

♠ ANTE UP

FLORIDA'S POKER MAGAZINE™

MAY 2009 | anteupmagazine.com

GLEN CHORNY

A YEAR AFTER WINNING THE \$3 MILLION EPT GRAND FINAL, THE SARASOTA TRANSPLANT SHARES WHAT LIFE'S BEEN LIKE AS A YOUNG POKER STAR

TOURNAMENT TRAIL

- BATTLES AT THE BEACH
- PROS VS. JOES HEADS-UP
- 600@\$600 POKER CLASSIC
- HIGH HEELS HITS HOLLYWOOD

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RESULTS GALORE!

ROAD TRIP
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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



FOR THEM, POKER'S HAD MAJOR IMPACT

Is there any sport, activity or contest that can positively change your life overnight the way poker can? Doubtful. Sure, a lottery can make you a millionaire just as fast as poker can, but other than having the news announced in your local newspaper, you won't receive the level of recognition that comes with winning a million-dollar poker tournament. And if that win came on national television? *Fuhgedaboutit!*

We've had two remarkable occasions in the past year where unknown Floridians emerged as powerhouses on the felt, landing them in the national spotlight because of their tremendous victories. Coincidentally, and oddly enough, both instances occurred across the pond during European Poker Tour events less than two weeks apart.

One of those players was Jason Mercier, who was splashed across *Ante Up's* cover in January. The Davie resident came out of nowhere a year ago to win the EPT's San Remo event (and \$1.3 million), and has been running over the competition since, winning the EPT High Roller in October, an undercard event at February's L.A. Poker Classic plus a \$1K tournament during the Wynn Classic in March.

And that brings us to the subject of our cover story this month: Glen Chorny. OK, so Chorny technically is Canadian, hailing from Ontario, but he spends a lot of time in Sarasota, where his parents live. (Wouldn't you visit Sarasota often if you grew up in the Great White North's freezing temperatures? Just ask Gavin Smith!)

Chorny had had some success before his breakout victory, including an \$80K first-place finish in a pot-limit Omaha tournament at the Gold Strike World Poker Open in Tunica, Miss., in January 2008. But the triumph that put him on the map was his EPT Grand

Final victory, which netted about \$3 million and instant recognition in the poker world. But unlike a lot of poker pros who got their start in Florida, Chorny still plays locally, often visiting One-Eyed Jacks and playing in its larger buy-in tournaments, such as the heads-up event (coverage on page 16). He even won his seat into February's Scott Kazmir charity tournament via satellite, and oh by the way, he won that charity event in a two-way chop. His EPT victory has opened doors, including receiving an automatic invitation to play in March's NBC National Heads-Up Championship at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. In what can only be described as a stellar field of world-class players, Chorny finished in a tie for ninth, winning \$25K.

He defeated Chad Brown, who has a home in Margate and is engaged to Hobe Sound's Vanessa Rousso, in the first round, *Everybody Loves Raymond* star Brad Garrett in Round 2 before falling to eventual champ Huck Seed in Round 3. If he hadn't won in Monte Carlo he never would have had the chance to play this event. Show us a state lottery that did *that* for someone.

We caught up with Chorny to see how his life has changed during the past 12 months and to find out what it's like to be a multimillionaire from poker. His story is on page 28.

Also in this issue we tackled the very heavy tournament schedule that emerged in late March, including the Isle's Battles at the Beach, Dania Jai-Alai's Dan Le Batard charity event and Derby Lane's \$600@600 Poker Classic. Plus, is there such a thing as playing too much poker? See if you fit the profile on page 32.

We'll see you at the tables.

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BATTLES AT THE BEACH

MARCH 22-29 • THE ISLE AT POMPANO PARK

A lot of hype surrounded this weeklong series at the Isle, and that hype grew larger when word got out PokerStars pros Vanessa Rousso and Chad Brown (who are engaged) would be participating. But maybe the tournament series should be renamed the Hayden Fortini Open next year since the Vero Beach resident and FAU student won both \$900 buy-in events, including the heads-up championship. For his remarkable efforts Fortini, 19, won a combined \$109K and a gold bracelet. Brown finished fifth in the opening event, good for \$10K. World Series of Poker bracelet-winner **Fred Goldberg** of Hollywood won the \$550 event, good for \$20K.



EVENT 1: \$900 BUY-IN, 258 PLAYERS

1. Hayden Fortini	Vero Beach	\$59,044
2. Brett Borgersen	West Palm Beach	\$34,612
3. Tim Seidensticker	Miami	\$22,396
4. Dennis Grant	Miramar	\$14,252
5. Chad Brown	Margate	\$10,180
6. Kevin Deng	Port St. Lucie	\$8,755
7. Barrington White	Davie	\$6,719
8. Kevin Collins	Miami	\$4,886
9. Mikko Koskinen	Lake Worth	\$4,683
10. Scott Williams	SW Ranches	\$4,479
11. Steven Senter	Plantation	\$4,276
12. Maurice Hawkins	Tamarac	\$4,072
13. Phillip Girian	Boca Raton	\$3,868
14. Marcus E Gurley	Lake Mary	\$3,665
15. Dustin Pisani	Ft. Lauderdale	\$3,461
16. Keith Ingham	Boca Raton	\$3,258
17. William Swiciciki	Boca Raton	\$3,054
18. Tom Cuce	Boca Raton	\$2,850
19. Pat Madden	Lexington, Ky.	\$2,647
20. Vin Spadavecchia	Boca Raton	\$2,443
21. Larry Jean	Salisbury, Mass.	\$2,443
22. Brian Lindsey	Coral Springs	\$1,620
23. Jeff Gross	Ann Arbor, Mich.	\$1,620
24. Ory Hen	Cooper City	\$1,620
25. Avi Indik	Plantation	\$1,620
26. Don Todd	Davie	\$1,350
27. James Deleo	Lighthouse Point	\$1,350

EVENT 2: \$550 BUY-IN, 184 PLAYERS

1. Fred Goldberg	Hollywood	\$20,646.00
2. Antuan Buncly	Riviera Beach	\$18,000.00
3. Samuel Mayer-Backer	Boca Raton	\$15,000.00
4. Irving Rice	Delray Beach	\$6,475.00
5. Sean Irvin	Davie	\$4,625.00
6. Daniel Genachte	Deerfield Beach	\$4,163.00
7. Gilbert George	Desoto, Texas	\$3,053.00
8. Adam Berman	Hollywood	\$2,220.00
9. Daren Stabinski	Ft. Lauderdale	\$2,128.00
10. Logan Richetti	P. Verdra Beach	\$2,035.00
11. Clark Brzozowski	Ft. Lauderdale	\$1,943.00
12. Sonia Sanchez	Plantation	\$1,850.00
13. Marcus Gurley	Lake Mary	\$1,758.00
14. Dolphy Garricks	Miramar	\$1,665.00
15. Timothy Morgan	Pompano	\$1,573.00
16. David Sultán	Boca Raton	\$1,480.00
17. Robert Cheney	Plantation	\$1,388.00
18. Richard Gollin	Boca Raton	\$1,295.00
19. Jason McCarty	Coconut Creek	\$1,203.00

EVENT 3: HEADS-UP, \$900 BUY-IN, 111 PLAYERS

1. Hayden Fortini	Vero Beach	\$50,000
2. Jose Torres	Cooper City	\$23,000
3. Stuart Newman	Weston	\$7,300
4. James Reilly	Boca Raton	\$5,000



Above, Hayden Fortini poses with his winning cards after taking down Event 1 and nearly \$60K. Little did he know he would win another \$50K a few days later in the heads-up event, pictured below. At left is Chad Brown during Event 1 action.



MCCLENDON ROLLS TO ROLEX TITLE AT GULFSTREAM



Gulfstream Park poker room manager Scott Poole congratulates Kelvin McClendon after his victory.

One thing's for sure: Kelvin McClendon's reign atop the Rolex Challenge's qualifying leaderboard at Gulfstream Park was no fluke. He carried that momentum into the 50-player main event tournament and won the title after a 10-player chop at the final table March 8.

Players qualified for the tournament by earning points while playing in the nightly 6:30 tournaments Jan. 1-March 6.

McClendon pocketed \$2,500 for being the qualifying leader, and a Rolex Yacht Master Timepiece for taking down the main event title.

The prize pool was \$30K and was chopped among the final 10 players. McClendon outlasted a host of strong contenders, including Gulfstream's Mercedes Challenge champion Kham Seignarack, who finished fourth.

Ruth Bigio was the tournament's top female finisher.

1. Kelvin McClendon
2. Tavarious Allwood
3. A.J. Severe
4. Kham Seignarack
5. John Rembert Sr.
6. Lashone Dobard
7. Josh Garcia
8. Billy Greisman
9. Rolando Wong
10. David Richwine

All In Free Poker

It took two sessions to get through the 220-player field at the Isle, but in the end it was Tom Cuce who proved unbeatable March 3.

Cuce won close to \$2,000 in tournament buy-ins at the Isle, as well as a \$1,500 poker table. He defeated Michael Feroce, the chipleader from Day 1.

Cuce later turned one of those buy-ins into an 18th-place cash good for \$2,850 at the first event of the Battles at the Beach.

Feroce won an entry into the \$550 event during the Battles at the Beach, which had a \$50,000 guarantee,

and he earned a \$120 Sunday entry, too.

Dwight Matlack finished third and won an entry into the \$350 St. Patrick's Day tournament. Fourth place went to Taylor Brooks, who was second in chips after Day 1, and he won entry into the Saturday \$200 event at the Isle.

David Fuenmayor placed fifth, followed by Sean Lavery, Debbie Knight, Sharon Danver, Stacey Rosso and David Torres. The players who finished 11th-20th played a single-table tournament for a \$200 Saturday buy-in at the Isle and Joe Hedleston came out on top.



Tom Cuce

Dania Jai-Alai & Poker



Weston's Mike Mendez won Dan Le Batard's celebrity tournament, which had 250 players, at Dania Jai-Alai on March 25. The final six agreed to chop, giving each a little more than \$1,200. Mendez, being chipleader, was awarded the tournament trophy.

Flagler Greyhound Track



Paul Harbaran, Brian Sodre and Yasmanny Benavides each won \$5,000 in the Magic City Poker Room's monthly high-hand raffle. The room is hosting a bounty tournament April 25 at 2 p.m. The buy-in for the event is \$120.

Hard Rock Hollywood

ESTRADA'S WIN CAPS HHPT WEEKEND AT HARD ROCK



Miami's Mirta Estrada, who was a student of the High Heels Poker Tour Academy the day before, won the \$225 HHPT ladies event at Seminole Hard Rock in Hollywood on March 8.

Said Estrada: "The lab tutorials were very beneficial in pointing out weakness in my play and how to make the needed adjustments." Estrada outlasted 64 women, including pros Karina Jett and Lisa Adams, to take first place and \$4,000. The next HHPT tournament will be April 26 at 1 p.m. at the Silks Poker Room in Tampa.

Results

1. Mirta Estrada	\$4,000	Miami
2. Marisa Stellar	\$2,340	Parkland
3. Wendy Dry	\$1,555	Oakridge, TN
4. Rosanna Derosa	\$1,100	Miramar
5. Lisa Teebagy	\$815	Lighthouse Point
6. Paula Alibrandi	\$630	Miramar
7. Christine Difiore	\$500	Plantation
8. Karina Jett	\$400	Henderson, NV



HHPT champion Mirta Estrada poses with pro Karina Jett at Hard Rock.



Heisman winners from left: Johnny Rodgers, Andre Ware, Tony Dorsett, Mike Rozier and Gino Torretta came out for Torretta's charity event at the Hard Rock. They were on hand to help the Torretta Foundation raise money for ALS research. The poker tournament raised \$3,300.



Matthew Waxman won the 44-player charity tournament and \$17,600.



Gil Nagar shows the winning cards to just one of his two Main Event wins.

Two out of three ain't bad

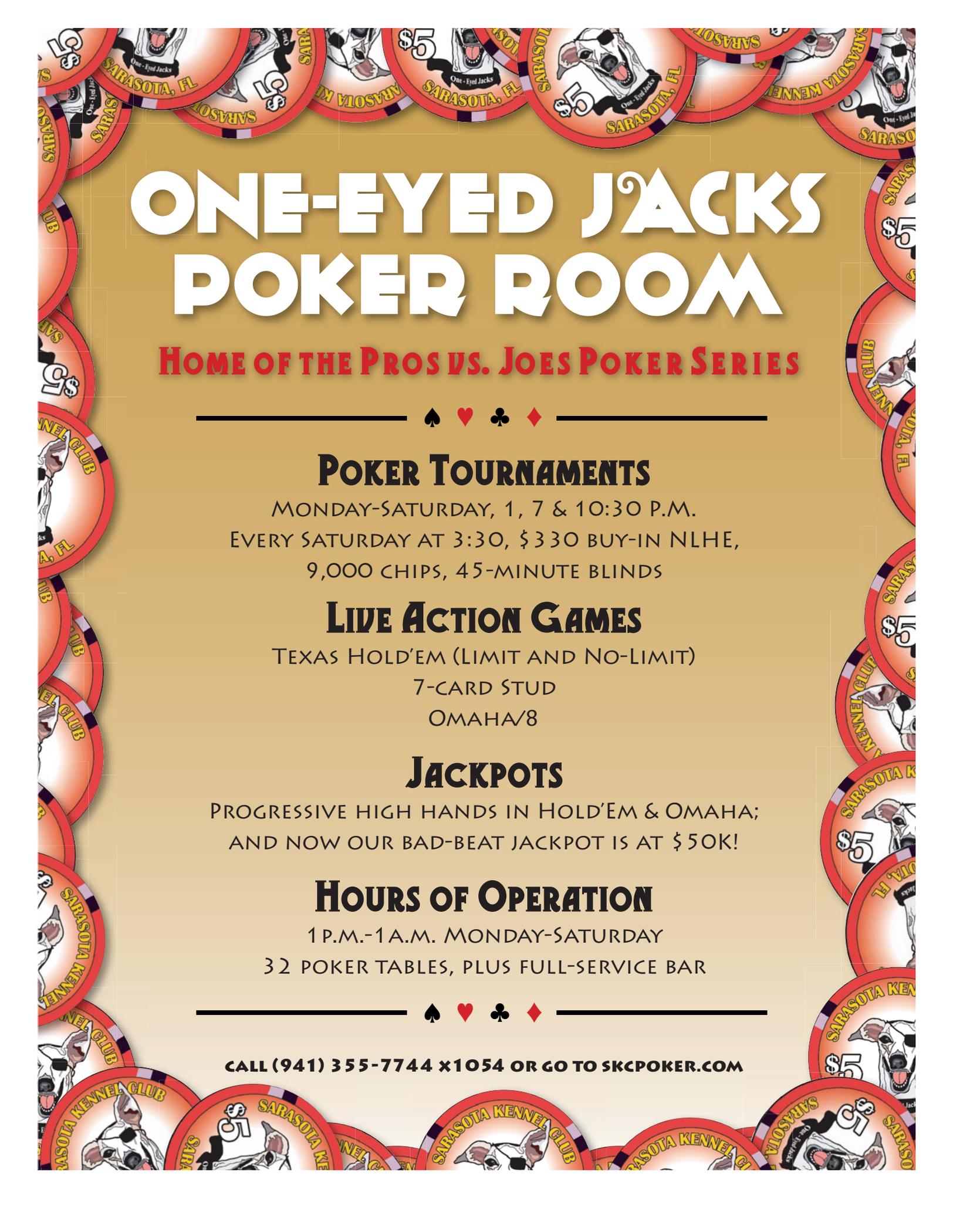
Winning a tournament these days isn't an easy proposition. That's what makes Gil Nagar's accomplishment so remarkable.

