

Ace in the Hole events
All In Free Poker events

Bonita Springs

Fantasy Poker events
No Limit Pub Poker events
WPTAPL events

Bonita Springs

Naples-Ft. Myers Greyhound
World Poker Store events

Boynton Beach

No Limit Pub Poker events
WPTAPL events

Bradenton

Treasure Chest Poker events

Brandon

Elite Poker Challenge events

Bunnell

Final Table Tour events

Callahan

Final Table Tour events

Cape Canaveral

BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Cape Coral

Final Table Tour events
World Poker Store events

Casselberry

Final Table Tour events
WPTAPL events

Clearwater

Final Table Tour events
Treasure Chest Poker events
WPTAPL events

Clermont

Hold'em or Fold'em events
WPTAPL events

Cocoa

BigSlickHoldemPoker events
Final Table Tour events

Cocoa Beach

BigSlickHoldemPoker events
Final Table Tour events

Coconut Creek

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek
Ace in the Hole events

Cooper City

Jax Poker Association events
Bar Poker Pros locations

Coral Springs

All In Free Poker events
Bar Poker Pros events
Free Poker 4 Real events

Dania

Dania Jai-Alai
Bar Poker Pros events

Dania Beach

Bar Poker Pros events

Davenport

BigSlickHoldemPoker events
Final Table Tour events

Davie

All In Free Poker events
Bar Poker Pros events

Daytona Beach

Daytona Beach Kennel Club
Final Table Tour events

DeBary

BigSlickHoldemPoker events
Final Table Tour events

Deerfield Beach

Bar Poker Pros events
Fantasy Poker events

Delray

No Limit Pub Poker events

Delray Beach

Bar Poker Pros events
No Limit Pub Poker events

Deltona

BigSlickHoldemPoker events
WPTAPL events

Destin

Final Table Tour events

Dunedin

Treasure Chest Poker events
WPTAPL events

Ebro

Ebro Greyhound Park

Englewood

Final Table Tour events

Fellsmere

BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Flagler Beach

Final Table Tour events

Fleming Island

Jax Poker Association events

Fort Lauderdale

All In Free Poker events
Bar Poker Pros events

Fort Myers

Free Poker 4 Real events
World Poker Store events

Fort Pierce

Fort Pierce Jai-Alai

Fort Walton Beach

Final Table Tour events
Free Poker Network events

Gainesville

Pleasure Island Poker events
Hold'em or Fold'em events

Grant

BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Green Cove Springs

Jax Poker Association events

Hallandale

Gulfstream Park
Mardi Gras Racetrack

Hallandale Beach

All In Free Poker events
Bar Poker Pros events

Hialeah

Bar Poker Pros events

Hobe Sound

No Limit Pub Poker events

Hollywood

Seminole Casino Hollywood
Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

Hudson

Bar Poker Pros events

Immokalee

WPTAPL events
Seminole Casino Immokalee

Indian Rocks Beach

Treasure Chest Poker events

Jacksonville

St. Johns Greyhound Park
Jax Poker Association events

Jacksonville Beach

First Coast Poker events
Southeast Hold'em events

Jasper

Final Table Tour events

Juno Beach

Hamilton Jai-Alai & Poker
No Limit Pub Poker events

Jupiter

No Limit Pub Poker events

Kissimmee

BigSlickHoldemPoker events
Final Table Tour events

Lake Buena Vista

Hold'em or Fold'em events
Southeast Hold'em events

Lake City

All In Poker Series events

Lakeland

Final Table Tour events
BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Lake Mary

Final Table Tour events
WPTAPL events

Lake Park

No Limit Pub Poker events

Lake Wales

BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Lake Worth

All In Free Poker events
No Limit Pub Poker events

Lantana

WPTAPL events
No Limit Pub Poker events

Largo

Elite Poker Challenge events

Lehigh Acres

Final Table Tour events

Lighthouse Point

All In Free Poker events

Lithia

Elite Poker Challenge events

Longwood

WPTAPL events

Mary Esther

Pleasure Island Poker events

Macclenny

Jax Poker Association events

Margate

All In Free Poker events
Free Poker 4 Real events

Melbourne

Melbourne Greyhound Park
BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Melbourne Beach

Final Table Tour events

Merritt Island

BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Miami

Flagler Dog Track
Miami Jai-Alai and Poker

Miami Beach

Miccosukee Resort and Casino
Bar Poker Pros events

Miami Lakes

Bar Poker Pros events

Miramar Beach

Final Table Tour events

Naples

World Poker Store events

Navarre

Final Table Tour events

North Fort Myers

World Poker Store events

North Miami Beach

Final Table Tour events

North Palm Beach

Bar Poker Pros events

North Port

Final Table Tour events

Oakland Park

Bar Poker Pros events

Ocala

Hold'em or Fold'em events

Ocoee

WPTAPL events

Okeechobee

Seminole Casino Brighton

Oldsmar

Treasure Chest Poker events

Orange City

WPTAPL events

Orange Park

Orange Park Kennel Club

Orlando

Southeast Hold'em events
Jax Poker Association events

Orlando

All In Poker Series events
BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Orlando

Elite Poker Challenge events
Final Table Tour events

Ormond Beach

WPTAPL events
Southeast Hold'em events

Osprey

Hold'em or Fold'em events
Final Table Tour events

Oviedo

All In Poker Series events
Elite Poker Challenge events

Palmetto

WPTAPL events
Treasure Chest Poker events

Palm Bay

Final Table Tour events
BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Palm Beach Gardens

No Limit Pub Poker events

Palm Coast

Final Table Tour events

Palm Harbor

Elite Poker Challenge events
Treasure Chest Poker events

Pembroke Pines

All In Free Poker events
Bar Poker Pros events

Plantation

All In Free Poker events
Bar Poker Pros events

Pompano Beach

Isle Casino

Port Charlotte

Ace in the Hole events

Port Orange

All In Free Poker events
Bar Poker Pros events

Ponte Vedra

Jax Poker Association events

Port St. Lucie

Final Table Tour events

Port St. Lucie

No Limit Pub Poker events

Punta Gorda

Final Table Tour events

Reddick

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai

Rockledge

Final Table Tour events

Royal Palm Beach

Final Table Tour events

Riviera Beach

Palm Beach Princess

Sanford

Final Table Tour events
All In Free Poker events

Sarasota

WPTAPL events
Southeast Hold'em events

Sarasota

Sarasota Kennel Club
Final Table Tour events

Satellite Beach

Final Table Tour events

Sebastian

BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Sebring

BigSlickHoldemPoker events

Seffner

Elite Poker Challenge events

Shalimar

Pleasure Island Poker events

Spring Hill

Treasure Chest Poker events

St. Augustine

Final Table Tour events

St. Cloud

Southeast Hold'em events

St. Petersburg

Derby Lane
Treasure Chest Poker events

Stuart

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