

ANTE UP

YOUR POKER MAGAZINE™



KINGS OF THE WSOP

The Mizrachi brothers' feat of cashing in the same main event may never be duplicated. . . . except by them. They're coming together for one final tune-up in Daytona Beach for the Deep Stack charity event this month.

• **WORLD SERIES PREVIEW, PG 42** • **CHARITY PREVIEW, PG 26** •



CHICAGOLAND
A GREAT YEAR BREWING

LAS VEGAS
WHICH IS YOUR ROOM?

MISSISSIPPI
BEAU'S SPRING BREAK

NORTHEAST
EPT & FOXWOODS

SCOOP 2011 - Schedule*

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

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



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THE TOP
10

TOP 10 REASONS TO BE IN DAYTONA BEACH MAY 21st-22nd **VENETIAN DEEPSTACK CHARITY CLASSIC POKER TOURNAMENT**

1. Mizrachi! Mizrachi! Mizrachi! Mizrachi!

You arrive at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room on May 22nd, enjoy a bagel and pastry from Best Bagels and Deli of Palm Coast and get ready to play poker against superstar Mike "the Grinder" Mizrachi and his brothers Robert, Eric and Daniel Mizrachi, the "First Family of Florida Poker," and hundreds of other players in the \$165 Venetian Deepstack Charity Classic. You'll start with up to 10,000 units, play 25-minute levels and enjoy an Outback Steakhouse dinner!

2. Grand Prize Worth \$14,100 - A Trip and a Rolex!

You win the final hand, try on the \$4500 Deepstack Champion's Rolex and start making arrangements to fly Air Tran Airways on July 12th to Las Vegas. A limo whisks you to the Venetian Resort, where you check into a suite for four nights and enjoy \$1,000 in fine dining and other goodies. You'll play in the \$5,000 Deepstacks Extravaganza Main Event, with a prize pool of more than \$1,000,000!

3. Four More Vegas Trips!

Who doesn't like Las Vegas? Four other players will win \$5,500 travel-and-poker packages to the Venetian Resort!

4. Cash And More!

And there's more, if you're good. You'll be in the running for great prizes like a \$1,200 Daytona International Speedway Coke Zero VIP weekend pass, more than \$3,000 in Best Buy electronics and \$500 Costa del Mar sunglasses!

5. ... And Another Rolex!

You'll always know what time it is when you're the first player to get a royal flush and win a \$4,500 Rolex watch from Orange City Jewelers!

6. ... And a Car!

Play your cards just right, and you might win a \$40,000 car! Four lucky players will play "Royal Flush Bonanza" sponsored by Gary Yeoman's Ford. Get a pair or better and win a prize. Get a royal flush, win the car!

7. ... And \$5,000 in Door Prizes!

You don't have to be good, just lucky. More than 100 players will win great stuff, from \$1,200 luxury weekends, to an autographed Vince Carter Basketball, to dozens of gift certificates!

8. Make it a Vacation!

All play and no rest makes for a dull boy. Stay at the fabulous Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort for just \$89 when you call 1-866-536-8477 or 386-254-8200 and mention "Venetian Deepstack Charity Classic!" Book as soon as possible to guarantee this amazing rate!

9. Be a VIP!

You know you're special. Buy your seat by May 13 and you may win an invite to the the VIP Tournament on May 21. Face off against the Mizrachi Clan!

10. Did We Say Vegas?

You haven't won a Vegas trip yet? Before the first card is dealt, two roundtrip tickets and three nights at the Venetian Resort are up for grabs for players who enter by May 13th.

11. One Extra Thing ...

The Venetian Deepstack Charity Classic Poker Tournament SOLD OUT last year! Call now to reserve your seat!

"The Best Poker Tournament in Florida Just Got Even Better!"

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OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT deepstackcharityclassic.com

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Mike "The Grinder" Mizrachi

& "The First Family of Florida Poker"

(Robert, Daniel and Eric Mizrachi)



First prize includes entry into the \$5,000 Main Event* at The Venetian® Poker Room in Las Vegas.

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

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

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

Pre-tournament gourmet brunch by Best Bagel & Deli of Palm Coast (and soon Ormond Beach), and fantastic dinner provided by Outback Steakhouse of Ormond Beach.

2nd up to 5th place will receive entry into the \$2,500 Deep Stack Extravaganza III No-Limit Event.

25-minute blinds. Up to \$10,000 in starting chips. One opportunity to add-on and re-buy for less.

Tournament founded and created by *Scott Frank*

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& Poker Room

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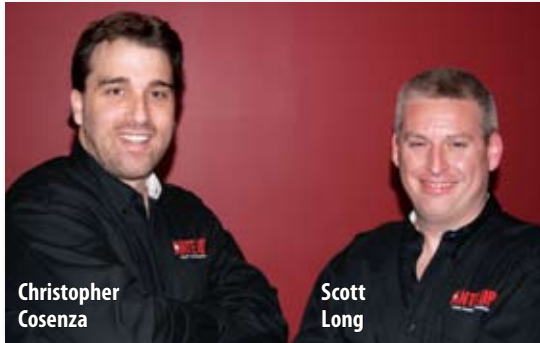


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Royal Caribbean International reserves the right to impose a fuel supplement on all guests if the price of West Texas Intermediate fuel exceeds \$65 per barrel. The fuel supplement for 1st and 2nd guests would be no more than \$10 per guest per day,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

OUR MISSION

Ante Up, YOUR Poker Magazine, is dedicated to America's everyday poker players and their poker rooms.



ANTE UP IS READY TO MEET AMERICA

Put us in, Coach; we're ready to play.

Many of you are seeing *Ante Up* this month for the first time, but that doesn't mean we haven't been around the poker scene for quite some time. Our publication began nearly three years ago as Florida's poker magazine, focusing on the local players and cardrooms that make this game so great. But it soon hit us: Doesn't everyone deserve to have their accomplishments recognized?

So, like a chess Grand Master, we were patient in lining up our pieces, getting great writers such as tells expert Joe Navarro and world-class pro Jonathan Little to come aboard, expanding to the terrific poker rooms around the Gulf Coast and southeast corner of the country while enlisting talented correspondents in key states. Eventually we found our way up the Eastern Seaboard until we had half of the country covered. But we, too, had a manifest destiny, and decided to head West.

This month you'll notice we've added a few Ante Up Ambassadors to the Northeast, Indiana, Las Vegas and Chicagoland areas, and we couldn't be more excited. These ambassadors are passionate about poker and will keep you abreast of the happenings in their respective areas, recognizing those who make a difference in their poker rooms and events. Oklahoma, California and other vital poker hotspots around the country will be in our sights in the coming months.

Please look to the right on this page and see the names of our ambassadors. You can feel free to contact them if there's something going on in your poker world you feel should be addressed in *Ante Up*. And that includes poker room managers and staff. We know how hard it is to be noticed by other national publications, so why not make *Ante Up* yours, too?

As you can see from our mission statement at the top of the page, our magazine is dedicated to everyday players and their poker rooms. Yes, we'll have features and cover stories about mainstream poker players, but the core of our magazine always will be reporting on the news that most affects you and your local rooms.

To all of our readers who have been with us from the beginning, thank you for your support and we hope our expansion makes *Ante Up* all the more valuable to you and all the more exciting when you see yourself featured on our pages. We'll see you at the tables.

— Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

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LOUISIANA



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SEMINOLE HARD ROCK EVERGLADES POKER OPEN

MAY 23 - 30, 2011

Double Satellite (Re-Entries)

Saturday, May 21 at 12PM • \$210 Buy-In • 4,000 Units
For Entry Into Event 1 and Into Event 5

Double Satellite (Re-Entries)

Saturday, May 21 at 7PM • \$100 Buy-In • 2,000 Units
For Entry Into Event 1 and Into Event 3

Super Satellite (Re-Entries)

Sunday, May 22 at 2PM • \$40 Buy-In • 2,000 Units
For Entry Into Event 1

Event 1 • No Limit Hold'Em

\$50,000 Guaranteed Prize Pool
Day 1A - Monday, May 23 at 11AM
\$340 Buy-In • 15,000 Units
Day 1B - Monday, May 23 at 7PM
\$340 Buy-In • 15,000 Units
Day 2 - Tuesday, May 24 at 1PM

Super Satellite (Re-Entries)

Tuesday, May 24 at 2PM • \$65 Buy-In • 2,000 Units
For Entry Into Event 2

Event 2 • No Limit Hold'Em

\$15,000 Guaranteed Prize Pool
Tuesday, May 24 at 6PM • \$150 Buy-In • 8,000 Units

Event 3 • No Limit Hold'Em

\$50,000 Guaranteed Prize Pool
Wednesday, May 25 at 11AM • \$550 Buy-In • 20,000 Units

Event 4 • Pot Limit Omaha

Thursday, May 26 at 12PM • \$225 Buy-In • 15,000 Units

Super Satellite

Thursday, May 26 at 6:30PM
\$170 Buy-In (Re-Buy) • 4,000 Units
For Entry Into the Championship Event

Event 5 • No Limit Hold'Em

Championship Event • \$150,000 Guaranteed
Day 1A - Friday, May 27 at 12PM
\$1,600 Buy-In • 25,000 Units
Day 1B - Saturday, May 28 at 12PM
\$1,600 Buy-In • 25,000 Units
Day 1C - Sunday, May 29 at 12PM
\$1,600 Buy-In • 25,000 Units
Final Day - Monday, May 30 at 11AM

Super Satellite

Friday, May 27 at 6:30PM
\$170 Buy-In (Re-Buy) • 4,000 Units
For Entry Into the Championship Event

Super Satellite

Saturday, May 28 at 6:30PM
\$170 Buy-In (Re-Buy) • 4,000 Units
For Entry Into the Championship Event



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PLAYHARD



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MURRAY WINS EASTERN POKER TOUR TOC

After grinding out countless hands, surviving bold bluffs and sick bad beats, 38 New England finalists converged at Seabrook Race-track on March 19 to compete in the Eastern Poker Tour's Tournament of Champions.

John Murray of Mansfield, Mass., won the \$12K World Series of Poker package for first place. All 38 players started the day in the money, with second place paying \$5K.

The contest spanned several months and included players from the EPT's Massachusetts and Rhode Island pub poker leagues as well as players from three New Hampshire poker rooms (Rockingham Park, Seabrook and the River Room in Milford).



Players who placed in the top 15 percent for points and those who finished first at any EPT pub or poker room event were eligible to play in two-day events spanning two weekends in March. These semifinals whittled the field of 1,000-plus down to 38.

Comcast Sports Net was on hand to record the EPT championship tourney, which will be televised in nine states this year.

SCAM AT THE STONE: Most gamblers know better than to try to scam the house, which has about as much chance of success as a naïve newcomer sitting with Vegas pros at a no-limit table. A Connecticut man who claimed a \$45,000 bad-beat jackpot recently tried to pull a fast one at Turning Stone Casino in Verona, N.Y. After he beat a player with quads, he collected the jackpot and skedaddled. The hand loser collected \$90K and the other players at the table divided up \$45K.

A few days later another player told the casino the bad-beat guy obtained his prize fraudulently. He didn't have a legitimate Poker Club Card that all players are required to present to win a jackpot prize. Review of the surveillance tapes revealed another player at the table slipped a card to the bad-beat player so he could claim the \$45K.

Director of poker Jason Dibenedetto admits the casino is partly to blame for failing to detect the scam immediately. Turning Stone was

able to track down the scammer and threatened a lawsuit.

"People forget that casinos have video cameras constantly watching what goes on," Dibenedetto said. "The player was contrite about his mistake and returned some of the money; I don't know how much."

Lesson learned: Remember, every inch of a casino or poker room is under surveillance, so think twice about engaging in any nefarious schemes. Though your actions might not be criminal, you could find yourself banned from the room, blacklisted at other casinos and basically reviled for being exposed as a cheat.

GRANITE STATE TABLES EXPANDED GAMBLING: In March, the New Hampshire legislature tabled a bill to expand legalized gambling. The bill would have paved the way for casinos and slot machines in that state. Currently the state only allows charitable gaming with a percentage of the proceeds going to non-profit organizations. There are several charitable gaming rooms in New Hampshire that offer poker tournaments, cash games and casino favorites such as Let It Ride, blackjack and three-card poker. The bill would've increased the betting limit, which is capped at \$4 per bet. There will be no further legislative action on the expanding gambling proposal until 2012.

UPCOMING NORTHEAST EVENTS: The Mega Stack Challenge is back at Foxwoods from May 14-22 with a guaranteed prize pool of \$600K. The series features 14 events with tournament entries at cheap as \$120 with a prize pool of \$10K, and four two-day events with entry fees of \$300, \$400, \$600 and \$1,200. There are \$80 satellites running May 2-20 leading up to the \$1,200 main event on May 21 with a guaranteed prize pool of \$150K. Visit foxwoods.com for tournament details.

Turning Stone is hosting the East Coast Poker Championships from May 12-22. Weekday tournaments have entries as low as \$100 and there are several deepstack bounty tournaments on the schedule. The two-day \$1,650 main event starts May 21. The High Heels Poker Tour is sponsoring a ladies-only event on May 21, too.

Visit turningstone.com to check out the tournament schedule.

— **Kay Fitzpatrick is a journalist and avid player at New England poker rooms. She recently wrote a series of strategy blogs for Everest Poker, and is a dealer at the River Room in Milford, N.H.**

Foxwoods Poker Classic, March 19-April 3, Foxwoods Casino, Mashantucket, CT

\$600 NLHE Shootout

Entries: 438 • Prize Pool: \$224,175

1. Paul Raimondi, Niantic, CT, \$35,988
2. Ryan Mott, N. Kingstown, RI, \$23,939
3. Mark Bramley, W. Roxbury, MA, \$18,136
4. Jeff Giordano, Saint James, NY, \$16,079
5. Jonathan Horowitz, Bethany, CT, \$14,243
6. Thomas Mucci, Brewster, NY, \$13,068
7. Richard Casner, Dedham, MA, \$8,000
8. Dan Voccia, W. Hampton Bch, NY, \$8,000
9. John Krol, Rochdale, MA, \$8,000
10. Y. Suleiman, Bloomingburg, NY, \$8,000

\$400 NLHE

Entries: 415 • Prize Pool: \$140,892

1. Sherwin Agard, Randolph, MA, \$18,475
1. Keith Kessmann, Fitchburg, MA, \$18,475
1. Gregory Roberts, Westport, CT, \$18,474
1. Marc Vincent, West Hartford, CT, \$18,474
5. Diane Ellis, Cumberland, RI, \$7,510
6. David Fallon, Medford, MA, \$6,030
7. Vincent Rosarbo, Branford, CT, \$4,903
8. Joseph Smith, West Hartford, CT, \$3,917
9. Jeanelle Roberts, Haverstraw, NY, \$3,235
10. Roger Fiset, N. Providence, RI, \$2,183

\$500 NLHE

Entries: 223 Prize Pool: \$95,176

1. Sal Mancuso, Norwalk, CT, \$16,538
2. Stan Berg, Danvers, MA, \$12,000
3. Charles Davis, Salem, NH, \$12,000
4. Peter Campo, Waterford, CT, \$12,000
5. James Capone, Abington, MA, \$5,377
6. Mohamed Benzekri, Revere, MA, \$4,378
7. Derek Happas, Braintree, MA, \$3,712
8. Chris Baksh, Queens Village, NY, \$3,046
9. Charles Sanderson, W. Sussix, GB, \$2,572
10. Fred Eriquezzo, Danbury, CT, \$1,951

\$400 Stud/8

Entries: 98 • Prize Pool: \$33,271

1. Igor Tiguy, Boston, MA, \$9,800
2. Joel Rosenberg, Dix Hills, NY, \$5,861
3. Michael Frejka, New York, NY, \$5,400
4. John Morano, Cliffside Park, NJ, \$3,244
5. Michael Mann, Westerly, RI, \$2,628
6. Larry St. Jean, Salisbury Bch, MA, \$2,163
7. Joe Savage, Rockport, ME, \$1,747
8. G. J., Wilmington, MA, \$1,331
9. Robert Patten, Halifax, MA, \$1,097

\$300 NLHE Bounty

Entries: 601 Prize Pool: \$122,424

1. Mark Sullivan, Arlington, MA, \$10,000
2. Ryan McCloskey, Hamden, CT, \$7,383
3. George Kalaitzis, Brockton, MA, \$7,383
4. Will Heuschneider, Groton, CT, \$7,383
5. Mark Lieberman, N'borough, MA, \$7,383
6. Charles Wey, Hackensack, NJ, \$7,383
7. Kristos Stavrou, Glastonbury, CT, \$7,383
8. Daniel Schubert, Walden, NY, \$7,383
9. Samuel Pollack, Newton, MA, \$7,383
10. Robert Miller, Northwood, NH, \$7,383

\$400 NLHE

Entries: 298 • Prize Pool: \$101,170

1. Adam Lippert, Brooklyn, NY, \$15,863
2. Mike Delaney, Middletown, CT, \$15,086
3. John Manwaring, Astoria, NY, \$11,184
4. Rich Despres, New Bedford, MA, \$9,633
5. Steven Rodriguez, St. Island, NY, \$9,038
6. Matthew Violette, Meriden, CT, \$4,603
7. Keith Binder, Fresh Meadows, NY, \$3,844
8. Rafael Giordani, S. Lagoas, MG, \$3,137
9. Mark Lambert, Mapleville, RI, \$2,632
10. Antonio Cavaliero, Everett, MA, \$1,922

\$400 H.O.S.E.

Entries: 80 • Prize Pool: \$27,160

1. Ming Lee, Natick, MA, \$7,504
2. David Tahajian, Belmont, MA, \$4,283
3. Steve Fiorentini, Winchester, MA, \$4,406
4. Derek Raymond, Portland, ME, \$2,648
5. Todd Bourgault, Fairhaven, MA, \$2,146
6. Ming Reslock, Atlantic City, NJ, \$1,765
7. Damon Oakley, Somerville, MA, \$1,426
8. G.J., Winchester, MA, \$1,086
9. George Kalaitzis, Brockton, MA, \$896

\$300 NLHE

Entries: 363 • Prize Pool: \$91,548

1. Frank Giordano, Mt. Vernon, NY, \$16,596
2. B. Wielgoszewski, Fairfield, CT, \$11,893
3. Ray Steadman, Wap. Falls, NY, \$10,383
4. Justin Seymour, East Hartford, CT, \$9,924
5. Jeff Schwarz, Amston, CT, \$4,989
6. Chris Tryba, North Las Vegas, NV, \$4,028
7. Matt Lope, Gloucester City, NJ, \$3,342
8. David Christiano, Monroe, CT, \$2,700
9. Joe Constantine, Billerica, MA, \$2,216
10. Sherwin Agard, Randolph, MA, \$1,510

\$400 Stud

Entries: 74 • Prize Pool: \$25,123

1. Oxana Cummings, Weston, MA, \$8,794
2. Bradley Manter, Quincy, MA, \$5,275
3. Ronald Benedetti, Wyoming, RI, \$3,518
4. Chris Small, Hyde Park, MA, \$3,014
5. Leo August, North Bergen, NJ, \$2,513
6. David Campo, Waterford, CT, \$2,009

\$600 NLHE

Entries: 261 Prize Pool: \$134,180

1. Fred Eriquezzo, Danbury, CT, \$32,204
2. Zeljko Mitrovic, Lynn, MA, \$18,919
3. Shawn Radley, Dorchester, MA, \$12,210
4. Thomas Renault, Arlington, MA, \$9,796
5. Tim McInerney, Seekonk, MA, \$7,514
6. David Carleton, Saugus, MA, \$6,105
7. James Kirby, Blauvelt, NY, \$5,099
8. Carol Neal, Provincetown, MA, \$4,159
9. Tom Cope, Westport, CT, \$3,500
10. Steven Striar, Plymouth, MA, \$2,549

Continued on next page

GOLD STRIKE WGS WORLD POKER OPEN

JULY 21 – AUGUST 8, 2011

\$3,000 + \$125 BUY-IN CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

Date & Day	Event #	Time	Game	Buy-In
Jul. 21 Thu.		12 P.M.	Single and Mega Satellites Begin	
Jul. 21 Thu.	1	3 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Jul. 22 Fri.	2	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Jul. 22 Fri.	3	3 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em w/\$50 Rebuys	\$100 + \$30
Jul. 23 Sat. (2 day)	4	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Jul. 23 Sat.	5	3 P.M.	Limit Omaha 8/B	\$200 + \$30
Jul. 24 Sun. (2 day)	6	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Jul. 24 Sun.	7	3 P.M.	Ladies No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Jul. 25 Mon.	8	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Jul. 25 Mon.	9	3 P.M.	7-Card Stud 8/B	\$200 + \$30
Jul. 26 Tue.	10	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Jul. 26 Tue.	11	3 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$100 + \$25
Jul. 27 Wed. (2 day)	12	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Jul. 27 Wed.	13	3 P.M.	Limit Omaha 8/B	\$200 + \$30
Jul. 28 Thu. (2 day)	14	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Jul. 28 Thu.	15	3 P.M.	7-Card Stud	\$200 + \$30
Jul. 29 Fri.	16	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Jul. 29 Fri.	17	3 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em w/\$50 Rebuys	\$100 + \$30
Jul. 30 Sat. (2 day)	18	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Jul. 30 Sat. (2 day)	19	3 P.M.	Limit Omaha 8/B	\$300 + \$40
Jul. 31 Sun.	20	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Aug. 1 Mon. (2 day)	21	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Aug. 1 Mon.	22	3 P.M.	Pot Limit Omaha 8/B	\$300 + \$40
Aug. 2 Tue.	23	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Aug. 2 Tue. (2 day)	24	3 P.M.	Heads Up No-Limit (64 Max)	\$500 + \$50
Aug. 3 Wed.	25	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Aug. 3 Wed. (2 day)	26	3 P.M.	6 Handed No-Limit Bounty	\$600 + \$50
Aug. 4 Thu. (2 day)	27	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$1,000 + \$80
Aug. 4 Thu.	28	4 P.M.	Super Satellite w/\$100 Rebuys	\$200 + \$25
Aug. 4 Thu.	29	8 P.M.	Super Satellite w/\$100 Rebuys	\$200 + \$25
Aug. 5 Fri.	30	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Aug. 5 Fri.	31	4 P.M.	Mega Satellite No Rebuys	\$300 + \$30
Aug. 5 Fri.	32	8 P.M.	Super Satellite w/\$100 Rebuys	\$200 + \$25
Aug. 6 Sat.	33	10 A.M.	Last Chance Mega No Rebuys	\$300 + \$40
Aug. 6 Sat. (3 day)	34	2 P.M.	N/L Hold 'Em Main Event	\$3,000 + \$125
Aug. 6 Sat.	35	4 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Aug. 7 Sun.	36	12 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Aug. 7 Sun.	37	4 P.M.	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$100 + \$25

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TOURNAMENT VARIETY IS SPICE OF POKER LIFE

By Cris Belkewitch

One of the great things the East Coast poker scene (Atlantic City area in particular) has to offer is variety. All along the boardwalk and marina you have any number of casinos to choose from to get your poker fix. If you happen to be on the other side of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge in the Philadelphia area your options still are plentiful. Variety creates competition and without competition the player is left to take what the casino gives them. Luckily, that's not the case.

With so many poker rooms in Atlantic City you find a lot of bad-beat jackpot hunters filling the seats. It's no secret as the jackpot increases, so does the attendance.

But there's another facet of the action that draws the players: daily tournaments. Many poker players find value in these tournaments and play them day in and day out. For others it's a way to play a good amount of poker for relatively low cost.

So of all the choices you have every day how do you decide which one on the schedule is right for you? Well that's what we're here for, so let's break down some of the tournaments that highlight the schedule on any given day.

BORGATA'S \$15K GUARANTEES: Every Wednesday the Borgata offers two \$15K guaranteed no-limit hold'em tournaments, one in the morning at 11 and one later in the evening at 7. The Borgata offers \$120 daily tournaments (except Fridays and Saturdays), but Wednesday is the only day that offers a guaranteed prize pool. With attendance routinely creating a prize pool bigger than the advertised guarantee these are hard tournaments to pass up for the price. It's not every day you can find a \$120 tournament that can net you \$5,000 for first place. If grinding daily tournaments is your thing, Wednesdays at the Borgata are a must.

HARRAH'S FRIDAY/SATURDAY: For those who can only find the time to venture to Atlantic City on the weekends Harrah's is the stop for you.

Offering a \$125 NLHE tournament on Friday and Saturday nights at 8:15, players start with 15K chips, offering more play than the usual daily starting stack of 10K.

With the casual/recreational player that often shows up on the weekend, these tournaments offer a ton of value to the serious player. And if the cards are not kind to you it's just a short walk to *The Pool*, where you can party your sorrows away with some of the best nightlife Atlantic City has to offer.

SHOWBOAT/TROPICANA/BORGATA NIGHTLY: Every evening all across Atlantic City you can find tournaments kicking off at 7 or 7:15. If you prefer a smaller buy-in with a softer field your best bet is to find yourself at either end of the boardwalk. The Showboat offers a nightly \$65 NLHE event at 7 (Sunday-Thursday) while the Tropicana offers a nightly \$62 event at 7:15 (Sunday-Thursday). If you're looking for a bigger prize pool the Borgata offers a \$120 nightly at 7 (Monday-Friday).

The tournament scene in Atlantic City has plenty to offer every day for players of all levels. For those players who can't get to A.C. from Philadelphia during the week, Harrah's Chester offers a 6:30 tournament every night with buy-ins ranging from \$60-\$95 during the week and \$195 on Fridays and Saturdays.

Daily tournaments such as these can be great bankroll builders, and for those just getting involved in poker it's a great way to get your feet wet in the tournament arena for very low cost. Once newer players get comfortable in a smaller tournament setting such as these they can move up to the bigger events that come through Atlantic City, such as the World Series of Poker Circuit and the World Poker Tour.

For the most part they all offer a very nice risk vs. reward ratio and we all know how important that is. After all, a quality return on your investment is the name of the game, isn't it?