The Cooper City resident won two of the three Main Event tournaments in March. He won the \$350 Middleweight Division by besting 66 players to pocket \$7,255. But he wasn't finished there as he went on to take the \$575 Cruiserweight Division title as well, working his way through 62 players en route to an \$11,370 payday.

Raj Vohra, who's been in the Main Event winner's circle before, won the 70-player, \$1,100 Heavyweight Division. The Lake Worth resident pocketed \$25,270.



This is Vohra's 2nd Heavyweight win.



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At left, winner Uo H Mach and runner-up John Gardwell Jr. pose with all the chips at the conclusion of the event. Pictured at right are Cuong Nguyen, who won a WSOP Main Event seat for highest hand, and Billy Karns, who won a Rolex in a raffle.

This is what Florida poker players have been waiting for: high buy-in events combined with a large field. Derby Lane held its 600@\$600 Poker Classic in St. Petersburg on March 27-29. The \$600 no-limit hold'em event drew 563 entrants for a prize pool of \$337,800, which ended up being one of the richest prize pools in Florida tournament history.

It paid the top 60 players and had a first prize of \$110,000. The allure of a six-figure cash drew players from all around the state, but there was more than just money to be won. Derby Lane also gave away a Rolex watch and a seat for this year's World Series of Poker Main Event. Names were thrown into a box and one was chosen at random to receive the \$6,000 Rolex, and that winner was Derby regular Billy Karns. The \$10,000 WSOP seat went to the player who made the tournament's highest hand, and that was Cuong



Nguyen, who made a king-high straight flush on the second day of play.

As final-table action began, the average chip stack neared a million chips. With a growing crowd forming around the rails of the final table, the first few players were eliminated relatively quickly. Tension grew as the seats were being removed and the players were getting scarce.

When just four remained, talk of a deal was immediately dismissed. But at Level 26, with blinds at 100K-200K, Uo H Mach and John Gardwell Jr. were heads-up and decided to chop, giving Mach \$95,000, leaving Gardwell with \$60K. It was an uneventful ending to a very eventful weekend.

— Garret Roth



Final results

1. Uo H Mach	\$95,000
2. John Gardwell, Jr.	\$60,000
3. Ronald Sullivan	\$26,000
4. Philip Starner	\$20,000
5. James Kerr	\$11,000
6. Raphael Porond	\$11,000
7. Robert Lebean	\$9,000
8. Ken O'Donnell	\$7,500
9. Michael Gisondi	\$5,500
10. Stan Tavanese	\$3,666

An excited crowd gathers around the final table of the 600@\$600 Poker Classic at Derby Lane.

PLAYER PROFILE: STEVEN BURKHOLDER

An occasional interview with a local poker player

DERBY LANE GRINDER BECOMES ONLINE STAR

By Garrett Roth

Every poker player's dream is to win a major tournament and score a six-figure cash. Now, just imagine doing that four times ... in six months. That's exactly what University of Florida student Steven Burkholder did from October 2008 to February.

Burkholder, 22, was born and raised in Largo, where he'd always play penny poker with his family, but never thought he'd one day rise to the top of the online poker spectrum.

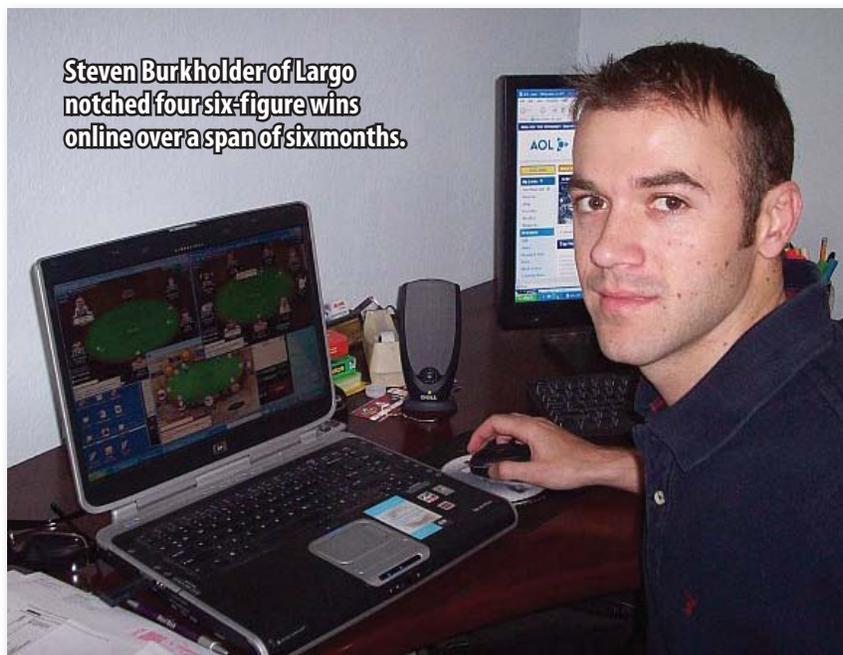
Burkholder, whose online screen names are "PiKappRaider" (PokerStars) and UF-man2 (Full Tilt), started his poker career on the felt at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg.

"I would go to Derby three to four times a week just to play \$1-\$2 limit hold'em," he said. "It really gave me a foundation for the game and I learned quickly that poker could be very profitable with the right mind-set and determination."

Burkholder, who has been featured in *CardPlayer*, graduated from \$1-\$2 limit to multitable tournaments. "The tournaments were a lot more exciting to me than cash; they had larger payouts and it's a lot more exhilarating when you can bet and raise thousands of units rather than one or two dollars."

He began playing online tournaments in 2006, starting with \$1 single-table tournaments and working his way up. The first tournament Burkholder won was a \$1 rebuy, which earned him \$200 and a starting bankroll that allowed him to play \$5 tournaments. Once he started going deep in most of those tournaments and solidifying some nice results, he found a financial backer to stake him in larger buy-ins. It turned out to be a great decision as he learned very quickly how to beat large buy-in fields. There were some modest cashes in the beginning, but little did he know about what kind of accomplishments were to follow.

Burkholder started his "major" success by winning the Full Tilt \$750K guarantee for \$135,904. This \$200 buy-in tournament was the largest cash of his poker career at the time. When asked what it was like to ship his first six-figure score, he said, "It was by far the most intense feeling in the world. Being able



Steven Burkholder of Largo notched four six-figure wins online over a span of six months.

to have such a large score under my belt gave me the confidence I needed to take my game to the next level."

Just one week later he had another outright victory: The PokerStars World Championship of Online Poker Event No. 29, which was a \$500 rebuy tournament that earned him \$211,134 and a gold bracelet. He since has had wins in the \$100 rebuy on PokerStars (\$31K) and the \$150 rebuy on Full Tilt (\$61K). After these wins much of the online poker community labeled him a lucky player on a sick run. When he got wind of these comments he let his results be his response.

"I told my friend I was going to win the Million Guarantee on Full Tilt," Burkholder said. "I don't know what it was, but I had the sickest feeling about it. When I was getting really deep, I stopped saying it so I wouldn't jinx myself, but I kept looking at him and gave him that 'I'm winning this' look."

Turns out he's a bit of a clairvoyant as well. His premonition was spot on as he won the tournament for his third six-figure cash (\$201,848). This score cemented Burkholder in the online poker rankings and gave him

some much-deserved attention in the online poker community.

But just when it seemed like his amazing run had come to an end, Burkholder took down one of the most prestigious events on the Internet, the Full Tilt Online Poker Series \$300 rebuy Event 17. It was his fourth major online tournament victory and it pocketed him a cool \$245,696.

This Derby Lane local, who had never cashed for more than \$10K, had prizes totaling more than \$1 million in a span of six months. At press time he was ranked No. 1 in Florida and No. 8 in the world in online tournament play on pocketfives.com.

"You know, it's all about dedication and commitment," he said. "Everyone is going to take the nastiest beats and have the worst luck at times, but it's the players who stick through them that will receive the good luck that comes their way. I see people all the time that can't get over even the last beat they just took and that will affect everything about their game and their all-around attitude for poker. Discuss hands with friends, be patient, Oh... and run good. Next stop ... WSOP '09."

"I would go to Derby three to four times a week just to play \$1-\$2 limit hold'em. It really gave me a foundation for the game and I learned quickly that poker could be very profitable with the right mind-set and determination."

— Steven Burkholder, a.k.a. PiKappRaider on PokerStars

Treasure Chest Poker



The Battle of the Bars trophy finally moved from its cozy spot at Stokers 1, which held it for two months straight. Anne Johnson won the title for Slim and Chubbies in Holiday. Defending champ Robert Franklin, pictured above handing over the trophy to Johnson, did his best to make it three in a row for Stokers 1, but the odds were stacked against him as he faced three Slim and Chubbies players at the final table.

At the monthly tournament on March 14 there was a stellar turnout of 111 players at Buffalo Wild Wings in Oldsmar. In the end Kelly Clark, pictured at right, was victorious.



Tampa Bay Downs

The Silks Poker Room has a lot going on these days, including installation of the Genesis Bravo Tracking System.

It is the first card room on the west coast of Florida to implement the system, and director of poker operations Patrick Murphy couldn't be happier.

"We have the latest version," he said, "and it's pretty incredible."

The system has many amenities, namely it keeps track of players at the tables and alerts brushes and players of open seats. It also will be used for player comps.

- The High Heels Poker Tour will hold a tournament April 26 at 1 p.m. The buy-in is \$100. For more information go to highheelspokertour.com.

- The top 100 point-earners from WPTAPL nightly events around the Tampa Bay area will qualify for a \$1,000 freeroll. Visit WPTAPL.com to find a venue near you by clicking on Region 202.

Elite Poker Challenge

Cindy Griffin of Largo, Phil Koenig of New Port Richey and James Gavin of Orlando recently won seats to play in this year's World Series of Poker.

But that doesn't mean the seats end there. Three seats for the 2010 WSOP will be up for grabs this May. Those seats will include roundtrip airfare and five days-

four nights at the Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

If you'd like more information on the 2010 WSOP seats deal go to www.elitepokerchallenge.net.

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FlaPoker Tours



Val Engel from Cocoa, left, Lynnanne Grenet from Rockledge, center, and Aleshia Belew from Cape Canaveral won events at Bankers in Cocoa Village to qualify for a shot to play in a WSOP circuit event's ladies tournament.

Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai & Poker



Trevor had such a good night recently at the \$5-\$10 no-limit hold'em game that he built a castle.

Palm Beach Princess



Lacy Wills of Port St. Lucie won February's World Poker Tour seat for Foxwoods' April main event.



The Season 1 final table.

Club Poker League

This new free league sprouted up in December 2008, serving the southwest area of the Sunshine State, in particular Sarasota, Port Charlotte, North Port, Englewood and Venice. They use dealers (so you won't have to deal your own) and abide by TDA rules. For more information go to clubpokerleague.net or call 941-488-2575.

The league recently wrapped up Season 1 at Holiday House Club 455 in Venice with 129 players coming out for the tournament. Congrats to **David Marshall**, who took it down.



SEASON 1 FINAL RESULTS

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|------|
| 1. David Marshall | \$500 | 6. Kirk King | \$25 |
| 2. Matt Hoffman | \$300 | 7. Bob Cunningham | \$25 |
| 3. Al Lewis | \$200 | 8. Jim McQueen | \$25 |
| 4. Jeff Lally | \$50 | 9. Bryan Wagner | \$25 |
| 5. Tony LaGreca | \$50 | | |

PROS VS. JOES HEADS-UP CHAMPIONSHIP

MARCH 27 • ONE-EYED JACKS POKER ROOM, SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB

This was the first time One-Eyed Jacks' signature pro series ventured into the heads-up structure as pros Gavin Smith, Glen Chorny and Bill Edler were the marquee poker names in attendance. But it was local pro Bill Burdick of Palmetto who clawed his way through the field to capture the first-place prize of \$20,700 at this \$850 buy-in event.

"Well, as always the tournament in Sarasota was run great," Burdick said. "Sammy (Minutello) runs a great event and the structure, starting with 300 big blinds, afforded everyone an opportunity to play cards. It sure was nice to post a victory locally, been a while since I've done that. I had some pretty tough

opponents along the way but was fortunate enough to run well, play well, and get a little lucky."

Burdick's cash was nearly as large as his World Series of Poker Circuit victory back in February when he pocketed \$28K at Council Bluffs. He also has six WSOP cashes in Las Vegas.

Smith and Edler won their first matches but fell in the next round. EPT champ Glen Chorny and Paul Azinger, captain of last year's victorious Ryder Cup team, lost their first-round matches.

