

♠ ANTE UP

FLORIDA'S POKER MAGAZINE™

SPECIAL
COMMEMORATIVE
FIRST ISSUE

WSOP GOLD!

PLUS

STATE NEWS, INCLUDING
TOURNAMENTS AND RESULTS

DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB
HAS A NEW \$30 MILLION FACILITY

NOTHIN' BUT 'NET: A LOOK AT
FLORIDA'S TOP ONLINE PLAYERS

GUS HANSEN'S NEW BOOK:
WHO KNEW HE WROTE THIS WELL?

COLUMNS FROM KENNA JAMES,
LEE CHILDS AND JOE NAVARRO

**FRANK GARY OF FORT MYERS WINS A BRACELET
TO CAP OFF A FINE WORLD SERIES FOR FLORIDIANS.**

10 pages of WSOP coverage dedicated to our Sunshine State players!



SEPTEMBER 2008 | anteupmagazine.com

WCOOP 2008 Schedule

All tournament start times are ET.

Event	Date	Day	Time	Buy-In	Event	Guarantee
1	5-Sep	Fri	14:30	\$215	NL Hold'em [6-max]	\$1,000,000
2	5-Sep	Fri	16:30	\$215	PL 5-Card Draw	\$100,000
3	6-Sep	Sat	14:30	\$215	Limit Hold'em	\$300,000
4	6-Sep	Sat	16:30	\$215	2-7 Triple Draw	\$100,000
5	7-Sep	Sun	14:30	\$10,300	High-Roller NL Hold'em	\$2,000,000
6	7-Sep	Sun	16:30	\$530	NL Hold'em*	\$3,000,000
7	8-Sep	Mon	14:30	\$215	PL Omaha [6-max]	\$300,000
8	8-Sep	Mon	16:30	\$320	8-game Mixed Event	\$200,000
9	9-Sep	Tue	14:30	\$215	NL Hold'em [4-max]	\$400,000
10	9-Sep	Tue	16:30	\$215	Razz	\$100,000
11	10-Sep	Wed	14:30	\$320	PL Omaha Hi/Lo	\$300,000
12	10-Sep	Wed	16:30	\$320	Mixed Hold'em	\$300,000
13	11-Sep	Thu	14:30	\$215	NL Hold'em w/Rebuys	\$1,000,000
14	11-Sep	Thu	16:30	\$320	7-Card Stud	\$100,000
15	12-Sep	Fri	14:30	\$320	NL Hold'em [Heads-Up]	\$500,000
16	12-Sep	Fri	16:30	\$215	PL Omaha [1R1A]	\$300,000
17	13-Sep	Sat	14:30	\$530	PL Hold'em [6-max]	\$400,000
18	13-Sep	Sat	16:30	\$215	HORSE	\$300,000
19	14-Sep	Sun	14:30	\$25,500	High-Roller HU NL Hold'em	\$1,600,000
20	14-Sep	Sun	16:30	\$1,050	NL Hold'em*	\$3,000,000
21	15-Sep	Mon	14:30	\$530	7-Card Stud Hi/Lo	\$200,000
22	15-Sep	Mon	16:30	\$530	Mixed Omaha Hi/Lo [6-max]	\$200,000
23	16-Sep	Tue	14:30	\$530	NL Hold'em [1R1A]	\$500,000
24	16-Sep	Tue	16:30	\$530	NL 2-7 Single Draw	\$200,000
25	17-Sep	Wed	14:30	\$320	PL Omaha w/rebuys	\$500,000
26	17-Sep	Wed	16:30	\$320	NL Hold'em [6-max]	\$500,000
27	18-Sep	Thu	14:30	\$530	NL Hold'em Triple Shootout	\$300,000
28	18-Sep	Thu	16:30	\$530	Limit Omaha Hi/Lo	\$400,000
29	19-Sep	Fri	14:30	\$530	NLHE w/Rebuys [6-max]	\$400,000
30	19-Sep	Fri	16:30	\$1,050	PL Omaha	\$500,000
31	20-Sep	Sat	14:30	\$1,050	Limit Hold'em [6-max]	\$500,000
32	20-Sep	Sat	16:30	\$10,300	HORSE	\$500,000
33	21-Sep	Sun	16:30	\$5,200	NL Hold'em Main Event*	\$10,000,000

*2-day event

Please note: The schedule listed above is here for informational purposes only and is in no way binding on PokerStars. The official scheduled time, date, game, buy-in, and guaranteed prize pool for each event is posted to the PokerStars client under the Events/WCOOP tab. Management reserves the right to modify or remove any or all events and related information, without notice, prior to the start of any event and assumes no liability towards any player in connection with any such modification or removal.