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

Continued from previous page

\$1,500 NLHE

Entries: 127 • Prize Pool: \$169,386

1. Justin Pechie, Thompson, CT, \$48,275
2. Brad Noonan, Dedham, MA, \$27,102
3. Stephen Happas, Braintree, MA, \$17,108
4. M. Yousefzadeh, Astoria, NY, \$13,720
5. David Rabin, New York, NY, \$11,011
6. Ariel Albilila, Syosset, NY, \$8,808
7. Luis Vazquez, Taunton, MA, \$7,283
8. Arthur Pappas, Bethlehem, CT, \$6,098
9. Alfonso Cammarota, Fairfield, CT, \$5,336
10. Aaron Smith, New Bedford, MA, \$4,404

\$400 NLHE

Entries: 344 Prize Pool: \$116,786

1. Mark Ambrose, E. Freetown, MA, \$16,250
2. Daniel Besse, Milton, MA, \$15,526
3. Tsung Min Lu, Flushing, NY, \$13,337
4. Wil Esguerra, Braintree, MA, \$12,456
5. Nicholas Medis, Brockton, MA, \$11,335
6. Jody Williams, Stoughton, MA, \$5,197
7. Patrick Kelly, Wolcott, CT, \$4,321
8. B. Wielgoszewski, Fairfield, CT, \$3,504
9. Stephen Buckley, York Beach, ME, \$2,872
10. Michael Libraty, New York, NY, \$1,985

\$300 Ladies NLHE

Entries: 206 • Prize Pool: \$51,953

1. Heidi Alexander, Gardner, MA, \$10,074
2. Kim Findura, Butler, NJ, \$8,007
3. Aura Archila, Pawtucket, RI, \$5,299

4. Alice Kaziun, Holbrook, NY, \$5,299
5. Kim Edmonds, Toms River, NJ, \$2,935
6. Roberta Doles, Torrington, CT, \$2,390
7. Keiko Lim, Bronx, NY, \$2,026
8. Ivonne Hernandez, Holbrook, NY, \$1,662
9. Karen Goncalves, Abington, MA, \$1,409
10. Liping Zhang, Doylestown, PA, \$1,065

\$600 NLHE

Entries: 171 • Prize Pool: \$87,911

1. Luis Vazquez, Taunton, MA, \$23,517
2. Taylor Shpur, Witherbee, NY, \$12,747
3. Robert Ricciuti, Johnston, RI, \$8,615
4. Joseph Opie, Fairhaven, NJ, \$6,945
5. Will Failla, Commack, NY, \$5,055
6. Jeffrey Taitz, Briarcliff Manor, NY, \$4,132
7. Thomas Cronin, Saint Peters, MO, \$3,560
8. Tony Goodwin, Brockton, MA, \$3,121
9. Jeff Cohen, Rye, NH, \$2,597
10. Daniel Rovner, Freehold, NJ, \$1,758

\$400 LHE

Entries: 89 • Prize Pool: \$30,555

1. James Martin, Fall River, MA, \$4,407
1. Antonio Monaco, Westfield, NJ, \$4,407
1. Yousaf Asmani, Brookline, MA, \$4,407
1. John Ferlazzo, Scarsdale, NY, \$4,406
1. Dimitri Kotzamanis, H. Bays, NY, \$4,406
1. David Grandieri, Danbury, CT, \$4,406
1. Josh Castonguay, Newington, CT, \$4,406
2. Noah Daiell, Roslyn, NY, \$1,222
9. Baruch Levy, Brooklyn, NY, \$1,008



Phillip Reed, left, Ron Pease and Mike Lavoie took an equity chop when the main event reached three-handed, giving Reed the title.

\$300 NLHE

Entries: 375 • Prize Pool: \$94,575

1. Roger Fiset, N. Providence, RI, \$16,000
2. Ralph Verzillo, Millbury, MA, \$14,789
3. B. Grzywaczewski, Mont., NY, \$13,000
4. Matthew Holden, Woburn, MA, \$6,620
5. Laura Camuso, Woburn, MA, \$5,154
6. Nicholas Wilbur, Spencer, MA, \$4,162
7. Mike Murphy, Hanover Twpsh, PA, \$3,452
8. David Webb, East Falmouth, MA, \$2,790
9. John Segovia, Flushing, NY, \$2,282
10. Matthew Huff, Burnham, ME, \$1,560

\$400 PLO

Entries: 66 • Prize Pool: \$22,407

1. Mike Delaney, Middletown, CT, \$5,396

2. Mario Renzulli, Selden, NY, \$5,229
3. Patrick Morris, Beverly, MA, \$5,060
4. Michael Genovese, Brooklyn, NY, \$2,689
5. John Mengual, East Berlin, CT, \$2,241
6. Andrew Rowland, Trumbull, CT, \$1,792

\$1K NLHE

Entries: 158 • Prize Pool: \$139,467

1. Russel Crane IV, Howell, NJ, \$37,308
2. Will Failla, Commack, NY, \$20,223
3. Roland Israelashvili, F. Hills, NY, \$13,667
4. Vinny Pahuja, New York, \$11,018
5. Brian Horan, White River Jntn, VT, \$8,020
6. Jeffery Schwarz, Amston, CT, \$6,555
7. Gary Wong, Woodhaven, NY, \$5,648
8. Silvio Bersani, Harpursville, NY, \$4,951

9. Tsung Min Lu, Flushing, NY, \$4,120
10. Will VanWagner, Camp. Hall, NY, \$2,789

\$2,500 NLHE

Entries: 284 • Prize Pool: \$640,490

1. Phillip Reed, Washington, D.C., \$114,050
2. Ron Pease, Glastonbury, CT, \$108,295
3. Michael Lavoie, Wolcott, CT, \$79,967
4. Todd Terry, Hoboken, NJ, \$46,755
5. Darren Keyes, Ontario, \$35,868
6. Justin Schwartz, Milford, CT, \$29,142
7. Rod Legendre, Randolph, NH, \$24,339
8. David Whalen, Whitman, MA, \$19,855
9. Kyle Loman, Haverhill, MA, \$16,666
10. Steve Ryan, New York, \$12,169

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WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT

MARCH 2-14 • HARRAH'S CASINO • ATLANTIC CITY



Ring Event 1 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 742 • Prize Pool: \$215,922

1. Tsung Lu, Flushing, NY, \$43,184
2. Matt Lope, Gloucester City, NJ, \$26,623
3. Brian Ali, Brooklyn, NJ, \$19,627
4. Ryan Chapman, Germantown, MD, \$14,628
5. Kent DeMott, Leominster, MA, \$11,048
6. Joseph Opie, Fair Haven, NJ, \$8,453
7. David Mayo, Ocean City, NJ, \$6,548
8. Mitchell Friedman, Chatham, NJ, \$5,136
9. L. John Lakatos, Red Lion, PA, \$4,078
10. Thao Tran, Arlington, VA, \$3,277



Ring Event 2 • \$570 NLHE

Entries: 254 • Prize Pool: \$123,190

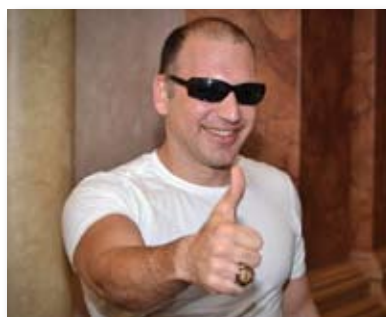
1. Peter Ippolito, East Meadow, NY, \$30,181
2. Brian Adeagna, \$18,648
3. Andrew Caldarelli, Philadelphia, \$13,473
4. Todor Blazevski, Wayne, NJ, \$9,915
5. Dara Esfandiari, New York, \$7,428
6. Mike Coleman, Hillsborough, NJ, \$5,660
7. Leo Palermo, Ortley Beach, NJ, \$4,385
8. Eric Grosberger, \$3,453
9. D. Sotiropoulos, Appalachian, NY, \$2,761
10. Gregory Joslyn, Garden City, NY, \$2,243



Ring Event 3 • \$350 LHE

Entries: 158 • Prize Pool: \$45,978

1. Dennis Summers, Char'ville, VA, \$12,414
2. Michael Walls, Newark, DE, \$7,671
3. Peter Campo, Waterford, CT, \$5,522
4. Thomas Balla, Bellerose, NY, \$4,047
5. Mark Sykes, New Haven, CT, \$3,018
6. Chris Tryba, Las Vegas, \$2,291
7. Wasyl Zaliwiciw, Philadelphia, \$1,768
8. Wayne Thomas, Oxford, NC, \$1,387
9. Chris Reslock, Atlantic City, \$1,106
10. Dennis Broderick, Tinton Falls, NJ, \$896



Ring Event 4 • \$570 NLHE

Entries: 386 • Prize Pool: \$187,210

1. Paul Lambrakis, Brooklyn, \$41,186
2. Mun Nguyen, Pittsburgh, \$25,451
3. Steve Cordrey, Millsboro, DE, \$18,597
4. Michael Senter, Fall Church, VA, \$13,808
5. Chris Lim, Bronx, \$10,412
6. Chris Dandrea, Nashville, \$7,969
7. Joe Loriggio, Astoria, NY, \$6,189
8. David Levy, Rockville Center, NY, \$4,874
9. Wayne Kaufmann, Smithtown, NY, \$3,893
10. Scott Fredriksen, Mahopac, NY, \$3,152



Ring Event 5 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 477 • Prize Pool: \$138,807

1. Jaeik Cho, Tokyo, \$29,843
2. Oliver Entine, Philadelphia, \$18,451
3. Matthew Piccolo, Dumont, NJ, \$13,479
4. James Governa, Richboro, PA, \$9,992
5. Ronnie Plyler, Waxhaw, NC, \$7,515
6. Eric Crammer, Shillington, PA, \$5,732
7. Steven Damico, Staten Island, NY, \$4,434
8. Paul Mattioda, Knoxville, TN, \$3,479
9. Richard Contreras, Queens, NY, \$2,769
10. Zak Babazadeh, Columbia, MD, \$2,233



Ring Event 6 • \$830 NLHE

Entries: 155 • Prize Pool: \$112,762

1. Travell Thomas, Buffalo, \$30,445
2. Dara Esfandiari, New York, \$18,815
3. Steven Krasner, Brooklyn, \$13,543
4. Matt Kalinowski, Westampton, NJ, \$9,926
5. V. Arkhangelsky, Brooklyn, \$7,403
6. K. Lesichkov, Gaithersburg, MD, \$5,618
7. Mickey Woll, Manahawkin, NJ, \$4,336
8. Kevin Mina, Durand, MI, \$3,402
9. Shelly Turk, Marlboro, NJ, \$2,713
10. Gregory Joslyn, Garden City, NY, \$2,197



Ring Event 7 • \$350 Omaha

Entries: 90 • Prize Pool: \$26,190

1. Mun Nguyen, Pittsburgh, \$8,380
2. Norman Merritt, Rock Hill, SC, \$5,179
3. Harry Frankel, Monsey, NJ, \$3,625
4. Doug Carli, Alliance, OH, \$2,641
5. Guy Tull, Annapolis, MD, \$1,943
6. Ranson Nelson, Fredericksburg, VA, \$1,451
7. Kevin Gugliaotta, L. Hopalong, NJ, \$1,164
8. Gregory Kolo, \$970
9. Edward Hwang, Collingswood, NJ, \$833



Ring Event 8 • \$1,100 NLHE

Entries: 185 • Prize Pool: \$179,450

1. Gregg Fishberg, Willow Grove, PA, \$46,657
2. Jeff Manning, Chesapeake, VA, \$28,821
3. Edwin Lau, Philadelphia, \$20,810
4. Scott Carpenter, Fairfax St., VA, \$15,283
5. Keith Crowder, Elkins Park, PA, \$11,418
6. Jason Notter, Lynbrook, NY, \$8,676
7. Joseph Pitti, East Meadow, NY, \$6,702
8. Roland Israelashvili, Forest Hill, NY, \$5,263
9. Dennis Summers, Char'ville, VA, \$4,199
10. Dimitrios Bergos, Baltimore, \$3,404



Ring Event 9 • \$350 NLHE

Entries: 288 • Prize Pool: \$83,808

1. Vincent Basilicata, Queens, \$20,113
2. Siros Jamshidi, Broumali, PA, \$12,430
3. Russell Crane, Howell, NJ, \$9,019
4. Sheree Bykofsky, New York, \$6,654
5. John Koliner, Northport, NY, \$4,990
6. Hovan Nguyen, Pasadena, MD, \$3,803
7. Alex Rivera, New York, \$2,943
8. Chris Kennedy, Harrisburg, PA, \$2,313
9. Marcel St. Denis, Pasadena, MD, \$1,845
10. Vinson Harrell, Jacksonville, FL, \$1,494



\$1,650 Main Event

Entries: 442 • Prize Pool: \$643,110

1. Brian Ali, Brooklyn, \$139,284
2. John Andress, Doylestown, PA, \$86,071
3. Pat Houchins, Annapolis, MD, \$62,893
4. Ellis Frazier, Troy, VA, \$46,698
5. Roland Israelashvili, Forest Hill, NY, \$35,213
6. Jeffrey Rowland, Fortville, IN, \$26,951
7. Jerry Van Strydeck, Arlington, VA, \$20,930
8. Al Winchester, Falls Church, VA, \$16,486
9. Joseph Caffrey, Toms River, NJ, \$13,168
10. Adam Lippert, Brooklyn, NY, \$10,661

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A STEP TOWARD REAL POKER IN ORLANDO

Ask any conventioner looking to wash away the boredom of his mind-numbing conference with some high-action hold'em, and they'll confirm the unbelievable — you won't find legal poker for real money in Orlando.

Oh, it's not for a lack of trying. Orlando Jai-Alai and Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club have been unsuccessfully working for years to get the green light from local authorities. A well-organized opposition snuffed out the hopes of entrepreneurs seeking to bring poker to the nearby town of DeBary. And Mayor David Yeager even lost his job trying to do the same in Minneola.

But Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club, ever tenacious, has grown more creative in its quest to persuade officials in the city of Longwood or county of Seminole to say yes to what the state has approved, allowing poker in parimutuel facilities.

Teaming with All In Poker Series, one of the many free poker leagues that fill the void in the Orlando poker market, the kennel club has begun offering free poker on Tuesday nights.

"We'd been considering hosting amateur poker for almost two years," said Victor Harrison, general manager of the greyhound track. "The free poker games present an opportunity for us to dip our toes into the pool and show that this type of offering can be a major positive for Longwood and Seminole County."

All parimutuel facilities in Florida are permitted to operate cardrooms, but all must first gain approval from a local government. Sanford-Orlando and Orlando Jai-Alai are the only two in the state to not yet complete that crucial second step.

So Harrison secured approval from the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering to offer the free games, in which players put up no money but earn points and prizes for their play. The track will start slow and let the games build, offering play initially only at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, but is open to adding games on other days if demand warrants. The bar and kitchen will be open during games, as will simulcast betting windows.

"The goal of offering free poker is simply to have the community associate us with being a fun and entertaining place to play poker," Harrison said. "We'll continue the regular weekly amateur poker until such time that people realize that poker is a natural part of Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club's total entertainment package."

Harrison said his company's research shows a real-money poker room at his track would create at least 100 jobs, generate several hundred thousand dollars in revenue and encourage owner, Penn National Gaming, to upgrade the facility.

Mangers at other cardrooms in Florida have suggested to *Ante Up* that a poker room in Orlando, which aside from its dense population level also welcomes millions of visitors each year, could easily be the state's largest, perhaps even hitting 100 tables.

In the meantime, Harrison is looking forward to seeing what excitement All In can provide for his patrons.



SCOTT LONG

Florida's Blue Shark named WSOP sponsor

Blue Shark Optics has been chosen as the "Official Poker Eyewear of the World Series of Poker."

The Florida company, represented by pros such as Hoyt Corkins, Jonathan Little, Humberto Brenes and Kathy Liebert, announced the deal with Caesars Entertainment in early April.

"Our sponsorship of the World Series of Poker is a huge accomplishment for our company," said Kerry Karoutsos, executive director of Blue Shark Optics. "The WSOP is very selective about the quality of the companies that are its sponsors, and being selected by them is a strong validation that Blue Shark Optics provides a poker-specific product that is valued by those players who require a visual edge at the tables."

"I am so happy with All In," he said. "From the get-go, Rebecca (Sanborn) has been professional and enthusiastic. She's answered all of our questions and is totally compliance-minded. I couldn't have asked for a better partner."

Sanborn said it was an honor to be chosen to operate the games.

"With the scrutiny we will be under, it will prove that we take pride in what we do and have nothing but the best interest of our clients in mind," Sanborn said.

For more info visit allinpokerseries.com or sanfordorlandokc.com.

Dania cuts the rake . . . in April

When you bring people in by the hundreds for your tournaments, but just can't seem to get them to play cash games, what do you do? If you're Dania Jai-Alai's new poker room manager, Frank Famiano, you leave no possibility unturned, even the drastic step of cutting the rake. Famiano, who came to Dania from the Venetian in March, dropped the rake to \$2 per hand for the month of April.

"We need to get the cash games going," Famiano told Nick Sortal of the *Sun-Sentinel*. "The per-hand average will go down but if we get five cash games rather than one, it's a step in the right direction."

Dropping the rake to \$2 may seem drastic, but more than half of Dania's poker revenue comes from tournaments, perhaps one of the most disproportionate ratios of any room in the country. While poker rooms offer tournaments to get people in the door or for prestige, they make the bulk of their money from cash games. Being a tournament-only house is not a sound long-term business model.

Many Florida managers have long fretted about a "rake war," saying if one broke out it would do permanent damage to the industry. It will be interesting to see how Dania's many South Florida competitors react if Dania keeps the rake-cut in effect past April. It's unlikely any will match Dania, but if Dania succeeds in siphoning market share, other rooms will be forced to find another answer, whether it's more creative promotions, improved customer service or a more modest rake reduction to keep their regulars from doing anything more than simply window-shopping at Dania.

— Scott Long is co-publisher of *Ante Up*. Email him at scott@anteupmagazine.com.



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POMPANO PARK

An occasional interview with a local player • By Lauren Failla, Founder of High Heels Poker Tour

By Lauren Failla

Tonia Williams hasn't been playing poker for most of her life, but she definitely has made her mark over the past three years with cashes totaling more than \$50K. Lauren Failla recently caught up with the Tampa-area player to see what makes her tick.

How long have you been playing poker? I started playing in 2004.

What attracted you to the game? I started watching poker on TV and it looked pretty exciting. I liked watching all of the different strategies people used in the game. It looked challenging. I had always liked to play many of the table games in Vegas but this seemed different. I wasn't doing too well at blackjack one day and ventured into a poker room to a table where several older men were playing. They made me feel very welcome and I loved it. I actually sat at the table for 12 hours playing \$3-\$6 limit had a blast.

Which game is your preference? I only play no-limit hold'em. I prefer tournaments over cash. I never played much cash in Florida until recently when the limits changed.

Over the last year you have had some significant cashes. What do you think this is attributed to? I have been studying the game for a few years, reading, working with a coach and asking some other great players a lot of questions. I must have been asking better questions lately. The information is out there, but it's hard to actually stop and think and do what is suggested. I guess that is the discipline. I think I have been slowing down, paying more attention to what is going on and thinking through situations better lately. I've also been going for the win instead of just making the money.

Does your geographical location (Florida) play a role in your poker? I used to travel to Vegas more, but since the limits have gone up in Florida I really don't need to travel to play anymore. We have some very nice rooms here in Tampa and St. Petersburg. I do like to travel, though, to meet my friends at different tournaments around the country. Maybe they'll start coming here to play in the future.

Would you like to keep poker recreational or have it play a more significant role in your life? Well, since I never do anything halfway, I will probably always be striving to do better so who knows? I used to think I wanted to play poker for a living, then I'd go on vacation for a week or so, play every day and think, "What was I thinking?" I would like to do more, though it doesn't have to be just playing. I have met some great friends from all over the country the past few years.

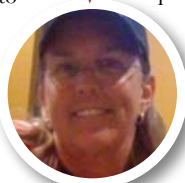
How do you feel about the female players who are up-and-coming? It's great that there are more female players with different styles playing. I think that everyone should play however they would like to play. Some people think all women play the same way and that actually gives us an advantage if we don't always do that.

Do you have any thoughts on where poker for women is headed?

And do you think it's important to have women-only events? I think more and more women are starting to play. I believe it will take some time for us to become more of a presence in the poker world just as it has in other industries. Yes, I think it's important to have women-only events because it's an opportunity for those who don't quite feel comfortable playing in an open event get a start. I started playing a monthly ladies event here in Florida and the first big tournament I played in was the ladies event at the World Series and it was a great experience. Those that don't want to play in them don't have to. I try to always support the ladies events around the country.

If you had some advice to the female players considering poker as a career what would that advice be? Well, when I told my coach I wanted to move to Vegas and play poker for a living she told me I shouldn't only rely on poker. So, I would say the same: Take it slow, find a good coach, listen to what the coach says and have fun.

Any closing thoughts on poker and what, specifically women, can expect at the tables? They can expect to have a great time. Go for it and don't be intimidated. It was hard for me to walk in the first poker room, but it wasn't as scary as I thought it would be.



HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD



Doran Malinasky, above, beat 100 entrants in March's Big Slick event. Here are the results:

1. Doran Malinasky, Hollywood, FL, \$12,000
2. Thomas Atanael, Miami, FL, \$11,725
3. Ory Hen, Cooper City, FL, \$10,500
4. Uri Kadosh, Davie, FL, \$10,500
5. Luz Stadler, Miami, FL, \$10,500
6. Manuel Rosado, Miami, FL, \$5,000
7. Itai Benosh, Miami, FL, \$2,475
8. Zoltan Czinkota, Davie, FL, \$1,800
9. Farid D Jattin, Miami, FL, \$1,725
10. Keron Barrett, Miramar, FL, \$1,650

HARD ROCK TAMPA



The exclusive Seminole Casinos Mega Bad Beat Jackpot has hit every time in 2011 at the Seminole Hard Rock poker room

in Tampa. The jackpot has hit four consecutive times in Tampa as of March 23, when a table won \$394,973.

Richard Fields won \$197,483 when his four aces lost to John McAfee, who took home \$118,490 with a steel wheel.

The six other players at the table won \$9,875 each.

This latest jackpot awarded its 16th overall at Tampa and by far the most of any of the Seminole properties, awarding \$4,170,366 of the mega jackpots.

The Seminole Casinos approach to larger, more frequent bad-beat jackpots has paid players \$6,379,269 in 27 jackpots since it began in December 2009.

DANIA JAI-ALAI



Earl Stewart, a regular from Hallandale, earned the trophy for being chipleader at the March Dan LeBatard event.

The final 13 players out of the 200-plus entries elected to chop the final prize pool, each getting \$909 for their \$79 buy-in.

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FROM JAI-ALAI TO POKER, COSCARAT SHINES

Ocala Poker recently named Roger Coscarat its poker room manger. *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza had a chance to interview him.

Where are you from originally? I was born in California and raised in the Basque area of France. I came back to the U.S. more than 30 years ago to be a professional jai-alai player, which I did for 15 years.

How long have you been in poker? I fell in love with the game about 10 years ago and have been working in the industry for more than seven years.

Do you still play poker, and what's your favorite game and limit? I play a little bit when time permits and my favorite game is \$2-\$5 no-limit hold'em. But I enjoy all games and will often get on a list if it can help the room open another table.

Where did you gain your poker experience before landing this position? I was part of the original dealing crew at St. Johns Poker Room and then moved to Orange Park (both rooms are in the Jacksonville area) to be on the floor when that one opened. I was extremely lucky to have a very knowledgeable mentor at Orange Park.

What are some of the challenges you face in taking over Ocala Poker? Our location is certainly the biggest challenge, but we run lots of promotions to attract players to our room. We thrive on offering a friendly atmosphere to our players.

How have the limit changes in Florida made you rethink your approach to attracting players? I don't think the limit changes should change the fundamental approach to attracting players. We'll run games by good dealers and good customer service will attract players.

Do you have any plans you can share? I have several ideas in the works but would like to keep them for myself for now.

What can a poker player expect from a poker room run by Roger Coscarat? The player can expect a well-run game by competent dealers. The integrity of the game is of the utmost importance for me.



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MIZRACHIS HIGHLIGHT CHARITY EVENT

By Scott Long

After attracting more than 520 players — and regrettably having to turn away many more — how does one improve upon what can arguably be called one of the most successful annual charity events around?

That's the challenge this year for organizers of the third annual Venetian Deep Stack Extravaganza, which takes place May 22 at Daytona Beach Kennel Club in Florida.

"With another sellout expected this year, we believe players have truly come to regard this event as the best tournament of the year," said Scott Frank, the event's creator. "So, while we cannot really increase capacity this year, we can and will even further enhance the experience for our players."

That experience annually includes inviting top pros to compete, giving entrants a chance to rub elbows with their favorite players from TV. Last year, those pros included Darvin Moon, Tom McEvoy and Mike "The Mouth" Matusow. This year, organizers will welcome all four of the Mizrachi brothers — Robert, Eric, Donny and, of course, "the Grinder" Michael.

The so-called "First Family of Florida

Venetian Deep Stack Extravaganza III

Where: Daytona Beach Kennel Club

When: 1 p.m., May 22

Buy-in: \$165 in advance; \$190 at the door

Poker" is coming off a year that saw all four brothers cash in the World Series of Poker Main Event and Michael earn his first bracelet and become a member of the November Nine. (See our WSOP story on Page 42).

"I like to make sure people who are in need of something have it," Michael Mizrachi said. "I try to give as much as I can, as much as I can help. It's just very special to be with a charity and to help people out. It makes you feel better to care about other people and not just yourself."

If you noticed "charity" isn't in the event's name, it's by design. While the event generates thousands of dollars each year for a host of good causes, including the Federation Food Bank, the Disabled American Veterans and several youth organizations this year, or-

ganizers secure so many prize sponsors that the value returned to players exceeds that of many non-charity tournaments.

"This year, we will award over \$50,000 in prize packages and will provide many thousands of dollars worth of door prizes," Frank said. "The value of the first-place package has been increased to a whopping \$14,100, and even includes a championship Rolex."

The first-place prize package includes an entry into a \$5,000 event at the Venetian resort in Las Vegas as well as airfare, hotel accommodations and \$1,000 in dining credits. Second through fifth place will win \$2,500 Venetian tournament entries, and cash payouts will be made to other top finishers.

But players need not go deep in the event to benefit. All players are treated to a bagel breakfast buffet, a dinner buffet catered by Outback Steakhouse and entries in drawings for door prizes and raffles.

"We strive to fully express our gratitude to our tremendous sponsors," Frank said. "Many of them are companies with whom we have very close relationships."

For more information or to preregister visit deepstackcharityclassic.com or call (386) 871-9187.

Turner wins Florida Million III at Orange Park

The third installment of the Florida Million wrapped up April 10 at the Orange Park Kennel Club, and for the first time in the tournament's brief history there were no chops.

The unique tournament featured more than 20 Day 1s at eight poker rooms across Florida for a total player count of 1,532 and a prize pool of more than \$760K.

The event was stacked with great players, including recent Palm Beach World Series of Poker Circuit main event champion John Riordan, who snagged sixth place. Two others from the same WSOPC final table, David MacDonald and Austin Buchanan, also went deep in the Million, finishing eighth and 12th, respectively.

The final table culminated in a great heads-up match between local player Dann Turner and Richard Sessions from Palm Beach. After several dramatic chip-lead changes, Turner finished the tournament when his A♣-J♥ beat Richards' K♣-Q♥ to become the Florida Million III champion. Turner took home \$150,000 for his play, while Sessions took second place and the \$90K payout.

Robert Georato finished third (\$55K) followed by Joseph Parrish (\$40K), Alan Phillips (\$30K), Riordan (\$22K), Joseph Azato (\$16,500), MacDonald (\$13,500), John Ott (\$10,500) and Charles Swansfeger (\$8,400).

CHAD BROWN TV SCHEDULE: For those of you who may have missed this Jax Poker event on TV, the feature table will air on Bright House Networks on May 2 at 10 p.m. and May 4 at midnight and



Dann Turner pocketed \$150K for his victory.

the final table will air May 9 (10 p.m.) and May 11 (midnight). For those in the Chicago market the feature table will air on Chicago Sports Net on May 1 (9 p.m.), May 2 (7 p.m.), May 5 (1 p.m.) and May 6 (1 a.m.) while the final table will air May 8 (9 p.m.) May 9 (7 p.m.) and May 11 (1:30 p.m.).