Smith, Edler, Chorny and Azinger each had \$500 bounties on their heads. Other local pros among the 71 entries were Tampa's John Racener and Largo's John Gordon.



Gavin Smith awaits his cards during his first-round victory.



Bill Edler prepares to fold to a raise in his first-round victory.



John Gordon watches the flop during his first-round defeat.

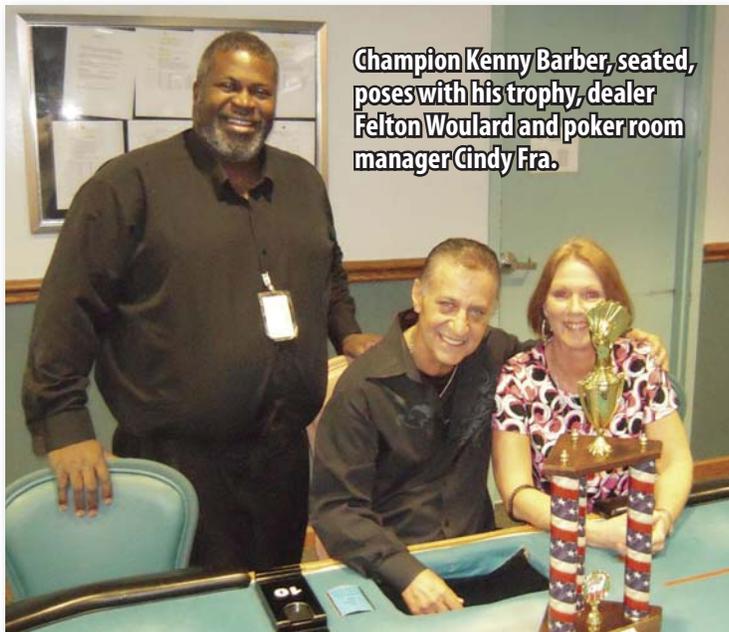


Palmetto's Bill Burdick is having a great 2009, winning a WSOP circuit event in February, too.

Final results

1. Bill Burdick	\$20,700	5. Cory Furtow	\$2,580
2. Will Beaton	\$10,300	5. Peter Federber	\$2,580
3. Steve Allen	\$5,150	5. Jeff Coutrolis	\$2,580
3. Jason Williams Jr.	\$5,150	5. Peter Bobreck	\$2,580

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track



Champion Kenny Barber, seated, poses with his trophy, dealer Felton Woulard and poker room manager Cindy Fra.

Who says poker players need to be on time? Kenny Barber thought the start time for the deep-stack event on Feb. 21 was 2 p.m., but it was noon. So his starting chips were in play for nearly two hours before he played a hand. That didn't stop him from beating 87 players, however, and winning the first-place prize of \$14,022.

At one point Barber was down to 3,000 chips, but by 11:45 Saturday night he was heads-up with 585,000 vs. Justin Warner with 380,000. Play resumed at 1 p.m. on Sunday and Barber, who earned his seat in a \$100 single-table satellite, won the title in four hands.

Seminole Casino Immokalee



It's easy to smile for a photo when you just won a share of a \$188K bad-beat jackpot! From left: Tami, Ules, Howard, Carey, Keith, Virginia, Ed, Robert and Patricia. Paulette (middle) dealt the hand on March 18 as Virginia's quad fours beat Carey's four threes. The bad beat was worth \$93K; the winning hand earned \$43K; the table-share was \$7,800; and the room-share was \$100 for each player at the other tables.

• From May 1 to May 31 anyone who hits a bonus hand (royal and straight flush or four aces) or wins any tournament at Seminole Immokalee will receive a freeroll entry into the poker room's June 8 WSOP \$20K freeroll. First place is worth \$13K with spots 2-10 splitting the remaining \$7K. For more information call toll-free 866-222-7466.

Naples photo by John Henry

Pleasure Island Poker



Pleasure Island Poker and Golden Corral hosted Bets Helping Vets, a charity poker and blackjack event at Scully's on the Bayou on March 14. Justin Whipple, pictured, won the tournament, which helped raise \$1,714 for disabled veterans.

Final results

1. Justin Whipple
2. Scott Lee
3. Jason Spitale
4. Teena Findley
5. Chris Siler
6. Steve English
7. Brian Daugherty
8. Teresa Shinkman
9. J.J. Botelho

For more photos go to PleasureIslandPoker.com/davtournament/results.



Nestor Cordoba had to enter the February monthly tournament as an alternate, therefore he was at a 3-to-1 chip disadvantage from the start. But he bested 95 players on March 8 at International Lounge in Ft. Walton Beach to win the tournament.



Mike Dempsey of 1010XL Jacksonville Sports Radio had quite the day, besting Chad Brown heads-up for the Chips for Charity title, pictured at left, then getting to pose with Vanessa Rousso and the winner's trophy.

ROUSSO KICKS OFF TOUR AT ORANGE PARK

What a way for Vanessa Rousso to start her tour of Florida poker rooms in support of her Big Slick Boot Camps.

On March 20-21 she appeared with fiancé and fellow poker pro Chad Brown at the Orange Park Kennel Club's poker room to play in the Chips for Charity poker tournament. Local celebrities also came out for the event, which allowed players to play for charities of their own choice. Rousso exited early but Brown finished second behind winner Mike Dempsey from 1010XL Jacksonville's Sports Radio. Dempsey's charity was Wolfson Children's Hospital (\$2,500) and the MS Society got \$2,500 as well. **David Lamm** earned third place and \$500 for his foundation.



Rousso's second day in Jacksonville featured her conducting a two-hour mini-boot camp for 75 players.

"The camp was packed with awesome information," director of poker operations Josh Zuckerman said.



This mini-camp was a preview of the full-fledged game-theory camp Rousso held at Orange Park on April 11, among other locations around the state.

After the mini-boot camp the room held a \$250 buy-in tournament that produced a \$36K prize pool.

Rousso and Brown went deep as Brown exited around 25th and Rousso 17th.

OTHER NEWS: The Poker Rooms in Jacksonville will be continuing their World Series of Poker satellites. At Orange Park you'll have two more chances to qualify if you've picked up this issue in time. The first will be April 26 at 1 p.m. The buy-in is \$150 and you'll get 10K chips. The second satellite will be May 31 at 1 p.m. That buy-in is \$500 for 10K chips.

• St. Johns Greyhound Park will host its final WSOP satellite May 17 at 1 p.m. The buy-in is \$500 and earns you 10K chips.

• Check out jaxpokerroom.com, which had a recent facelift. The new look is much cleaner and still includes the bad-beat jackpot payouts, tips, links, videos and its 1010XL radio show.

Jacksonville Poker Association

The JPA held its 13-week finals March 21 as 62 players from the Jacksonville area competed for more than \$9,000 in prizes. Theo Lichtenstein methodically made his way through the tournament, playing very conservatively (but throwing in a bluff periodically) until he outlasted Ray Longino for the win and \$2,600.

Final results

1. Theo Lichtenstein	\$2,600	11. Tom Difolco	\$250
2. Ray Longino	\$1,300	12. Allen Pitts	\$200
3. Eric Montisano	\$650	13. Lance Stimpfle	\$150
4. Todd Birczak	\$600	14. Chris Knight	\$100
5. Eric Hernandez	\$550	15. Jerry Rowe	\$100
6. John Kittinger	\$500	16. Jeannifer Tucker	\$100
7. Bob Hines	\$450	17. Paul C. Farina	\$100
8. Travis Bowen	\$400	18. Holt Barwick	\$100
9. Billy Marroletti	\$350	19. Brian Booker	\$100
10. Jeff Reese	\$300	20. Calvin Moody	\$50



Theo Lichtenstein, left, and Ray Longino shake hands and show their cards at the tournament's conclusion.



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*unless it is the progressive jackpot

Omaha

Spade Royal flush pays \$599 all others pay \$200. Straight Flushes get a Plinko chip to drop for prizes.



Buy your tournament seats on-line at



All in! Poker Series

Yvonne Hoevenaar, pictured, won the February monthly event at Knight Klub on March 14, taking home tickets to Universal Studios in Orlando, a two-night hotel stay, the champion trophy and a spot to compete for a seat to Event 51 at the 2009 World Series of Poker. The entire final table from this event will be compete for that World Series seat.



Yvonne beat nearly 60 players to win the tournament. She and her husband have been playing with All in! since its first event in 2005, and she still come out to play once or twice a week. For more information be sure to visit www.AllinPokerSeries.com.

Charity event: All in! will be running the fifth annual Bruce Gould Celebrity tournament on May 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Grand prize is a trip for two to Las Vegas and the suggested buy-in is \$195. For more info go to orlandojcc.org.



WPTAPL cruises to Nassau!



The WPTAPL crew hosted a cruise from Port Canaveral to Nassau on Feb. 26-March 1 and held a \$100 tournament aboard the *Carnival Sensation*. The winner was Samuel Oliver, and *Ante Up* publisher Scott Long finished 10th (he's the guy wearing the bright yellow shirt).

Here are the results:

1. Samuel Oliver	Agusta, Ga.	\$3,000
2. Paul Daniel	Oxford, Ga.	\$1,500
3. Denise Tasch	Orlando	\$1,200
4. Paul King	Lake Mary	\$900
5. Sheri Takemoto	Sanford	\$700
6. Charles Watt	Cape Canaveral	\$500
7. Lucynda Riley	Orlando	\$400
8. Christine Harris	Orlando	\$300
9. Ronnie Evans	N/A	\$200
10. Scott Long	Safety Harbor	\$100



Samuel Oliver, left, won the event and \$3K. Denise Tasch, right, was the last lady standing, finishing fourth.



Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker

WSOP Main Event satellites continue with a \$550 event April 26 at 1 p.m. (1-5 seats, each an \$11,500 package for seat and travel). Also the room has new hours: 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday (doors open at 12:30). Other days the room is open noon till midnight.

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai



Ocala saw 104 players vie for two WSOP Main Event seats on March 29, and in the end it was Paul George, above, and Eric Hock who won the \$10K seats and \$2,500 travel expenses. Ocala has two upcoming WSOP satellites (April 25 and May 30, both at 1:30, see ad). Also, in May is a \$1,500 freeroll on Mother's Day for mothers. Go to ocalapoker.com for details.





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NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

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



HAWKINS OUTCLASSES 'EM ALL

Brian "SnoOowman" Hawkins proved online poker is more about skill than luck after winning the *Bluff* Online Poker Challenge in dominant fashion.



Bluff selected a Who's Who of online poker celebrities to compete in the challenge as players were given one month to build the largest tournament bankroll they could from a \$200 deposit. Only eight of the 20 selected players had money left at the end of the month, which likely was due to the "winner-take-all" nature of the event, and Hawkins led the way with \$25,066.74. For his victory Hawkins will be featured on the cover of *Bluff* and will be entered into a future Dream Team event.

"I pretty much concentrated on heads-up SNGs," the Ft. Myers resident said. "I knew that was where my biggest edge was. I played around 600 heads-up events and about 40 tournaments. I make 75 percent of my mon-

ey in the SNGs."

During the challenge Hawkins had the best single-day total of \$5,263 and the worst day as well at -\$3,766. He played 698 events spanning 602 hours. He turns 21 in August so don't expect to see him in this year's World Series of Poker, but expect big things in 2010.

PokerStars

Win a satellite with a buy-in of \$16 and find yourself in the direct satellite to the WSOP Main Event. Also the step satellite program can earn you a WSOP seat in as few as six steps, starting at just \$7.50. If you win a seat through PokerStars you'll be required to wear gear displaying its logo throughout the event, or at least for as long as you survive.

- The online poker site Buggy's Club closed its virtual doors in April, having dealt its final hand after six years of operation. By arrangement with PokerStars, the 180,000 players at Buggy's Club have been invited to transfer their accounts to the world's largest poker site. Buggy's Club always maintained a mod-

AIPS on PokerStars

Tournament No. 4 is a limit hold'em event May 13 with a freeroll April 29. Go to anteupmagazine.com/aips for details. And here's a good site for some tips on limit hold'em: winningonlinepoker.com/holdem.htm

est player base but couldn't overcome the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act and an increasingly competitive market.

Full Tilt

Its exclusive Race to the Main Event began March 9 with daily freerolls that run through June 21. At race's end 50 players will have won free seats to the 2009 WSOP Main Event. Here's how it works: Enter one of the Race to the Main Event — Round 1 SNGs. Win and you'll qualify to play in a Round 2 freeroll, which runs four times daily. Take either first or second and you'll advance to the finals, held each Sunday at 4:30 p.m. ET. Finish in the top three there and you've won your \$10K WSOP seat. Easy enough, right?

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AIPS EVENT #1: NO LIMIT HOLD'EM



Congratulations to Rich, a.k.a. richsmuv21, who gets the coveted PokerStars monkey and AIPS banana after taking down the NLHE tournament, which had 168 entries.

The Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (a.k.a. AIPS) is *Ante Up's* monthly fan tournament series on PokerStars.com. Battle the Ante Up Nation for bragging rights, cash and, yes, the ultimate prize — the AIPS banana. And new this year: Every winner gets a PokerStars stuffed monkey! Email us a photo of you with your banana and monkey to editor@anteupmagazine.com and we'll publish it in the magazine.

For bragging rights, knock out one of the *Ante Up* publishers — Scott "OffDeadline" Long and Chris "aun2112" Cosenza. Don't have a PokerStars account? No problem. Go to anteupmagazine.com/aips and click on the PokerStars banner. Use the code "psante50" to get a 100 percent matching deposit bonus up to \$50! Here's a schedule of some upcoming events:

Event #4	Event #6	Event #8
May 13 Limit Hold'em \$5.50	July 15 Stud/8 \$5.50	Sept. 9 Omaha/8 \$5.50
Event #5	Event #7	Event #9
June 10 8-Game Mixed \$11	Aug. 12 NLHE Rebuy \$1.10	Sept. 7 Razz \$5.50

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Southeast Poker

Here's Part 2 of our two-part series looking at the Ft. Lauderdale-area poker rooms, this month featuring the Seminole properties.