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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



WELCOME TO THE ANTE UP NATION

Congratulations! By picking up our magazine you've just earned your Ante Up Nation citizenship. Don't worry, you won't need to carry a green card (unless you play with one of those weird four-colored decks). There are no taxes, and you definitely won't pay any rake.

Though this is our first issue of *Ante Up*, the genesis of this free monthly magazine came more than three years ago when we sat in a tiny office in St. Petersburg as avid rounders and fumbled our way through making a six-minute Internet recording about poker. We had no idea what we were doing, but we learned one thing that afternoon: We had just found our passion.

We fine-tuned our product, became better players, and eventually earned the right to call our poker show the best on the Internet. But we wanted more. Enter *Ante Up*, Florida's Poker Magazine.

Is there a more deserving state to get a poker magazine than Florida... after all we've been through? Not a chance. And yes, that's right, we live here; we're one of you. We, too, have suffered through \$2 poker and know all too well what it's like to play No Fold'em Hold'em. We remember the days of \$.25-\$.50 betting limits and \$10 max pots.

So, who are we? I'm Chris Cosenza (on the left up there in the yellow shirt) and I've been a writer, editor and designer for major publications for nearly 20 years. I started playing poker when I was old enough to see over the kitchen table and I've been check-raising ever since. My fellow publisher is Scott Long, and this magazine was his brilliant idea. Like me, Scott's been in the industry for years and he's a very talented writer. But, unlike me, he's a true gambler.

We see nothing but good things on the horizon for Florida poker (despite the lack of common sense in

Tallahassee) and that's why we started this magazine. What can you expect from *Ante Up*? Well, we're not crazy enough to try to compete with the big boys such as *CardPlayer* and *Bluff*. We'll let them duke it out over who has the bigger stack.

We're homegrown, and that's the way we want our magazine to be. Everything and anything pertaining to Florida poker is game for *Ante Up*. Is there a big tournament coming up in your card room? We'll be there. Did you fly to Vegas to play in the Deep Stack events at the Venetian and make the final table? Let us know. Or maybe there's a poker room on the other Florida coast where you've been dying to play but you don't know if it has a timed rake or not. We'll have the answers for you. *Ante Up* will be your one-stop source for Florida poker news and events.

But that's not to say we won't have other features to keep you busy while you're waiting for your seat to open at the \$1-2 NLHE table. Look for strategy columns from some of the finest players and instructors in the country, including a piece this month by poker pro Lee Childs, who tells you to stop copying other players. Find your game and then play it. Don't choose a style you aren't comfortable utilizing. "Cowboy" Kenna James lets us in on his first poker experience at Hollywood Park in California, and former FBI agent Joe Navarro, the famed poker author and Tampa resident, explains what nonverbal behavior means at the poker table.

And if you can't find what you need here, be sure to visit our Web site at anteupmagazine.com to catch the latest Florida poker news and content.

We'll see you at the tables!

— Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long
Publishers

ANTE UP PUBLISHING LLC

2519 McMullen-Booth Road
Suite 510-300
Clearwater, FL 33761
(727) 331-4335

PUBLISHERS
Christopher Cosenza
Scott Long

CONTRIBUTORS

Lee Childs
Mike Fazio
Kenna James
John Lanier
Joe Navarro
"Columbo"

LETTERS

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NEWS



\$30 million never looked so good

The Daytona Beach Kennel Club's new facility opens to a lot of fanfare. **8**

Other news

- Dania Jai-Alai has a record setting night with its Dan LeBarard Charity event.
- You'd be surprised how many online pros live in Florida.
- Did you know Ocala Jai-Alai has a poker room again?
- Derby Lane in St. Petersburg gets approval for a \$2.5 million renovation, which includes its poker room. **8-17**

COVER STORY



Floridians stake claim at World Series of Poker

If the poker world didn't already know it, this year's World Series left little doubt: Florida poker players got game! We give you 10 pages of WSOP coverage, including every Floridian casher. **22-31**



Who are these guys?

We take a look at some of the more interesting items hawked at the World Series of Poker's Gaming Life Expo. **30-31**



REVIEWS



The big one is coming!