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WHEN BAD BEAT HIT, IT WAS LIKE LOSING A FRIEND

When I first began writing the Miss Poker column, I worked in a poker room in West Memphis, Ark. Poker room staffs tend to get attached to “their” poker rooms, and I’ll always have a special affinity for the room over at the greyhound track. Arkansas boasts only two poker rooms, Southland Park Gaming and Racing in West Memphis and Oaklawn in Hot Springs.

Despite hosting no major tournaments or circuit stops, both cardrooms keep solid cash games and regular nightly tournaments.



JENNIFER GAY

Live cards are not yet legal in Arkansas, so Oaklawn and Southland use electronic gaming tables by PokerPro. When an opportunity with a live cardroom in Tunica presented itself, I relocated to the cotton fields further south, but quite often find myself making the 30-minute trek to visit the poker room in West Memphis.

The bad-beat jackpot at Southland had grown to near epic proportions and was worth the drive. At more than \$160,000 with an exceptionally low trigger (aces full of jacks or better beaten by quads or better), even players with a preference for live cards would regularly test their luck on the tables in hopes of an \$80,000 pay day.

For almost four years, thousands of hands that “almost” qualified taunted the players. Some believed it was never going to hit, but it didn’t stop them from trying. Near misses often became spectacles when regulars would routinely start calculating the shares everyone would have won if only the river card had been kinder. Every Friday, the ever-optimistic Fred Parker of Memphis would ask if we had the tax documents prepared and ready.

Then, on April 9, Pamela “Bizzi Bodi” Murray of Memphis was rewarded for her patience. When her aces full of queens lost to quad queens, she captured a 50-percent share of the largest single jackpot in Arkansas history. Nineteen players, including the “winner” of the

hand, divvied up the remaining funds amidst chaotic celebration.

I’ll admit, as someone who spent thousands of hours in that cardroom, I was a little sad to hear it had hit. The bad beat at Southland had become somewhat of a regional legend. Compared to Big Foot or the Loch Ness Monster, it was believed to be more unattainable legend than actuality. I can’t tell you how many times we were absolutely convinced it was going to hit, only to have the river card dash our hopes. Four years is a long time to wait for a paycheck. It seems like stubborn jackpots have a habit of triggering a few times in rapid succession once they finally hit, so I’m still hopeful for those who missed out on their long-awaited share of the monster pot.

If you haven’t been to Southland in a while, you might be surprised to find the former poker room abandoned. On April 1 they opened a new poker room upstairs, giving players closer access to bathrooms and restaurants, and a more enjoyable distance from the crowds and noise of the main gaming floor.

Crossing back over the state line into Mississippi, local players are gearing up for the Horseshoe Poker Classic in Tunica from May 13-22. The series will feature 20 no-limit hold’em tournaments, basically two each day (noon, 7 p.m.), highlighted by a \$560 main event on May 21 at noon.

But a few of Mississippi’s finest won’t be in town for this series having qualified for the \$1 million WSOP National Circuit Championship. This televised event will be at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas on May 27. Plenty of us will be heading to Vegas to show our support. We have high hopes for Bob Talbot of Tunica, Will “Poker Monkey” Souther of Biloxi, Tim Burt of Biloxi and non-resident but regular Tunica player, Sam Barnhart.

I’ll be in Vegas for this, and you’ll be able to find me anywhere the air conditioner is working overtime and cocktails are cold and readily available. Come by and say hi, and keep us posted on your successes.

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

Odum wins Beau Rivage’s main event



Paul Odum of Canton, Ga., defeated Mark Rose of Orlando, Fla., to capture the \$89,630 first-place prize, denying Rose’s second main-event win at the Beau. Full Spring Break results are on Page 30.

Entries: 140 • Prize Pool: \$271,600

1. Paul Odum, Canton, GA, \$89,630
2. Mark Rose, Orlando, FL, \$49,431
3. Frank Alpendinar, B. Rouge, \$27,160
4. Brian Senie, New Orleans, \$21,728
5. Calvin Belton, Crestview, FL, \$16,296
6. Fred Sigur, Chalmette, LA, \$13,580
7. Mike Dang, Mobile, AL, \$10,864
8. Jim Arruebarena, New Orleans, \$8,148
9. Clint Schafer, Baton Rouge, LA, \$5,432

ARKANSAS

Gibbs captures Winter Poker Classic at Oaklawn

Gary Gibbs of Hot Springs held off Little Rock’s Phillip Prater to take home the title of the second annual Winter Poker Classic and a share of the more than \$12,500 that was up for grabs.

“There were some good players tonight,” Gibbs said. “But Phillip was the best that I faced.”

Though many, including his final heads-up opponent, weren’t familiar with Gibbs, it shouldn’t have been a surprise he took the title. Gibbs has five World Series of Poker cashes, including winning the senior bracelet in 2004. He has numerous victories across the country as well.



Prater, who placed second to Gibbs, found out who he was minutes after the final hand.

“I had no idea,” Prater said. “We played the last two tables together, but I never had many heads-up with him. His reputation speaks for itself, though. It’s an honor just to be playing with him.”

The final night began with 60 players on six tables. Each player had previously qualified for their spot on the final night of the Winter Poker Classic during remote qualifiers over the course of the previous three months.

In the end, after six hours of play, it was Gibbs.

“I didn’t get to see a lot of his play until the end,” Gibbs said of Prater. “But when it counted he made the calls at the right time, the raises at the right time and laid down at the right time. He definitely has a future in poker.”

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Entries: 183 • Prize Pool: \$53,253

1. Ray Small, Mobile, AL, \$17,571
2. Rodney Shows, Hattiesburg, MS, \$9,692
3. Ted Lawler, Opelika, AL, \$5,325
4. Howard Harvey, Jackson, AL, \$4,260
5. Robert Dunn, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$3,195
6. Mitch Jones, Kennesaw, GA, \$2,663
7. Ryan Thuecks, Biloxi, MS, \$2,130
8. Nicolas Vaca-Rondon, Atlanta, \$1,598
9. Sean Ridder, Atlanta, \$1,065



Event 2 • \$230 Omaha/8

Entries: 51 • Prize Pool: \$9,894

1. Joseph Burke, Biloxi, MS, \$3,560
2. David Brooker, Stuart, FL, \$1,880
3. Hayward Rigano, Longview, TX, \$1,187
4. Frank Lagattuta, Hillsboro, NJ, \$792
5. Jenny Butler, Panama City, FL, \$693
6. Ward Bourdeaux, Atlanta, \$594
7. Brett Alello, Baton Rouge, LA, \$495
8. Chris Sheffield, Pensacola, FL, \$396
9. Gregory Dennis, Mobile, AL, \$297



Event 3 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 273 • Prize Pool: \$52,962

1. Farid Nasserazad, Atlanta, \$15,885
2. Brett Terrell, Aniston, AL, \$8,474
3. Richard Bratter, Ocala, FL, \$4,767
4. Jason Bain, Memphis, \$3,707
5. Wesley Wesley, Prairieville, LA, \$3,178
6. Paul Frese, Marietta, GA, \$2,648
7. Timmy Wade, Tallahassee, FL, \$2,118
8. Daniel Casey, Columbus, GA, \$1,589
9. Ernest Moore, Braxton, MS, \$1,059



Event # 4 • \$230 Ladies NLHE

Entries: 36 • Prize Pool: \$6,984

1. Brenda Whitten, Pine Mt., GA, \$3,143
2. Dianne Bainter, FWB, FL, \$1,746
3. Sheryl Page, D'Iberville, MS, \$1,048
4. D. Rhodes-Brown, New Orleans, \$698
5. Kristen Deardorff, Gulfport, MS, \$349



Event # 5, \$230 NLHE

Entries: 145 • Prize Pool: \$28,130

1. Ron Sharpe, Ocean Springs, MS, \$9,281
2. Joshua Palmer, Daphne, AL, \$5,120
3. Jonathan Davis, Boaz, AL, \$2,813
4. Richard Moats, Rome, GA, \$2,250
5. Brian Maples, Homewood, AL, \$1,688
6. Mark Fledderman, St. Louis, \$1,407
7. Norm Powers, Dallas, \$1,125
8. Jamie Martin, Cross City, FL, \$844
9. Tommy McCullom, Biloxi, MS, \$563



Event 6 • \$230 PLO

Entries: 35 • Prize Pool: \$13,192

1. David Todd, Clarkston, MI, \$5,936
2. Steve Hamontree, Chattanooga, \$3,298
3. Renea Mahaffey, Anderson, SC, \$1,979
4. Ronnie Mapes, Destin, FL, \$1,319
5. Beverly Ratner, Dallas, \$660



Event 7 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 91 • Prize Pool: \$33,756

1. Tyler Smith, Biloxi, MS, \$12,152
2. David Davis, Biloxi, MS, \$6,414
3. Vic Gupta, Atlanta, \$4,051
4. Thomas Pullens, Picayune, MS, \$2,700
5. Lawrence Highfield, Atlanta, \$2,363
6. Eric Rowell, Kiln, MS, \$2,025
7. Allan Barrie, Atlanta, \$1,688
8. George Bronstein, Houston, \$1,350
9. Andrew Rust, Lafayette, LA, \$1,013



Event 8 • \$230 Stud mix

Entries: 28 • Prize Pool: \$5,432

1. David Delchamps, Mobile, AL, \$2,444
2. Billy Harvill, Birmingham, AL, \$1,630
3. Barbara Nelson, Fairhope, AL, \$815
4. Steve Hazen, Port Orange, FL, \$543



Event 9 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 109 • Prize Pool: \$21,146

1. Randall Hollis, Birmingham, AL, \$7,612
2. Natasha Barbour, Tampa, FL, \$4,018
3. Peter Palisi, Madisonville, LA, \$2,538
4. Larry Little, Pensacola, FL, \$1,692
5. James Puritz, Orlando, FL, \$1,480
6. John Patterson, Ontario, LA, \$1,269
7. JJ Kiger, Panama City Beach, FL, \$1,057
8. Keith Robin, Chalmette, LA, \$846
9. Michael Zamorsky, Beaumont, TX, \$634



Event 10 • \$230 PLO/8

Entries: 40 • Prize Pool: \$7,760

1. Murray Manderosian, Pensa., FL, \$3,492
2. Joshua Palmer, Daphne, AL, \$1,940
3. David Key, Baton Rouge, LA, \$1,164
4. Michael Watson, Loxley, AL, \$776
5. Daniel Day, Montgomery, AL, \$388



Event 11 • \$230 NLHE Bounty

Entries: 126 • Prize Pool: \$20,664

1. Sam Bailey, New Orleans, \$6,819
2. Andrei Neema, St. Pete, FL, \$3,761
3. Rex Mounger, Austin, TX, \$2,066
4. Unchong Bairos, Nesbit, FL, \$1,653
5. Guy Turner, Mobile, AL, \$1,240
6. Curtis Terry, Metairie, LA, \$1,033
7. Bill McGehee, Brookhaven, MS, \$827
8. Steven Pique, Long Beach, MS, \$620
9. Donald Tobin, Monroe, LA, \$413



Event 12 • \$230 LHE

Entries: 36 • Prize Pool: \$6,984

1. Mary Williams, Oxford, GA, \$3,143
2. John Sparks, Pascagoula, MS, \$1,746
3. Paul Mason, Tyler, TX, \$1,048
4. Peter Szmurlo, Milton, FL, \$698
5. Josh Taylor, Hattiesburg, MS, \$349



Event 13 • \$125 NLHE

Entries: 104 • Prize Pool: \$40,158

1. Blake Barousse, Lafayette, LA, \$14,457
2. Leroy Cheeseman, Milwaukee, \$7,630
3. Timothy Burt, Grenada, MS, \$4,819
4. Joshua Palmer, Daphne, AL, \$3,213
5. Jack Clark, Trenton, GA, \$2,811
6. Michael Hallen, Tampa, FL, \$2,409
7. David Nicholson, Biloxi, MS, \$2,008
8. Jareth Wheeler, Folsom, GA, \$1,606
9. Pamela Cobb, Panama City, FL, \$1,205



Event 14 • \$230 Omaha/8

Entries: 36 • Prize Pool: \$6,984

1. Jacob Seale, Lumberton, TX, \$3,143
2. Sam Bailey, New Orleans, \$1,746
3. Danny Zaccaro, Mobile, AL, \$1,048
4. Les Anderson, Pearland, TX, \$698
5. Chris Sheffield, Pensacola, FL, \$349



Event 15 • \$340 NLHE

Entries: 161 • Prize Pool: \$46,851

1. Timothy Hebert, Lafayette, LA, \$15,459
2. Anthony Moore, Saucier, MS, \$8,527
3. David Poor, Baton Rouge, LA, \$4,685
4. Igor Levtor, Atlanta, \$3,748
5. Gary Allen, Tallahassee, FL, \$2,811
6. Mederic Lemenager, Walker, LA, \$2,343
7. Aaron Brant, Mobile, AL, \$1,874
8. Carol Geller, Houston, \$1,406
9. Ryan Enis, Corinth, MS, \$937

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18 YEAR-OLDS ARE WELCOME TO PLAY POKER IN FLORIDA

TEXAS IS KING OF THE SPRING FLING

Players from four states packed the poker room at the Isle of Capri Lake Charles for the inaugural Spring Fling Poker Series (March 17-19). The Isle continues to assert itself as a leader of tournament poker in Louisiana while an increasing number of players add it to their list of favorite places to play.



A huge room and player-friendly promotions have contributed to the Isle's popularity, but adding series tournaments such as the Spring Fling and the Louisiana State Championship have succeeded in extending the room's appeal to serious players. Most of these ideas can be attributed to Matthew Dodd, who recently took the helm at the Isle of Capri's Colorado property. The Isle has indicated it intends to keep enhancing its product, taking an aggressive approach for a highly competitive market that includes the neighboring Coushatta Casino, which held its Seven Clans Poker Cup Series in early April. (See results on this page.)

Successful poker rooms must find a way to maintain a base of regular players and attract new ones. This is what the Isle has done by creating these tournament series. Some of the rounders who come to play are seeing the Lake Charles room for the first time, and they must like what they see. The Isle is one of the few rooms in Louisiana I've visited this year that operates around the clock, even mid week. With a marketing department that's solidly on board, you can expect even bigger events in the future.

There were three days of exciting action during Spring Fling, but in the end it all came down to a final table of nine men and one woman vying for the title of Spring Fling champ. Rick Tyler of Beaumont, Texas, walked away with the bragging rights and a \$3,750 payday. Here's a quick recap of the events.

Things got rolling on Thursday evening with a satellite tournament. Players ponied up a \$135 buy-in for a chance to play in the \$1,000 main event. Four seats were guaranteed giving players who made the final table an almost even-money shot to get a spot. The Isle also added \$140 to each seat, which made the event a true freeroll for the winners. Once the final table got down to five players a deal was reached to award all of the added money to the fifth-place finisher, Robert Cummings. Jake Seale, Doug Baxley, Moises Garcia and Brad Baker earned the main-event seats.

The highlight of Friday evening was a \$20,000-guarantee event with a \$300 buy-in. The final table included some familiar faces as Baxley and Seale remained perfect in their quest for the championship. After a lengthy battle that resulted in only one elimination, an even chop awarded the final eight players \$2,215. Afterward, Baxley and Seale were asked about



Doug Baxley cashed in all three Spring Fling events.

their respective strategies for the main event.

"Just keep playing solid poker, that's it," said Baxley, who hails from Kingwood, Texas. "Today was definitely tougher than yesterday, and tomorrow will probably be even tougher. I've been running good, though, so we'll see."

Seale, who also won an Omaha/8 event at the Beau's Spring Break series in March, was happy with his progress. When asked about his chances to run the table and score in all three events, Seale was low key.

"That's the plan," he said. "I'll give it a good shot and we'll see what happens."

The main event began on Saturday at noon and once again Baxley and Seale found themselves at the final table along with satellite winner Brad Baker and seven others. Seale made a nice effort but found himself all-in early and came up short, finishing eighth. Next out was satellite winner Moises Garcia, followed by the lone woman at the final table, Ada Lang. Russell Koch hit the rail in fifth and the final four commenced a lengthy battle for the title.

After three hours Rick Tyler won the title. Baxley finished second, making him the player of the series with cashes in all three events.

It's interesting to note of the 13 players who cashed in the Spring Fling events nine were from Texas.

Many of those who participated in the Spring Fling indicated they would be returning in late April for the state championship, and in that regard the Spring Fling was an unqualified success. Giving new players a chance to experience the room and competition in advance could result in a bigger turnout for the bracelet events.

— Scotty "The Spokesman" Rushing is a poker professional and sports journalist. Email him at scottyrushing@gmail.com.

SPRING FLING

at Isle Lake Charles

Event 1 • \$135 satellite

1. Doug Baxley, Kingwood, TX
1. Jake Seale, Lumberton, LA
1. Brad Baker, Westlake, LA
1. Moises Garcia, Houston
5. Robert Cummings, Lake Charles, LA

Event 2 \$300 NLHE

1. Ray Oliver, Seabrook, TX, \$2,215
1. Jake Seale, Lumberton, LA, \$2,215
1. Peter Sheppard, Lake Charles, LA, \$2,215
1. Chris Hoffmeyer, Orange, TX, \$2,215
1. Frederick Turner, Richmond, TX, \$2,215
1. Doug Baxley, Kingwood, TX, \$2,215
1. Alex Montes, Houston, TX, \$2,215
1. Gloria Davila, Pasadena, TX, \$2,215

* This event had an eight-way chop

\$1K Main Event

1. Rick Tyler, Beaumont, TX, \$3,750
2. Doug Baxley, Kingwood, TX, \$2,250
3. Brad Baker, Westlake, LA, \$2,500
4. Jerome Moon, Houston, \$500



7 CLANS POKER CUP

at Coushatta Casino

\$1K Main Event

Entries: 189 • Prize Pool: \$176, 928

1. Southisak Seunsom, \$31,290
2. Ricky Romero, \$23,000
3. Robert Niehay, \$23,000
4. Gregory Besse, \$18,500
5. Frederic Roetker, \$13,062
6. Neil Steinly, \$9,579
7. Johnny Ludwig, \$8,708
8. Michael Davis, \$7,808
9. Johnny Marlow, \$6,096
10. Orben Slaughter, \$5,225

\$300 NLHE

Entries: 274 • Prize Pool: \$71,760

1. Brian Hunt, \$16,146
2. Daniel Holmes, \$10,047
3. Gary Delome, \$7,176
4. Gerald Vidallier, \$6,100
5. Omar Nawim, \$5,382
6. William Dudley, \$3,947
7. Ricky Fryer, \$3,588
8. Aaron Williams, \$3,229
9. Wade Allred, \$2,512
10. Alex Rivas, \$2,153

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 - Dinner & Registration • 6pm
 - Tournament • 6:45pm



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A look at the Las Vegas poker scene • For tournaments and promotions turn to our Where to Play pages in the back

58 POKER ROOMS, BUT WHICH ONE'S FOR YOU

Poker players visiting Las Vegas are sometimes overwhelmed with the number of poker rooms that await them once they arrive. At last count, the Vegas valley had 58 poker rooms all spread over an area of about 30 miles. Though most of these rooms are on the Strip, Las Vegas offers many very nice and comfortable rooms off



MICHAEL HAMAI

Strip that entice players with large bad-beat jackpots, freeroll tournaments and other such gimmicks to get you into their room. My columns here at *Ante Up Magazine* will discuss the many different goings on in the REAL Las Vegas poker world, not the high-stakes version we all see on TV, but the poker rooms and the people that keep poker alive all year at the same stakes you and I play. For it's these people (the \$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 and limit hold'em players) who truly keep the poker rooms thriving in Las Vegas.

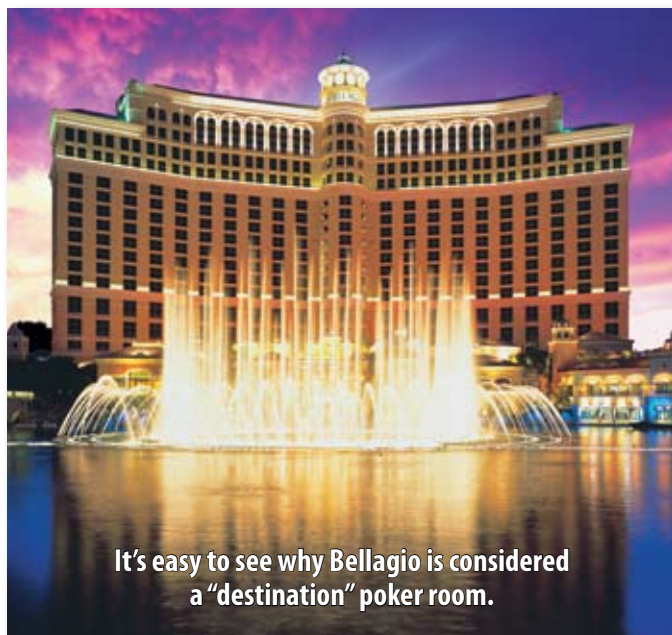
As a way to introduce the true Las Vegas poker world, we need to have a basic understanding of the three major types of poker rooms offered. All 58 rooms in the Las Vegas valley can be broken into three distinct categories: destination, convenience and locals. After reading this article, you will have a better idea of what rooms fit you best when visiting.

Destination rooms are venues designed to attract a wide variety of players. When people think of Vegas as a "Poker Mecca," it is the destination rooms to which they're referring. This is the smallest category as far as number of rooms included yet these rooms have the most players and the most tables. Destination rooms are those that players specifically target to play poker. They will leave their hotel (that may have a poker room of its own) and make a special trip to play at a destination room.

Destination rooms take poker seriously, and usually the rooms are well-apportioned and offer the largest variety of limits. Destination rooms usually do not drop a jackpot dollar for rake as the players the room caters to are more serious and astute. Examples of destination rooms in Vegas include Bellagio, Venetian, MGM Grand and Aria. All of these rooms have more than 20 tables and are well-known as being the best overall poker rooms Vegas has to offer.

Convenience rooms are designed as a "convenience" for hotel and casino guests. The rooms are usually small (12 tables or fewer) and usually only offer the most common games (\$1-\$2 NLHE and \$2-\$4 or \$3-\$6 LHE). These rooms drop a jackpot rake and offer gimmicks such as progressive high-hand jackpots, bad-beat jackpots or low buy-in tournaments designed for a casual player looking to play for just a few hours. The vast majority of poker rooms around the Las Vegas Strip fit into this category. Examples of convenience rooms include Bally's, Mandalay Bay, Treasure Island and Excalibur.

Finally, there are the locals' rooms. These vary greatly in overall



It's easy to see why Bellagio is considered a "destination" poker room.

quality and amenities and cater strongly to poker players who live in Las Vegas. They vary in size from two tables to nearly 30, and are designed with the local player in mind. Usually offering things such as a large progressive bad-beat jackpot and freeroll tournaments with \$100K-plus prize pools, these rooms are dominated by older local players who don't want to bother with driving to the Strip for action. Many play poker strictly for the social aspects, and the locals' rooms adapt themselves to this particular clientele by offering things such as water coolers, doughnuts in the morning and a casual, social atmosphere. Many of the locals play there all day, every day.

The competition in the locals-room market is the most fierce in Vegas at the moment, as many Strip rooms have resorted to "locals friendly" promotions to take some of the local players back from their local casinos. In turn, the locals' casinos have stepped up their game as well, offering reduced rake, double or triple comps and a liberal promotions roster that includes guaranteed-money promotions for simply playing for extended hours in their rooms vs. other venues. Examples of locals' rooms include the Orleans, the Palms, South Point, Red Rock and Santa Fe Station.

With 58 poker rooms to choose from, Las Vegas is a poker destination like no other. Do your homework before you descend on Sin City and know what rooms you'd like to experience. Good luck!

— Michael Hamai (a.k.a LasVegasMichael) resides in Las Vegas and is Content Manager and Editor of AllVegasPoker.com. You can follow him on Twitter @LasVegasMichael or email him at MichaelHamai@aol.com.

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BINION'S 5TH POKER CLASSIC ANNOUNCED

The fifth annual Binion's Poker Classic at Binion's Gambling Hall in downtown Las Vegas kicks off at the end of this month, again mimicking the World Series of Poker schedule, but at a fraction of the cost (generally about a 10th of the WSOP buy-in price).

Most events in the May 30-July 11 series will offer a \$10 add-on and feature 2 p.m. start times and 35-minute blinds.

"Our poker players are happy with the way we have developed the Classic with things like the improved structure and longer levels," Binion's tournament director Paul Campbell said. "So with the tournament itself in good shape, this year we are adding value in other ways with a very good hotel rate at the Four Queens and a \$25 live-play promotion."

Some of the highlights of this series include not one, but two H.O.R.S.E. events (June 7, \$200 and June 23, \$500) and three \$200 PLO/8 tournaments (June 2, 21 and 28).

The series' two-day \$1K main event, which has 60-minute blind levels and 30K starting chips, begins June 30. The add-on is not available for this event. Super satellites (\$125) will run 2-6 p.m. June 29.

After the main event there will be more NLHE events and then the series wraps up with an interesting \$150 limit dealers-choice event on July 11 at 2 p.m.

WSOP STAGES HEADS-UP CLASSICS: The WSOP is reliving some of its main event's most important heads-up finales on June 2.

In a made-for-TV event, the WSOP will pit Chris Moneymaker against Sammy Farha in a best-of-three match. The first match will feature the same starting stacks the duo had in 2003 when they reached heads-up play in the main event (Moneymaker had nearly a

2-1 chip lead).

After that match they will switch starting stacks, giving Farha the larger stack. If they split the matches a deciding match will give them equal starting stacks to determine who wins.

"Winning the WSOP main event was a life-altering moment," Moneymaker said. "Even though I'm agreeing to run it again against Sammy, I have been assured they can't take away my title if my bluffs don't work as well this time."

In the second heads-up match, Phil Hellmuth and Johnny Chan will relive their 1989 battle, but it will be one-and-done as the players will start with equal starting stacks.

The final match will be determined by the fans. They can go to the WSOP Facebook page and choose among these matches:

- 1988 Chan vs. Erik Seidel
- 2004 Greg Raymer vs. David Williams
- 2006 Jamie Gold vs. Paul Wasicka
- 2010 Jonathan Duhamel vs. John Racener

HARMAN CHARITY EVENT: On May 21 the Peppermill Resort Casino in Reno and the Nevada Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will host Jennifer Harman's fifth annual charity tournament.

This individual and 10-player team competition will vie more than 150 poker pros, Hollywood celebrities, athletes and industry VIPs against each other.

The \$230 event takes place during the Nevada State Poker Championship, which will be broadcast to more than 100 million homes. For more information go to peppermillreno.com.

— Christopher Cosenza

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KENTUCKIANA

A look at the Kentucky-Southern Indiana poker scene

WPT RETURNS TO HPO AT LAWRENCEBERG

The World Poker Tour invaded the Midwest again for the Hollywood Poker Open at the Hollywood Casino in Lawrenceburg, Ind., on March 24. It was the second year for this stop on the WPT schedule, and this time 2004 World Series of Poker Main Event champ Greg “Fossilman” Raymer helped kick off the festivities.