Seminole Hard Rock — Hollywood

The Seminole tribe may have a three-pronged crown of gambling in the Ft. Lauderdale area, but its Hard Rock palace clearly is the crowning jewel. And its 24-hour Paradise Poker Room certainly reflects that.

When blackjack came to Hard Rock the poker room was downsized and moved outside of the main casino. This gave the Seminoles a chance to change its poker atmosphere, and, as it turns out, the room's former resident played a big role in the transition.

"This originally was a sports-bar restaurant called The Park," director of poker operations **Pete Arsenis** said. "So we kept that sports theme for the new room. We also introduced tableside dining.

We have a kitchen here because it was a restaurant, so that's something we weren't able to offer before."

And with any sports bar these days comes dozens of flatscreen TVs, which was an amenity the old room didn't have. Of course you won't find parimutuels on these screens, but you can keep tabs on your favorite teams as you play or wait for your table.

The room, which features a unique tournament area on the second floor that overlooks the main floor's cash games, shrunk in size during the move, going from 50 tables to 41. But the place is almost always jumping. The crowd is young and willing to gamble, and the staff is professional and friendly.

"Coming here I was very surprised by the action in this particular room," Arsenis said. "You can come in on a Wednesday afternoon and the place is busy. The action is here. That's what poker players are looking for. They want to know that they have several games they can play without breaking. If they play \$5-\$10 no-limit hold'em we have five or six other ones going. So that is, I think, the strongpoint of this room, the action."

Arsenis, who has a staff of nearly 200, started in poker in 1993 at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. He also made a stop at Tropicana and helped open the Borgata as one of the dayside shift managers before moving to the Hard Rock in February 2008.

"The one thing I stress with my staff is the integrity of the room," he said. "We want



to make sure that people come in here, that when they sign up, it's proper on the list, that the games are spread evenly. We've instituted a must-move game on our \$5-\$10 no-limit to make sure the main \$5-\$10 no-limit games didn't break."

And no-limit is the game of choice at the Hard Rock, which is no surprise given the current poker climate. It offers the usual fare (\$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10) but \$1-\$2 and \$2-\$4 limit hold'em games run regularly as well. The room will spread stud or Omaha if there's interest, but there usually isn't anyone bugging the brush for those games.

The cornerstone of the Paradise Poker Room, however, has been its Main Event tournament series, which offers three tournaments at different buy-ins (\$350 cruiserweight, \$575 middleweight and \$1,100 heavyweight), plus there are super-satellites every month for each event. But don't forget the \$1,100 Big Slick tournament, which gets you 10K chips, the special guar-

anteed tournaments plus the Omaha tournament on Wednesday nights, which has been gaining popularity.

As for promotions, Hard Rock works diligently to give its players something different every month.

"We didn't have the bad-beat jackpots in Atlantic City," Arsenis said, "but we have them here. And we have a promotional fund, so we're able to offer unbelievable promotions to the players. And we're always working on bettering that. Every month we come out with new promotions. ... high hand of the hour, giveaway entries to satellites, SNGs, aces cracked. ... so we're always working on new promotions."

In March the room hosted a High Heels Poker Academy and tournament (see story on page 10) as part of its effort to expand its clientele and offer different amenities to its players. Hard Rock Hollywood always strives to make the poker experience better for its players and that's reason enough to make the trip.



Where: Hollywood
Phone: (866) 502-7529
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Seminole Hollywood Classic

Literally sitting in the shadow of Hard Rock's bright lights is Seminole Hollywood Classic. You'd think the towering presence of a full casino across the street might force the Seminoles to fold its "bingo hall" into the confines of its Hard Rock fortress, but this little building does just fine thank you. And isn't gambling all about choice?

Classic, as it's become known because it was the first Seminole casino in the area, is for the gambler who doesn't want the glitz and glam of a big-time casino.

And its poker room certainly offers a different atmosphere than its big brother next door. The room, which has 12 tables and is open 24 hours, is very low-key as most players tend to be older. It's the only room in the area that offers smoking.

The games are hold'em-heavy (\$1-\$2 and \$2-\$4 limit, \$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10 no-limit) but a \$2-\$4 Omaha/8 game will break out on days when there's

a high-hand jackpot. On a recent trip there were five full tables running well before noon on a weekday so you can find a game at just about any time.

Don't look for a tournament schedule here, however. During the week, \$25 single-table winner-take-all tournaments are offered (when there are tables available) and that bumps up to \$50 on the weekends.

But that's what the clientele wants, so poker room manager Warren Targia accommodates them. And that explains why his numerous promotions are cash-game driven.

In April they splashed the pot of a random table with \$100 every hour on Fridays between 2 p.m. and midnight. On weekends the high hand every hour won \$100 and the second highest hand won \$50 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. They also had a high-hand promotion on Wednesdays, a \$500 royal flush bonus and aces-cracked giveaways four times a week. So if you're looking to light up, sit in a cozy room, take a shot at an inexpensive SNG and enjoy cash games while you try to reap the benefits of a plethora of promotions then Classic is your ticket.



Where: Hollywood
Phone: (866) 222-7466
 seminolehollywoodcasino.com

Seminole Coconut Creek

Coconut Creek got a lot of attention late last year when its bad-beat jackpot reached \$173K as players from around the state came in droves. It's safe to say things have settled down these days,

but the 24-hour room

still has plenty of action. It's on the second floor of the casino, just take the elevator near the check-cashing booth and turn left when the doors open. The room "officially" offers stud and Omaha, though the brush on duty said the only game in town is hold'em, which is spread at the usual Florida-restricted limits.

If playing poker without distractions is all you want then Coconut Creek will satisfy your need for isolation as there's nothing in this room but 15 tables, chips and dealers. Yes, there are some small TVs on the walls, but really, poker will be your one distraction. Being on the second floor keeps

the room removed from the casino action and allows players to focus on playing poker. And those players were fairly loose during a recent early morning, weekday visit. The mood was friendly and the games moved along with little delay. Perhaps that's because players weren't worrying about placing bets or watching their dogs

on the screens.

Like its Seminole Classic sibling, Coconut Creek doesn't count on tournaments, offering SNGs from \$55 to \$520, and varying monthly MTTs (\$50-\$1K), though they're sporadic. "We just don't have any interest in them," the brush said. But being slightly removed from the hub of Ft. Lauderdale gaming allows Coconut Creek to thrive and for its regulars to enjoy a steady reliable game.

Remember that huge bad-beat jackpot that hit in October? Well, at press time another one was brewing, surpassing \$105K. (Be sure to call the room ahead of time to be sure it hasn't been hit before making the drive). Recently the room also paid \$500 for the high hand every two hours on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, and paid \$150 every 30 minutes to the high hand on Wednesdays.

As for food, Coconut Creek used to have a free breakfast in the morning to help kick off poker business, but now the price is \$2.95, which is still a bargain.

If you want to just play poker without being sidetracked while taking a stab at winning some impressive promotional cash, then head to Coconut Creek.



Where: Coconut Creek
Phone: (866) 222-7466
 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com



Dania Jai-Alai

Phone: (954) 927-2841
www.dania-jai-alai.com

Tournaments: \$25 with \$5 bounty daily at 12:30, plus M&W at 6:30; \$40 w/40-player max, Sat. 4; \$50 w/high hand award Tue. at 6:30; \$50 with \$250 player bounty Thurs. at 6:30; \$100 w/9K chips & 30-minute blinds Fri. at 6:30; \$55 every Sat., 6:30 and Sun., 8.

SNGs: \$30 or \$50 between 2-5 p.m.

High hands: \$50 each hour 1-8 p.m. daily; royal flush and mini-royal jackpots for each suit.

Promotions: Play Your Way to Borgata (pg. 23); every Wed. 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 \$80 No Juice Mondays at 7 p.m., Saturday, deep-stack hold'em at 2 p.m. (\$225) and Pot-Limit Omaha/8 (\$65) at 6:30.

SNGs: \$40-\$220.

Special event: WSOP satellite, April 26, 1, \$550.

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

Bad beat: Quad fives.

Derby Lane

Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7
www.derbylanepoker.com

Tournaments: Daily, (1, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Su-Th and 2, 6 and 8 p.m. F-Sa), and pays the bubble with 60-plus players and two bubbles with 100-plus players.

Special event: Jack and Jill, April 26, \$80, 7 p.m.

High hands: Royals in hold'em and stud.

Promotions: **Diamonds are Forever** — Players getting a diamond straight flush Su-Th win a share of \$2,500; **Monte Carlo Days** — Every day from 4-7:30 p.m., quads or better wins \$50-\$500.

Ebro Greyhound Park

Phone: (850) 535-4048
www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com

Tournaments: Big Stack Sundays, (\$150, 2 p.m.); World Series Wednesdays (\$30 w/\$20 rebuy, 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).

Special event: \$120 bounty April 25, 2 p.m.

SNGs: \$65-\$800.

High hands: \$200 all day; non-heart royals win \$1K, heart royal progressive currently \$35K.

Other: \$500 progressive hot table; VIP card raffles at 3, 6 and 9 p.m. Sundays and Iron Man (visit site).

Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai and Poker

Phone: (772) 464-7500
www.jaijai.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: WSOP satellite, May 23, \$175 early registration (see ad, pg. 21).

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.gulfstream.com/casino/poker

Tournaments: Daily at 6:30 p.m., plus \$50+\$5 bounties M-W-F and Saturday Special, (\$100, 10K). **SNGs:** \$100-\$500.

Promotions: Play in the nightly qualifiers and earn points until June 7, when top 50 point-earners will play for three WSOP Main Event seats (ad pg. 7).

Hamilton Jai-Alai and Poker

Phone: (800) 941-4841
www.hamiltontownshipjaijai.com

Tournaments: Super Bounty Sunday (every other Sunday) 1, \$35, high hand of tournament gets \$100; Double Prize Pool Sunday (every other Sunday), 1, \$20, limited to 100 players; Fri. 7 (w/rebuys), \$65; Sat. bounty, \$100.

High hands: \$200 on Wednesdays; each Friday, Saturday and Sunday wins \$500. Spade royal wins \$1K jackpot, mini-royal wins \$100.

Bad beat: Aces full of kings (\$10K).

Promotions: First to Hit runs weekdays 1-7 p.m., paying \$100 to the first player to make a straight flush each day, plus \$50 to the first four players to make quads and \$25 to the first six to make a flush.

Isle Casino at Pompano Park

Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 or x5124
www.theislepompanopark.com

Tournaments: \$60-\$550. Tuesdays in April at 7:30 is a \$525+\$25 two-table WSOP tournament, 5K chips (1K more for \$10 dealer token). 20-minute levels. One WSOP seat and \$500 to winner.

SNGs: (\$60-\$225).

Special event: April 20, 1:30, \$30K guarantee, \$440 plus one optional rebuy in first hour and \$10 add-on.

High hand: All 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: Mon.-Sat., \$35, 11:30 a.m.; Sun.-Thurs., \$45, 7 p.m.; daily \$35, 2 a.m.; Sundays, \$145, 11:30 a.m. (includes buffet).

SNGs: \$55-\$110.

High hands: Royal flushes win \$599; Mon.-Thurs. \$100 high hand of the hour.

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

Promotions: Rack Attacks means high hands qualify to rack as many cash chips as possible; four times Mon.-Thurs. twice Fri.-Sat.; Gaming employees play juice-free in tournaments throughout April.

Melbourne Greyhound Park

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

Tournaments: \$65-\$880, includes shootout, ladies, heads-up and bounty events.

Special event: Super Stack, April 25, 4 p.m. \$120, 10K chips.

SNGs, bad beats and promotions: Call for details.

Miami Jai-Alai

Phone: (305) 633-6400
www.miamijaijai.net

Tournaments: Saturdays, 3 p.m., \$20 w/rebuys, 1,500 chips, 15-minute levels. (Extra 1K chips for \$5 dealer token, unlimited \$20 rebuys in first four levels for 2K chips, \$20 add-on gets 3K chips).

Special event: Cinco de Mayo, \$225, 7K chips.

High hands: \$100 every hour (win three a day and get an extra \$300); Four aces or a straight flush (with two cards in the pocket) wins \$100.

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.

* 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

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track

Phone: (239) 992-2411

www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com

Tournaments: Sun. bounty 2 p.m. (\$125); Mon. 7 (\$65); Tue. 7 (\$45); Wed., 7 (\$65); Thurs. noon and 7 (\$65), Fri. 7 (\$65) and Sat. 2 (\$125).

SNGs: Six-player tournament (\$125-\$550)

High hands: From noon to 2 p.m. wins \$300, plus Fri. & Sat. from 7- 11:30 p.m. win \$1K; diamond royal flush pays \$10,000, other suits pay \$5K.

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai

Phone: (352) 591-2345

www.ocalapoker.com

Tournaments: Daily (\$65-\$240).

SNGs: (\$45-\$80).

Special event: April 25, 1:30, WSOP Main Event satellite, \$300, two seats plus \$2,500 travel.

Bad beat: Any quads

Promotions: Flush Frenzy drawing April 25, 4 p.m.

Orange Park Kennel Club

Phone: (904) 646-0002

www.jaxpokerroom.com

Tournaments: Daily, except Tuesday (\$30-\$65).

Special events: April 26, WSOP satellite, 1 p.m., \$150, 10K chips (1-2 seats awarded); May 31, WSOP satellite, 1 p.m., \$500, 10K chips (1-3 seats)

High hand: \$100 every four hours; royals \$200.

Promotions and 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).

Special event: April 25, WSOP satellite, 1 p.m., \$200, one \$10K seat + \$1K travel guaranteed (Satellites running every Sat. through May 30).

SNGs, high hands and bad beats: Call for details.

Palm Beach Princess

Phone: (561) 818-5771

www.palmbeachprincess.com

Promotions: Call for offers and WPT satellites.

Sarasota Kennel Club

Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054

www.skcpoker.com

Tournaments: \$40-\$100, plus Saturday \$330 at 3:30 p.m., 9K chips, 45-minute blinds.

SNGs: \$40-\$300.

High hands: Progressive jackpots; quads (hold'em), quad 10s (stud) and straight flushes (Omaha) or better.

Bad beat: Call for details.