Why is there an asteroid on the pages of a poker magazine? You'll have to read our *PokerVision* column to find out. Let's just say it has something to do with the World Poker Tour and the end of the world. **40**

REVIEWS

Hansen: Poker Author

You've heard how amazing Danish poker pro Gus Hansen is with the numbers. Who knew he would be this good with the words, too? We review his new book *Every Hand Revealed*. **42**



ROAD TRIP



A look at the Panhandle rooms

We make a three-stop tour, visiting the poker rooms at Ebro Greyhound Park, Hamilton Jai-Alai and Jefferson County Kennel Club. **20-21**

STRATEGY

The face tells all

Why is famed poker author Joe Navarro's brow furled? The Tampa resident and former FBI agent explains just how much we give away to our competitors through our nonverbal tells, especially those that are age-specific. **36**



Plus ...

We have results, promotions and tournament schedules from around the state. **14, 18-19**

LETTERS/EMAILS
Correspondence with the Ante Up Nation

IF YOU'RE PLAYING \$5-\$10 NHLE WITH \$100 BUY-IN, YOU'RE A DONK

I've always wondered why you would sit at a \$2-\$5 no-limit hold'em game in Florida seeing as how you can only buy in for \$100.

Now I hear there are \$5-\$10 games? Just ridiculous. You can't play poker at either of those limits with \$100. You can't even play \$1-\$2 properly with a \$100 buy-in.

Most \$2-\$5 games I've played in have a \$200-\$300 minimum with a \$500 cap buy-in. Caesars in Vegas has no cap and the Venetian has a \$1,000 cap. Generally \$5-\$10 games have no cap. The \$5-\$10 games at the WSOP had no cap, and if there isn't a cap then \$1K-\$1,500 is usually a good buy-in.

Dave, via email

Game selection in Florida?

I always here the pros talk about game selection and how you should look for the "good" game in the room. I understand this somewhat in Vegas, but I don't think you can do any game selection here in Florida because of all the betting limits and limited spread of games that we have. Do you guys practice game selection in live play? My second question is: Where can I find a HORSE game (cash or tournament) in Florida?

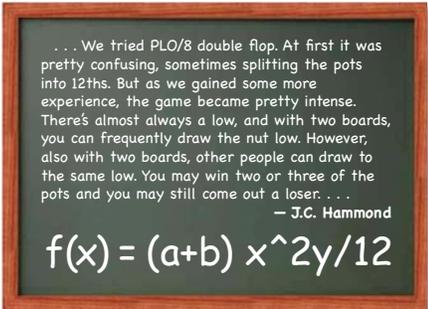
Robert Burns

Editor's note: We would love a HORSE game to be spread anywhere in the Sunshine State, but alas it's not meant to be just yet. As for game selection, if you score truly patient you could scope out a table and ask the break to keep you on the list for that particular table when a seat comes open, allowing players to pass you on the list for other openings.

Give Yang a break

In a recent interview with Jerry Yang the undercurrent of both segments was that Jerry wasn't a good representative for the game because he hasn't been visible enough as a WSOP champion. Granted, he isn't/wasn't the most dominating poker player, and his skills are probably far outweighed by his luck, but really, here's a guy who's pledged 10 percent of ALL his winnings to charity, has the most amazing life story, has been active with several charities, and has been modest and genuine as a champion.

Do we really need someone visible for their play, or couldn't we say he's exactly the type of person we'd want to represent the game, if



only for the good use he's put his winnings to? I don't recall Joe Hachem, Greg Raymer or anyone but Barry Greenstein pledging their winnings to charity.

Michael Cantor

Those wacky math guys

Hey, I'm a college student interning as an actuary and was really intrigued by double flop hold'em, so I decided to get some other actuaries together for a poker night to try a new game. With a room full of statisticians and math geeks, we prefer to play pot-limit Omaha/8.

I remembered the talk of double flop on your show, so we tried PLO/8 double flop.

At first it was pretty confusing, sometimes splitting the pots into 12ths. But as we gained some more experience,

the game became pretty intense. There's almost always a low, and with two boards, you can frequently draw the nut low. However,

also with two boards, other people can draw to the same low. You may win two or three of the pots and you may still come out a loser.

On a side note, another game we came up with was Crazy Pineapple Omaha/8. And if you're going to attempt this, you can only

have eight players unless you don't use burn cards.

J.C. Hammond

Things always could be worse

So I'm listening to your July 11 show and someone said there's nothing worse than sitting at a table with a couple of donors and not being able to make a hand.