Hollywood tournament director Kevin Dawn said Raymer was a joy to have around for the start of the event.

“He came down for about five days,” Dawn said. “He played in three or four of our events. He was a pleasure to have around. He likes to talk. He’s great with the people in the room and we’d love to have him back.”

The main event, which began April 9, started slowly with 79 entrants, including three returning final-tables from last year (Ravi Raghavan, Chris Bell and Jerry Payne). WPT announcer Mike Sexton, WPT past champion Hoyt Corkins, Allen “Chainsaw” Kessler and eight-time WSOP bracelet-winner Eric Seidel also were in the field.

A North American Poker Tour stop at the Mohegan Sun in Connecticut began on the same day, thus hurting the overall attendance at Hollywood, which is the largest poker room in the Midwest with 41 tables. Registration for the HPO main event was extended to April 10 to accommodate late entries.

Dawn, in his second year running this event, said that after running a successful tournament last year, the learning curve has definitely improved.

“We figured out some of the things we did wrong so we could start at a point way higher than we were last year,” he said. “We were doing everything from scratch last year. This year we were halfway into the curve instead of all the way at the bottom. I think it’s made things a lot smoother this year.”

In the end it was local player Mike Scarborough from Cincinnati who won his first WPT title, taking down an incredibly talented final table that was packed with poker pros, including Seidel, who finished second (\$155,103) and continues his incredible 2011 run.

“This win is just a dream come true. It means so much more to me to win in my local casino,” Scarborough said. “Playing with Erik Seidel was very intimidating at first. The first thing that crossed my mind was, ‘What if he doubles-up again?’ But I just told myself to play like you would with anybody else.”

He donated \$2,500 from his \$273,664 winnings to the ALS Foundation for a Cure, which was matched by an additional \$2,500 from the Hollywood Casino.

Scarborough capped what is one of the most remarkable single-week runs in recent memory. Entering the final table, he had already won two Hollywood Poker Open preliminary events and placed second in another.

PokerStars Caribbean Adventure High Roller champ William Reynolds finished third (\$110,788), followed by NAPT champ Tom Marchese (\$77,551), ClubWPT.com qualifier Andrew Whetstone (\$62,041) and high-stakes pro Ali Eslami (\$50,962).

The main event will air on Fox Sports Net on July 3 and 10. (Check



Local player Mike Scarborough takes down one of the most talented final tables in WPT history.

local listings.)

DERBY TIME ALSO MEANS POKER: It’s May, and if you live in the Kentuckiana area (that’s a combination of Southern Indiana and Kentucky for you out-of-towners), then you know that can mean only one thing: Derby!

When you think of the Kentucky Derby you probably think horses, Churchill Downs and mint juleps. But did you know the Derby also brings thoughts of Phil Hellmuth? It’s true. For the past several years, Hellmuth, along with Robert Williamson III and Hall of Fame college basketball coach Denny Crum have joined forces to put on the Derby Poker Championship, a charity tournament benefiting Blessings in a Backpack and the Health and Climate Foundation.

Last year’s attendees included Chris “Jesus” Ferguson, Ryder Cup captain Corey Pavin, Tiffany Michelle, Beth Shak and comedian Ron White. This year’s event will be May 5 at the Palace Theatre in Louisville. Entry for this event is \$550 and \$200 rebuys will be allowed for the first hour. You can buy VIP ticket packages for \$225. Go to derbypokerchampionship.com for more information and to register for the event.

And that’s not all. The Derby Festival is holding a tournament on the Belle of Cincinnati on May 3. The buy-in is \$125 with a \$40 available add-on through the first level. First prize is \$6,000 and bracelet. The event pays 24 spots with 325 entrants.

— Don Lawson is a part-time journalist and avid poker player. He can be reached at anteupdon@gmail.com.



IT HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN CHICAGO

With this being the first *Ante Up* article on Chicago poker, here's a look at what happened over the past few months to get everyone up to speed.

- In October the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Ind., hosted its third WSOP Circuit event. Chicago, along with the rest of the nation, has experienced tough economic times. Yet the WSOPC at the Horseshoe just keeps getting bigger and better. The \$350 buy-in opener was the biggest in WSOPC history, drawing 1,611 players. The prize pool was \$462,368 with first place paying \$77,438. Brett Schwertley, a 27-year-old semipro poker player from Omaha, won the event.



JOE GIERTUGA

The WSOPC main event drew a record 872 players (an increase of 248 players from the previous year) with a prize pool of \$1,245,680.

One reason for the increased attendance was the buy-in, which was reduced to \$1,600 from \$5,200 the year before. **Kurt Jewell** from Frankfort, Ky., took home \$242,909 for his victory. One of the local favorites, Jimmy Kasputis Jr., was chipleader after Day 1, but finished 27th. Nadya Magnus, who became popular on *PokerStars' The Big Game*, finished 12th.

The Horseshoe also hosted the first WSOPC regional championship, which marked the return the \$10,000 buy-in not seen since 2007 on the WSOPC. The regional drew many of the top players in the country, including Barry Greenstein, Chad Brown, Vanessa Selbst, Brandon Adams, Bernard Lee, Faraz Jaka, Kathy Liebert, Steve Zolotow, Nenad Medic, Allen Kessler, Jason Mercier and Blair Hinkle. This 226-player field was considered one of the toughest seen on the circuit. Adams, Bernard Lee and Kurt Kohlberg made the televised final table, but it was Jim Anderson, who only started playing seriously around a year ago, who took home \$525,449 for winning this inaugural event. The televised final table will be aired in June on the Versus network.

- In November the Windy City Poker Championship brought its

cameras to the Golden Bear Restaurant in Alsip, Ill., for three days of filming charity tournaments. Shady Oaks Camp along with the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation had a special treat with 2007 WSOP Main Event champ Jerry Yang flying in from California. Others attending included movie critic Richard Roeper, Mark "Poker Ho" Kroon, WPT Boot Camp instructor Nick Brancato, WPT Player of the Year Faraz Jaka and St. Louis poker pro (and Ante Up Ambassador) Scotty Clark.

The first televised heads-up tournament in Illinois history had Jason "The Pimp" Pace facing poker pro Josh Shmerl at the final table. Josh won the WSOPC opener at the Horseshoe Hammond in 2009. After a back-and-forth battle Shmerl came out on top. The main event had two familiar faces returning to the final table with last year's defending champ Leroy Carver along with "Chicago" Jerry Ulrich. Dee Korycki became the first woman to make a WPCP final table, which will be airing on Comcast Sports Net on Sunday nights.

- The Chicago Poker Classic at Horseshoe Hammond drew 1,216 players for the \$240 buy-in opener in February. Jill Bryant from Aurora, Ill., became the first woman to win a CPC event, receiving \$48,795. The \$1,100 heads-up tournament, in its second year, has become a very popular event. James "sweet danger" Snyder came out on top of 238 players winning \$69,618. Tom Koral won the main event and \$226,708. He finished second to Steve Billirakis at the first WSOPC main event at Hammond in 2008.

- The Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago ran its Chicago Poker Open on March 31. Many celebrities were on hand, including Roeper, NBC 5's Kim Vatis, former Chicago Bears and Notre Dame great Chris Zorich and Windy City Poker Championship co-host Jason Finn. Chicago's Rick Lapins took top honors.

- Harrah's Joliet plans on opening its poker room on May 5, bringing to seven the number of poker rooms operating in the state. Rivers Casino in Des Plaines will be opening in July, though there are no plans for a poker room.

— "Chicago" Joe Giertuga is the Ante Up Ambassador for the Chicagoland area. You can email him at chicago.joe@comcast.net.



Illinois' Hujda wins Meskwaki event in Iowa

Family man Tom Hujda made the weekend trip alone from Illinois to Iowa's Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel with one goal: to win enough money in the Heartland Poker Tour event to buy his two young children a swing set.

After several unsuccessful HPT attempts over the years, any amount would be cause for a family celebration. Often bringing his family along on his poker excursions, the 46-year-old Hujda always left empty-handed, never before cashing.

His persistence paid off April 3 when he took down the 184-player field in the \$1,650 main event, leaving with \$77,897, likely enough to buy the best swing set in New Lenox, Ill.

Hujda, a small-business owner, had one of those days that just seemed like destiny. After making the final table as chipleader, he eliminated a player on the second hand when his ace-king outdrew the pocket jacks of pro player Everett Carlton, sending him home to Minnesota with \$12,983 in sixth place.

"I had such a great time today," Hujda said.

Ultimately Hujda went heads-up with former champion Jesse Green and survived after losing his 4.5-to-1 chip lead.

"I'll be back," the runner-up said.



Tom Hujda

POKER PLAYERS FINALLY GET A TAX BREAK

Hopefully poker players and gamblers alike will finally start being treated with a little more respect. By that I mean two wonderful things have happened over the past several months that make us actually smile a little about taxes.

First, the Foreign Bank Account Reporting Form is no longer necessary for poker players to file on their online poker accounts.



To recap, this is a form that was due June 30 of each year, filed separately from your tax return. It was required if you had a "foreign bank account" during the prior year with \$10,000 or more in that account for any moment of time. So, in the past, if you won a tournament online and the amount was more than \$10,000 you would have to use this form even if you transferred the money out seconds later. Also, if you had more than \$10,000 collectively on multiple sites you would have to send in the form. Now, with a recent clarification on what is considered a foreign bank account, our poker accounts are not classified this way any longer. BUT, if you have Neteller/Epasseporte, etc. those are foreign bank accounts and fall under the rules.

The other great ruling that has occurred is now we don't have to worry about our expenses for gambling that throw us into a loss. Let me explain. As (I hope) you know, gamblers of any kind, whether you are a business or not, cannot deduct their losses beyond their income.

This is the worst, most pathetic rule in the IRS Code, in my opinion, and needs to be changed. But, that is another battle. So, in the past, some tax preparers felt if their gambler clients had expenses, you couldn't take them when those expenses threw you into a loss on your tax return. Remember, you can only take expenses, other than gambling losses, if you file as a professional on your tax return. So a lot of tax preparers that had professional gamblers as clients, took the conservative route and did not deduct those expenses because we never had a clear understanding of what we could do.

I never took that approach. I always felt we could deduct those expenses and I always have taken them on my clients' tax returns. I knew I had a great argument for taking these and I knew I could win. (And if you know me, you know I usually win arguments ... just ask my husband!)

What this means is if someone did your return as a professional poker player and did not take these expenses, you missed out. You can amend your returns back a couple of years but beyond that, you lost them. My clients are pretty happy with me right now.

So there you have it. Maybe this is the beginning of more wonderful breaks for players ... we can only hope.

Now that tax season is over, hopefully I will see you at the tables. And always remember, if you see me playing, I will be glad to answer any questions as long as you didn't just win a big pot off of me!

— Ann-Margaret Johnston is a practicing CPA in North Georgia. She is the author of *How to Turn Your Poker Playing Into A Business*. You can find answers to commonly asked poker tax questions on her website at pokerdeductions.com.

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PENNSYLVANIA



Chris Moneymaker, the 2003 World Series of Poker Main Event champion, will help host the Steel City Classic at the Meadows poker room this month.

The series runs May 17-22 with Moneymaker participating in the \$335 main event May 21.

For more information or the full schedule of events call the Meadows poker room or visit divisionofpoker.com.

- Richard Mobley, 30, defeated a field of nearly 190 in the \$125 WSOP satellite on April 3 at the Meadows to win a \$10,000 main event seat in Las Vegas.

Mobley has played poker for about 10 years and has a couple of big tournament wins under his belt. Here are the results of the event that had an \$18,800 prize pool.

1. Richard Mobley, Mannington, WV, \$12K
2. Eric George, Chippewa, PA, \$2,720
3. Denise Davis, Pittsburgh, \$1,428
4. Eric Tapager, Huntsburg, OH, \$986
5. Charles McGuire, Sunset Bch., N.C., \$578
6. Doug Dalton, Morgantown, WV, \$408
7. Dwight Johnston, Butler, PA, \$374
8. Jackie Wilson, Monongahela, PA, \$306

- In an earlier WSOP satellite, David Lundie, 27, defeated a field of 125 to win a \$10K seat plus \$2K for expenses. Here are the results from the \$130 event that generated a \$19,540 prize pool.

1. David Lundie, Acme, PA, \$12K
2. Mary Trumble, Bethel Park, PA, \$2,714
3. Eric Klein, Israel, \$1,395
4. Ron Dils, Uniontown, PA, \$867
5. N/A, \$641
6. Jerry Lole, Morgantown, WV, \$415
7. Jarod Fulton, Washington, PA, \$377
8. Marie Bellen, Upper St. Clair, PA, \$339
9. Mark Scappe, Pittsburgh, \$302
10. Darrel Marbury, Fairmont WV, \$264
11. Frank Cullen, Central, PA, \$226

INTRASTATE ONLINE POKER BILLS FIGHTING THE ODDS

By Scott Long

An unlikely winner (the District of Columbia) has succeeded in passing the nation's first intrastate online poker bill in a month that has seen curious movement on the overall issue of online poker regulation.

While the action in the District proved to be the first success, maneuvering in Nevada in the past month has perhaps raised the most eyebrows as unlikely partners are forming to put unexpected pressure on the federal government to act on online poker. Here's what's been happening across the country:

District of Columbia

Online players had been hoping for an online poker bill to be passed in Washington, D.C., but few expected it would happen at City Hall rather than the U.S. Capitol. The city's council included permission in its annual budget for the city's lottery provider, Intralot, to create an online gaming product offering several casino games. While the federal government had veto power over the bill, it didn't act within the required 30-day window. No timetable has been set on when residents can expect to play poker.

Critics of intrastate poker bills have maintained that even large states such as Florida and California don't have enough residents to produce a viable online product, since the UIGEA restricts play to within a state's borders. Trying to create enough player liquidity in just one city should prove even more daunting.

Nevada

Strange bedfellows lined up more quickly than youths at a Sadie Hawkins dance last month. PokerStars joined the Wynn resort and helped get an intrastate poker bill filed that wouldn't prevent online sites (such as Stars) who have been serving U.S. clients from providing services in an intrastate market.

That differs from requirements in the bill filed in many other states. The two gaming titans said they'll launch a site called PokerStarsWynn.Com if legislation passes. Also, Caesars Entertainment received preliminary approval to work with the parent company of European gaming site 888.com, and FullTilt had reached a deal to work with the owners of Stations Resorts. Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, however, has said he doesn't want a state bill to interfere with efforts in the federal government to regulate online poker.

Why intrastate poker?

The flurry of states looking to create their own online poker networks is a result, in part, of the 2006 Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act. While that law didn't criminalize online poker, it did make it harder to fund online poker accounts. But it also allowed for some oddities in a bill that really was intended to thwart online gaming. In addition to exempting online wagering for parimutuel wagering, it also let states create poker networks, so long as the wager begins and ends within the state's border. Since the federal government remains resistant to embrace online gaming, states are looking for intrastate poker revenue to plug budget shortfalls.

Florida

For the second year in a row, a bill championed by Rep. Joe Abruzzo failed to advance. The sponsor's hopes were heightened this year after securing a companion bill in the state's Senate, but that bill was voted unfavorable in committee.

Hawaii

Efforts in the country's 50th state to legalize online and live poker resembled a firework, a quick, exciting burst of action, with an equally quick fizzling out. The bill quickly passed two committees before stalling in a third.

California

Bills remain in play in the gaming-heavy state, but action has been slow to develop.

Iowa

Creating an intrastate poker network was pulled from an overall gaming bill, but supporters plan to refile it next legislative session.

New Jersey

No action appears imminent on trying to override Gov. Chris Christie's veto of the first intrastate gaming bill to advance to a governor's desk.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

SOUTH CAROLINA



The poker room aboard the SunCruz Aquasino gambling ship recently hosted a couple of \$330 World Series of Poker satellites. Above, poker room manager Dan Malka stands with his final table from the 80-player event that generated a \$24,000 prize pool.

Winner Carlito Vero pocketed \$5,100 and was followed by Lonnie Johnson, Morey Singer and Dr. Lou, who each took home \$4,700. Sam Brown received \$2,300 for fifth. Also cashing were Toney McDowell and "Cajun" Steve.

Below, 94 players showed up to build a \$28,200 prize pool as Terry McCrea of Charleston, S.C., a regular \$5-\$10 no-limit hold'em player, was the event's highest finishing woman with \$6,600 after a chop.

Randy Malpass of Clinton, N.C., was second (\$5,800) followed by Jerry Cardwell of Lumberton, N.C. (\$5,400).

Inaugural World Offshore Poker Championship bracelet-winner Jerome "Smiley" Clark of Longs, S.C., pocketed \$5,000 and has won more than \$20,000 with his third final table in four attempts at Aquasino. Also pictured is Sonny Wright, Joey Smeraldo, Ronnie Redmond and Jeremy Johnson. Standing is tournament director John "Alex" Vandermark.



NORTH CAROLINA

United Cancer Alliance and Chips for Charity are hosting a three-day, three-event charity poker tournament, including a VIP party. Winners of each event will receive World Series of Poker seats, including a \$10,000 main event seat on the final day. Some of poker's best players and celebrities will be on hand, including actor David Alan Grier, 2007 WSOP Main Event champion Jerry Yang, poker pros Tiffany Michelle and Maria Ho, and *Playboy* Playmate Shanna Moakler.

Go to ChipsforCharity.org for more info and to get weekend passes for \$200 (save \$40). Add a VIP party invite for \$25.

SCHEDULE: May 13, \$60 tourney for \$1,500 WSOP seat

• May 14, \$80 tourney for \$2,500 WSOP seat

• May 14, \$50 Meet and Greet VIP Party

• May 15, \$100 for \$10K WSOP Main Event seat



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FAMILY BUSINESS

Can the Mizrachis repeat their amazing WSOP feat of 2010?



Robert



Grinder



Eric



Donny

By Christopher Cosenza

Odds. When they're stacked against a desired outcome it's all the more remarkable when they're defied. Remember the first time you saw (or were victim of) a one-outer on the river when the players were all-in and how amazing (or brutal) you thought that was?

Try this one on for size: One family has four brothers, all within a handful of years from each other. Every one of them has an interest in poker and each becomes successful at playing the game. They're so good they all enter the same World Series of Poker Main Event and each of them cash. That's exactly what the Mizrachi Brothers did in 2010.

What are the odds of this story duplicating itself? Well, you'd have to find a family with at least four siblings (not an easy task in itself). Those four would have to know how to play advanced poker. They'd have to scrape together \$40K collectively to enter the WSOP, and then would have to survive days upon days against thousands of the world's best players, all the while dodging suckouts, coolers and bad beats. What are the odds of this happening

again? Even the best bookies in Vegas couldn't predict those odds. Of course, that is, unless you mean can the Mizrachis do it again in the 42nd annual World Series of Poker at the Rio in Las Vegas?

"I'm hoping," Michael "Grinder" Mizrachi said. "Let's see if all four of us play first. I think all of us will play, so we'll see."

"For four brothers to play in the \$10K buy-in, you know, it gets expensive. And then to cash? It's an amazing thing, and it's something you'll never forget. It's with you for the rest of your life."

The Mizrachis are a rare breed. Robert, the oldest sibling whose early interest in playing cards is what nudged these guys in this direction, finished 116th last year (\$57,102). Donny (listed by his given name Danny) was 345th (\$36,463) and Eric was 718th (\$19,263).

But, of course, who could forget the Grinder? Michael was a member of the November Nine and finished fifth for \$2.3 million, winning the Ante Up WSOP Player of the Year for his overall efforts, which included winning his first bracelet in the \$50K Players Championship.



Continued from previous page

The Brothers Mizrachi are a tight group, often participating in ventures together, including charity events such as the Venetian Deep Stack Extravaganza at Daytona Beach Kennel Club's poker room on May 22 (see story Page 26). After that tune-up, it's off to Vegas.

"I've been working out hard every day and I've lost about 15 pounds," Grinder said. "Last year I only played three or four events prior to the World Series. ... This year I took it real easy and played a lot online, and that was my preparation for the World Series. ... When it comes down to the World Series all I do is think about work and work and working as hard as I can."

The WSOP has 58 bracelet events this year and runs from May 31 until July 19. Considering last year's WSOP was home to nine of the 17 largest poker tournaments in history, this year could be record-shattering. Some new things this year: a \$25K heads-up championship on the first day, the removal of the \$25K six-max event and the addition of the 10-level rule. This rule was implemented to give poker players a chance to actually get some rest between sessions. No more than 10 levels will be played on any day of a bracelet event (except the main event).

Speaking of the \$10K main event, it begins July 7 with the first of four Day 1s. There will be a Day 2A and 2B, followed by a day off. That's when the stretch run will begin as players participate for six straight days until the November Nine is reached on July 19. Those nine players will return to Vegas on Nov. 5-7 and the final table will be broadcast Nov. 8 on ESPN.

Will the brothers duplicate their feat? The odds are long, but if any family is proficient at defying them, it's the Mizrachis. ♠

2011 WORLD SERIES OF POKER SCHEDULE

1. May 31, noon, casino employees NLHE (two days), \$500
2. May 31, 5 p.m., NLHE heads-up (four days), \$25,000
3. June 1, noon, Omaha/8 (three days), \$1,500
4. June 2, noon, NLHE (three days), \$5,000
5. June 2, 5 p.m., stud (three days), \$1,500
6. June 3, noon, limit hold'em (three days), \$1,500
7. June 3, 5 p.m., pot-limit hold'em (three days), \$10,000
8. June 4, noon, NLHE (five days, two starting days), \$1,000
9. June 4, 5 p.m., no-limit 2-7 draw (three days), \$1,500
10. June 6, noon, six-handed NLHE (three days), \$1,500
11. June 6, 5 p.m., Omaha/8 (three days), \$10,000
12. June 7, noon, triple chance NLHE (three days), \$1,500
13. June 8, noon, NLHE shootout (three days), \$1,500
14. June 8, 5 p.m., limit hold'em (three days), \$3,000
15. June 9, noon, pot-limit hold'em (three days), \$1,500
16. June 9, 5 p.m., 2-7 draw lowball (three days), \$10,000
17. June 10, noon, H.O.R.S.E. (three days), \$1,500
18. June 11, noon, NLHE (three days), \$1,500
19. June 11, 5 p.m., six-handed LHE (three days), \$2,500
20. June 12, noon, NLHE (three days), \$1,000
21. June 12, 5 p.m., stud (three days), \$10,000
22. June 13, noon, PLO (three days), \$1,500
23. June 13, 5 p.m., 8-game mix (three days), \$2,500
24. June 14, noon, NLHE shootout (three days), \$5,000
25. June 14, 5 p.m., stud/8 (three days), \$1,500
26. June 15, noon, six-handed NLHE (three days), \$2,500
27. June 15, 5 p.m., limit hold'em (three days), \$10,000
28. June 16, noon, NLHE (three days), \$1,500
29. June 16, 5 p.m., 10-game mix (three days), \$2,500
30. June 17, noon, seniors NLHE (three days), \$1,000
31. June 17, 5 p.m., PLO (three days), \$3,000
32. June 18, noon, NLHE (three days), \$1,500
33. June 18, 5 p.m., stud/8 (three days), \$10,000
34. June 19, noon, NLHE (three days), \$1,000
35. June 20, noon, six-handed PLO (three days), \$5,000
36. June 21, noon, NLHE (three days), \$2,500
37. June 21, 5 p.m., H.O.R.S.E. (three days), \$10,000
38. June 22, noon, NLHE (three days), \$1,500
39. June 22, 5 p.m., PLHE-PLO (three days), \$2,500
40. June 23, noon, six-handed NLHE (three days), \$5,000
41. June 24, noon, LHE shootout (three days), \$1,500
42. June 24, 5 p.m., PLO (three days), \$10,000
43. June 25, noon, NLHE (three days), \$1,500
44. June 25, 5 p.m., razz (three days), \$2,500
45. June 26, noon, NLHE (three days), \$1,000
46. June 27, noon, six-handed NLHE (three days), \$10,000
47. June 27, 5 p.m., Omaha/8-stud/8 (four days), \$2,500
48. June 28, noon, NLHE (three days), \$1,500
49. June 28, 5 p.m., 2-7 triple draw (three days), \$2,500
50. June 29, noon, Triple Chance NLHE (three days), \$5,000
51. June 30, noon, PLO/8 (three days), \$1,500
52. June 30, 5 p.m., mixed hold'em (three days), \$2,000
53. July 1, noon, ladies NLHE (three days), \$1,000
54. July 2, noon, NLHE (five days, two starting days), \$1,000
55. July 2, 5 p.m., Players Championship (five days), \$50,000
56. July 2, noon, NLHE (three days), \$1,500
57. July 5, 5 p.m., PLO/8 (three days), \$5,000
58. July 7-19, NLHE Main Event, \$10,000



LIFE ON TOP

Players on the poker circuit have spent a lot of time looking up at Faraz Jaka lately.

By Scotty Clark



It's hard to imagine, but if Faraz Jaka, the reigning World Poker Tour Player of the Year, had lost \$20 more in a dorm-room card game some years ago, you never would have heard of him. That's right, one of the most exciting and talented young players in poker was down to his last Andrew Jackson. But more on that later.

Articulate and fun, Jaka puts on a show every time he plays. But he's not just about poker. If you had asked him a decade ago what he wanted to be when he got older, his answer then is the same as it is today ... an entrepreneur. The 25-year-old phenom started playing cards while attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The San Jose, Calif., native had starred in track at Piedmont Hills High, once running the mile in 4 minutes, 29 seconds. There were scholarship offers, but he chose business school instead. His decision to attend Illinois was a bit "random," but he wanted to expand beyond what he knew as a child.

"I was beginning to mature into the person I wanted to be and sometimes it is hard to express the new you when you are surrounded by people who knew the old you."

This is Faraz Jaka, a never weary traveler with a healthy curiosity about positive energy, people, places and business.

He began playing \$10 capped no-limit hold'em with 10-cent and 25-cent blinds in the student dorms. "At the time I didn't even know what Texas Hold'em was. I had never heard of it. After a few weeks I was down \$180 and that was a lot of money to me," he said with a laugh.

One morning, in an elevator on his way to class, Jaka gave himself an ultimatum. If he lost another \$20 in the dorm game he was swearing off poker forever.

"I thought poker might not be for me. I remember giving myself that lecture in that elevator. And for whatever reason from that point on, I went on a huge run."

His competitive side took over and he began playing in bigger games

in Champaign. It was during these times he saw an advertisement for Royal Vegas Poker online. Faraz was drawn to a Royal Vegas promotion that offered to pay your college tuition if you won a freeroll tournament.

"I never did play that freeroll. I began to deposit \$25 at a time and before you know it I was buying in for \$500 deposits."

Jaka started off at Royal Vegas by taking \$500 shots at \$25-\$50 NLHE cash games. It didn't work. He switched strategies and began to grind \$1-\$2 and \$2-\$5 no-limit games. Within a few months, he built a \$15,000 bankroll. He then returned to the \$25-\$50 one night and doubled his bankroll. He continued like a madman at even higher limits and within a week Jaka would win \$175,000.