Seminole Casino Brighton

Phone: (866) 222-7466

www.seminolecasinobrighton.com

Tournaments: Sundays, 3 p.m.. \$40 no juice with one optional \$40 add-on; Mon. & Wed., 6:30, \$20 with optional \$20 add-on; Tue. & Thurs., 6:30, \$40 w/rebuy available in first hour.

SNGs: \$42-\$250.

Promotions: Seniors 55 or older receive \$55 for a \$40 buy-in to a live game. If they're dealt 5-5 in the hole, they win a gift. They also may buy a hot dog and drink for \$.50. Any four aces wins \$50, straight flushes win \$100 and any quads win a gift.

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 vary; call for details.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Phone: (866) 502-7529

www.seminolehardrocktampa.com

Tournaments: \$100-\$550.

SNGs: \$125-\$1,075.

Bad beat: Jacks full or better.

Promotions: Starting at 10 a.m. every day, the first 25 players with quads or better receive a free entry into the Super Saturday tourney (a \$100 value).

Seminole Hollywood Classic

Phone: (866) 222-7466

seminolehollywoodcasino.com

SNGs: \$25-\$50.

High hands: Saturdays-Sundays, every hour from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. top-two hands get \$100; Every Wednesday from 9 a.m. till noon every high hand for that hour gets \$100; royals win \$500.

Other: Mondays, first 10 players to get aces cracked wins \$100, at 3 and 6 p.m.; first 20 hold'em players (Tue. & Thurs. at 3) with aces cracked win \$100; every Friday, from 2-midnight, every 30 minutes a table will be picked at random and its next pot will be splashed with \$100; quads (2s-10s) get 25 entries, jacks or better get 100 entries, straight flush gets 500 entries and royal flush 1,000 entries into daily Golden Temptation drawing.

Seminole Casino Immokalee

Phone: (866) 222-7466

www.theseminolecasino.com

Tournaments: Wed., 7 p.m. (\$35); Thurs., 7, (\$50); Fri., 7 (\$50+\$5+\$5 dealer toke); Sat., 1, Knockout (\$60), Sat., 7 Big Stack (\$225, start with 15K chips); Sun., 7, \$115, 10K chips, 20-minute levels.

Special event: \$20K WSOP freeroll, June 8 (call for details).

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: \$30-\$200, including shoot-outs, bounties and deep stacks.

Special event: May 17, WSOP satellite, 1 p.m., \$500, 10K chips (1-3 seats awarded)

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.

Promotions: Call for details.

Tampa Bay Downs

Phone: (813) 298-1798

www.tampabaydowns.com

Tournaments: \$20-\$540.

SNGs: \$60-\$535.

High hands: Standard and progressive jackpots are available and may change from week to week. Visit the facility's Web site for details.

Special event: May 3 and June 7, freerolls limited to first 300 players for a trip to Las Vegas and \$30,000 in prize money. Register online.

Promotions: Rays dueling rack attacks for all televised games. Players can rack up to \$500 and win tickets to Rays games every inning the Rays score.

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.; spade royal progressive jackpot.

Other: Aces cracked wins \$100, noon to 2 p.m.

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



HE'S JUST WARMING UP

By Christopher Cosenza

It's been a year since Glen Chorny was the last man with chips at the European Poker Tour's Grand Final at Monte Carlo. And quite a few remarkable things have happened to the 23-year-old since winning roughly \$3 million that day.

One would expect to hear about extravagant parties, dining with the principality's royalty and impulse buys. But when asked about how his year has gone, Chorny's first thoughts were of the weather.

"I've had some good things happen along the line," he said. "I spent a lot of time out of the country and avoided winter. Pretty much the past two years I've avoided the cold, which has just been awesome for me. I'm not a winter person anymore."

Continued on next page

Glen Chorny never could have seen what was about to become of his poker career when he sat down at the EPT's Grand Final last year.



COVER STORY

GLEN CHORNY



Chorny enjoys a light moment with Brad Garrett during their heads-up match. He made quick work of the comedic actor.

Continued from previous page

And that's understandable considering he grew up (and still officially lives) in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, which is about 45 minutes outside Toronto.

"Winter sucks," he said with a laugh. "Winter is always kind of been a pain in the ass. Growing up there is a great place, a lot of great people and lot of great poker players are from Canada. But I don't know how long I'm going to be living there. I might be planning on moving to the U.S. in the next year or the year after that. I might be jumping around a little bit. I travel so much, it's almost worth it to live down here. I kinda want to spend my time between Florida and Vegas. I'm not sure where I'd call home."

These days you can find Chorny playing in the bigger buy-in tournaments at One-Eyed Jacks in Sarasota. His parents live just down the street and, obviously, he's a big fan of the weather.

"I love it here," he said, referring to living in Florida. Then he discussed playing in Sarasota. "I always find it fun. There's no way I would come here if I didn't find it a fun time."

Chorny won the Scott Kazmir charity event in Sarasota a few months ago and a month later he played in the heads-up championship, losing in the first round. So did he sit in on the cash tables after that early exit?

"I never play cash games there; they're just too small and too frustrating for me."

But if he ever did sit down at the cash games in Florida he would have a definite game plan.

"I would generally play pretty solid and try to not get in for too much money to start. All of a sudden you get in for \$200 you're not earning that much return on that if you get to \$800, as if you were in for \$100. You can pretty much sit there and play solid and get paid off all day long. People here are pretty crazy in those cash games from what I've heard."

Turning \$2K into \$2M

For Chorny the poker bug started when he was in his late teens, playing for recreation with his buddies, but that all changed when he

Chorny by the numbers

Date	Event	Place	Winnings
3.6.09	\$20K NBC Heads-Up Championship	9th	\$25,000
7.11.08	\$15K WPT Bellagio Cup IV	14th	\$64,640
6.26.08	\$5K WSOP, No-Limit Hold'em	69th	\$8,323
4.23.08	\$1,570 WSOP Circuit Event	17th	\$2,456
4.12.08	\$10K EPT Grand Final	1st	\$3,196,354
2.21.08	\$1K L.A. Poker Classic	30th	\$2,620
1.17.08	\$5K Gold Strike Open, PLO	1st	\$80,000
1.5.08	\$7,800 EPT PokerStars Adventure	13th	\$80,000

turned 19. Like so many young players he discovered the Internet.

"It was up, up and away pretty much after that," said Chorny, who goes by "Choron" or "WLUStudent" on the major sites. "What got the bug started with me was seeing that people could win so much money doing it. All of a sudden I changed my approach from playing it casually to actually trying to get better and actively exploit different spots against people. It just adds so many levels to the game once you actually start to think about it and try to get better."

"As soon as I started reading books and the online forums I really didn't pick anything up that I hadn't already thought of myself. Experience has a lot to do with poker. You might not be successful your first time trying new things out, but as you keep doing it and you get more comfortable doing it, it comes to you naturally."

Had the poker gig not worked out he admits he likely would have been a stockbroker or financial analyst (or even a history professor) coming out of Wilfrid Laurier University. But from Day 1 his success was never in doubt, a fact his parents couldn't ignore or debate.

"At first they were kind of skeptical," he said as he recalled that conversation. "But when I showed them my bank-account statement and they saw that in like the first year of playing I made like \$2 million online, it was nothing they would deny. (They knew) it was kinda like destiny. I pretty much turned \$2,000 into that much."



Glen Chorny's win at the European Poker Tour's Grand Final in Monte Carlo a year ago wasn't his first live victory. He won a pot-limit Omaha tournament at the 2008 Gold Strike World Poker Open in Tunica, Miss., which was good for \$80K, plus he won \$80K the week before at the EPT's PokerStars Caribbean Adventure when he finished 13th. With this kind of success wouldn't you like to know how he plays? Chorny graciously gave us a peek into his playing style. Do with it what you will. "I change gears a lot," he said. "Sometimes



I play real solid, but solid for me sometimes might be not raising with K♥7♥. That's solid for me. I have a lot of trouble folding a lot of hands that a lot of other people would. If I look at K♣9♣ on the button, I have a really hard time folding that hand or not putting in a raise at pretty much any point in the tournament. Usually I play really loose and I play a lot of hands. Usually I don't have too much to be honest."

So there you go. If you ever find yourself sitting at the felt across from Chorny you know *exactly* how he plays. Good luck ... you'll need it.

The year after

It's hard to imagine anyone so young being frustrated with that much money in the bank and a major victory under his belt. But such is the life of a professional poker player whose success is measured by victories and status, thanks to televised events and media frenzy.

"It's been frustrating I guess because I haven't really snapped off a win since then," he said. "But I really can't complain; it's been a really good run. I had some close calls. I could have been a WPT champ, too, but I got one-outed with 14 people left for the chip lead at the Bellagio Cup. Aces over 10s," he says with a shrug.

He also played in the Bellagio's \$25K World Championship event, which was the day after his EPT win. How did he pull that off?

"Literally I was in Vegas 24 hours later to play in that tournament, and I was playing it all jet-lagged. I got up at 5 a.m. that day of the Bellagio championship to play. I couldn't have been happier to get up at 5 a.m. that day. It was like the happiest 5 a.m. of my life. I don't think I'll ever be able to top that 5 a.m."

So why haven't you heard of Glen Chorny? Likely it's because his major victory was never shown on American soil. No U.S. network has a deal to carry EPT events, but that doesn't mean Chorny doesn't get recognized.

"A lot more in Canada," he said. "Not a lot of people know me outside of poker rooms, but the odd person does. One time I was at the EPT event in Barcelona, and I was at some coffee shop grabbing a sandwich and coffee and the lady is ringing me through and she says 'Chorny, Glen Chorny?' I was like 'Wow!' That's pretty genuine, ya know? It's just kind of when you've arrived, when people just recognize you randomly. I'm not saying I'm gonna be a Daniel Negreanu ever or a Phil Hellmuth, but who knows, maybe, if I'm lucky I guess."

Heads-up and oh so close

One of the perks to winning the EPT Grand Final is getting an automatic berth into the NBC National Heads-Up Poker Championship at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

"It was definitely something I was looking forward to for a very

long time," Chorny said. "It was really fun and I wouldn't change it for anything."

His first match came against Margate's Chad Brown, who has had a lot of success heads-up.

"Chad Brown is a very good heads-up player," he said. "I think I had a big advantage going into that match on him because of how much he's played on TV. I found out I was playing him the night before. What did I do the morning of? I watched him in the national heads-up championship on my laptop. I got so much information from that ... it helped a lot."

He didn't need a lot of help beating his next opponent, Brad Garrett of *Everybody Loves Raymond* fame. And that match ultimately landed on the featured table as part of NBC's broadcast.

"It was only the featured match after the Gus Hansen and Huck Seed match ended, which was pretty fast," Chorny said, laughing. "It went really smoothly for me. I think I won like the first 14 pots. ... I told everyone I knew before the match that I would probably get it in with a big hand against something pretty marginal and it would have to hold up and that's how it went down. I got it all-in preflop with A♦K♦ vs. J9 offsuit with jack of spades and the flop was 10-8-2, spade, spade, spade. Turn A♣, river 8♣. Pretty sick."

That match meant \$25K in Chorny's pocket. Not too bad considering it was a freeroll. And he took solace knowing the guy who eliminated him (Seed) won the whole thing.

"Oh yeah, I have a world of respect for Huck Seed. He's a maniac heads-up, and I don't mean maniac like he's loose or crazy or anything like that. I just think he's just a really good heads-up player. ... The matches were real short. I would have loved to have a chance to play more with Huck Seed; I wish like maybe they were best two of three. ... there'd be less variance that way and the best player would come out on top. What happened with me against Huck Seed was so cold. I rivered a straight vs. a boat. I had it folded for the first three minutes but then I overthought it. Obviously he's gonna show up with a boat! It's real hard to fold a straight heads-up."

Maybe next time ... and there *will* be a next time for Glen Chorny.



You might be addicted to poker if . . .

By Christopher Cosenza

Telltale signs will tip you (or your loved ones) off when it feels like you're becoming addicted to something such as candy. Some general symptoms of addiction include feeling as if you need to eat candy regularly and, in some cases, many times a day. Or maybe you've failed repeatedly in your attempts to stop eating candy. Now, we could easily make this a serious depressing story and just substitute the word "poker" for "candy" and be done with it. But that's not our style. If you're going to discover you're addicted to poker, the least we could do is entertain you as you realize you're headed into the pit of despair. So, without further ado, here's the Ante Up Poker Addiction Test.

You might be addicted to poker if . . .

- Your boss seeks your opinion during a meeting and you *check*.

- Your psychic interprets bad news from her **tarot cards** so you request a deck change.

- You show up at a fancy restaurant in West Palm Beach and ask the hostess at the podium what games are being spread.

- After being seated in that same fancy restaurant a waitress brings your drink and you tip her with a **white dollar chip from Dania Jai-Alai**.

- Your doctor says you have six months to live and you scream "REBUY!"

- As the judge is awarding half of your assets to your wife during divorce-court proceedings you request a floor manager to make a ruling.

- You pull up behind a car with a **Jacksonville Jaguars license plate that reads AK524** and you think, "The wheel draw got there!"

- A vacationing relative from up north asks if there's a good place to go fishing and you rattle off three poker rooms within 50 miles of your house.

- You go to a pet store in Tampa with your children and see four **puppy-toe tracks** on the marble floor and wonder if you have the ace of clubs in your hand.

- Your wife calls out from the bathroom asking if you know where the brush is and you tell her he's usually at the entrance to the poker room.

- The weatherman on TV says "Let's look at some satellite imagery," and you have fond memories of winning a seat to the World Series of Poker Main Event.