I beg to differ.

What's worse is when you get a big pair and you bet at the donor and they call you down like the poo-throwing monkey they are and hit their second pair on the river with their K-7 or whatever the hell garbage they're playing.

Then, of course, they donate your money to the rest of the table.

Gregory Lynn

VERBAL IS BINDING

Got something to say? Email us at letters@anteupmagazine.com and see if we have the guts to print it! Go ahead, we dare ya!



MANAGER'S CORNER

We catch up with ... SAM MINUTELLO, Poker Room Manager, One-Eyed Jacks, Sarasota

WORLD SERIES OF POKER GAVE OUR PLAYERS A CHANCE TO SHINE

We started with 20 and ended with one!

I'll have to admit at first it was a little demoralizing. However, after I gave it some more thought, my players did a great job. But more on that later. In 2007, amid the recent law changes in Florida, we were able to send five players to the World Series of Poker Main Event in just three days' time.

This time we were looking forward to having the entire year to qualify players for the 2008 campaign. In 11 months we managed to qualify 20 players through several types of tournaments. I'd like to take this space to congratulate these 19 patrons for having won the opportunity to play in the biggest poker tournament of the year.

Marge Berthman, Bret Gardner, Nancy Birnbaum, Victor Iomolo, Amelio Amato, Shari Amato, Mike Gallo, Rory Malisoff, Dave McCord, Kerry Langman, Shane Whitehead, Steve Reuther, Willie Petrat, Larry Windham, James Seidenfaden, Joseph Loiacono, Byron Schnek, Paul Azinger and Chase Madden.

I'm sure by now you're thinking "Wait, you said 20 players but congratulated 19. Who's the 20th player, or was that a typo?" Well, that player would be me. After three great years with the World Series I accepted a part-time job with Harrah's corporate and decided to play some events at the 2008 Series.

In July I assembled my team of qualifiers and we headed to Las Vegas. Did you know 6,844 people registered to play in the main event? That means Sarasota Kennel Club was responsible for a little less than three-tenths of a percentage of the total amount of entries. The majority of us played on Day 1D. We had a little meeting place just outside the Amazon Room for chip updates and bad-beat stories. As the day wore on our group became smaller and smaller.

Of the 20 who started, seven were fortunate to make it Day 2, and that's where Azinger (yes, THAT Paul Azinger) and I made our exit. Eventually the contingent squeezed down to three players: Loiacono, Gallo and Madden. Of the three, Madden would make the money and bust out in 460th place.

At first I thought we needed to head to a poker boot camp, but after I looked back at the magnitude of the event I realized we did just fine.

Of the 20 players we had three legitimate shots at making the money. We really can't ask for more than that.

Overall, it was a great time. It's nice to know I had a hand in helping 19 people live out their No. 1 poker dream: to play in the main event at the WSOP. Thanks for taking the time out to read my column and I look forward to seeing you in my poker room.



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DAYTONA BEACH OPENS NEW \$30M FACILITY

The Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room has opened its new \$30 million facility on Williamson Road in Daytona Beach, complete with 50 poker tables. It replaces the club's 60-year-old home next to Daytona International Speedway.

"Although the old and new facilities are within a mile of each other, they're really worlds apart," said Dan Francati, the club's president and general manager. "Now we're a real entertainment destination."

The 53,000-square-foot facility features a poker room that can accommodate 450 players, a full-service restaurant, concessions, simulcast center with private betting carrels and more than 260 televisions. Poker room patrons can order food and drink and eat

while playing at their table.

"The 50-table poker room at the new facility enables the club to step up its recent focus on higher limit tournament play to become the region's poker leader," Francati said.

The club has introduced a Players Card in which patrons accumulate points for their wagers in poker, live greyhound racing and simulcast.

New ship to have hold'em

The latest gambling ship to hit the waters, Las Vegas Casino Lines, launched in early August out of Port Canaveral and offers Texas Hold'em.



The new DBKC poker room.



A historic photo of Daytona Beach Kennel Club.

Dania has record night with LeBatard Charity Tournament

Miami's Leonel Alberto made a straight on the turn and a very successful inaugural Dan LeBatard Celebrity Poker Tournament came to a close on July 16 at Dania Jai-Alai in Dania Beach. The tournament drew 309 entries, the largest crowd ever to play in a multitable tournament at the Dania facility. "We were taking prepaid reservations for about two weeks and sold out the tournament easily," said Frank Risi, Dania's card room manager.