But this happy story takes a sorted twist. Jaka lost it all. Looking back he says it was bound to happen at the high-stakes poker he was playing, with the bankroll he had. Going broke was depressing and Jaka took a semester off to regroup. A counselor told him not to play poker, but eventually fell back into the same routine upon returning to school. He gave up on cash games and began to play single-table tournaments. Faraz moved on to multitable tournaments and up the buy-in ladders.

"It was very hard to play \$10 SNGs online after playing \$100-\$200 no-limit cash games," he said. "Tournaments made it easier for me to avoid tilt and my bankroll management improved."

By 2007 he had become one of the top-rated tournament players online. Some of his scores that year included winning the Sunday Warm-up and Sunday Mulligan on PokerStars, Full Tilt's \$1K Monday and the Ultimate Bet \$200K. Faraz graduated from Illinois with degrees in economics and business. His father, a businessman, became more accepting of his son's chosen path. Faraz explained terms such as return on investment, bankroll management and variance to his father, who then understood the business side of poker.

Continued on Page 46

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Faraz Jaka and one of his Axis Casterboards.

Continued from previous page

During this interview Jaka couldn't stress enough the importance of an education. He also talked about how he loves traveling the world, saying he was "homeless" for 18 months, traveling Europe and playing EPT events after graduating college.

When did you know for sure you were going to be a professional poker player?

"Poker took over by my junior year in college. It was tough to focus on school, because you are making so much money. I knew for a fact at this point I (would) not be getting a job when I graduated. The thing that keeps you motivated in school is fear. The fear you won't graduate and end up on the streets. Poker made that fear go away for me and there are a lot of successful poker players out there who didn't finish college. I am very happy I did. I notice a big maturity difference between people I know who finished college and those who did not. That's the big part of the whole experience of school. It's not just education; it's knowing how to mix and mingle with people, how to deal with their issues and how you learn to effectively interact with others. A lot of poker players who didn't finish college are lacking these skill sets."

Describe the year and half playing and traveling Europe.

"I didn't have a home or apartment during this time. It was this revolving cycle of spending two or three months in Europe, home to Chicago for a week, on to San Jose for a week and back to Europe for an event. I like to live like a baller during tournaments, staying at nice hotels to be comfortable for the poker, but between events I live like a pauper. I crashed at friends, family and friends of friends. After the EPT event in Prague, I stayed with a family in the Czech Republic introduced to me by a friend of a friend of a friend, who just happened to study at the University of Illinois. I had never met this exchange student or the family previously and really enjoyed the whole experience."

He went to the World Series of Poker in 2009 and finished in the money four times for more than \$435K. His best finish came in Event 56, the \$5K six-handed event in which he finished third. His biggest breakthrough would come a few weeks later at the WPT's Bellagio Cup. He finished runner-up to Alexandre Gomes and cashed for more than \$700K. That final table included Erik Seidel, Justin Smith and Alec

Torelli. Jaka's presence made for good television and he would go on to make another WPT final table in December. This time it was at the Doyle Brunson Five Diamond World Poker Classic. He finished third for nearly \$600K.

Tell us about winning WPT Player of the Year and appearing on televised final tables.

"The exposure was huge for me and deep down, I always felt like I would be good on television. I like to keep it interesting at the table and I am really big on etiquette. I am respectful of others and take pride in the fact that I can be goofy, dress up or talk a little smack at the table and still keep it respectful. I was very disappointed not to win the Bellagio Cup. You really should not feel good about anything less than a win, and after the Five Diamond my friends told me I was in first place in the standings for WPT Player of the Year. I had never given player of the year any thought before someone else brought it to my attention and I am very happy, very proud to be the World Poker Tour Player of the Year. It is an honor I will always cherish. I hoped to go back-to-back, but nothing really has happened for me this WPT season. It is just a matter of time before things heat back up for me. It is just variance."

In April 2010, Jaka was playing in the North American Poker Tour bounty event at the Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. Faraz eliminated Daniel Negreanu and when the event aired, some poker fans felt as though Negreanu was a bad sport toward Jaka. In the elimination hand, Negreanu held A-9 offsuit, went all-in and Jaka called with J-6 suited. Jaka flopped two pair, turned the full house and Negreanu was drawing dead.

Did you feel insulted by Negreanu's needling?

"This is the most popular question I have been getting. I really want to answer this because there have been some misconceptions. First let me say, we are great friends and I know Daniel meant no harm by any of his comments. Second, the editing was a bit misleading. It appeared Daniel was saying "Jaka Jaka" all the time. It just wasn't like that. After we finished filming, Daniel told me he kept saying Jaka Jaka because he thought it was catchy. He told me he hoped it caught on and thought it would be good publicity for me. Honestly, I kind of ➡

liked it, too. Jaka Jaka has a nice ring to it and with all the attention this has gotten, Daniel was right, but not for the reasons we thought. Later he came to me and tried to apologize. He said people were saying stuff, blah, blah, blah, and I just stopped him mid sentence. He doesn't owe me an apology. We're friends playing the game, having fun and talking smack. All the stuff I said to him didn't make the telecast and it just took on the appearance that Daniel was picking on me in a one-sided way."

During a different NAPT event in 2010, Jaka made a call on the river with nine-high (no pair) and was right. The call became "The call heard 'round the poker world."

"My opponent was a complete unknown to me. My read on him was he was not a strong player. This is all I knew about him."

Jaka had opened for 2,000 under the gun and was called in two places. The flop came A♠-5♣-6♣. Jaka led out for 5,200 and was called once. The turn brought the 3♥. Jaka again led for 5,200 and was called. The river was the 10♣. Jaka checked and his opponent moved all-in. Jaka was a bit apprehensive about sharing what goes on in his mind, but he agreed to share his inner thoughts on this call.

"Faced with a bet on the flop in the recent past, my opponent would simply fold or go all-in. All of a sudden, this time he just called. I felt he did not hold an ace, his stack was too short to just flat. The turn was a trey and I bet the same amount as on the flop. I sized the bet to force him to fold or shove. When he called, I was confident he was on some type of draw.

"On the river, the 10♣ landed. I read him as on a draw and the flush got there. At this point I thought about representing I had made the flush, but I check and considered the fact that he may be on a busted straight draw. A draw I may beat in a showdown. My opponent went all-in and I was still reading him as weak, but I really couldn't beat anything either. I began to think about the draws he may have missed. I then put him on the straight draw. There were a couple straight draws

and gutshots I could beat. If he had the ace, he would check behind on the river, happy to go to showdown.

His whole vibe was very weak and it was flush or nothing. I was getting about 4 to 1 on my money, on a call of 9,700 and was risking half of my remaining chips. What can I say? I was right. That time."

What about your style of play? Are you ever sorry about a play gone badly?

"I am very careful about what strategies I reveal in interviews. I would call my style of poker high-risk. The way I play is probably the hardest of all the ways to play this game. If you are good at it, this style can be the most rewarding. I play to win and my table image creates situations where players make plays at me. Sometimes I am forced to make plays back at them. When my style gets me in trouble, I figure it is just the nature of the beast. It almost turns into a different game for me out there, but I continue to go with my instincts and live with the consequences."

Jaka is passionate at the table, but his newest passion is Axis Casterboarding, a company he co-founded in Whittier, Calif. Casterboarding is like skateboarding but on two wheels. It's an extreme sport with a fast-growing market in the United States.

What are your plans for this World Series and for Axis Casterboarding?

"I plan to rent a house in Las Vegas for 90 days. The World Series of Poker is my favorite part of the year and I plan to grind my ass off this summer. I have an Excel spreadsheet with my daily schedule and like to envision success months in advance. It is easier to make success become a reality when you plan for it. As far as the future of Axis Casterboarding goes, we plan on making Axis a \$100 million company. I am a contributing partner in the company, not just an investor. I have said many times in the past, I am a businessman first and totally committed to making Axis No. 1 in the industry."

— **Scotty Clark is Ante Up's Ambassador in St. Louis. You can read more on his poker blog at ScottyClarkPoker.com.**

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HIDE THE WINDOWS TO YOUR SOUL

There's a constant debate as to whether poker players should be allowed to wear sunglasses. I have no problem with them. Poker is a game of information. If I know something about my opponent they do not know about me, I will profit in the long run. Sunglasses are important when it comes to concealing quite a few key pieces of information.



The main thing sunglasses do is conceal eye tells. Most players have no control over their pupils. In general, when someone sees a flop, turn or river they like, their pupils will get large. If you pay attention, this will be easily visible on blue- and green-eyed players, though it's tougher to see in brown eyes. Also, larger sunglasses can make it difficult for opponents to tell when you're blinking. In general, blinking indicates a weak hand. Clearly, before using these tells, you need to come up with a baseline, otherwise the tells will be useless. For example, some players constantly blink, making that tell obsolete. If you don't wear sunglasses, you leave your tells out for everyone to see and use.

One play I love to make that involves sunglasses is to get out my phone in the middle of key hands I'm not involved in and pretend like I'm not paying attention to the action. When I am in a large hand, I'm keenly aware of who is paying attention and who isn't. I'm sure other good players think about this as well. If someone isn't paying attention, you should generally assume they have no clue what is going on in a hand, no matter how important the hand is to you. I whip out my phone in an attempt to fool the players in the hand that I'm not paying attention, whereas in reality, my attention is focused on the action, not my phone. This will ideally make my opponents make the same play in the future against me because in their mind, it will be the first time I have seen it.

Another reason I'm a big fan of sunglasses is because they help novice players ease into the game. Imagine if you were new to the game and constantly were stared down whenever they're running a bluff. Most players find this situation uncomfortable and may quit if the pressure becomes too much to handle. The last thing I want, as a professional poker player, is for the weaker players to quit because the game is too stressful. I know I'm not a fan of being stared down by players such as Phil Ivey. If you told me I couldn't wear sunglasses when playing with them, I would most likely just not play in those games.

I almost gave up on sunglasses a few years back because in most poker rooms, the lighting is too dark to make dark sunglasses useful. Sunglasses are no good if you can't see through them. I was turned

You never know what Jonathan Little is looking at when he's sporting Blue Sharks.



on to Blue Shark Optics by Kathy Liebert. Blue Shark Optics makes glasses that easily let light through while still being reflective, making it near impossible for your opponents to see you blinking or your pupils. The glasses are lightweight and durable. They also have options of getting bifocals or prescription lenses put in the frames. I honestly don't know why every poker player doesn't own a pair.

I suggest everyone give sunglasses a try. With the technology Blue Shark Optics employs, there's no reason to avoid them. Some egotistical poker players think sunglasses are nerdy or for weak players. I'm fine with them thinking this because I will be raking in their money off all of their eye tells. In poker, you have to always be open-minded and willing to try new things. If you don't, you will find yourself behind the curve and out of money.

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

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Hand rankings



Royal flush



Straight flush



Four of a kind



Full House



Flush



Straight



Three of a kind



Two pair



Pair



High card

ABOVE AND BELOW THE LINE

As a pro player for more than 35 years, an author, teaching professional and radio personality I've found one of the most often overlooked segments of Texas Hold'em is hand rankings. Look at the chart on the left.

I'd venture to say most players don't know a straight has the best winning percentage of any hand in hold'em. With 19,600 possible three-card combinations on the flop, all but four of them can make a straight by the turn card, other than paired or three-of-a-kind flops. It is, of course, possible to flop a straight as well. When the board flops K-8-2, K-8-3, K-7-2 or Q-7-2 no straight can be made by the turn.

What is important is all hands above the line (top-five hands) are "visible" on the board; straights often are concealed to average players.

When 7-8-9 is flopped most players realize J-10 or 5-6 could be in play. The problem is when the board flops 6-9-Q and a 5 or 10 turns. Has anyone ever played 7-8? This type of hand isn't often given credit by a player who holds K-Q, a pair or two pair.

By adding this to your arsenal and becoming aware of the *hidden-straight factor*, your game will become much stronger.

Please notice a straight is the best hand below the line, and seldom visible to the player who is in love with their hand. All good players will see the above-the-line hands as they are obvious to a player paying attention to the board.

Next time you play make a note to see how many hands below the line win. Then see how many hands above the line win. You'll quickly see about 87 out of 100 hands play below the line.

Most professionals know straights make up a large portion of their big pot wins. You also will often acquire your largest pots with straights.

Let's say you're playing in a \$2-\$5 NLHE cash game and you're in middle position with A-K off-suit. You're the first to bring it in with a raise to \$15 and only the button and the big blind call. The pot has \$47. The big blind is a loose-aggressive player and the button is a tight player who

seldom raises preflop. Knowing these players and, how do you feel about your hand?

The flop is A♣-Q♣-10♦. The big blind bets \$30. What is your play? You have top pair and top kicker and there's still a tight player to act behind you. A loose-aggressive player (the big blind) is capable of playing any two cards preflop; he may be holding K-J or J-9 or A-Q or A-10 or Q-10. Since this player only called preflop it seems doubtful you are up against pocket kings or queens, however pocket 10s are a possibility. And the button looms a danger since he's a tight player who would not have entered the hand to a raise without a strong beginning hand.

The pot is \$77; you're getting 2.5-1 odds to make the call. Is this a good call? Let's factor three important things. You may be beat; there's an active tight player behind you who has yet to act; and you're between an loose-aggressive player and a tight player who has you out of position for the remainder of the betting rounds. What do you do?

I wish I knew! There are so many factors to consider at this point. Let's examine them.

How is my chip stack compared with my opponents? If my hand is good, how many outs do I have to dodge to win if my hand doesn't improve? Can I stand a raise from the button, and possibly a reraise from the loose-aggressive player? If I call and the button calls what do I really know about the hand? Should I raise the big blind's \$30 bet and hope to get the button out of the hand? Will the big blind shove if I reopen the betting with a raise when the button folds?

I'll sum it up: The only thing I really know is I have one pair and top kicker. I'm below the line and can only beat a bluff or a smaller pair at this point. There are too many unknowns to risk playing a big pot. I never want to play a big pot with only one pair.

Stay close to the line and you'll prosper.

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



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WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

AS THE BIG EVENT NEARS, WATCH TV

The World Series of Poker is upon us again, and as the big one draws near you just know professional poker players are doing everything to prepare, including watching clips of players at past events and analyzing their own performances. So what should the everyday player do to get ready? Here are some thoughts from my experience working with pros.



JOE NAVARRO

You might be well-versed in theory and statistics but that doesn't mean you have everything covered. Pros look at their performance over the past year and come up with new strategies to implement. They also may research any articles or columns any of their potential opponents may have published, even blogs.

Watch their greatest hits

Watching clips of top players is helpful. Since you can see the hole cards it's like knowing what pitch is coming or what play is being called. It may seem like a lot of work, but it will help you to better prepare and anticipate what potential players will do.

Why are you watching these videos? You're looking for tells. I often instruct my students to watch the videos at a faster speed because that's when the tells really present themselves. Signs of discomfort (hard swallows, facial touching, neck touching) and low-confidence displays (chin tucked in, shoulder near ears, hand-wringing) will jump out at you at this speed like a caricature.

Read and reread your books on tells and be sure to look at the pictures (hint: *Read 'em and Reap* or *What Every Body is Saying*). Use this to prime your thinking about tells. Even professional researchers will read each other's materials because we forget. This is the best way to stay up with things you have read before and with the literature. I have supplied plenty of articles for *Ante Up* about tells. Go to anteupmagazine.com, find them and read them thoroughly. You can also find additional information at jnforensics.com.

Poker seminars

Why not attend a poker camp? It will pay for itself in a short period of time. Having taught for years, I can attest these classes will take you from good to exceptional. When you're being taught by the best how could you not have a tremendous advantage? This training is invaluable and tilts chance in your favor overwhelmingly.

Lastly, think about your tells. What is it about your play that says what you have? You're constantly transmitting whether you're weak, marginal or strong. You may think no one notices because you think you have a poker face, but there's no such thing as a poker body; somewhere it leaks out. Have someone watch you or just set up video camera and train it on yourself while you play with friends. You'll be surprised at how much information you're leaking.

If you are thinking of winning, then you have to prepare like a winner.

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



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FIRST, DECIDE TO WIN, THEN MAKE IT HAPPEN



Decide to Win. ... that's the Acumen Poker tagline. If you haven't truly decided to win; if you're not dedicated and committed to winning; if you don't stay focused on that day after day, hand after hand at the tables, guess what. ... you're not going to win. To consistently win you have to have a total dedication to every hand. Focus on all of the information you have and make the best decisions possible. It may seem like common sense, but do you really understand what it means to Decide to Win?

I came up with the tagline because I had read a blog post from a successful online professional who that said she made a conscious decision to be one of the winners in poker. I realized at that time that, while I was getting pretty good, I had not made that same conscious decision. I attended a WPT Boot Camp, studied (not just read, but studied) poker books, experimented with all kinds of different styles of play online; and through it all developed a style of playing that I was comfortable with and one that proved to be successful.

Once I had the success in the 2007 WSOP main event, I became even more determined to be a winner. I wanted to prove I was a force to be reckoned with on the poker scene. I continued to read books, blogs, forum posts and magazine articles. I experimented with my game online and then worked the successful tactics into my live game.

I can attribute almost every big score I've had to some book I read, something new I worked into my game or to my teaching at the WPT Boot Camp or Acumen Poker. Many times my biggest wins came just after putting together a group training session or working with a particular student for a while, as I was so focused on the fundamentals and the experimentation that my game was in great shape and I had a tremendous amount of confidence in all of the decisions that I was making. Most of us at one time or another have been at that place with our poker game. Every move seems right. You know what your opponents are holding.

So, why does it all stop working sometimes? Life. Small stuff, big stuff, family, money, girl-

friends, boyfriends, work, health, annoying neighbors. ... life can get in the way and if anything is weighing on your mind it can affect every decision you make, in poker and life.

Be honest, are there things killing your mind-set? If you're not actively working on your game and don't have your life issues sorted out, then you're reneging on your commitment to winning.

I recently got asked to record a video of the FTOPS main event from November when I reached the final table and had my largest online score. It's going to be released on a training site called Tournament

Poker Edge. It has some of the top online pros producing videos and blogs, so I have logged quite a few hours absorbing its knowledge.

But I know I haven't spent enough time doing this and I've been slack with my training. But making this video was eye-opening for me. It brought me back to truly analyzing my game. I questioned a lot of my decisions and found spots where I didn't know what the right decision was.

Now when I'm playing, I'm always thinking more about explaining why I'm doing what I'm doing and what the optimal play is. This doesn't mean I'll always be right, but at least it gets me back to the critical thinking and decision-making I need to be successful. Take the time to think about every decision you're making as if you have to explain it to a poker coach or respected poker player.

Some of you have had success but are struggling. Some of you haven't had the success you keep thinking is just around the corner. And some of you are in the middle of a heater. Whichever category you fit in, be sure you take the time to analyze your life, mind-set and level of complacency. You must have everything in your life in order and continue to work on your game. If you stay honest with yourself and maintain your dedication and commitment to winning, you will. Decide to Win!

— Lee Childs is a poker pro who founded Acumen Poker. If you'd like to check out his video on Tournament Poker Edge visit tournamentpokeredge.com and register with referral ID: CHILDS.



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IT'S CALLED SITUATIONAL HAND RELEVANCY

Whether you think you're going to crush souls and check-raise or get owned and check-fold, you're probably right.

To play poker well, you must make correct decisions based on the information available at that time. Physical tells, numbers of players in the pot, stack sizes, etc. I've created the term "situational hand relevancy" to describe relative hand strength in correlation to specific situations.



MIKE WOLF

Let's take 8-8 for example. In a \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em cash game you open to \$8 from middle position and a super-tight player with his chips lined up perfectly three-bets you to \$24 from the button. If he has enough chips in front of him then you can profitably "set mine." If he only has \$75 behind you probably should fold. But if a loose player who's been drinking three-bets you with effective stacks large enough, you might set mine as you see fit. You see, if you're paying attention to the table the same hand might be a call or a fold.

Here's the kicker (and it's top kicker, boys and girls): If you weren't focusing on the game you wouldn't know the best possible line of action at any given time with any given hand. Yeah, hands such as aces play themselves, but what about A-Q, 9-9 or even Q-Q? Your girlfriend texting you on your iPhone isn't going to tell you, "Hey, Babe, you should jam in this spot because of X,Y,Z."

Here's a situation that applies: So you're on your phone and you look down at Q-Q. You make it \$12 from early position. Standard. Some guy three-bets you to \$36. You call because you have Q-Q. The flop comes J-4-2 rainbow. You check and he pots it. Since you weren't paying attention you have no idea if he has A-K or A-A. You end up going all-in and he snaps you off with A-A. You miss your two-outer. Sucks to be you. Well, to start, let's see what your girlfriend didn't tell you. His hand was shaking when he reraised preflop and he hasn't three-bet in an hour. The last time he did it was with K-K. You could have easily saved a buy-in if you weren't posting on Facebook how good you are at poker. (Guilty!)

Don't take it personally, young guns, it's just a generational thing. We like to multitask. But here's the thing: We play poker to be "cool and make money." The way to make money is to make correct decisions. The way to make correct decisions is to pay attention. Therefore, paying attention is as cool as a stack of blacks. Like how I did that?

To wrap this up, staying focused equals money.

- Don't text and play.
- Don't play when you're tired, sick or on life tilt.
- Diet and work out to help your brain process info.
- Think positive; it's better than the alternative.

— Mike Wolf is a professional poker player who travels the United States and soon the world. He can be reached at MichaelJWolf33@gmail.com, on Facebook or twitter (@mikewolf7).

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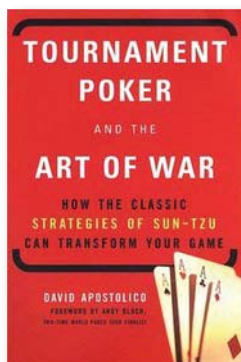
MAKE IT HAPPEN; DON'T JUST LET IT HAPPEN

By Al Spath

Players have the opportunity to build their chip stacks from the beginning rounds ("to make it happen") regardless of the cards they receive, by assessing their opponents, taking advantage of position, and using tells to identify players who won't defend pots unless they have big hands. Gathering chips is a critical element for succeeding in the later rounds as stack size has "everything" to do with winning poker play. If you allow your stack to become inconsequential ("by letting it happen") your maneuvers won't have any bite and are fruitless efforts. You cannot persuade or influence play and therefore are rendered ineffective.

David Apostolico clearly makes this tournament play assertion (that gathering chips is a must), in his Strategies of Sun-Tzu book: *Tournament Poker and the Art of War*. He identifies 10 specific principles:

- Understand all the potential consequences of your actions so you may properly balance the competing goals of survival and chip accumulation.
- Play each hand for maximum value with minimal risk.
- If you have the opportunity to eliminate your opponent, you must do it.
- Take advantage of any opportunity to accumulate chips from your opponent. Once you gain a substantial chip lead, you strengthen your force allowing you to attack your opponent more effectively.
- Mix up your play so opponents cannot get a read on you. When your opponent is unable to comprehend your play, he cannot completely control his play.



• If you know the enemy and know yourself, you will have the opportunity to exploit the situation to your benefit.

• Play strength to maximum value when your opponent is weak.

• In no-limit hold'em tournaments you cannot afford to wait for every factor to be in your favor to make a play for the pot. Stay abreast of the situation so you may take calculated risks to create an edge where none is perceived.

• The situation is constantly changing in no-limit tournaments. Know how all of the factors compromising the situation are changing so you may adjust your play accordingly.

• Poker is an art of deception.

He tells the reader to use position and tells to steal blinds and small pots without resistance. "If you are relying on cards to win," he writes, "you are sure to fail." His assertion is all players are given opportunities to win hands without cards, and those who can exploit their opponents' vulnerabilities will have the edge.

His book and his on-point advice offer readers an excellent framework that can make the difference at the tables. Don't wait for someone else to make it happen, be the one to engage your opponents and maintain the winning edge.

Quoting Sun-Tzu: "He will win who knows when to fight and when not to fight," which in my book clearly translates to: "Make it happen; don't let it happen."

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

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STRETCH YOUR LEGS OR SUFFER A REALLY BAD BEAT

Editor's note: With Ante Up's national expansion we want all of our new readers to benefit from Dr. Toscano's excellent columns of the past while our original audience gets a healthy reminder. This piece is from November 2008.

Answer this: You've been playing at the same table for the past five hours without so much as a bathroom break. A player in middle position who has you covered opens for three times the big blind. You push with A-A. He calls and shows small suited connectors. Your biggest danger now is:



A. He'll make a straight and you'll get felted.

B. He'll make a flush you'll get felted.

C. A blood clot will break off from behind your knee, travel to your lung and you'll get permanently felted.

The truth is, though your aces may get cracked more often than you believe they should, your real danger from a long poker session is a blood clot.

Having a blood clot normally is a good thing. When blood is exposed to air, from a cut or scrape, it clots. If it didn't, even a small cut might turn into a pretty nasty mess. The real problem occurs when a clot forms in a vein, especially a vein deep within your leg (deep venous thrombosis). The clot can break off, travel through the chambers on the right side of your heart and lodge in your lung. This "pulmonary embolism" can strain the heart, damage lung cells and actually kill you.

So what causes blood to clot inside a leg vein? Mainly inactivity. Sitting for long hours with your legs hanging down below you causes the blood to thicken and sludge in various spots in your legs. Eventually a clot can form and, if it breaks off, you're in trouble. Poker players who have a history of cancer, recent surgery or previous episodes of deep venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism are particularly at risk.

Prevention is pretty easy. First, get into the habit of frequently contracting your leg muscles while playing. Every time the button passes

you (about every 15 or 20 minutes) stretch your legs out straight. First point your toes hard then pull your toes up toward your knee hard. This exercise contracts your quadriceps and your calf muscles and squeezes the stagnant blood out of the veins that run through these muscles. Try not to play footsies under the table with the other players or you may experience a different kind of medical problem.

Next, every time there's any kind of break in the action, get up and walk around. In tournaments, there's usually a five-minute break every hour. In ring games, just skip a hand every so often, stand up and do a few leg exercises. Get up on your toes and rock back on your heels a few times to get the blood flowing again. Do a squat or two and you should be good to go until the next break.

If your ankles tend to swell after long sessions or you have varicose veins, you might want to take some extra precautions. Support hose are a great way to reduce swelling and compress the size of the leg veins leaving less room for stagnant blood to collect. Most medical supply stores carry support hose or you can find them online at places like FootSmart.com. I use them myself. They look just like normal socks and feel great.

Finally, don't forget that miracle drug, aspirin. Even one baby aspirin (81 mg.) thins the blood significantly and makes it far more difficult for clots to form. If you're on a blood thinner such as Coumadin or Plavix, or if you have a history of bleeding problems like bleeding ulcers, you should check with your physician before taking aspirin. For the rest of us, though, it's a simple and effective way to reduce the risk of clots.

Any time you're going to be sitting with your legs below you for long periods of time, whether it's because you're sitting at a poker boot camp lecture, crammed into an airplane seat on your way to the WSOP or even simply planning a long home-game session with your crew, make sure it's the bad beat that feels you and not a clot.

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

When gambling becomes a problem, it's time to put the cards down and pick up the phone. The signs are there. Are you seeing them?

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HEAD GAMES

DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

SELF-CONTROL IS KEY TO HITTING YOUR PEAK

You play poker; you're competitive and you want to perform at your peak. This is as true for the avid recreational player as it is for the elite professional. You know there are things you can control and things you can't.