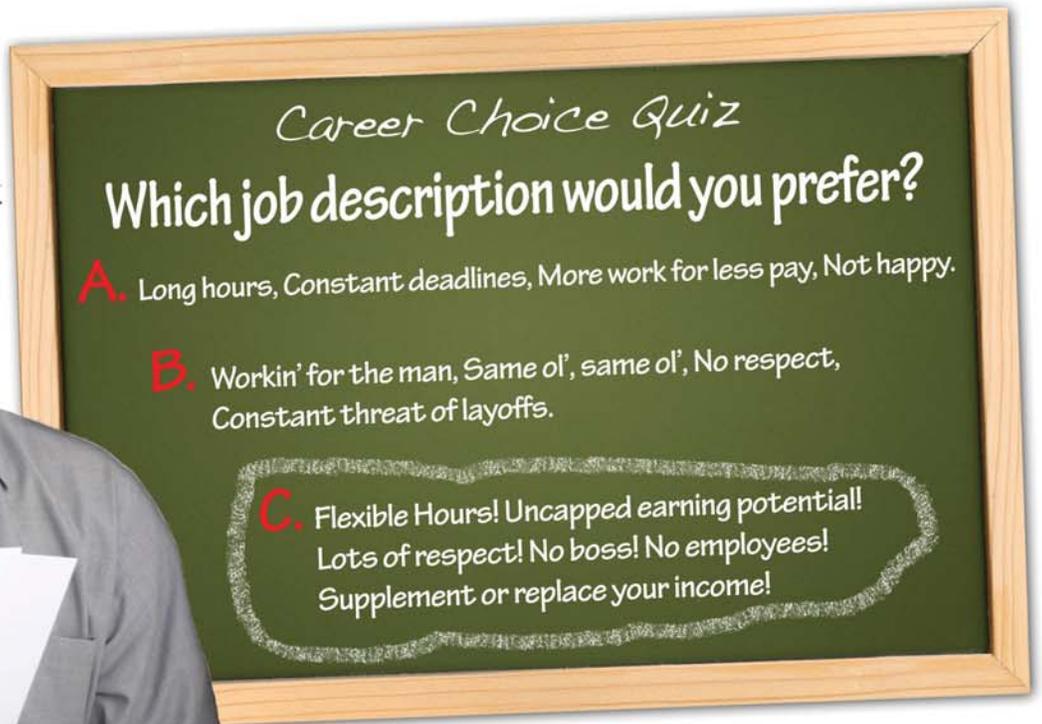
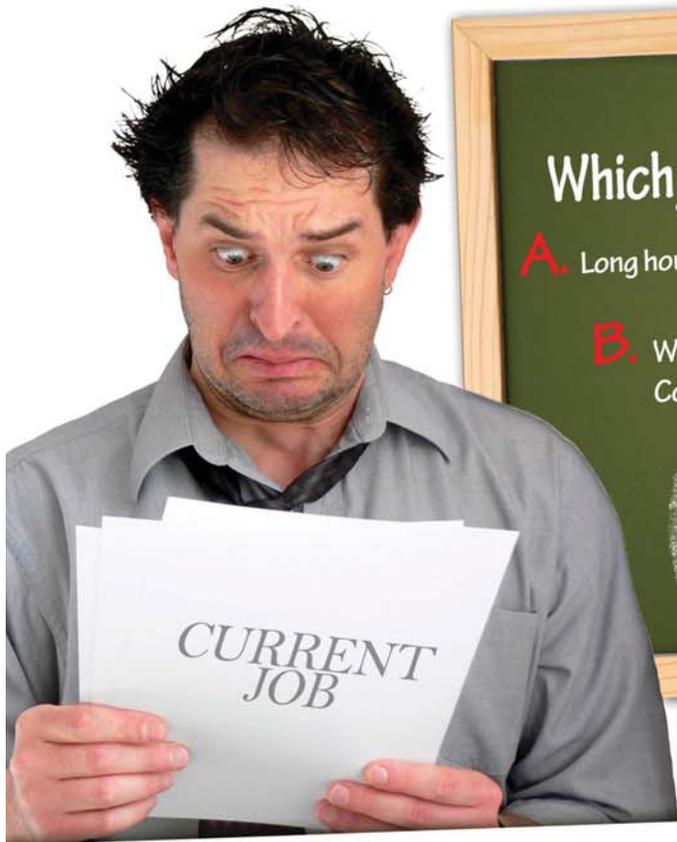
- While you're laying out on South Beach someone yells "SHARK!" and you think **Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi** is in the water.

If any of these examples seem like something you might say or do then head to the nearest Florida poker room and get in on a game because you're too far gone to be saved.

— Seriously, if you do think you're playing too much poker to your own detriment you should contact 888-ADMIT-IT and get help.

SHARK!!!





Career Choice Quiz
Which job description would you prefer?

- A.** Long hours, Constant deadlines, More work for less pay, Not happy.
- B.** Workin' for the man, Same ol', same ol', No respect, Constant threat of layoffs.
- C.** Flexible Hours! Uncapped earning potential!
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- ♥ SET TRAPS AND AVOID GETTING CAUGHT IN THEM



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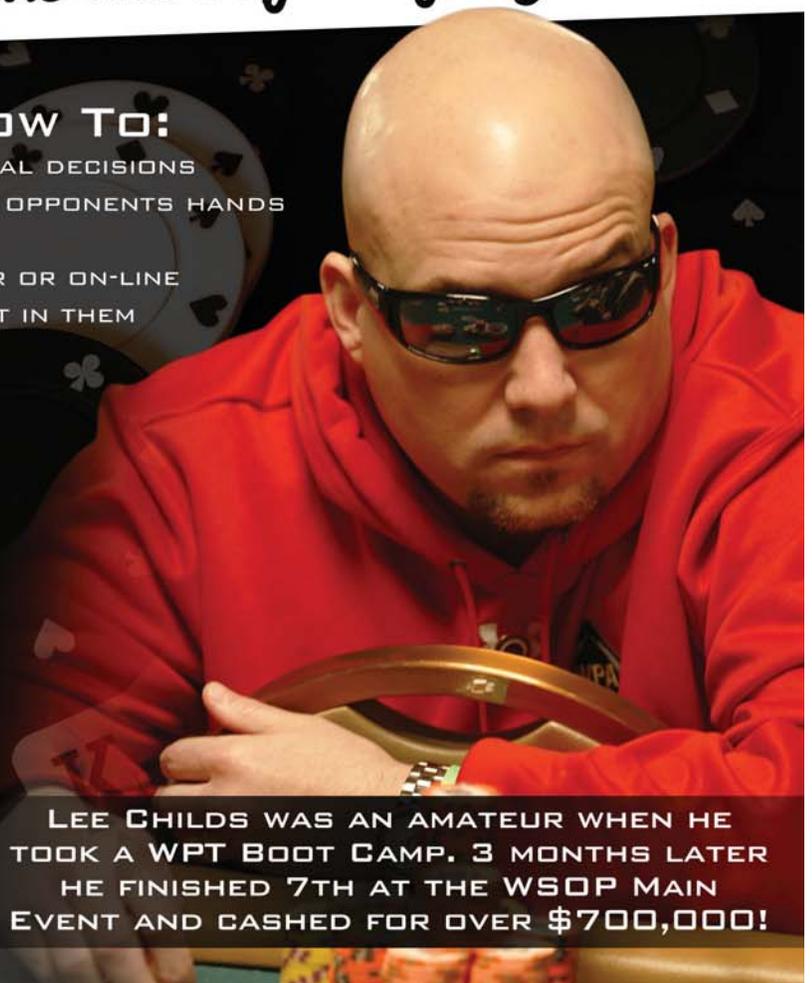
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LEE CHILDS WAS AN AMATEUR WHEN HE TOOK A WPT BOOT CAMP. 3 MONTHS LATER HE FINISHED 7TH AT THE WSOP MAIN EVENT AND CASHED FOR OVER \$700,000!

A look at non-Texas Hold'em games — This month: Spread-limit ... um, hold'em

IT'S THE STORY ... OF A GAME NAMED SPREAD-LIMIT HOLD'EM

Go ahead, call “shenanigans” on me.

Yes, I'm writing a “Holdout” column on, well, hold'em.

But in my meek defense, the impetus for Holdout was as much to do with giving limit players some playable options under Florida's repressive poker laws as it was with introducing readers to new games that will broaden their poker horizons.



SCOTT LONG

So, now that you've forgiven me, let's take a look at spread-limit hold'em — and why it's surprising that more rounders aren't playing it in Florida.

Think of “spread” as the Bobby Brady of the betting limit family:

- No-limit, where you can bet anything in front of you, is Greg Brady. Big Man on Campus.
- Fixed limit, where the bet amounts are dictated, is Peter Brady. Predictable, just like pork chops and applesauce.
- Pot-limit, where you can bet up to the size of

the pot, is Cousin Oliver. Quirky, like the game where you'll usually find it — Omaha.

• Spread-limit, where you can bet anything along predetermined lines, is the easily overlooked brother who might surprise you if you just give him a chance. Like Bobby.

And if you've ever jammed the pot all the way in a \$2/\$4 fixed-limit game, only to have that annoying nitwit in Seat 7 river you because you just couldn't bet enough to convince him that it's not funny to play 7-2 off, you exact some justice at the spread table.

With Florida's \$5 bet limit, the spread is usually \$1-\$5 or \$2-\$5, which means your bet can be anything between the two numbers. Blinds in a \$1-\$5 game are usually 50 cents/\$1, and \$1/\$2 in the \$2-\$5 game.

On the *Ante Up PokerCast*, I suggest to limit players looking to make

the transition to no-limit (yeah, there are still a few out there) that spread-limit is a good in-between step. It lets you learn the skill of varying your bet size without the risk of losing your whole stack on one mistake. And here in Florida, that variation is what makes it a much more interesting limit game than \$2/\$4 or the odd \$3/\$5 fixed games that are more popular.

So how do you spread your wings at spread-limit? Recall the fable of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. (Admit it, I'm the first writer to weave *The Brady Bunch* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* into a poker column. Yeah, Mom is beaming with pride.)

Bet too small: I've started to use a “limp and trap” strategy in my no-limit game, and while it's not a strategy any pro would endorse, it fits my personality and is working for me. But in a spread-limit game, I love it. Particularly in a \$1-\$5 game, you can see lots of flops cheaply and then juice the bet to \$5 after you connect. So take some cheap chances on those gambling hands (suited connectors, etc.) and make your opponents pay for not raising.

Bet too much: Conversely, the spread lets you put a lot more pressure on your opponents than you can in a fixed-limit game. So when you have a strong, yet vulnerable hand (say 10s or jacks), raising the max of \$5 will have more success driving out hands than a \$2 raise in a \$2/\$4 limit game.

Bet just right: The middle of the two extremes is betting just enough to get some action, while not driving away inferior hands. And this is the skill you need to hone to whip the spread-limit game. If you're an established no-limit player, you're well on your way. You'll just have to learn you don't have the “nuclear bomb” option of moving all-in. But if you're a limit player, you'll need to do a little “trial and error” with your bet sizes to see what gets you the desired effect. If in doubt, playing it like a fixed-limit game is an acceptable fallback until you get your legs.

— Email Scott at scott@anteupmagazine.com.

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REACTION POKER

Attitude shifts based on fall of the cards, other players actions and attitudes, winning or losing

Playing by logic, statistics, odds or intuition, and experience alone

Allowing one's style and strategy to be driven by one's personality

Reliance on luck and chance

Irrational and emotional risk-taking

Consistent predictable play

Impatient with slow play, bad cards or beats

Insensitive or unaware to the style of play of the table or the players or changes in either

Lack of awareness of one's personality and style of play

Fixed style

Lack of self-discipline and control

PROACTION POKER

Balance attitude independent of the fall of the cards, the play or attitude of others or winning or losing

Creatively combining logic, statistics, odds or intuition, and experience

Using a style and strategy based on the situation, position and personality of others

Not solely dependent on luck or chance

Strategic risk-taking

Unpredictable play, proactive change-up

Going with the flow of the game

Sensitive to the style of play of the table or players and changes

Awareness of one's personality and style of play

Flexible style

Self-disciplined and self-controlled

WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

JOE NAVARRO • Ex-FBI guy shares his nonverbal secrets

ONLINE PLAYERS HAVE LOTS OF 'LIVE' TELLS

Since I log more time playing on the Internet than live, I find my "tells" on other players are much more based on the whole story of their betting. I know I transfer this strategy to live play, too, more than focusing on physical tells. Is there any advice for reading online players, who can't be seen? Also, when playing live I'm often playing with people who are used to playing online, so what physical tells would Internet players have while playing in person that live-only players don't have?

— BERNICEQ VIA THE ANTE UP FORUM



JOE NAVARRO

I have talked to Greg Raymer at length about players who play online vs. live and what you can tell. He tells me, and he would know as he plays more than eight hours per day, that there are betting-pattern tells, but that is about it. One thing I've noticed is online players are weak in the area of tells. Because of that, I would say try to read more about tells, educate yourself and before you play at a casino take the time to study the tables, which is what I do. Just for an hour at a time you will learn a lot. One way I teach is to pick a tell, such as lip-pursing, and see if you can identify it and work with it. Once you learn to work with one tell, you move on. I find that's the best way to teach to those who play online, which unfortunately negates the human factor to a limited degree.

I have been implementing your advice on concealing nonverbal behavior from my opponents by taking up a posture where I place my hands in front of my mouth, place my thumbs under my chin, bring my arms fairly close together to block my neck, wear a baseball cap and look slightly downward to conceal my eyes. However, I'm finding this position seems to be affecting the way I feel at the table. I feel less confident and more passive and my play takes on these characteristics. With

the way the brain works, can such positioning affect one in this manner and, if so, what can one do to overcome such an effect?

— TOM JENNINGS

Tom, that's a very good question. We can be affected by how we sit and posture, something NASA discovered early on in the process of developing astronauts. There are some whose mood will be severely altered depending on how they sit and so forth, which can be manipulated to make someone feel better.

In your case, I would recommend changing back to something you were doing before, perhaps this time, if you merely restrain your hands in such a way that they conceal thoughts and remember that your mouth can communicate also, perhaps you can find an alternate way to sit that won't reveal so much and will allow you to be comfortable.

— 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.



Fossilman says online tells are minimal.



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DR. FRANK TOSCANO • A look at how to stay healthy at the poker table

BE MORE AFRAID OF PLAYER'S COUGH THAN CHIPS

Most of you remember Tiffany Michelle from the 2008 World Series of Poker Main Event as a sassy brunette who prodded and dissed her opponents while outlasting more than 6,800 players to come in 17th and win more than \$300,000.

Not me. What I remember most about her was she ate french fries at the poker table ... with her fingers! Cholesterol, germs and attitude — what a combination!