"We probably could have seated another 150 players if we had the space."

LeBatard and many of the "790 The Ticket" personalities and staff not only participated in the tournament, but entertained the crowd throughout. Alberto won \$1,963 and the "Golden Moustache" trophy.



Alberto

LeBatard

The Isle Casino at Pompano Park

The All In Free Poker League recently wrapped up its 13th championship at the Isle Casino at Pompano Park.

After two days and three sessions of play Mark Mika of Coral Springs came out on top, winning a \$1,200 package, including a \$1,100 tournament entry at the Isle in Biloxi and a \$999 cruise package for two on the AIFP cruise in January.

Mika's feat was no easy task, becoming the first player to win the event after being the chipleader on Day 1.

Bill Scott became the highest finishing dealer with his second-place finish, earning a \$999 cruise package for two, and Joe Catalano grabbed third and a \$799 cruise.

One other interesting note: Nick Sortal,

who writes a gambling blog for the *Sun-Sentinel*, finished 31st. For the list of top 42 finishers turn to page 14.

Cruising along: The Isle held Poker Cruise Tournaments throughout August on Sundays at 3 p.m. The buy-in was \$50 with \$25 re-buys. For every \$1,000 in entries and re-buys, one "Cruise for Two" was awarded.

The trip came courtesy of Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines for four days and four nights. It will feature poker tournaments and a teaching lab with poker pros Nick Brancato and *Anti Up* columnist Lee Childs (page 39).

Also the Isle held satellites on Saturday nights for its High Heels Women's Poker Event on Sept. 6. The main event has a \$250 buy-in.



Sheila N. is all smiles after taking down \$25,542 for her share in a bad-beat jackpot at the Isle at Pompano Park. Not a bad pay day.

Flagler Greyhound Racing and Poker

On July 19 Flagler Greyhound Racing's Magic City Poker Room held a Winner Take All no-limit hold'em tournament and 128 players showed up to take part.

The prize pool was \$9,600 and in the end Luciano P. and Gus M. were the last two standing. Luciano had the most chips but a deal was made.

Poker room manager Ileana Zamora said the event was such a success they're holding another one on Aug. 23 at 2 p.m. The entry fee will be \$75 just like July's event.

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood



The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood may want to start a charity poker tournament circuit after hosting so many great charity events lately. Doron Malinasky of Hollywood, at left with poker director Peter Anonis, recently won \$58,200 at the inaugural \$3,000 buy-in charity event benefiting the Miami Beach Health Foundation.



At right, Richard Kirsch of Pompano holds up his giant check worth \$56,300 after winning the \$3,000 buy-in event for the Hollywood Police Athletic League in late July.



Silks' Tampa Bay Poker Challenge

Compete in the Tampa Bay Poker Challenge at the Silks Poker Room at Tampa Bay Downs to see if you're the best poker player in the bay area and win up to \$100,000 in cash prizes. Double-point days are available to increase your chances. Receive player of the year points based on performance in multitable and single-table tournaments. Top-nine point earners at year's end will share \$50,000 with \$25K going to the champion. Go to tampabaydowns.com/poker for details.

Point leaders as of 8/6/08

1.	Mickey Mazzatta	1,080
2.	Vincent Griffo	1,019
3.	Steve Darr	833
4.	Henry Symulevich	707
5.	Gil Tai	694
6.	Rich O'Hearn	605
7.	Murel Yantiss	591
8.	Jim Larson	577
9.	Andy Palumbo	552
10.	Pedro Suarez	501

Derby Lane approves \$2.5 million in renovations

The board of directors for Derby Lane in St. Petersburg recently approved a \$2.5 million renovation project that features a new poker room.

"We are excited about the new card room we will be able to offer our guests," VP Richard Winning said. "The addition of the new room and enhancements to our current facility will allow us to grow market share."

Winning said the card room is an integral part of the operation and that building the new room on the Derby Club ground floor would better serve

the patrons with easier access to the playing areas, live racing and Derby Club amenities.

In 1997, Derby Lane opened Pinellas County's first card room, which now operates seven days a week. Last spring, Derby Lane featured concerts for the first time. "Our current facility was built for massive crowds to enjoy the races," Winning said. "The renovations will accommodate all of the track's venues and streamline daily operations."

Derby Lane is hopeful the project will be done by year's end.