The best advice is to work on self-control. You can enhance your skills and talent by studying the math of the game and tracking hands.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

You want to know your comfort zone and when to move out of it. You can manage your money. And you can train your mind to perform at your peak.

You must add mental skills to your technical skills to achieve peak performance.

Some people bring exceptional skills to the game while others bring an exceptional work ethic.

Developing your strengths and eliminating or minimizing your leaks is the most productive time you can spend; everything else will come.

But you have to know yourself and your game. Don't dwell on the negative; learn from it, and accentuate the positive. Work to gain confidence. Assess your decision-making and not the outcome. Did you make the right decision at the right time with as much information as was available?

Assess your leaks and be honest with yourself. Don't attribute your wins to skill when there might've been a good element of chance and don't attribute losses to bad beats when there were alternatives. The correct decisions are situational. The best you can do is weigh the possibilities, assess your opponent and make a decision. If it was a good decision, losing or winning the hand is less important, though it doesn't feel that way.

In a recent run in tournaments I was busted with pocket pairs only to run into bigger pocket pairs. Is this just a doomed hand or could I have played differently. When I pushed with a short or medium stack and lost, I have to assess my play and replay the hand to see if I could've done something differently. Did I put my opponent on a range of possible hands? Did I account for stack size? Did I weigh fold equity? For some the tendency when getting busted with decent hands is to say I'll never again play pocket nines or A-Q offsuit. There's never a never in poker, if we believe the decision-making process is situational.

Improving play involves learning the best situational decision-making tools and learning to set effective goals, dealing with bad beats, staying cool under pressure, enjoying your experience, etc. Whether you're tired, distracted, on tilt or whatever, you need to learn how to focus and refocus or you need to leave the table.

The best advice from sports psychology is to develop a short statement you can say to yourself to refocus your attention and concentra-

Assess your leaks and be honest with yourself. Don't attribute your wins to skill when there might've been a good element of chance and don't attribute losses to bad beats when there were alternatives.

tion. Ryan Hedstrom at Manchester College developed some guidelines to developing what have been called "cue" statements. A cue statement can be a word, short phrase or longer mantra. Stay focused, play right and dominate are all examples. Or it could be a question you ask at a critical moment. "If I were playing at my best how would I handle this situation?"

The statement should be positive, no criticism. It should be short and to the point.

"Keep your head in the game," is mine. It triggers a set of mental reactions that allows me to refocus and concentrate and attend to the decisions I have to make. It's my short cut to a host of practice and exercises I've worked on away from the table.

Practice saying your statement and visualizing the outcome. You need to find a quiet place, no distractions and do some breathing, relaxation and visualizations. At first set a five-minute time; then go longer.

When you practice first take a deep cleansing breath; breathe in through you nose and hold it a few seconds. Exhale through your mouth and mentally say your word or statement. Picture yourself at the table focused, fully attentive and concentrating. Visualize all the sights and sounds. Picture yourself playing at your best; making the best decisions you can make.

This is called guided imagery and involves all the senses. It is a total body experience using a mental activity and has been shown to be able to make a powerful impact. When practiced regularly away the table and used when needed at the table it creates the built-in capacity to work on many levels and creates encoded messages to your mind, brain and body to achieve a desired state. Do it again and again.

Practice this and use it at the table. When you lose focus or just suffered a bad beat, take a minute (at the table or away) and take a deep cleansing breath through your nose for a three count. Hold it for a three count and exhale for a three count saying your word, question or statement. Do it again if necessary.

Your brain will kick in you'll be able to keep your head in the game.

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

CRACKING UNDER PRESSURE?

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



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

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HELP POKER EMERGE FROM WILD WEST

By Randall Kaspar

All of us in the poker world cherish the rich history of our game. Doyle Brunson and Amarillo Slim's adventures illustrate our fables and folklore and allow us to dream. The triumphs and tragedies of Stu Ungar relay the extremes in the intense human struggle professional players attempt to conquer, be it for bracelets or groceries.

We have our royalty in First Lady Linda Johnson and First Family Binion to guide us in what we ought to do while the world's eyes are upon us, because they conducted themselves that way while NO ONE WAS WATCHING.

We have our model citizens, such as the late Chip Reese, illustrating civility and humanitarianism, how we ought to act. The list goes on but makes clear — for each value we cherish, our history is instructive on how we should conduct ourselves. As we move forward, it's critical we stay true to the precedent of our rich past.

All industries go through phases analogous to the history of our country. If the invention of poker was our "Columbus" moment and the formation of the World Series of Poker was our "Louisiana Purchase," then the Moneymaker victory was our "Eureka/Gold Rush" and since then we have been in the "Wild West." From all corners people and companies have staked their claims and, therefore, it's time to make sure the "Intercontinental Railroad" is built so the "Industrial Revolution" can take place correctly. Simply put, the poker industry is at a critical point in its development and everyone is important in this next phase of growth, lest outlaws may prevail.

All decent members of our community, from the behemoth corporations to the micro-stakes grinders, want to see the poker industry mature and at the macro level that means regulation. We all need to know the laws of the universe to function. For the players this strikes to the core desire as a poker consumer, to have the freedom to play a game you love in an honest environment utilizing brands you like and trust. Yet players feel powerless and that's simply not the case. But first you must understand the major roadblock to a workable civilized society for poker: protectionism.

Poker as an industry has seemed to move past the "poker is evil" argument and is much closer to where it should've been all along: Poker is a skill game. Nevada recently recognized it as such. Its recently proposed online poker legislation was akin to big brother

stepping in to show little brothers (read California, Florida, Iowa, New Jersey) to "quit fooling around, Kid; let us show you how it's done." This development is likely to propel similar federal legislation to regulate online poker the way we want it: the freedom to play a game you love in an honest environment utilizing brands you like and trust.

The online poker debate is the most visible example of why we need to stick together as a community, but is by no means the only one. Annie Duke and Jeffrey Pollack of the Federated League are attempting to address myriad issues all sports must address to ensure honest maximum growth and credibility, including sponsor-supplied prize pools, labor rights, revenue sharing and ethical codes for players, companies and agents. This type of activity is occurring in every nook and cranny of our industry at this moment. Whether they're miscible will have a synergistic or deleterious effect on our industry.

The protectionist mind-set poses threats to our community on two levels. First, protectionism divides the gaming community and risks defeat to the non-gaming community. Fortunately, we seem to be moving past that. The second risk is more pervasive as it goes far beyond the monetary considerations of the first and directly affects the quality of the system. The power players in the industry will not get it right without a constant reminder of who they ultimately answer to — YOU.

It's time for a final push, time to re-double your efforts or to simply get involved if you are not. It's not time to get lazy, or to give up because you feel powerless. It's not time to be lulled asleep as the pendulum shifts in our favor on big-picture issues. The devil is in the details, which will only be filled in to your liking if you persist.

So support the Poker Players Alliance (theppa.org), continue to speak up in the forums, write your legislators and allow me to lend you my microphone. If you send me your comments about where our industry should head, I will do my best to amplify your voice.

The great citizens of our community's past give us guidance. Let's not let them down.

— Randall S. Kaspar, Esq. is co-founder of **Poker Players International**, the world's largest poker agency (ppipoker.com). You can email him at randy@pokerplayersinternational.com.

Annie Duke continues to do her part for poker credibility with the Federated League.



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POKER POLITICS

MARC DUNBAR • What's going on with our government

WILL FLA. EVER GET INTRASTATE ONLINE POKER?

Much discussion is going on about the prospects of Florida being one of the first states in the country to thread the needle of the federal Unlawful Internet Gaming Enforcement Act and legalize intrastate Internet poker for its residents.



MARC DUNBAR

In 2009, the Florida Legislature authorized a public policy study of the various options available to the state to deal with the growing Internet poker industry. The report basically said the state could do nothing, outlaw the activity or regulate and tax it. The Florida Legislature's reaction the past two years has been a deliberate approach to the latter option: regulation and taxation.

Led by Rep. Joe Abruzzo, a Democrat from Wellington in Palm Beach County, legislation to legalize intrastate online poker received its first hearings last year. While no votes were taken on the measure in 2010, the structure of how Florida would approach legalization came to light this year.

Teaming with Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla, a Republican from Miami, Abruzzo's 2011 bill provides for the creation of an intrastate online poker network. It allows for the creation of the network through the use of three hub operators and allows for Florida licensed poker room operators to provide portals for consumers to access the poker websites. It also requires state poker room regulators provide oversight of online poker activities and the selection of hub operators through a competitive procurement process.

This bill had early success in the Florida Senate before stalling. In the Florida House, the bill has not fared as well mainly for reasons unrelated to the bill. The chairman of the House Committee with jurisdiction over gaming issues resigned midway through the legislative session to pursue a county commission seat in Miami-Dade County. Sufficient time did not remain in Florida's constitutionally limited 60-day legislative session to fill the vacancy and get a new chairman up to speed on the substantive issues of the committee.

As a result, the bill wound up a victim of the process. While this doesn't bode well for the online prospects in 2011, significant progress was made, which may pay dividends in future years.

First, the measure had received hours of public discussion with private staffs working to fine-tune the proposal. Second, and more important, the legislation has interest from the incumbent poker-room operators at Florida's parimutuel facilities. Finally, the state's economists have evaluated the effect of the legislation on the state's tax coffers and have projected the bill will be a multimillion-dollar positive

revenue producer annually.

Looking ahead to the off-session committee meetings for 2011 and next year's session, additional hurdles exist that must be dealt with for intrastate online poker to become a reality for Floridians. The most obvious is the conservative caucus in the Florida House of Representatives. Boasting numbers nearing 35 percent of the Lower Chamber, this group of anti-gaming legislators is a formidable opposition to any gambling measure in Florida. Online poker advocates such as Poker Voters of America have a steep climb to convince these members that such legislation is in the public good. Furthermore, late opposition from the Florida Sheriffs Association and from the Poker Players Alliance presents new hurdles for the measure to overcome.

The other more subtle challenge to the legislation comes from the Seminole Tribe of Florida as a direct result of the gaming compact it executed with the State of Florida under former Gov. Charlie Crist. Under the compact, the tribe would not be required to make the minimum guaranteed payments if the state affirmatively allows online gaming and the Tribe's gaming revenues drop more than 5 percent for the previous 12 months.

However, the tribe would still be required to make payments based on a predetermined percentage-based revenue share amount. If the Abruzzo bill passed, the compact would allow the tribe to enter the Internet poker market as a hub competitor to the three state-licensed hubs. At some point after a bill passes, these issues will present additional variables for the state economists to wrestle with as they project the overall net impact on the state revenues and online poker matures as a revenue source in Florida.

Looking into the crystal ball moving forward, I see momentum being created each year by the efforts of Abruzzo and the advocates from the Poker Voters of America.

Progressive legislation, particularly in the gaming arena, is analogous to training and running a marathon successfully. The work put in on the front end is what pays dividends on the back end.

This is a multiyear effort that's showing progress each year. While 2012 may present a more favorable climate for the passage of the legislation, it may also be a year where more hurdles are placed in the rearview mirror and fewer are between the sponsor and the finish line. In the end, I think the bill's ultimate success will rest on how successful the advocates are in assuaging the concerns of the conservatives in the Florida House between now and the 2012 session.

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

Looking ahead to the off-session committee meetings for 2011 and next year's session, additional hurdles exist that must be dealt with for intrastate online poker to become a reality.

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As told to *Ante Up* publisher Christopher Cosenza

A MOMENT WITH MR. MOSS

The following is one in an occasional series of recollections by Aquasino director of poker operations Dan Malka, who has rubbed elbows with just about every big name in poker history.

In the fall of 1978, my third week as a poker dealer at the Las Vegas Dunes cardroom, I was dealing a \$30-\$60 stud game and legendary poker champ Johnny Moss sat in Seat 4. "Texas Johnny" was about 70 years old at the time but still a bear of a man. The No. 5 seat, a 40-year-old out-of-towner, was putting heat on me from the start. The 40-year-old finally won a big pot and stiffed me.



DAN MALKA

Quiet up to this point, Moss says to him: "Now, my dealers know we're playing for a lot of money and that players get mad when they're losing. But you've been riding this dealer since he got in the box and you just won a good pot. You can't tip him?"

The No. 5 seat ignored him. Johnny squared his chair toward him, slammed his fist on the table and said, "Now give this dealer a red chip (\$5) right now or I'll throw your ass the hell out of my poker room!"

The guy nervously spilled three red chips my way. I grabbed them, tapped the box, looked Johnny in the eyes and said "Thank you."

Moss nodded his head.

The next two hands were dealt in dead silence, then the No. 3 seat, a local, said, "Johnny, I don't want to get you all riled up again, but you forgot this isn't your cardroom anymore."

Said Moss: "I don't forget anything. I know they gave my cardroom to the college boy (Dartmouth graduate and future Hall of Famer Chip Reese), but it was always my cardroom and it will be again. You'll see."

Moss always was in the Dunes cardroom playing or sitting on a covered table reading a newspaper. Nobody ever sat next to him except for Mrs. Moss on the rare occasion. I asked another dealer why nobody ever sat by him and he said, "Because he's a rough character; take my advice and stay away from him. You'll be better off."

Well, Moss was the kind of rough character I liked. I was 23 and liked hearing people's life stories. How could I pass up the opportunity to hear one from Moss?

I stood by his table and said, "Mr. Moss, I was wondering, would you mind if I sat down by you?"

He stared at me, then looked away, and then said "Here's the sports page; sit down."

Nothing else was said. We both just read our papers until he said, "You better go push Table 3 now." He knew our rotation!

After about three times of just reading the paper next to him, Moss said, "These other guys around here figure they better call me Mr. Moss, but from now on you can call me Johnny. But you still have to call Mrs. Moss 'Mrs. Moss.' Everybody has to."

"I know that, Johnny," I said.

"You know, I could tell you a few things about this business if you had a mind to listen to me," he said.

"That's what I had in mind when I came to sit next to you, Johnny."

"Well, all right then," he said.

Every time I had a chance I would sit next to him. He'd talk and I would listen.

Moss turned out to be right about the Dunes. Reese started winning so much money playing that he gave the cardroom to Doug Dalton (the current Bellagio director of poker).

Doyle Brunson became cardroom host for Major Riddle at the Silverbird. All of the players followed Brunson to the Silverbird and he made Eric Drache cardroom manager. Drache gave me a job there and Dalton left the Dunes for a gig in California.

After a while the Dunes changed the location of the poker room and expanded it, but most important, Moss was back as poker boss of the Dunes.

He wasted little time building a strong low-limit room the old-school way. He'd host the games, hired dealer players, balanced tables and gave breaks on the rake. On my days off from the Silverbird I'd stop in at the Dunes and give Johnny a play.

About 15 years later on the last day of a four-day Vegas trip, I decided to drop in at the Horseshoe to see if there was anyone I'd recognize from the old days. Sitting there by himself on a covered table in the poker room reading a newspaper was 85-year-old Johnny Moss. I walked up, stood in front of him and said, "Mr. Moss, I wonder if you might remember me?"

He stared at me a minute and snapped, "Yeah, I remember telling you ya didn't have to call me Mr. Moss!"

I smiled wide, shook his hand, sat down and said, "Johnny, how ya doin'?"

Moss: "Well you probably heard about Mrs. Moss."

"Yeah, Johnny, sorry to hear it. She was a fine lady."

"Are you still in the business?" he said.

"Yeah, Johnny. I went to Florida and helped train the poker staff at an Indian casino and now manage cardrooms on cruise ships, traveling the world and making good money."

Moss wasn't particularly impressed with this. Instead he was staring at the poker podium.

"See that guy over there? (Referring to long-time Horseshoe cardroom manager Jim Albrect.) I want to get up out of this chair, walk right up to him, fire his ass and hand you his job! But Benny (Horseshoe founder, owner and close friend) doesn't care what I think anymore. He says we're too old now. Well hell, he's probably too old. He lets his fool college boy son (Yale grad Jack Binion) run this whole damn place. What the hell do these college boys know about our business anyway? I tell ya, it's not right."

"It's not right that you had to leave Vegas just to run a damn cardroom. It's not right that I made this place. One of my boys should be running it, one of the boys that learned from me!"

I realized there wasn't any point in telling him I was glad to be out of Vegas, or that I was one of those college boys, or that I never actually worked for him. It was enough for me to know the greatest poker player of his time and an old-school poker boss would have picked me to be on his team. I thanked him for the thought and said my last farewell.

Johnny Moss passed away shortly thereafter.

— Dan Malka is the director of poker operations for Aquasino Partners LLC in South Carolina. You can write to him at editor@anteupmagazine.com.



CALL THE FLOOR

Expert advice from poker room manager Jody Russell

ULTIMATELY, THE ONUS IS ON THE PLAYER

In a recent satellite tournament I entered there were three people in the pot. I bet, was raised by Player B and Player C went all-in.

I had trouble figuring out if it was a legal raise so I asked the dealer. The dealer said it wasn't a legal raise so I called. Player B went all-in and the floor was called.

The floor said Player C's all-in was a legal raise and the dealer made a mistake. The floor didn't care that I acted on misinformation from the dealer and said I should be responsible for knowing what is a legal raise. While technically correct, this is clearly not in the interest of fairness to the game.

What further infuriated me was after the tournament was over the floor said I shouldn't have listened to the dealer and called the floor to make a ruling. — **Stuart Greenbaum, via email**

JODY: This is an unfortunate circumstance we sometimes find ourselves in because of human error.

Granted the dealer made a mistake and it cost you a few chips. But when this happens the only person to blame is the player. I know it doesn't seem fair, but that's just how it works. Every player is responsible to protect his or her hand and right to act.

This includes knowing how much the action is to you and the implications of the action. Dealers can make mistakes. You paid money to play in the event. The house made money from you. If you won anything I'm sure you would have tipped the dealers. Insist on the house and the dealers earning their money. You have a right to feel comfortable with what is going on.

Ask for detailed explanations of what's going on any time you aren't sure. I certainly wouldn't encourage someone to ask every time just because they can, but when there's really some doubt about what is going on feel free to make sure.

In the future I would suggest having the dealer cut the chips in front

TDA Rules

Each month Jody Russell explains one TDA rule.

FACE UP: All cards will be turned face up once a player is all-in and all betting action is complete.

JODY: This confuses some when there is an all-in with a side pot with other players. If one player is all-in EVERY LIVE HAND AT SHOWDOWN must be shown. This rule was made primarily to prevent players from dumping chips to one another. Here's an example: Player A is all-in on the flop. Players B and C are still betting. There's 130K in the main pot and 20K in the side pot. The dealer calls for a showdown and Player A quickly shows top two pair for the main. Player C shows top pair for the side. Player B says Player C has him beat for the side and mucks. Player B has 650K and mucked a straight so his partner, Player B, can win the 130K main pot and stay in the tournament. Though most players try to muck their cards because they're embarrassed about the quality of their hand, this rule must be followed to prevent chip dumping.

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

of you, explain the amount of the action required for Player C to call, then explain what the additional all-in amount should be to warrant a legal raise. This will remove all doubt.

The floorperson who spoke with you after the tournament was technically correct in telling you to not just believe the dealer. I only hope he/she was tactful and polite in explaining this to you.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

Police officers deserve Selbst's utmost respect



I'm writing this letter to discuss the recent interview you had with Vanessa Selbst (*On the Button Q&A, March 2011*).

In the interview you printed how Vanessa hates cops. I have to say that I take great offense to this part of your article. I'm a police officer and have been so for about 18 years. I consider myself a hard-working and honest cop. For Vanessa to say that is absolutely ridiculous.

Police officers across our country hold the United States together. We save lives by giving CPR; we rescue

people from harm's way when there are burglaries, robberies, assaults and even murders. Any police officer would gladly step in front of danger for the well being of another person, and yes even for Ms. Selbst. If our country did not have cops we would surely fall into the

VERBAL IS BINDING

Email us at letters@anteupmagazine.com if you have something to say. Be sure to give us your name and hometown and we just might print it.

anarchy and chaos like that of some third-world countries.

No profession is clear of unsavory people. And when police officers are involved in crimes they are and should be prosecuted. Let's face it, in our society people commit crimes and they get arrested for those acts. It is then the job of defense attorneys to assist those accused in defending themselves. That is how our criminal justice system is set up and it seems to work fairly well.

I feel Ms. Selbst owes an apology to the readers.

Sgt. Paul Seitz
Hamilton (N.J.) Police Department

PLEASURE ISLAND POKER

Bill Fendley overcame Mike Yoder's 2-to-1 chip lead during heads-up play to win the 98-player monthly event on March 20 at Fokkers Pub in Fort Walton Beach.



Fendley, Pleasure Island's first three-time monthly champ, earned a \$350 tournament entry into the \$20K guarantee at Pensacola Greyhound Track's poker room.

Yoder also won a tournament chip, and he was followed by Maria Johnson, Terry Green, Gonzalo Lopez, Brian Daugherty, Laurie McFadden, Mark Wolfe, Mike Goebel and Mike Gauthier.

• Jack Chaemcheun defeated Ed McFadden to win the Bets Helping Vets charity event on March 19 at Scully's on the Bayou in Fort Walton Beach. All proceeds went to local disabled veterans and the next charity event will be July 9 at LosPanchos on Okaloosa Island.

Chaemcheun won a prize package that included a deep-sea fishing trip and a tournament entry chip to PGT's poker room.

ALL IN FREE POKER

The NHL's Florida Panthers and All In Free Poker recently co-hosted a tournament to benefit the team's charity foundation, raising more than \$4,200 for them. The Isle Casino of Pompano Park donated three \$1,100 heads-up entries and the Panthers donated an away-game trip package to the winner, who was Jay Shapp, a league regular. Mike Coberly, Richard Lozito and Amir Baron won the Isle entries.



• The league's 25th main event final went to Richard Lozito, who earned a \$3,000 cruise package and an entry into the Pucks & Poker event.

Katrina Powers, who finished second, took home a \$1,600 entry into the Isle's Battle of the Beaches tournament.

Bobby Morando was third (\$550 entry) followed by Donna Rom (\$230 entry), Deb Hinson, Quinten Gravagna, Dan Wright, Ziggy Schafer, Mark Miller and Don Hedleston, who each received a \$120 Isle Battles at the Beach entry.



Main event winner Richard Lozito poses with the All In Free Poker boys.

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Shuler



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Paar



Ford

TREASURE CHEST POKER

Here's a recap of all of the recent TCP events:

- Jeff Shuler continues to tear it up in TCP tournaments, winning his third in two months.

This time he defeated nearly 150 players at the monthly event and has earned a trip to Las Vegas to play in the WSOP's Event 45. He'll be joining Fredrick Martini (Event 54) and Frank Murphy (Event 45) at the Rio.

- Jim Cowger won a \$100 gift card at Stokers in Palm Harbor after taking down the Omaha event.

- Rob Shutter won the Snappers main event, taking home a \$250 gift card after defeating nearly 100 players.

- Keith Davis captured the Battle of the Bars for Snappers Grill & Comedy Club.

- Andy Larazo won Stix Palm Harbor main event and a \$250 gift card.

- Ron Paar beat more than 100 players at the Stokers monthly on March 5 to earn a \$250 gift card.

- Debbie Ford, just 19th in the points standings, is the Queen of Ocala after defeating the King, Daniel Buncie.

NUTZ POKER LEAGUE



Shannon Schemkes



Joe Sheets



Kelly Kingcome

Here's a recap of the recent Nutz events:

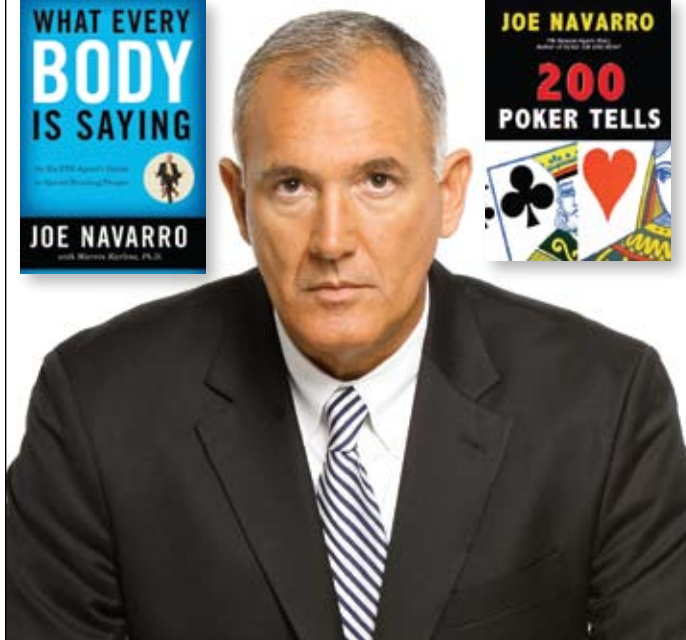
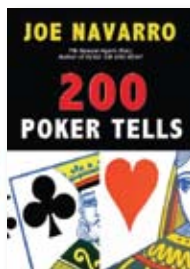
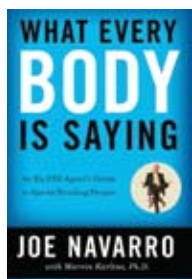
- Shannon Schemkes won the March monthly championship and took home the bracelet and a \$500 gift card.

- Kathy Kingcome won an Android Apad at the Final Table Madness event at Louie's in Largo.

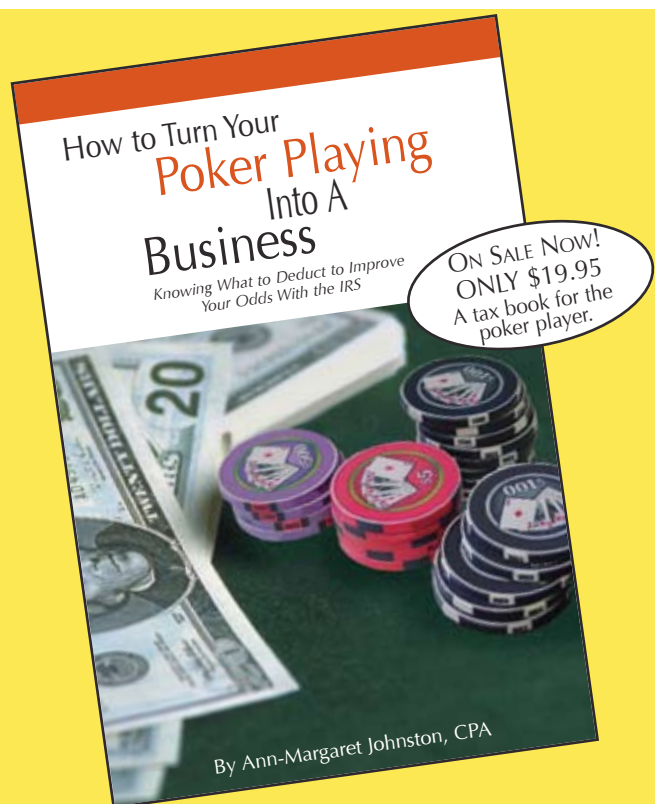
- Joe Sheets won the Champps one-year anniversary title, a Cybershot Digital Camera and a gift card.