So how bad is that anyway? How dirty are poker chips? What can you catch from them? What about those cretins who don't wash their hands after a trip to Little Doyle's Room? Can we separate fact from fiction and get a reasonable handle on the chances of catching a bad beat from a bug at the poker table?



FRANK TOSCANO M.D.

Let's start with the skin. Many of you have heard about dreaded MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus) and the even more frightful "flesh-eating bacteria." Is it possible a poker chip could give you weepy boils or devour your love handles? The short answer is: "Pretty unlikely."

Let's start with some facts. Bacteria are everywhere. Literally every inch of your skin is covered with staph. And children are even worse. Those cute little creatures running around your home are really just thin shells of virulent bacteria shaped like children.

If your immune system is working properly, you fight off the vast majority of these bugs all the time. Occasionally a scratch might get infected, but generally, you blow off physical contact with most bacteria with impunity.

It's pretty unlikely, but I suppose if someone at your table has an infected sore AND you have some sort of open cut on your hands or your face, you might be able to inoculate your cut with his bacteria through the poker chips. The chances are, however, that he has exactly the same bacteria on his skin that you have on yours, so no biggie.

And you can chill out about MRSA. It's everywhere. In my ER practice, I see a half-dozen patients with it every day. You probably have some growing on your skin right now. If you get a sore infected with MSRA, there are simple and inexpensive antibiotics to fight it, so not to worry. And as far as "flesh-eating bacteria" goes, if your immune system is working, you're not likely to get this very rare bug.

In 2007, some scientists counted bacteria on poker chips from five Las Vegas casinos. Bacteria generally prefer it warm and moist, so it's not surprising cool, dry poker chips had a relatively low bacteria count. A similar study on currency found money, while not exactly clean, carried a surprisingly low bacteria count as well. So you're just

as likely to come into contact with bacteria from that Ben Franklin as you are from that dirty stack of reds. I'll leave you to guess which area of the world had the dirtiest paper bills.

Neither study looked for viruses, so let's examine a few. During cold season, influenza and rhinovirus are transmitted best by a cough or sneeze — through the air. They don't last very long on poker chips. Maybe, if someone sneezed on his hands, made a bet and then you raised him off his hand, stacked his chips and then picked your nose you could get a cold or flu from his chips. But it's much more likely that one of those 40,000 sneeze droplets traveling at 100 mph for up to 10 feet sneaked through his fingers and up your nose. Better to cover YOUR mouth when HE sneezes and not worry about the chips.

Finally, trots. Norovirus, the cruise-ship bug, causes a nasty form of gastroenteritis — vomiting and diarrhea. Unlike some of the others, this bug actually can live on surfaces long enough for you to get it from chips. Here, in my view, is the real danger: tight-passive player with trots, potty break and inadequate hygiene. He buys the button and folds to your raise. You stack his chips, eat some french fries and pay the price. Very possible.

So what's a player to do?

First, if you're sick, don't go to the track or casino. Stay home and contaminate your mouse instead. That's why God invented Internet poker. (Or was that Al Gore?) Second, cover your cuts and abrasions. It's not likely you'll catch anything through a cut, but if your best barrier (your skin) is broken, help it out by covering up the opening. Third, if you must cough or sneeze at the table, cover it — preferably with the inside of your elbow rather than your hands.

Home-game guys, occasionally clean your chips. Quick guidelines — no dishwashers, washing machines, microwaves, blow dryers or ovens unless you want those attractive hot-stamp labels to peel off. Do not submerge or use abrasives. Use a soft toothbrush (a NEW one please) and some mild dishwashing detergent. If there's a label, cover it with your thumb. Brush one chip at a time gently with a little cleanser and water and dry immediately with a towel. Lay them out and don't put them away until they've had several days to dry completely.

Finally, wash-wash-wash, especially after a potty break and especially before eating anything. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers and wipes containing at least 60 percent alcohol are effective according to the FDA. (We can trust the FDA, right?) And for gosh sakes, use a fork, or did your mother raise you in a barn? (I'm talking to you now, Tiffany.)

— 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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ACUMEN POKER

LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way

GET INTO THE POKER RING WITH JUST ONE OPPONENT

In my October 2008 article I discussed three key concepts for making poker easier: put yourself in good situations, have a plan for your hand and play according to your opponents' hand ranges. In my next few articles I'll expand on my approach for making the game easier with more key concepts: using the power of position and aggression.

Almost everyone has heard or read that position is important. Pretty much every strategy book has space allocated to the importance of position and how it gives you more information to make better decisions. You probably agree with this, but the question is: Do you understand playing hands in position is absolutely *the most critical element* to making the game easier and to your long-term success? If you do understand and believe it, are you implementing it consistently when you play? I know the *true* answers to these questions because I know most players simply don't really understand its importance, or even if they do, they don't consistently implement it.

The first step is to strongly tighten up your starting hand requirements in early and early-middle position because *you don't want to play out of position*. This means you play big pairs and AK. Dump small pairs, AQ, AJ, KQ. You must have premium starting hands in early position to help overcome the edge opponents will have if they call with position. You want a hand you can withstand a fight with if you meet resistance pre-flop. Your opponents likely know something about

the power of position as well. That means if someone reraises your early position raise, they're essentially telling you *THEY* have a premium early position hand. If you don't have one, you'll need to give up pre-flop or call and play a bigger pot out of position with a mediocre hand. Either way, you've decided to commit chips out of position with a mediocre hand, and this makes the game hard, not easy.

You need to limit the number of opponents you're playing against and increase the chances of winning and force out players with better position on you post-flop. Aggression and premium starting hands are the keys to overcoming positional disadvantages. If you were in a boxing match would you want to fight one opponent or three or four in the ring? The answer is obvious and you must approach poker the same way. If you limp in and let several others cheaply *in the ring* with you, you just made it too hard to win. You're going to miss the flop about two-thirds of the time. Even when you hit it, you won't hit it hard enough to feel comfortable playing a big pot against several opponents, especially if they have position and are putting up a fight.

Don't force yourself to *have* to make a hand to win. When you're first into the pot come in raising. This forces others out of the ring. The later the position the fewer opponents you'll have to force out and the more likely you'll be successful.

I challenge you to tighten up in the first four spots and when you do come into the pot, come in raising to take control. I assure you these factors will have a significant impact on 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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An occasional column from a Florida dealer

We need more quality dealers and fewer comedians

By Chaz Allen

I've traveled around Florida and visited quite a few poker rooms, and I have to say I'm appalled at the lack of professionalism from a lot of dealers. Don't get me wrong, there are a lot of good dealers out there, but it's a shame they have to work next to those dealers who shouldn't even be sitting at a poker table.

Managers pay a lot of attention to dealers during the hiring process, but then a lot of times they don't follow through to see if the new hires are keeping to the minimal standards of a good dealer. I feel dealers should be monitored and evaluated continuously. New dealers shouldn't be allowed to learn bad habits and shortcuts from bad dealers.

We're dealing with other people's money, and they should receive someone who deals a fair game and keeps the table under control. I often see dealers staring at the players and letting them take charge of the game as they wait for the action. This slows down the game and is the first step toward problems at the table, which usually leads to having to call the floor manager to figure out what went wrong. If only the dealer would take charge, control the action and stop players from talking about hands. Too many times I've seen people talking about another player's hand, causing that player to lose action, and then tell the dealer "That's poker. Why are you giving me a hard time?"

Also, we don't need comedians for dealers. Don't make jokes or give



cards and combination of cards cute little names. It might be funny the first time, but it gets irritating. Here's what I teach at my dealer school: "Shut up and deal." Call your game and move the action along, but let the stand-ups do the comedy; you're a dealer, not a comedian.

Dealers should pay attention to their game, not the dealer behind them. Don't talk across the room or ask what he's doing after work. That's why you have a break room.

I love a dealer who has a professional air about him and enjoys his job. These dealers always look you in the eye when they thank you after you tip them. Not everyone knows this, but dealers get minimum tip wage, just like a waitress, and most of their pay comes from generous poker players. I'm not a fan of the dealer who takes your tip and taps it on the edge of his rack, but doesn't look up and then almost under his breath says "thank you."

If you want to see more columns from me then email editor@anteupmagazine.com and let them know. Let's raise the level of professionalism of dealers and poker rooms throughout the state. I hope someday everywhere you go people will be saying Florida has the best dealers in the country. It will be hard to achieve, but if we start policing ourselves and giving customers what they expect then I know it can happen.

— Chaz Allen is director of Professional Dealer And Player School, Inc. and recently served as poker room manager at Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai. If you're a dealer and would like to submit a column send it to editor@anteupmagazine.com.

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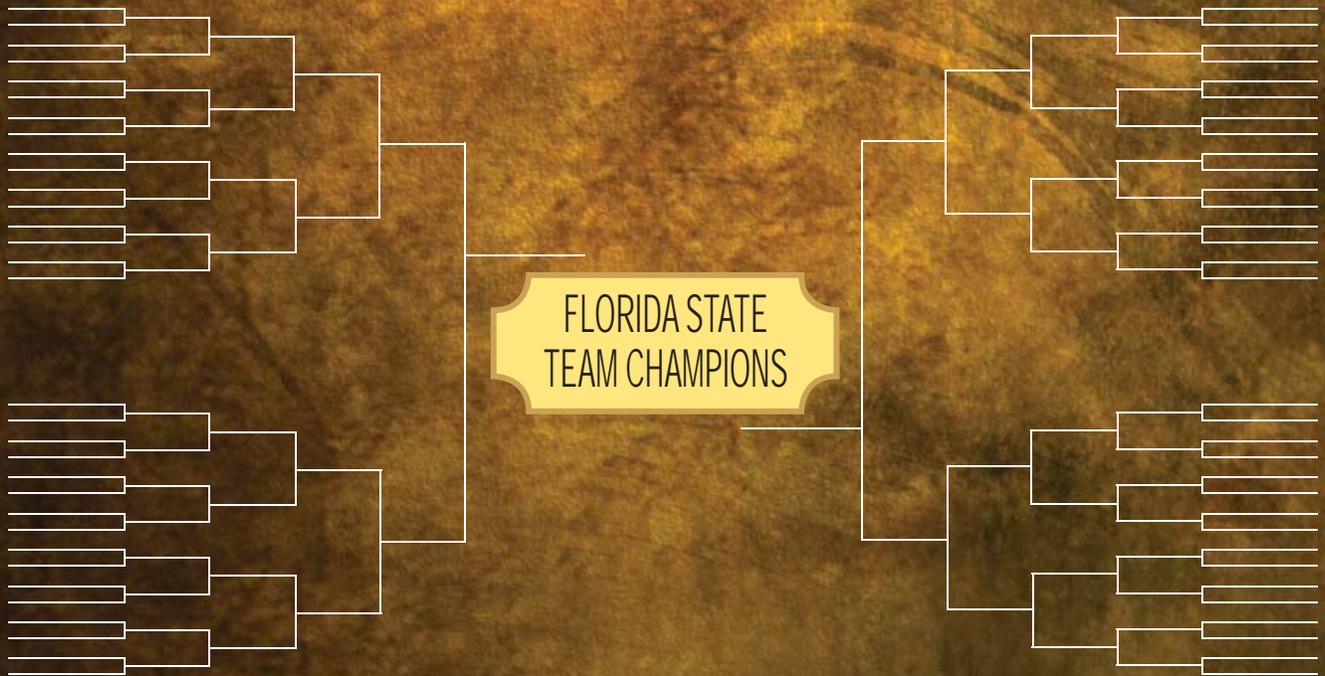
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As told to Ante Up publisher Christopher Cosenza

FIRST TIME OUT WAS ALMOST MY LAST TIME OUT

The following is one in a series of recollections by SunCruz Port Canaveral director of poker operations Dan Malka, who has rubbed elbows with just about every big name in poker history.

I completed dealing school in Las Vegas in 1979 and Dunes poker room manager Chip Reese gave me a shot. My first night was on the graveyard shift: 2 a.m. till 10 a.m. I was excited, but nervous. The shift boss was a friend of Reese's from Dartmouth named Ray. The only game left was four-handed \$30-\$60 Razz; two experienced dealers were splitting time on it. One of the dealers complained to Ray that the short stack (a stocky 40-year-old guy whose face looked like a bulldog) was giving both dealers a lot of heat, and tips were few and far between.



DAN MALKA

Ray looked at me and said: "Suit up! You're going in."

My nervousness turned to sheer panic. I put on my tie and apron and tapped out the other dealer. As I started to deal, the bulldog said, "How the hell did that guy ever get a job here? He must be the worst dealer at the Dunes!" He was speaking of the dealer I relieved.

I dealt my first hand slowly but surely. I made no mistakes and felt good about it, but I couldn't help notice the bulldog, who folded, was digging his hands into his face. As I put the cards together to shuffle the next hand, the bulldog said, "Excuse me, Son, can you tell me where the sign is?"

"The rules sign, Sir?" I said.

"No, Kid, the sign that says this is a f---ing dealing academy! Where the hell did they get you from? Ray! What are you doing to us, Ray?"

"You're not tipping the other dealers," Ray said, "giving them instead a lot of heat, and he has to learn sometime!"

The big winner on the table had the excuse he was looking for. He grabbed his stacks, made a beeline for the main cage and yelled, "Not on my time he doesn't!"

"Johnny, where you goin'?" the bulldog said. "Ray'll change the dealer."

One of the other two players said: "There goes the money," and then they both left. The bulldog crashed his head into his arms.

"Great going," Ray said to me. "You broke up the game; now you can watch the room." He then left with the other dealers.

I was stunned, but I just sat in silence staring at the collapsed bulldog. He finally stood up, pocketed his chips and then screamed at me. "I play here every day, and I swear I'm going to make you wish you were digging ditches for a living." Then he stormed out.

In the morning, dayshift boss Doug Dalton, Reese and Ray were standing in the back of the room. Ray was doing most of the talking, but Reese finally said something and turned his back on Ray.

Ray charged past me: "That's it, you're through! You're never working for me again!"