Chorny, a One-Eyed Jacks regular, cashes in WPT Bellagio Cup IV



It's been a great few months for Glen Chorny, who frequents One-Eyed Jacks thanks to giving up on his college career and moving in with his parents in Sarasota. The native Canadian won the largest EPT cash prize in history (\$3.1 million) at the Grand Final in Monte Carlo in April. Now, coming off a cash in the World Series (6th place, Event 46, six-handed NLHE, \$8,323), Chorny, aka Dr.C, just finished 14th in the WPT's Bellagio Cup, earning \$64,640.



World champ Jerry Yang coming to Palm Beach Kennel Club

What's this? August news in a September issue? Well, when a world champion poker player comes to town you make an exception.

Jerry Yang, 2007 World Series of Poker Main Event champion, will be on hand at the Palm Beach Kennel Club poker room's charity event to benefit the Ronald McDonald House on Aug. 23-24. Yang is no stranger to charity, recently joining with Feed the Children and helping feed more than 4,000 families in Southern California. He also pledged 10 percent of his WSOP winnings to various other charities.

Yang's appearance precedes the Palm Beach Poker Classic, which is six tournaments over six days starting Aug. 25 (see schedule).

Palm Beach Poker Classic

Date	Time	Event	Buy-in
8/25	Noon	\$10K Guaranteed NLHE	\$100
8/26	Noon	Six-handed NLHE	\$100
8/27	Noon	Special event	\$100
8/28	Noon	Limit Hold'em	\$100
8/29	1 p.m.	\$20K Guaranteed NLHE	\$200
8/30	1 p.m.	\$50K Guaranteed NLHE	\$500

Satellites for the \$50K event run through 8/24.

Profile: Dennis Hune, GM of Poker Operations at Ebro Greyhound Park

Dennis Hune hit the ground running when he took over as general manager of poker operations at Ebro Greyhound Park on July 27, and he hasn't gotten much rest since.

"Things are improving by leaps and bounds already, but we're nowhere near where we'll be in the future," said Hune, a veteran of California's expansive poker scene who intends to bring that professionalism to his room off Interstate 10 just north of Panama City Beach.

Hune spent more than 15 years at Oaks Card Club in Emeryville, just outside San Francisco. He began as a dealer and worked his way through the ranks before taking a few years off to buy some property, including a piece near Ebro, which led him back to poker at Ebro Greyhound Park.

Hune also has been an instructor at A+ Poker School in Emeryville, one of the few state-sanctioned dealer schools in California, and plans to retrain Ebro's staff to meet his high standards. Shift managers wear white dress shirts and tournament directors wear colored dress shirts.

"At the blink of an eye, our players will know who's who and



what is going on," Hune said. And his managers all wear ties. "If we were running a poker room on the moon, we'd be wearing ties," Hune said. "That's just the way it is."

Hune's first step was improving tournaments. Chance Hill, Mark Ward and Daniel Jones have been named tournament directors, and they immediately changed blind structures to offer more play and starting chips, but a smaller rake.

Gone is the fishbowl from which players would draw their seat assignments. In its place is a computer system at the cage that prints players a receipt with their seat assignment. The time-saving Tournament Director software automatically adds tables as needed, and directors can keep track of signups from a laptop at the tournament station.

"They now can spend their time taking care of customers," Hune said.

He plans to offer a continental breakfast, and you won't even need to be a player to enjoy it. With a number of new plants opening near the room, Hune says the offer of free food will get workers into his room, and then they'll become customers.

And it all comes back to impeccable customer service for Hune and his staff. "It's the owner's building, it's the players' card room and it's our privilege to work for them both," he said.



Emerald Coast Poker Championships

A three-day, \$850 championship event highlights this year's Emerald Coast Poker Championships at Ebro Greyhound Park in Ebro.

Tournaments begin Sept. 14 with a \$110 Ladies Only no-limit hold'em freeroll event. Single re-buy NLHE events are scheduled for Sept. 15 (\$275), Sept. 16 (\$435) and Sept. 17 (\$330).

The championship freeroll event splits entrants into two starting days — Sept. 18 and Sept. 19, with the final 40 players reconven-

ing on Sept. 20 for the title. Satellites run daily. Oasas Resorts in Panama City Beach (850-249-0109) is offering special room rates for players.

Tallahassee tragedy: Tallahassee's Pruitt Rainey, serving a 15-month tour in Afghanistan with the 503rd Infantry Airborne, was killed on July 13 by Taliban insurgents. He was hoping to get back in time to attend the World Series of Poker with his dad, Frankie Gay, who taught him to play poker.