- Kelly Kingcome defeated league owner Rick Danford heads-up for the \$75 Bust the Boss gift card.

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ARKANSAS

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
OAKLAWN RACING & GAMING (501) 623-4411 • oaklawn.com	Daily (\$5-\$20) at various times, including guaranteed prize pools ranging from \$500-\$1K; ladies freeroll on Thursdays (7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$48K at press time); high hands (Fri.-Tue., 10a-1a). Weekend Warrior pays for number of flops seen (call for details).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING (870) 735-3670 • southlandgreyhound.com	Mon.-Tue. (\$20, 2p); Wed. (\$35, 2p); Thurs. KO (\$30, 7p); Sat. KO (\$35, 5p). 2K freeroll (call for details and dates).	Bad-beat jackpot is aces full of jacks beaten by quads (\$150K at press time); player reward cards offer comps based on play.

CONNECTICUT

FOXWOODS CASINO (800) 369-9663 • foxwoods.com	Daily (9a-8p); DeepStack events Mon.-Sat. (\$120-\$230, 6p). Mega Stack Challenge, May 14-22 (\$120-\$1,200) w/main event on May 21 (\$1,200, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot is quad eights in hold'em (\$184K at press time) and quad deuces in stud (\$8.5K at press time).
MOHEGAN SUN CASINO (860) 862-8000 • mohegansun.com	Daily (\$50-\$200) including a \$10K guarantee on Wednesdays (\$120, 7:30p) and \$15K guarantee on Fridays (\$200, 2p).	High hands paid every three hours daily, seven days a week; "Add-On" tournaments, Mon. (7:30p) and Tue. & Thurs. (noon).

DELAWARE

DELAWARE PARK (302) 355-1050 • delawarepark.com	Daily (\$65-\$150) w/an event on Friday & Saturday nights (7p).	Bad beat in hold'em w/descending qualifier (\$60K at press time); mini bad beat (2K at press time); high hand pays up to \$250.
DOVER DOWNS HOTEL & CASINO (302) 674-4600 • doverdowns.com	Twice daily (noon, 7p); Sun.-Fri. (\$65, noon); Sat. (\$80, noon) & (\$120, 7p); \$5K guarantee on Fridays (\$125, 7p). See ad Page 53.	Bad beat in hold'em is aces full of jacks (\$130K at press time); Crushed Quads (Sun.-Fri.); Derby Day (May 7) pays \$50 to corresponding horse number.
HARRINGTON RACEWAY (888) 887-5687 • harringtonraceway.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$60, 11a); Sat. (\$60 w/rebuy, 11a). Tournaments limited to first 70 players. Freeroll for qualifying players (40 hours of play needed).	Bad beat in hold'em is aces full of kings beaten by quads (\$37K at press time); aces cracked (daily, 3a-11a); Crash & Splash pots during NASCAR races.

FLORIDA

CALDER CASINO (305) 625-1311 • calderracecourse.com/poker	Daily at 11a & 7p (\$40-\$100), including a \$10K guarantee on Saturdays (\$100, 11a). See ad Page 11.	Flopped progressive straight flushes have five different payouts per suit; high hands pay up to \$500 every half hour (Fri.-Sat.) and \$200 (Wed.-Thurs.).
DANIA JAI-ALAI (954) 927-2841 • dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (12:30p & 6:30p), including a \$15K guarantee every Friday (\$105, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$13K at press time), Omaha and stud; Win It or Spin It promotion (win up to \$500, call for details).
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB (386) 252-6484 • daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily (\$25-\$275), including Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Saturday DeepStack (\$225, 7p); see ad on Page 27 for Venetian Deep Stack and WSOP satellite info.	Bad beats in limit, no-limit (\$35K at press time) and Omaha; progressive hourly high hand (Mon.-Sun.).
DERBY LANE (727) 812-3339 x7 • derbylanepoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$330) on Sun.-Thurs. (1p, 4p, & 7p) & Fri.-Sat. (1p, 6p, & 8p); Second Sunday Super Stack (\$330, 1p). 97X summer event (see ad Page 23).	Royals pay up to \$500; Daily cash and prize promotions; see website for more promotions.
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK (850) 234-3943 • ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$20-\$220) on Sun.-Fri. (8p), Sat. (2p, 8p, midnight); Mega Stack on the last Sunday of month (\$330, 2p).	Big Easy Bad Beat is quad eights (\$25K at press time); Big Easy Backup Jackpot (\$13K at press time); royal flushes pay \$250. See ad Page 29 for more promotions.
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER (772) 464-7500 • jaialai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$55, 7p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p); \$12.5K guar. 2-Tier DeepStack tournament, May 7 (\$150, 3p).	Bad beats in hold'em, Omaha and stud (see website for complete rules and payouts); quads pays \$100-\$220 (daily).
GULFSTREAM PARK (954) 457-6336 • gulfstreampark.com	Daily (6:30p); Mon., Fri., Sun. (\$60); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80); Wed. (\$100). Mon.-Wed. are bounty tournaments and Saturday is a rebuy.	Bad-beat jackpot is quad deuces; royals pay \$500; high hands (11a-12a) pays \$100-\$300 (see website for times and payouts). Win a WSOP seat; see ad Page 17.
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER (800) 941-4841 • hamiltondownsjaialai.com	Almost Freeroll \$600 guarantee on Sundays (\$5 w/\$30 in add-ons, 3p).	Progressive royal w/hearts paying \$2K; tournament high hand pays \$75; Fri. & Sat. high hand (\$300 for first, \$100 for second).
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK (954) 972-2000 x5123 • theislepompnopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$350); Firefighters charity event, May 22 (\$35 w/\$20 rebuys, 2p); mini satellites for \$1 million Florida State Championships main event (Ad Page 21).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$124K at press time) and Omaha (\$20K at press time); high-hand jackpots (call for details).
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB (850) 997-2561 • jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays (\$50, 7:30p, 2K chips, 15-minute levels).	Royal flushes win jackpot (\$5K at press time).
MAGIC CITY CASINO (305) 649-3000 • flaglerdogs.com	World Series of Poker main event satellite (\$11K package per 22 entrants), May 15 (\$550, noon); \$135 super satellites (pays top two, call for times).	Big Slick Jackpot pays progressive w/all other royals paying \$1K; high hands pay \$150; progressive hot table daily pays a minimum of \$500.
MARDI GRAS CASINO (877) 557-5687 x3167 • playmardigras.com	Mon. \$5K guar. freeroll (7p); Tue. Omaha H/L (\$100, 7p); Wed. KO (\$110, 7:30p); 7th annual Hillel tournament w/Michael Mizrahi & family, May 5 (see ad Page 33).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays minimum of \$50K; high hands (\$150K in prizes each month); royals pay \$599 or high-hand jackpot (larger amount paid).
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK (321) 259-9800 • mgpark.com	Mon. (\$65, 1p & 7p); Thurs. KO (\$90, 7p); Fri. \$5K guarantee (\$45, 7p); Sat. SuperStack (\$120, 2p); Sun. (\$65, 1p). See ad on Page 39 for two special events.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$73K at press time); straight flush pays \$100; royals pay \$500. Spin to Win (Sat., 3p).
MIAMI JAI-ALAI (305) 633-6400 • fla-gaming.com	Daily (\$20-\$165).	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day are progressive; hourly \$100 high hands plus tickets for Sunday raffle.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT (877) 242-6464 • miccosukee.com	Friday and Saturday (\$110, 8p). Free buffet for all tournament players.	Spade royal flush pays jackpot (\$398K at press time); high hands pay \$200 (Sun.-Thurs.) and \$300 (Fri.-Sat.).
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK (239) 992-2411 • naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Mon. (\$40, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed. (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sat. (\$115, 2p); Sun. KO (\$125, 2p).	Diamond Big Slick Royal Progressive (\$44K at press time); all other royals pay \$1K; WSOP tournament, May 21 (\$550, noon).
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI (352) 591-2345 • ocalapoker.com	Mon. (\$25, 7p); Tue. (\$30, 7p); Wed. (\$50, 7p); Thurs. (\$30, 7p); Fri. (\$50, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot is in hold'em (\$60K at press time) and Omaha (\$3K at press time); aces cracked (Mon.-Thurs.); high hand (Fri.-Sat.).
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550, 1p & 7p) including a Sunday PLO/8 (\$80, 1p); WSOP satellite, May 7 (\$225, 1p); May Monster Stack, May 28 (\$550, 1p). See ad on Page 31.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (\$117K at press time), Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500).
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB (561) 683-2222 • pbkenneclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120, noon & 6:30p). World Series of Poker main event satellite on Sundays (\$550 w/rebuy & add-on, noon). See ad on Page 41.	Bad beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud; May high hands (\$175K guaranteed payouts); bonus high hands on May 7 & 21.
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK (850) 455-8595 • pensacolagreyhoundtrack.com	Daily (\$50-\$100); Mon., Fri. and Sun. (\$50, 7p); Tue. (\$50, 2p); Wed. (\$100, 7p); Thurs. satellite (\$100, 7p); Sat. Deep Stack (\$100, 7p). See ad on Page 47.	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad jacks) and stud (quads); full house or better (daily, 10a & Tue., 7p); mini bad beat (daily, midnight-4a).
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB (941) 355-7744 x1054 • skcpoker.com	Daily (\$40-\$440) including Fri. (\$110, 1p, 25K chips); Sat. (\$160, 1p, 15K chips, 30 min levels); DeepStack on first Sat. of month (\$440, 1p).	Bad beat is quad deuces (\$10K); progressive jackpots in all games; \$599/\$299 high hands (Fri.-Sat.). See ad on Page 25.
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON (866) 222-7466 x121 • seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. & Wed. (\$20, 6:30p); Sat. (\$40, 6:30p).	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad tens (\$114K at press time); Rolling Cash Fever (Wed.); Full House Drawings (Fri.). Call for more promotions.
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK (866) 222-7466 • seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	Call for information on scheduled single-table tournaments.	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad tens (\$114K at press time); hourly high hands in limit and no-limit (daily).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Daily (\$35-\$300). Everglades Poker Open, May 23-30 (See ad on Page 13).	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad tens (\$114K at press time).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA (866) 502-7529 • seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including a re-entry Night Owl tournament every Wednesday (\$60, 12:30a). See ad on back page.	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad tens (\$114K at press time).
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC (866) 222-7466 • seminolehollywoodcasino.com	Call for information on scheduled single-table tournaments.	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad tens (\$114K at press time); aces cracked is a Spin to Win (Mon.-Thurs.) which pays up to \$250.
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE (866) 222-7466 • theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7:30p); Thurs. NL O/8 (\$50, 7:30p); Fri. HA (\$60, 7:30p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & DeepStack (\$115, 6:30p); Sun. (\$30, 6:30p).	Mega Bad Beat Jackpot is quad tens (\$114K at press time), \$100 payout if Mega hits in Immokalee; \$10K cash drawings (call for details) See ad Page 24.
ST. JOHN'S GREYHOUND PARK (904) 646-0002 • jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$550, 1p & 7p); Fri. KO (\$100, 7p); Sat. \$10K guar. Mega Stack (\$225, 7p); WSOP satellite, May 14 (\$225, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (\$117K at press time), Omaha and stud; royals and steel wheels pay \$250 (spades pay \$500).
TAMPA BAY DOWNS (813) 298-1798 • tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$80). Sun. (1p, 4p, 7p); Mon.-Sat. (1p & 7p); monthly event, May 15 (\$350, 1p, 8K chips, 30 min levels). Satellite seat giveaways daily.	Progressive payouts for all quads and higher (bonus payouts up to \$4,999 in April); \$599/\$299 high-hand payouts (Fri.); see website for details and ad on Page 19.
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK (813) 932-4313 • luckyscards.com	Daily (\$30-\$80); Sun.-Thurs. (2p & 6:30p); Fri.-Sat. (2p, 7:30p). Sunday Challenge, May 29 (\$115, 1p, 15K chips).	Quads (\$50-\$75), straight flushes (\$150) & royals (\$300) Mon.-Thurs. (4p-11p); \$150/\$50 half-hour high hands Sat.-Sun. (4p-11p); tournament high hands.

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

ILLINOIS/INDIANA/MICHIGAN

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
BLUE CHIP (IND.) 219-861-4820 • bluechipcasino.com	Tue. (\$80, noon); Wed. (\$60, 6p); Fri. (\$80, noon); Sun. (\$105, noon).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$156K at press time); Fabulous Fridays/Super Saturdays wins up to \$500.
CASINO AZTAR (IND.) (812) 433-4000 • casinoaztar.com	Sunday, May 1 (\$100, 1p).	Aces cracked (call for times).
FOUR WINDS (MICH.) 866-494-6371 • fourwindscasino.com	Mon. (\$30, 7p); Tue. & Thurs. (\$10, 7p); Wed. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$30, 7p); Sat. (\$30, noon & \$50, 7p); Sun. (\$30, noon & 4p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$26K at press time); ask about satellites to play for a seat on the World Poker Tour.
FRENCH LICK RESORT & CASINO (IND.) (812) 936-9300 • frenchlick.com	Wed. (\$40, 11a); Fri. (\$40, noon); Sat. (\$60, noon). Tournaments are played on PokerPro tables.	Call for future promotions.
GRAND VICTORIA (ILL.) 847-531-7753 • grandvictoria-elgin.com	No tournaments at this time.	No jackpots at this time.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO AURORA (ILL.) 630-801-7471 • hollywoodcasinourora.com	Wed. (\$160, 1p)- 88 players max, first-come first-served.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$75K at press time).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO JOLIET (ILL.) 815-927-2175 • hollywoodcasinojoliet.com	No tournaments at this time.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$2K at press time).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO LAWRENCEBURG (IND.) (812) 539-8000 • www.hollywoodindiana.com	Daily (11:15a & 7:15p); Mon. (\$125 & \$80); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80 & \$100); Wed. (\$80 & \$150); Fri. (\$80 & \$125); Sat. (\$100 & \$80); Sun. (\$150 & \$80).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$37K at press time); WPT satellite freeroll for top tournament point earners (call for details).
HORSESHOE HAMMOND (IND.) (219) 473-7000 • horseshoehammond.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$100, noon); Fri. & Sat. (\$200, noon); May 28 event (\$500, noon, 8K chips, 40-minute levels).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (\$100K minimum payout).
HORSESHOE SOUTHERN INDIANA (812) 969-6000 • horseshoe-indiana.com	Daily (\$50-\$81); Mon. (noon); Tue. (noon, 7p); Wed. (7p); Thurs. (noon); Fri. (mid-night); Sat. (noon); Sun. (3p). Horseshoe Poker Classic in May (call for schedule).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$90K at press time).
MAJESTIC STAR I & II (IND.) (219) 977-7777 • majesticstarcasino.com	Wed.-Sun. (\$55, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$60K at press time).
PAR-A-DICE CASINO (ILL.) 309-698-6693 • paradisecasino.com	Sundays and Mondays (\$115, 11a) and Sunday nights (7p, \$50).	Call for promotions.

LOUISIANA

AMELIA BELLE CASINO (985) 631-1745 • ameliabellecasino.com	Sunday Poker Challenge (\$50, 1p).	Bad beat is quads over aces full of 10s (\$13K at press time).
BELLE OF BATON ROUGE (800) 266-2692 • belleofbatonrouge.com	Wed. & Sun. (\$50, 10a, 1K chips, 15-minute levels).	Bad-beat jackpot is any quads over quads (\$35K at press time); aces cracked pays \$100 (Mon.-Thurs., 5p-8p); hourly high hand pays \$300 (Tue., 9a-3p).
BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS (800) 366-7711 • boomtownneworleans.com	Tuesday freeroll (11a) for 4- or 5-star players; Wed. & Thurs. (\$35 w/\$10 add-on, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (\$36K at press time) and Omaha (\$2K at press time); high hands (Mon. & Wed.); Splash the Pot (Tue. & Thurs.).
COUSHATTA CASINO (800) 584-7263 • coushattacasinoresort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230); Tue. (\$15, 6:30p); Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$20 w/rebuys, 7:30p); Sat. (\$220, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$280K at press time); Big Bonus Hands are progressive.
CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S CASINO (800) 284-4386 • cypressbayou.com	All tournaments are rake-free. Wed. (\$40 w/two \$20 rebuys and add-ons, 6:30p); Sat. Super KO (\$60 w/two \$20 rebuys & add-ons, 3p).	Progressive bad beat is quads (\$132K at press time); aces cracked pays \$100 (1st & 3rd Thursday, 2nd & 4th Monday).
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT (318) 220-5274 • eldoradoshreveport.com	Sun. (\$150, 11a); Mon. \$2K guarantee (\$130, 11a); Tue. (\$75 w/\$25 or \$50 rebuy & add-on, 6:30p); Sat. (\$125 w/rebuy & add-on, 11a).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is quads (\$90K at press time); aces cracked wins \$100 (Mon. & Thurs.); high hand pays \$100 (Thurs.); royals pay \$250 (24/7).
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS (504) 533-6000 • harrahsneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad beat (quads); aces cracked.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY (800) 895-0711 • horseshoebossiercity.com	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat., Sun. (\$100-\$200 w/optional rebuys & add-ons), including a DeepStack event every Thursday (\$200, 6p, 7.5K chips, 25-minute levels).	High hand (Sun. & Wed.); aces cracked (Mon., Tue., Fri.); Splash Cash (Thurs.). Call for details and times.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES (337) 430-2407 • lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$70, 6:30p); Fri. (\$60, noon & \$90, 6:30p); Sat. (\$115, noon); Sunday (\$60, 2p). Louisiana State Poker Championship, April 25-May 8 (\$90-\$1,090).	Bad-beat jackpot (\$150K at press time); minor jackpots (both jackpots are 24/7); cash giveaways Mon.-Thurs.
PARAGON CASINO (800) 946-1946 x1975 • paragoncasinoresort.com	Mon. KO (\$20 w/\$15 rebuys, 7p); Tue. (\$18, 10:30a); Fridays (\$60 w/one \$50 rebuy, 7p). \$25K freeroll, June 25 (call for details and eligibility).	Bad beat in hold'em (\$22K at press time); get paid (24/7) for quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125); high hands pay \$50 (Wed.).

MISSISSIPPI

AMERISTAR VICKSBURG (601) 630-4996 • ameristar.com/vicksburg	Thursdays, (\$70, 7p) w/one optional add-on.	Mini bad beat (quads over aces full) pays 10 percent of full bad beat (any quads).
BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO (228) 386-7092 • beaurivage.com	Mon.-Thurs. (6p); Tue., Thurs., Fri., Sun. (noon). Tournaments vary and include guaranteed prize pools, bounty tournaments, and deepstack events.	Bad-beat jackpot; aces cracked; Omaha/8 promotion, cash drawings, tournament leaderboard. Call for promotion details.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI (228) 436-8999 • boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad-beat jackpot is aces full of kings (more than \$50K). Mini pays 10 percent (aces full of jacks); aces cracked pays up to \$100 and runs 24/7.
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT (662) 357-1136 • goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340). \$15K guar., May 7 (\$340, 1p); \$5K guar., May 8 (\$230, 1p); \$500 freeroll every Sun. (6p).	Bad beat jackpots (call for details); win \$100 every other hour (3a-10a) on Monday-Friday; get paid to play (25 hours minimum).
HARD ROCK BILOXI (228) 374-7625 • hardrockbiloxi.com	Mon. (\$35, 3p); Thurs. (\$25, 3p); Fri. (\$45, 3p); Sat. (\$50 w/add-on, 3p); Sun. (\$55, 3p).	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads (\$58K at press time); ask about Hard Rock Jackpot Hands; Four of a Kind Blows My Mind.
HARLOW'S CASINO (662) 335-9797 x144 • harlowscasino.com	Tue. (\$65, 7:30p, 6K chips); Saturday satellites (\$35-\$65, 4p); Battle at the Foot of the Bridge (\$65-\$250). Call for full tournament and satellite schedule.	Bad beat is aces full of 10s beaten by quads or better; hourly high hands (Wed.); Friday Flat Screen Frenzy (tickets to raffle on first Friday of every month).
HARRAH'S TUNICA (800) 946-4946 x33760 • harrahstunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110), including a Thursday \$1.1K guarantee (\$35 w/rebuys, 1p). Thursdays also feature a \$50 event w/one free rebuy (6p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em, Omaha, and stud; progressive royal single-table promotion (call for current payouts).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS (866) 758-2591 x4026 • hollywoodcasinobsll.com	Monday and Wednesday (\$30 w/rebuys, 6:30p).	High hand wins \$50 (Mon. & Wed.); Early Bird Special and aces cracked (\$100) from Fri.-Sun. (10a-2p); aces cracked progressive (Tue., 10a-10p) pays up to \$500.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA (800) 871-0711 x5005 • hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$40). Mon., Wed., Thurs. (6p); Fri. & Sat. (7p); Sat. & Sun. (2p); Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 w/ rebuys & \$20 add-on, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (quads or better) must be in \$3-\$6 or higher and Omaha.
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA (662) 357-5608 • horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$65-\$160), including a Saturday \$10K guarantee (\$150, 4p, 10K chips); Sunday Super DeepStack (\$100, 2p, 15K chips). Horseshoe Poker Classic is May 13-22.	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em. Flush Frenzy (\$100) if you make a flush in every suit during your session.
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA (888) 946-2847 x8554 • ipbiloxi.com	Daily, except Fri. (\$60, noon, 4K chips).	Poker Squares Sun. & Mon. (\$1K up for grabs daily); aces cracked pays \$100 on Fri. (8a-5p).
ISLE CASINO HOTEL BILOXI (228) 436-7967 • biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. (\$45, 3p), Tue. KO (\$60, 2p), Wed. KO (\$40 w/rebuys, 7p), Thurs. (\$45, 2p), Fri. (\$60, 3p), Sat. KO (\$60 w/rebuys, 3p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$87K at press time), Omaha (\$25K at press time) and stud (\$12K at press time).
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA (800) 456-0711 • samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$80), including a \$3K guarantee on Saturdays (\$20, 7p).	Bad beat is any quads; live action bonus (Sat. & Sun., 7a-11a); single-table mini-bad beat pays up to \$3K.
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO (866) 775-4773 x3766 • silverslipper-ms.com	Mon. Turbo KO (\$45, 6p); Thurs. KO (\$75, 7p); Sat. Turbo KO (\$45, noon); Sun. PLO (\$65, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$61K at press time) and Omaha; aces cracked wins up to \$300 (Tue., Thurs., Fri., Sat.). Splash the Pot (Mon. & Wed.).
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) (601) 650-1234 • pearlriverresort.com	Daily (\$35-\$60), including a \$2.5K guarantee on Saturdays (\$60, 2p). Start times for events are Mon.-Thurs. (7p) & Fri.-Sun. (2p).	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad 7s) and stud (quads). Diamond royals pay \$500; \$3.5K freeroll is last Sunday of every month (5p).