I glanced back at Dalton, who was smiling and walking toward me. "Ray's mad because Chip told him he didn't like the way Ray handled last night's situation. Ray is a trusted friend of Chip's, but he has never been a dealer. I came up through the ranks, and Chip decided to move you to my dayshift, where I can bring you along. How does that sound to you?"

In case you're wondering about the qualifications of these guys, Dalton is now director of poker at Bellagio; Reese went into the Poker Hall of Fame, and Ray? Well, Ray left poker and Las Vegas forever.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

THANKS FOR 'ANTE UP'

I just found out about your magazine and I appreciate the issue last September where you mentioned me from Event 6 (Omaha/8) at the World Series. It was a tough tournament and I ended up next to Scott Clements for the last three tables. And let me tell you he is daunting, but we're good friends now and I learned a lot from Scott. I was glad he

got out early and then the field was opened for me, but I could only make it to third. Maybe this year.

I also liked the interview with Chino Rheem. I've known Chino since he was a dealer on the casino boat a long time ago.

It's good to know

that a Florida magazine is out there promoting poker players in the state of Florida. I am just up to date on your entire podcast via iPhone and soon I will be getting your magazine in the mail.

If I make it to the final table this year in the WSOP I'll be wearing your T-shirt or hat to help you keep up the good job. I'm also trying to find the time to make it to the cruise in August. Thanks.

George Guzman
Ft. Lauderdale

VERBAL IS BINDING

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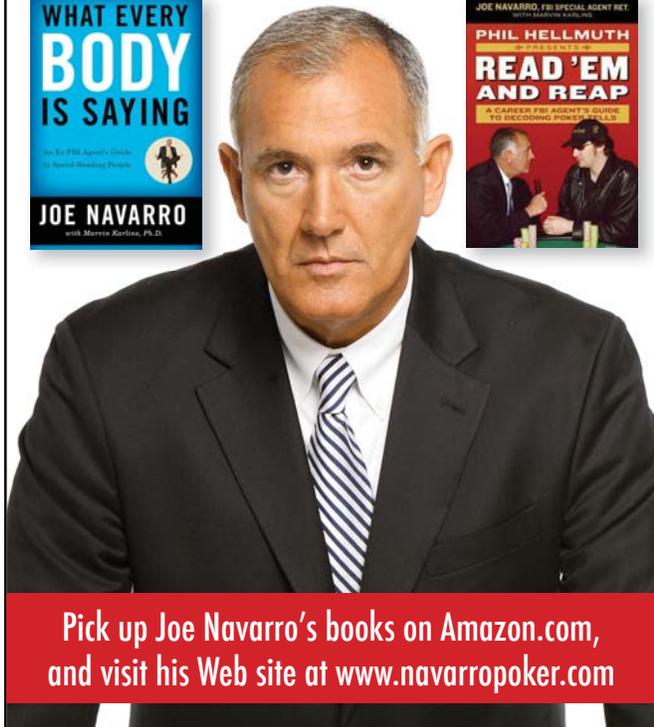
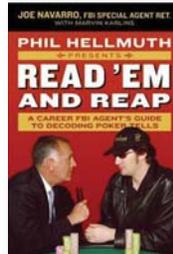
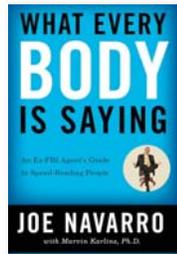
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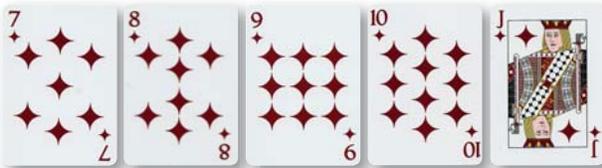
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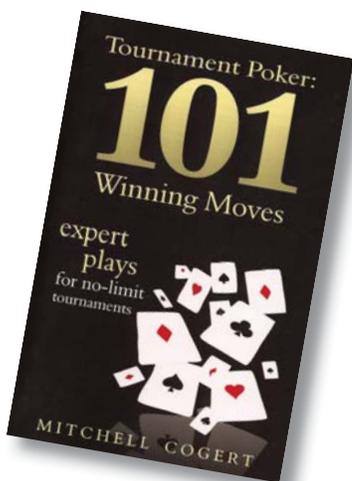
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TV POKER IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY

If there's one thing I've learned from watching millions of hours of televised poker it's that you should never learn the game from watching millions of hours of televised poker.

I can't tell you how many people I've talked to who bring up "moves" they've seen on their favorite poker show and wonder why those moves didn't work when they tried them out at their local Florida poker room or home game or online.



CHRIS COSENZA

If you're listening intently to Mike Sexton on the *World Poker Tour* or Gabe Kaplan on *High Stakes Poker* as they break down a hand and explain why certain actions are being performed, that's cool. There's nothing wrong with taking their advice and translating that for your purposes. They are two of the best poker minds on the planet, and they usually give sound analysis. And don't forget, these guys are in a studio and have oodles of time to get their thoughts together and to analyze the hands. Yes, Sexton is present during the final table, but that's just to give the illusion that he's calling that action "live" as he sits in the little booth with Vince Van Patten. Camera crews will capture some of their reactions to big hands and weave that into the program. But in actuality the production crew takes hours of footage, produces an episode and then Sexton and Van Patten get to sit in a studio, watch the program and make their remarks. You didn't really think Van Patten's quips were off the cuff, did you?

So, to merely watch tournament or cash-game hands unfold on TV and then incorporate some of those tactics into your game is just a recipe for disaster. Poker is on TV for one reason: entertainment. They're only showing you what's interesting, such as big bluffs and big pots. I've attended a few televised final tables and they can be quite boring. They last for hours and hours, yet you only see an hour or two on the tube. That's called editing, and without it televised poker would likely have the same success as a Chevy Chase talk show.

What does this mean? Well, let's say you saw Chris MoneyMaker's bluff of Sammy Farha during the 2003 World Series of Poker Main Event on ESPN after his flush draw failed to get there. A huge bet on the river got the job done and you think, "Hmm, a big bet on the river when I miss my flush seems like a fool-proof plan. I think I'll try it next time I play." Then you enter your weekly tournament and four hands later your suited ace misses the flush on the river. Your opponent checks and you shove. He calls with top two pair and you go home with your wallet a little lighter.

"What happened?" you think to yourself. "I did what MoneyMaker did. Why didn't he lay his hand down?"

If you had seen every hand played at the WSOP final table you might have seen the hands where MoneyMaker only showed Farha the nuts. And you weren't privy to this little nugget of information: Before MoneyMaker and Farha began heads-up play for the title, MoneyMaker ran into Farha in the men's room and tried to broker a deal that was very favorable to Farha. But Farha refused because he doesn't like to

chop and he felt he could outplay the amateur accountant from Tennessee. This is very important information that led to that successful bluff. MoneyMaker knew Farha would think he would be too scared to pull off a bluff like that given the circumstances. So he decided to pull the trigger on the river, and it was the "bluff of the century" according to ESPN's Norman Chad.

Did you have a history with your opponent? Were you playing for millions of dollars? Did this guy understand that you only shove with the nuts? Of course your answer is "no" to all three of these questions, which is why you're driving home empty-handed, cursing the poker gods and ESPN for showing mostly bluffs and all-ins.

And let's not forget about cash games. Tournaments provide plenty of opportunities to show huge bluffs or pots on TV because at that stage of the event everyone has millions of chips. Plus, once they're eliminated that's it, they can't play anymore. Televised cash games usually only have a few hundred thousand dollars on the table and if a player goes broke he can always rebuy. So great moves tend to be magnified knowing players can just go back into their pockets for more money.

Editing and/or history doesn't have to be the reason televised poker shouldn't serve as your education. Take a hand played between Tom Dwan, Barry Greenstein and reigning WSOP Main Event champ Peter Eastgate on a recent episode of *HSP*. Greenstein had $A♥A♣$ under the gun and chose to raise to \$2,500, which was pretty standard. Dwan called with $Q♣10♣$ and then it turned into a family pot with everyone calling, including Eastgate, who had $4♥2♣$ in one of the blinds. The flop came $2♣10♦2♠$. Eastgate checked his trips and Greenstein, who always leads out when he's the preflop aggressor, made his "feeler" continuation bet of \$10K into a \$21K pot. Dwan took his time and then raised to \$37K. It folded around to Eastgate, who just called, as did Greenstein. When the turn came the $7♦$ Eastgate and Greenstein checked to Dwan, who bet \$104K into a \$133K pot. Both players folded. Dwan had the third-best hand and still got these guys to lay down, including trips for Eastgate.

Some people might see this hand and think "Dwan just used super aggression and a huge stack of money to push these guys off their hands. I should buy-in for the max and I can move people of their hands, too!"

Um, no. This hand involved fourth- and fifth-level thinking, and as you can see this article is coming to an end so I don't have enough room to explain it all. But clearly Dwan knew Eastgate and Greenstein had big hands, and he also knew they knew that he knew they had big hands. So for him to make a bet like that he MUST have the nuts, right? Eastgate likely put Dwan on 10-10 or a suited A2 and didn't like his kicker. Greenstein came to the same conclusion so the play worked.

If you learn anything from this hand it should be that you should really know your opponents, know what they're capable of thinking and what they're capable of folding. Don't "learn" that if you make a big enough bet everyone will fold. That will only decimate your bankroll, as will learning poker moves from television.



Q&A

WITH BILL EDLER



If you don't know Bill Edler then you're really missing out on one of the finest, most genuine players on the poker circuit today. Edler had an outstanding 2007, winning a WSOP bracelet, a WPT title and a \$10K heads-up championship. He recently visited One-Eyed Jacks in Sarasota for the Pros vs. Joes Heads-Up Championship and answered some questions posed by *Ante Up* publisher Chris Cosenza.

People always say winning a World Series bracelet is the most important thing to a poker player. Now that you've won one, has it really changed your life?

If you play a sport or a game professionally you're going to have certain goals. I can't imagine anyone who plays professional poker who doesn't have that one near the top of their list. For me

the top of my list is the main event, without doubt, and then somewhere on the list pretty high was to win some kind of bracelet. And the one I won I was particularly proud of, so I would rank it as my No. 1 accomplishment. ... So what does that mean? It doesn't make me a different husband or father or friend, but if you play tournament poker it's nice to have that accomplishment.

You came to Florida to play in the heads-up tournament at Sarasota and you won the inaugural heads-up championship in 2007 in Compton, Calif. Do you prefer heads-up play or did you come here as a favor?

I'm here because Sam Minutello's my boy. So I'm here to support

him and in some small way support poker in Florida, which is a marketplace that hopefully will keep on growing. And hopefully the laws will liberalize and that's why I'm really here. ... What I feel about heads-up, it's my favorite type of poker. I think the shorter you get the more interesting it gets. So I love playing heads-up; my bracelet was in six-handed. Sometimes in poker it's correct to be the tight guy at the table and sit around and wait for the deck to hit you. But it's never correct in heads-up and rarely correct in six-handed play.

The more correct it is the less interesting the game is. You gotta do what's correct, but when it's correct to be the tightest player I'd rather not even be playing. To me then it's a job. I'd be here to support Sam if we were playing 15-handed, but I'm thrilled that it's heads-up.

Heads-up tournaments are popping up all over Florida. Do you have a strategy tip for heads-up play?

The golden rule of heads-up poker is you must be the aggressor.





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ON THE BUTTON

National Spotlight on Bill Edler

Continued from previous page

The only exception is when you're playing an opponent who is an absolute maniac. ... and then you can do some counterpunching, some trapping. But generally non-professionals will play far too conservatively. The first thing to ask yourself is: "Who's winning most of the small pots?" When no one has anything who's winning that pot? Ask yourself that, and if you cannot be certain that you're winning more than your share of those you must play more aggressively. That's the biggest tip I can give.

The second tip, which I would say is related, is if you feel you're outclassed, it's more important in heads-up than in anything else to play big pots. ... If you feel he or she is better than you then put the pressure on with big bets. ... Make the pots big when you're outclassed, keep them small when you're the better player.

What kind of strategy would you recommend to the Florida player who's stuck here with the maximum \$100 buy-ins and is playing \$5-\$10 no-limit? You always need to play within your bankroll, but if you're going to play \$5-\$10 no-limit with only \$100 behind it becomes two-card poker. You're going to need to learn who is going to lay down a hand preflop and who won't, and then run over those who will lay down. And I think what you'll learn is to get in there and gamble. It can teach a good lesson, which is to always play your hands according to the blinds and according to the stack sizes.

While it doesn't translate to real-world in cash games where you can be hundreds of big blinds deep, it does translate to late tournament situations. When we were three-handed (in an \$80 tournament at Sarasota where he finished second) the blinds were 50K-100K and there was only 1.8 million in play. So it was gonna go in awful fast and that's the way these cash games are. But it's two-card poker; it's not real poker.



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Judge

By way of background, Judge is a multimedia producer and director and an avid poker analyst. KOOGIE is an award winning educator, producer and director who specializes in behavioral science and teaches the universal laws of personal empowerment. Being poker players, they have combined their knowledge and expertise into a variety of tools and systems that will help poker players to raise the level and enjoyment of their game. These tools are designed to help the beginning poker player grasp basic concepts of the game as well as The intermediate player to go to the next level and even the professional poker player to sharpen their edge.

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EVENT 5 – MONDAY, JUNE 15 AT 1:00PM Florida Poker Room Employees* Tuesday, June 16 at 3:00pm and 7:00pm Satellites for event 6 – \$60/\$40 rebuys	\$175 + \$25	5,000	30 minutes
EVENT 6 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 AT 1:00PM No Limit Preliminary – \$75,000 guarantee Thursday, June 18 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm Satellites for event 7 – \$60/\$40 rebuys	\$500 + \$50	10,000	30 minutes
EVENT 7 – FRIDAY, JUNE 19 AT 2:30PM Florida State Championship: Day 1A \$150,000 guarantee Saturday, June 20 at 2:30pm Florida State Championship: Day 1B Sunday, June 21 at 1:30pm Defending champion, Long Nguyen Monday, June 22 at 2:30pm	\$800 + \$100 \$800 + \$100	25,000 25,000	60 minutes 60 minutes 60 minutes 60 minutes

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