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The Ocala Jai-Alai Poker Room



FLORIDA'S POKER FAMILY ADDS ANOTHER MEMBER



Ocala Poker & Jai-Alai will host its grand opening Sept. 3 with a celebrity bounty tournament featuring eight former athletes each from the University of Florida and the University of Miami that will benefit charities.

The players are bringing signed memorabilia to give to players who out them and to auction off, says Chaz Allen, manager of the 28-table room east of Interstate 75.

And the football theme won't end on that Friday. "Most poker rooms don't like football season, because it kills their action on Sunday," Allen says. "But we're going to embrace it."

Every Sunday and Monday during the NFL season, DirecTV's Sunday Ticket games will be shown in the room and dealers will wear jerseys, floor personnel will wear referee shirts and cocktail waitresses will wear cheerleader outfits.

The poker room has been open in a soft launch since May 28, working out the kinks.

"A lot of our dealers are people who have never dealt before, but they've come a long way," says Allen, who runs a dealer school

where 95 percent of his dealers have now learned their trade.

The room is building a buzz even before the grand opening. Virtually every table was full recently on Friday and Saturday nights, said Allen, a veteran of Connecticut and Jacksonville poker rooms.

"On Friday, we even lost power for two hours and we were still able to fill the room," he said.

The room holds regular tournaments and features high-hand jackpots, daily manager's specials and even table-side massages for \$1 a minute.

No-limit hold'em, with blinds up to \$5-\$10 is most popular, but Allen is attempting to fight the disappearance of other games from Florida since last year's law allowed NLHE. Mondays are Crazy Pineapple Day, every Tuesday is Stud and every Wednesday is Omaha. Games begin at 3 p.m.

"If the people want to play those games, at least they'll know on those particular days they'll have a good chance of a game getting going," Allen said.



TOURNAMENT TRAIL

Gulf Coast Poker Championships

When: Aug. 26-Sept. 6
Where: Beau Rivage, Biloxi, Miss.
Web site: www.beaurivage.com

The skinny: Nine no-limit tournaments from \$340 to the \$5,150 championship, including a \$340 ladies event. Championship event mega satellites for \$540 begin Sept. 3, and daily megas cost \$340. Nightly tournaments offered for \$200.

California State Poker Championships

When: Sept. 2-21
Where: Commerce Casino, Los Angeles, Calif.
Web site: www.commercecasino.com

The skinny: Eighteen events run from \$120 to the \$1,580 main event. Games include no-limit hold'em, limit hold'em, rebuys, HORSE and a shootout. Super satellites for the main event are \$190.

Borgata Poker Open

When: Sept. 3-18
Where: Borgata Hotel Casino, Atlantic City, N.J.
Web site: www.theborgata.com

The skinny: The World Poker Tour event features 16 tournaments from \$350 to the \$10,000 championship. Events include no-limit hold'em, ladies no-limit hold'em, limit hold'em, 7-card stud and championship satellites.

Heartland Poker Tour

When: Sept. 15-21
Where: Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Onamia, Minn.

Web site: www.grandcasinosmc.com

The skinny: Five events from \$70 to the \$1,650 main event. All events are no-limit hold'em, with one of them being a rebuy. Main event satellites are \$340.

World Series of Poker Circuit Event

When: Oct. 2-14
Where: Caesars Indiana, Elizabeth, Ind.
Web site: www.caesarsindiana.com

The skinny: The 10-event schedule has events from \$225 to the \$5,150 championship. Events include no-limit hold'em, ladies no-limit hold'em, no-limit hold'em turbo and pot-limit Omaha.

National Championship of Poker

When: Oct. 15-26
Where: Hollywood Park Casino, Inglewood, Calif.
Web site: www.playhpc.com

The skinny: Twelve events with buy-ins from \$125 to the \$1,580 main event, including HORSE, shootout, rebuys and a combined Omaha-Stud/8 tournament. Super satellites are \$120.

Isle Octoberfest Poker Championship

When: Oct. 19-26
Where: Isle of Capri, Biloxi, Miss.
Web site: www.isleofcapricasinos.com/biloxi

The skinny: Entry fee is \$1,100, with a maximum 300 players. Final table of 10 each day advance to second round.