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

NEVADA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
ARIA (866) 359-7111 • arialasvegas.com	Twice daily (\$125, 1p & 7p, 8K chips, 30-minute levels).	No jackpots at this time.
BALLY'S LAS VEGAS (702) 967-4111 • ballyslasvegas.com	Daily at 11a, 4p and 8p (\$75, 5K chips, 20-minute levels).	High hands pay quads (\$50), straight flush (\$250) and progressive royals (starting at \$1K); Round Table Royals pays up to \$599 to entire table when royal hits.
BELLAGIO (702) 693-7111 • bellagio.com	Daily at 2p (\$225-\$1,080); WPT Five Star Poker Classic, May 6-20 (\$540-\$5,180) w/\$25K championship event starting May 14. See website for complete schedule.	No jackpots at this time.
BINION'S GAMBLING HALL (702) 382-1600 • binions.com	Daily (\$60-\$100) at 10a, 2p, 7p and 10p; 5th annual Binion's Classic, May 30-July 11. Events range from \$100-\$1,000 w/main event starting June 30 (See story Page 36).	High hand (daily) pays for quads (\$50); straight/royal flush (\$100).
BOULDER STATION HOTEL & CASINO (702) 432-7777 • boulderstation.com	No tournaments at this time.	Multiroom progressive bad beat pays \$100K guaranteed; high hand (Wed.); aces cracked (Thurs.); bonus cash drawings pay up to \$1,500 on Tuesdays.
CAESARS PALACE (702) 731-7110 • caesarspalace.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$65, 9a; \$80, noon; \$65, 3p; \$100, 7p; \$80, 10p); Sat. & Sun. (\$225, 2p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em pays \$10K (24/7); high hands; payouts for quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$500).
CIRCUS CIRCUS HOTEL CASINO (702) 734-0410 • circuscircus.com	Sunday freeroll at noon (play 15 hours min, 20 hours max).	High hand; aces cracked; get paid for quads, straight flush and royals.
COLORADO BELLE HOTEL CASINO (702) 298-4000 • coloradobelle.com	Daily (\$30, 10a); Sun.-Wed. & Fri. (\$50, 7p); Thurs. Lazy Pineapple (\$50, 7p); Sat. KO (\$100, 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em, Omaha/8 and stud; aces cracked pays \$25-\$100 (24/7); 90/10 High Hand Cash Splash Jackpot (10% gets splashed in next pot).
ELDORADO HOTEL CASINO (775) 786-5700 • eldoradoren.com	Tue.-Thurs. (\$60, 6p, 6K chips, 20 min levels). Play in any live hold'em game after tournament and get a \$20 bonus.	Progressive bad beat jackpots in hold'em and stud; quads or better is paid daily.
EXCALIBUR HOTEL AND CASINO (702) 597-7777 • excalibur.com	Daily (\$25, 9a; \$40, 1p & 5p; \$30, 8p) w/one rebuy and add-on; \$500 first prize guar. on Sat. (\$40, 9p).	Bad beat in hold'em is aces full beaten by quads (\$1K at press time); spin the wheel pays \$20-\$300 for quads or aces cracked.
FLAMINGO LAS VEGAS (702) 733-3111 • flamingolasvegas.com	Daily (\$65, 10a & 6p). Friday freeroll, \$2K guarantee (9a).	High hand pays quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royal (\$250); aces cracked (\$100); double high hands (daily, 8a-8p).
GOLDEN NUGGET LAUGHLIN (702) 298-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily at 10a, 3p, 7p and 10p (call for buy-ins).	Progressive high hands (call for details).
GOLDEN NUGGET LAS VEGAS (702) 385-7111 • goldennugget.com	Daily (\$65) at 11a, 3p, 7p, 10p, 1a and 4a; Grand Poker Series, June 4-July 4 (\$125-\$1,080) with championship event starting July 2.	High hand between 2a-2p wins 2Xs the jackpot.
GRAND SIERRA RESORT (775) 789-2000 • grandsierraresort.com	Daily (\$18, 9a & \$55, 11a); Sun.-Fri. (\$55, 6:30p); top 10 monthly point winners earn seat into \$10K guarantee freeroll on July 2.	Aces cracked pays \$50 (Sun.-Thurs.).
GREEN VALLEY RANCH (702) 617-7777 • greenvalleyranchresort.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Mon. Omaha/8 (\$40, 7p); Tue. & Thurs.-Sun. (\$40 w/rebuys, 6p); Wed. H.O.R.S.E. (\$40, 7p); Thurs. (\$150 w/re-entry, 1p).	Multiroom progressive bad beat pays \$100K guaranteed.
HARD ROCK LAS VEGAS (702) 693-5000 • hardrockhotel.com	Daily (\$55, noon & 8p).	High hand pays quads (\$100), straight flush (\$200) and royals (\$350).
HARRAH'S LAKE TAHOE (775) 588-6611 • harrahsaketahoe.com	Daily (\$40, 10a); Tue. & Thurs. (\$80, 6p); Fri. (\$115, 6p); Sun. (\$115, 2p).	Quad 9s or better wins the progressive rewards jackpot (\$8K at press time).
HARRAH'S LAS VEGAS (702) 369-5000 • harrahsasvegas.com	Daily at 8a, 10a, 3p, and 1a (\$25-\$55); daily KO (\$75, 8p). \$3K guar. freeroll on Saturdays (5p) for players with 10-plus hours of play.	High-hand jackpots: quads (\$50), straight (\$100) and royals (\$250); aces cracked pays \$100 (daily, 6p-midnight).
LUXOR HOTEL & CASINO (702) 262-4000 • luxor.com	Daily (\$35, 10:30a); (\$60, 12:30p); (\$60, 8:30p).	High hand (24/7) pays quads (\$100), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$500).
M RESORT (702) 797-1000 • themresort.com	Daily (\$55, 10a & 6p) including Wed. KO (\$125, 6p); Thurs. KO (\$125, 10a); Fri. & Sat. (\$75, 6p).	Progressive high hand; mini bad beat is aces full; aces cracked (Thurs.); Splash Pots (Sun.); Ladder of Loot Jackpot (call for details).
MANDALAY BAY (702) 632-7777 • mandalaybay.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 10a; \$50, 3p & 7p); Fri.-Sat. (\$40, 10a; \$50, 1p; \$100, 5p); Sun. (\$50, 11a & 2p; \$100, 5p).	Tiered high-hand bonus (Mon.-Thurs.) pays to flop it (\$500), turn it (\$250) and river it (\$125).
MGM GRAND LAS VEGAS (702) 891-1111 • mgmgrand.com	Daily (\$70, 11a); Mon.-Thurs. & Sun. (\$85, 7p).	No jackpots at this time.
MONTE CARLO RESORT & CASINO (702) 730-7777 • montecarlo.com	Daily (\$60, 9a & 6p).	High hand (quads or better) is paid on a progressive basis.
MONTEGO BAY CASINO (775) 664-4000 • wendoverfun.com	Mon. (\$30, 8:30p); Thurs. (\$40, 8:30p); Fri.-Sat. (\$30, noon); Sun. (\$40, 8:30p), all tournaments have rebuys.	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is \$5K; royal-flush jackpot; quads get paid.
MIRAGE (702) 791-7111 • mirage.com	Daily (\$60, 11a & 7p).	Bad-beat jackpot pays \$5K (losing hand), \$2.5K (winning hand) and \$599 to entire table; aces cracked pays \$150 (daily, 8a-1p); high hands; flopped royals.
THE ORLEANS (702) 365-7111 • orleanscasino.com	Daily (\$75-\$125) including Omaha/8 and stud; Orleans Open, May 21-29 (\$225-\$540, 2p).	Top point earners per month will share a progressive prize pool.
PALMS CASINO (702) 942-7777 • palms.com	Federated Poker League coming in August, featuring a pro-am, charity and a main-event tournament. Also, daily tournaments coming soon! (See ad on Page 35)	Early bird promo pays \$25 every hour between 8a-1p; earn up to \$200 per day by playing live cash games. Double comps through May. (See ad on Page 35).
PEPPERMILL RESORT CASINO (775) 826-2121 • peppermillreno.com	Heartland Poker Tour's Nevada State Poker Championship featuring Men "The Master" Nguyen, May 13-23 (call for complete schedule).	High hands; get paid for straight flushes and royals.
PLANET HOLLYWOOD (702) 785-5555 • planethollywoodresort.com	Daily (\$70) at 10a, 2p and 7p.	High-hand jackpots; quads pay \$100; straight and royals are progressive starting at \$250.
RAINBOW HOTEL & CASINO (775) 664-4000 • wendoverfun.com	Tournaments start at 8:30p; Mon. (\$30 w/rebuys and add-on); Tue. (\$10 w/rebuys and add-on); Fri. (\$50 w/rebuys); Sat. (\$50).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em is \$5K; royal-flush jackpot; quads get paid.
RED ROCK CASINO (702) 797-7777 • redrocklasvegas.com	Daily (\$100, 10a); Sun.-Thurs. (\$60, 6:30p); Station Casinos NLHE \$1M guaranteed tournament series, May 17-25 with the main event starting May 24 (\$1,100, 11a).	Multiroom progressive bad beat pays \$100K guaranteed.
RIO CASINO (702) 777-7777 • riolasvegas.com	Daily (\$40, noon; \$60, 6p; \$80, 9p; \$80, midnight). \$25K freeroll, May 9 (50 hours minimum, call for details); \$15K bi-weekly freeroll (30 hours minimum).	Cash drawing pays \$100 at 5a, 7a, 9a and 11a; Graveyard Trip Comps (daily, 3a-noon) pays \$3/hr instead of \$1/hr.
RIVERSIDE RESORT (702) 298-2535 • riversideresort.com	Daily turbo at 10a, 5p and 11:30p (\$15); Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat. (\$50, 6:30p).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em and Omaha; aces cracked in hold'em and Omaha; high hands pay quads (\$25-\$50), straight flush (\$100), royal (\$300).
SAM'S TOWN LAS VEGAS (702) 456-7777 • samstownlv.com	Daily (\$23, 10a) & daily, except Tue. (\$30 w/rebuy, 1:30p); Fri.-Sat. deepstacks (\$45 w/rebuy, 7p & 11p); Omaha/8 and pineapple tournaments available.	Uncapped progressive high hands; aces cracked pays \$50 (midnight-noon & 4-9p); bad-beat jackpot is aces full of tens beaten by quads and pays \$10K.
SANTA FE STATION CASINO (702) 658-4900 • santafestationlasvegas.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$45, 7p); Fri.-Sat. (\$45, 6p); Sat. (\$45, noon). \$10K guar., May 7 (\$125, noon, 10K chips, 40-minute levels).	Multiroom progressive bad beat pays \$100K guaranteed.
SOUTH POINT HOTEL CASINO (702) 796-7111 • southpointcasino.com	Daily KO (\$60) at 10a, 2p and 7p (unlimited re-entries during first hour). \$100K freeroll tournament, June 14-15 (7p). Call for details.	Bad-beat progressive pays \$25K minimum; players earn comps while playing (call for details).
SUNCOAST HOTEL & CASINO (702) 636-7111 • suncoastcasino.com	Daily (\$40, 10a & 7p, 3K chips, 20-minute levels).	Earn comp dollars for playing live games; bonus hands are coming soon.
TREASURE ISLAND (702) 894-7111 • treasureisland.com	Daily (\$50) at 11a, 2p, 7p and 10p; weekly \$2.5K freeroll every Sunday (10a).	High-hand jackpot pays straight flushes (\$100) and royals (\$599); quad spins win up to \$500.
TROPICANA EXPRESS (702) 298-4200 • tropicanax.com	Tue. & Thurs. (\$30, 6:30p); Sat. (\$30, 2p).	High hands pay quads, straight flushes and royals; aces cracked.
VENETIAN RESORT (702) 414-1000 • venetian.com	Daily (\$120-\$340) at noon & 7p; Deep Stack Extravaganza III, May 27-July 15 (\$340-\$5,000) w/main event on July 13 (\$5,000, noon).	No jackpots at this time.
WYNN LAS VEGAS (702) 770-7000 • wynnlasvegas.com	Daily (\$120, noon, 10K chips, 30-minute levels).	No jackpots at this time.

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS	JACKPOTS/PROMOTIONS
GRANITE STATE POKER (603) 396-0389 • granitestatepoker.com	Fri. (\$50, 6p.; \$250, 7p. for VIP members; \$100, 8p); Sat. (\$50, 1p; \$100 KO, 4:30p); Sun. (\$50, 4p; \$50 w/rebuys, 7p). *Closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays.	Call for promotions.
THE LODGE AT BELMONT (877) 872-2501 • thelodgeatbelmont.com	Daily (\$5-\$50). Times vary by day (1p, 4p, 4:30p, 5p, 7p). Big-stack events on Saturdays (\$50, 7p, 15K chips).	Call for future jackpots.
POKER ROOM AT HAMPTON FALLS 603-601-2486 • thepokerroomnh.com	Daily (\$80-\$150) at 11a (Sat.), 1p (Fri.-Sun.), 3:30p, 4p (Sat.-Sun.), 5:30p, 7:30p and 9p; May 21 tournament (\$250, 11a); Memorial Day tournament (\$150, noon).	High hands pay \$50 (Fri.-Sun.); royals pay \$100 (Mon.-Thurs.); aces cracked pays \$25 (Mon.-Thurs.). See website for details.
RIVER CARD ROOM (603) 249-5548 • riverpokerroom.com	Daily (\$5-\$60). Times vary by day. Many of the tournaments have optional rebuys and add-ons. See website for complete schedule.	Mini-Monster (Wed. & Fri.); River 4,000 (call for details).
ROCKINGHAM PARK (603) 898-2311 • rockinghampark.com	Daily (\$50-150). Start times vary from 2p-9p (see website for schedule). Spring Two Day, April 16-17 (\$250, noon, 50K chips).	Call for future jackpots and promotions.
SEABROOK GREYHOUND PARK (603) 474-3065 • seabrookgreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$30-\$200); tournaments times vary (see website for complete schedule); Sat. deepstack (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$140, 1:30p).	Call for future jackpots and promotions.

NEW JERSEY

ATLANTIC CITY HILTON (609) 347-7111 • hiltonac.com	No tournaments. Poker only spread Friday-Sunday if there's enough interest, and generally only a \$1-\$2 NLHE cash game gets going.	None at this time.
BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-2000 • ballysac.com	Daily (\$55-80); Mon.-Thurs. & Sat. (1p & 7p); Fri. (1p & 8p); Sun. (1p & 6p). All tournaments are KO events.	Harrah's AC multiroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit (\$252K at press time); aces cracked spins wheel.
BORGATA HOTEL CASINO (609) 317-1000 • theborgata.com	Daily (\$100-\$340) including \$15K guar. on Wed. (\$120, 11a & 7p); \$30K guar. on Fri. (\$300 w/re-entry, noon); Sat. (\$340, 6p).	Bad beats are quad 10s (\$201K at press time) and quad 2s-9s (46K at press time).
CAESARS ATLANTIC CITY (609) 348-4411 • caesarsac.com	Mon.-Fri. (\$50, 3p & \$80 turbo, 9p); Sat. (\$60, 1p & \$80, 9p) and Sun. (\$50, 1p & \$80 turbo, 9p).	Harrah's AC multiroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit (\$252K at press time).
HARRAH'S ATLANTIC CITY (609) 441-5000 • harrahresort.com	Daily at 10:15a, 1:15p, 8:15p and midnight (\$70-\$125); WSOP main event satellite, May 29 (\$1100, noon).	Harrah's AC multiroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit (\$252K at press time).
SHOWBOAT ATLANTIC CITY (609) 343-4000 • showboatcasino.com	Sun.-Thurs. (\$65, 11a, 2p, 7p); Fri. (\$65, 11a, 2p); Sat. (\$100, 11a, 2p, 7p); nightly (\$50, 11p). All first-place tournament winners entered into monthly freeroll.	Harrah's AC multiroom bad beat starts at quad queens and decreases every Wed. if it doesn't get hit (\$252K at press time).
TROPICANA ATLANTIC CITY (609) 340-4000 • tropicana.net	Daily (\$62, 11:15a & 7:15p), including a Fri. (\$122, 7:15p) and Sat. (\$122, 11:15a & 7:15p).	Bad beat in hold'em is quads (\$161K at press time); tournament bad beat (\$65K at press time); Crack the Straight (see website for details).
TRUMP TAJ MAHAL CASINO RESORT (609) 449-1000 • playtajpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$230 at 12:15p, 4:15p, 7:15p, & midnight), including two deepstacks on Saturdays (\$230, 7:15p) & (\$120, 4:15p & midnight).	Bad beat in hold'em is quads (\$46K at press time); high hands are entered into drawings to win \$1K; 50-50 club (call for details).

NEW YORK

SENECA NIAGARA (877) 873-6322 • senecaniagaracasino.com	Daily (\$35-\$190). Mon.-Thurs. (10a & 7p); Fri. (10a & 8p); Sat. (11a); Sun. (10a, 6p).	Bad-beat progressive is quad deuces in hold'em (\$61K at press time), Omaha (quad nines) and stud (quad sevens); Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
SENECA SALAMANCA (877) 860-5130 • senecagames.com	Mon.-Wed. (\$60, 11a & 7p); Thurs. (\$90, 6p); Sat. & Sun. (\$60, noon).	Bad-beat progressive is quad deuces in hold'em (\$20K at press time), Omaha (quad nines) and stud (quad sevens); Preferred Player Rewards (call for details).
TURNING STONE RESORT (800) 386-5366 • turningstone.com	Daily (\$60-\$125). Mon.-Thurs. (noon & 7p); Fri. (11a, 2p, 7p); Sat.-Sun. (11a & 7p). East Coast Poker Championship, May 12-22 (\$70-\$1,650, see website for details).	Bad-beat jackpot is in hold'em (\$54K at press time).

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (N.C.) (828) 497-7777 • harrahsherokee.com	Tue. (\$60, 6p); Sat. (\$120, 10a); Sun. (\$120, 2p). WSOP satellite event, May 6-15 (see website for details).	Call for information.
SUNCRUZ AQUASINO (S.C.) (843) 280-2933 • suncruzaquasino.com	Mon. cruise (\$110, 7p) and Fri. cruise (\$110, 11a). Daily freerolls (call for schedule).	Bad-beat jackpot is aces full of jacks beaten by quads; get paid for quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200).

PENNSYLVANIA

HARRAH'S CHESTER (800) 480-8020 • harrahschester.com	Daily (\$60-\$195). Starting times are Mon.-Fri. (10:30a & 6:30p) and Sat.-Sun. (11:30a & 6:30p). WSOP Circuit, April 27-May 9 with buy-ins ranging from \$120-\$1,600.	Bad beat in hold'em (call for details).
HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL (717) 469-2211 • hcpn.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$85, noon); Wed. & Thurs. (\$125, 7p); Friday PLO (\$85, noon).	Call for future jackpots.
MEADOWS CASINO (724) 503-1200 • meadowsgaming.com	Twice daily (\$40, 10:30a) & (\$65, 7:30p), including a deepstack bounty on Saturdays (\$225, 3p). Steel City Classic w/Chris MoneyMaker, May 17-22 (See story Page 40).	Call for information.
MOHEGAN SUN/POCONO DOWNS (570) 831-2100 • mohegansunpocono.com	Daily (\$60); Mon.-Fri. (noon & 7p), Sat.-Sun. (10a & 7p); Tue. KO (\$120, 7p).	High-hand promotion (call for details).
MOUNT AIRY CASINO (570) 243-5184 • mtairycasino.com	No tournaments.	Bad beat is aces full of kings.
PARX CASINO (215) 639-9000 • parxcasino.com	No tournaments.	Call for details.
RIVERS CASINO (412) 231-7777 • theriverscasino.com	Daily (\$65-\$555). Sun.-Fri. (noon & 7p); Sat. (noon).	Bad beat in hold'em is aces full of jacks (\$26K at press time).
SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM (877) SANDS-77 • sandsbethworks.com	Tournaments coming soon.	Bad beat is quads and is a one-table winner.

WEST VIRGINIA

HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN (800) 795-7001 • ctowntables.com	Tue. (\$150, 11a); Wed. (\$250, 7p).	None.
MARDI GRAS CASINO AT TRI-STATE (800) 224-9683 • tristatetrack.com	Generally events are Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p), Wed. (7p), Thurs. (1p & 7p), 1st and 3rd Sat. (10a), and Sun. (2p). Buy-ins vary (\$45-\$150).	Bad-beat jackpots in hold'em (\$11K at press time), Omaha (\$6K at press time) and stud (\$7K at press time).
MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM (304) 387-8458 • mountaineerpoker.com	Daily (\$50-\$225). Tournaments are at 12:15p & 7:30p except Wed. (10:30a) & Sun. (2p). WSOP satellites throughout May (call for schedule).	Bad beat is aces full of kings (\$40K at press time); high hands pay \$100 (call for details).
WHEELING ISLAND CASINO (304) 232-5050 • wheelingisland.com	Mon.-Thurs. (\$40, 7p); Fri. Turbo (\$50, 7p); Sat. KO (\$75, 7p); Sun. KO (\$50, 7p). WSOP satellites, May 7 & 21 (\$130, 1p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$106K at press time); quads or straight flush lets you spin the wheel; Early Bird Special (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday).

WISCONSIN

POTAWATOMI BINGO CASINO (414) 645-6888 • paysbig.com	No tournaments.	None.
ST. CROIX CASINO TURTLE LAKE (715) 986-4777 • stcroixcasino.com	(Closed Mon.-Wed.) Thurs. (\$60, 6p); Sat. (\$75, noon); Donkey Tournament, May 8 & 22 (\$30 w/rebuys and add-ons, 2p); Mystery Bounty, May 20 (\$100, 6p).	Bad-beat jackpot in hold'em (\$31K at press time); aces cracked pays \$50 (Thurs., 10a-6p; Fri., noon-8p; Sun., noon-6p).
HO-CHUNK GAMING WISCONSIN DELLS (608) 356-6210 • ho-chunggaming.com/wisconsindells/	Sizzling Sunday, Turbo Tuesday, Round by Round (Thurs. & Sun.), call for details and times.	Jackpots coming this month (call for details).

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

ANTE UP

YOUR POKER EXPERIENCE

ANTE UP POKERCAST



If you're heading to the bookstore and need some help sorting through the hundreds of poker titles you'll find there, we share our Top 5 Poker Book

Chapters, giving you 10 great options to consider. (April 14 show)

Also: Online phenom Shaun Deeb tells us about his surprising favorite poker moment (March 31) and Vanessa Selbst doesn't hold back at all (March 17). We open up the always popular Reader Mailbag (April 7) and tackle some strategy on conquering PokerStars' new Fifty-50 tournaments (March 24).

— **New episode every Friday! Subscribe for free via iTunes or download directly from our website at anteupmagazine.com/podcast**



ANTE UP STORE

May's Ante Up Featured Item of the Month is a Port Authority-brand Ante Up logo polo shirt! This pique knit sport shirt comes in your choice of black, red or white and is made of seven-ounce 100 percent ring spun combed heavyweight cotton and is garment washed for softness. \$29.95 each (free shipping to U.S. addresses!)

— **The Ante Up store offers great Ante Up logo merchandise and dozens of other great products from some of the best companies in the business at anteupstore.com.**



ANTE UP TRAVEL

More than 40 staterooms have been booked - almost half of our capacity - for our next Ante Up Poker Cruise Aug. 29-Sept. 2 aboard Royal Caribbean's Monarch of the Seas. If you're tired of playing cruise-ship poker on electronic tables with laughable rakes, then sail with Ante Up and enjoy professional live dealers, reasonable rakes and plenty of other perks, including our famous open-bar cocktail party. Book today for as little as \$369 per person by calling (727) 331-4335.

— **Ante Up promotes several poker cruises a year in addition to great poker events in exotic locales. Visit anteupmagazine.com/cruise or anteupmagazine.com/scramble for current events.**

ANTE UP MAGAZINE FORUM

"I play mostly online, and I usually play every day. Lately I've been multitabling and seeing about 1,000 hands per session. Sometimes on the weekend I see around 3,000 hands in a day. It takes about two hours for me to play up to 1,000 hands. What I'm wondering is, lately I've been starting out pretty decent, but then not flaming out, but losing about half my profit. My starting hand selection doesn't get too loose, since all the tables I'm playing makes it easy to fold marginal hands. So, I guess my question is, are my sessions too long, or is this just variance catching up with me?"

— **omally37**

Have any advice for omally37? Or maybe you have a question. Post it!

— **Sound off on poker issues near and far and get quick responses from fellow players in our online community at anteupmagazine.com/forum**

ANTE UP TELEVISION

The Chad Brown No Limit Texas Hold'em Championship at Orange Park Kennel Club near Jacksonville, Fla., produced some exhilarating moments. Just wait until you see how the final hand of the final table plays out! Here are the upcoming airdates:

Bright House Sports Network (Florida)

May 2, 10 p.m. Feature Table

May 4, midnight Feature Table rebroadcast

May 9, 10 p.m. Final Table

May 11, 12 a.m. Final Table rebroadcast

Comcast SportsNet Chicago (several Midwest states)

May 1, 9 p.m. Feature Table

May 2, 7 p.m. Feature Table rebroadcast

May 5, 1 p.m. Feature Table rebroadcast

May 6, 1 a.m. Feature Table rebroadcast

May 8, 9 p.m. Final Table

May 9, 7 p.m. Final Table rebroadcast

May 11, 1:30 p.m. Final Table rebroadcast

Other networks

Stay tuned for dates on Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic, Cox Cable and Comcast California!

— **In partnership with Fallah Productions, Ante Up produces television coverage of poker events in your favorite poker rooms. Look for our shows on your favorite regional sports network.**



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Q&A

WITH SHAUN DEEB

Shaun Deeb of Troy, N.Y., says his mission this World Series is to make people forget thinking he's just an online poker phenom. The 24-year-old hardest-working man in poker chatted with *Ante Up*'s Chris Cosenza about his recent live success, his new training site and the greatest moment in his poker career ... slow-rolling his grandmother!

What's this we hear about you multitable online during the Day 2 of Chad Brown's annual event in Jacksonville? Basically I came into the day with half a starting stack and almost didn't even show up. ... I was almost going to just blind off my stack and say, "I'm just going to go play online." It was a HUGE Sunday. So I was like, "There's no reason for me to waste my day with 3K in equity of a starting stack." So, I got to my starting table and told them, "Listen, I don't want to be here. (laughs) I wanna bust, I wanna go play online or I wanna have a lot of chips. So I apologize in advance if I suck out on anybody any time soon. I'm just going to get it in really bad and please call me; I want you to."

And so I double-up twice, and then I'm up to like 50K. ... I asked the floor, "Is it OK if I play at the same time?" And he said yeah, as long as you don't do it during a hand. So I was like "Cool!" So I just kept playing and clicking, and I had like 15 (tournaments) open (online) ... and people couldn't get reads on me because they couldn't tell if I was playing online or live.

And then I had one of my most fun hands of the tournament. I had been really tight for like a full level, which is something I never do. ... Tyler Smith opens; he's really aggressive and happens to have a lot of chips. I have direct position on him and my synchronized breakage online started so I don't have any online tables. It's time to go crazy live! So I three-bet 3♠-6♠ and I notice the kid in the nine

seat had a really good view of my computer and could see all my tournaments went on break. ... He wanted to four-bet me light, he said, but he knew because I was on synchronized break that I would just five-bet shove on him. He said no matter what happens on this hand Shaun is putting all of his chips in the middle, which was true. (laughs)

The dealer had pulled in all the bets, so Tyler only sees like a 4K raise to him or something, and he makes it like 5,100 more. He just threw out a random amount of chips, and I asked how much and he didn't even know. ... We were 100Kish deep, so I called his four-bet and the flop comes Kx-7♠-5♠, so I flop a straight-flush draw. I'm like, "Sweet! Time to get it in!" But then he checks, and I'm like, OK, he has nothing. (laughs) So I bet 15K into like 25K and he calls, which was really weird, and I really didn't know what he had.

The turn comes another king and he does what I expected the least, he actually leads out for like 25K. It's a really weird lead and it makes no sense to me. I don't think he has anything. If he had a king and was trapping or if he had a hand like 10s through queens who'd like the turn card, they're gonna check, they're not going to lead out now unless he knows I have exactly a flush draw.

So I end up shoving and he takes a few seconds and is like, "Oh, go

Continued on next page



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back to your tables. This is going to take a while. At that exact moment my synchronized break ended so my tables started beeping again. So I start clicking away. Oh, and I forgot to mention, during the hand I was faking going to my laptop! (laughs) I didn't want him to know I was on break. ... I was doing everything to trick them to make them I was still playing online because if they knew I was on break they'd know I was more likely to be playing a hand loose. ... He ended up folding what he said was Q-6-high and I showed him the six-high and he was like, "Awww!" ... That was one of the pots that really sprung me to (the final table).

Has poker become so automatic for you that it's just second nature to focus on so many hands and situations at once? Oh, yeah, 15 tables is nothing to me. I've done 30-40 so many times. Like 15 is easy to me. My decision-making in tournaments after playing millions and millions of hands is, every tournament hand I play I know what I'm doing already. I've already gone through every combination. ... I look at the tables and the stack sizes and immediately calculate every possible outcome I'm worried about. I have a very analytical mind that can compute very quickly. I just think that's a skill-set that will allow me to multitable like I could.

You just won \$300K in a \$1K Full Tilt event; you won a WCOOP title and you final-tabled in Jacksonville. What do you consider your greatest poker moment? I was playing a live \$50 tournament in New York. It had 30 people; it's my gram's local league. We were at the same table with like 15 people left and I flopped like trip nines in a four-way pot. It checks around and (gets to the end) and I (river) quads. Someone bet and she calls. It's like a J-9-9-7-9 board and I bet full pot on the river. She calls me. I say, "You're good; I have king-high," and I show her the king in my hand and she shows A-10 and says, "I caught him," bragging to

her friends about catching me bluffing. And I flash to half the table my nine and I'm like, "a slow-roll here." And I show it and she was like, "Aww!" Now, people are going to feel bad for me slow-rolling my grandmother, but little do they know this was me getting even. She slow-rolled me the previous year in Vegas. (laughs)

You've had little success in brick-and-mortar tournaments. But as of February you had a second-, a third- and a fourth-place finish live this year. How important is winning a major live title to you? It used to be important. I'm only doing it to prove to people who say I can't play live. ... It's not hard to win live; I've always said it's a sample-size thing. I've played maybe 350 live tournaments. That's really nothing. Online I've played 50,000. I was doing things wrong, I was a weaker player live, but it wasn't like I should've been a losing player. There's no way I should have had the negative ROI that I had. I just never got deep in something. Now I'm starting to get more comfortable. You're gonna see me crushing this year in the World Series. I'm definitely going to be the sleeper for everything. I'm going to be making a lot of World Series bets, I think.

Tell me about livepokertraining.com. It's going to be, I think, the best training site there is. I think the problem with current training sites is they just send videos. There's no interaction; you don't really work back and forth, you can't send in questions and get answers from instructors. In our setting you'd come in for a weekend, hang out with me, I have a whole model where I'd go through the different stages you'd need to do, and you ask a bunch of questions, you watch me play.

With me there it's just so much better ... If there's something I say you don't understand and you're watching a video you can't go further and say teach me more about that. But now if we're in person you can say, "I really don't understand this concept. Explain it more in-depth," and I can do that. ♠

Now, people are going to feel bad for me slow-rolling my grandmother, but little do they know this was me getting even.

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