"DECIDE TO WIN"

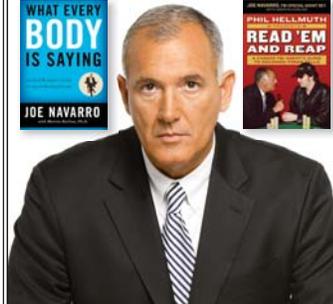
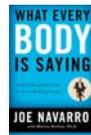


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RESULTS

DANIA JAI-ALAI

Dan LeBatard Charity Tournament/July 16

Entrants: 309 • Fee: \$25
1. Leonel Alberto, Miami...\$1,963

FLAGLER GREYHOUND TRACK

Winner Take All/NLHE/July 19

Entrants: 128 • Prize pool: \$9,600
1. Luciano P.
2. Gus M.

ISLE CASINO OF POMPANO PARK

Florida State Poker Championships

\$800 NLHE

Entrants: 251 • Prize pool: \$200,800
1. Long Nguyen...\$56,000
2. Antuan Burksley...\$32,000
3. Francis Sassi...\$22,000
4. Robert Oulton...\$13,000
5. Scott McInnis...\$9,500
6. Peter Strano...\$8,600
7. Keith Ingham...\$6,500
8. Paul Zarcadolas...\$4,500
9. Ravi Mahani...\$4,400

\$500 NLHE

Entrants: 251 • Prize pool: \$200,800
1. Jonathan Marks...\$31,218
2. Jose Torres...\$17,840
3. John Andrews...\$12,265

4. Jeff Charlton...\$7,248
5. Brian Wilson...\$5,296
6. Fabio De Francesco...\$4,795
7. Kevin McBride...\$3,624
8. Roberto Herrera...\$2,509
9. Sandy Swartzbaugh...\$2,453

All In Free Poker Final

1. **Mark Mika**
2. Bill Scott
3. Joe Catalano
4. Mike Harbaugh
5. Sean Lavery
6. Christy Smith
7. Chris Giordano
8. Greg Danver
9. Steve Shephard
10. Tom Swartzbaugh
11. John Morrow
12. Janice Dippal
13. Jon Tetreault
14. Harvey Gowin
15. Dale Bernan
16. Vicki Allen
17. Jorge Ariztizabal
18. Mike Marx
19. Ben Vassallo
20. Terry Rodes
21. Stephen Pulley

22. Denise Hoffman
23. Tony Goff
24. Dan Jackowski
25. Brian Howard
26. Pavel Boyarskiyev
27. Scott Roland
28. Yvonne Oulton
29. Mike Ardy
30. Vince Gelormine
31. Nick Sorial
32. Steve Wojnar Jr.
33. Keith O'Brian
34. Michael Naturlie
35. Andrea Meglino
36. Denny Gonzalez
37. Scott Minoff
38. Marc Scarfone
39. Ed Shevlin
40. Stacy Paulovich
41. Dan Malone
42. Elaine Hedleson

SEMINOLE H.R. HOLLYWOOD

Summer Poker Open/NLHE/June 20-22

Entrants: 248 • Prize pool: \$248,000
1. Maurice Hawkins, Ft. Lauderdale...\$69,000



All In Free Poker Final winner Mark Mika poses with his trophy and league owner Bryan Oulton.

Column's Turn the Page, continued from page 35

A third diamond, the 7♣, joins the already crowded board. Your opponent wakes up like Snow White meeting her prince and makes a pot-size bet. A flush seems so unlikely. But when you checked the turn, would you really call a "peppered bet" bet on the river? No way. Nice fold. In a quick display of kindness the chipleader flashes the K♠10♥. Sure, you're stuck in shortyville with the other players and the big stack is now the very big stack, but you still have lots of play left. And you're going to need it because you must knock someone out. No more coasting, but who wants a free lunch anyway?

DEEPSTACKS POKER ... THE NAME SAYS IT ALL

Unique training seminar stops in Tampa, now on to Miami and Orlando.

By Christopher Cosenza
Ante Up Staff Writer

The music over the P.A. system said it all: *Come on, come on, listen to the money talk!* AC/DC's song not only fired up the crowd funneling into the meeting room, but its lyrics summed up why they were there: to become better poker players and win more money.

DeepStacks Poker Training brought its free seminar to the Tampa Marriott Westshore in hopes of securing 50 participants from the bay area for its paid training sessions, which would be held two weeks later. The startup company, based in Altamonte Springs, joined the long line of poker instructional "camps" in June, but if you listen to co-founder and lead instructor Chris Torina, DeepStacks' training sessions are unique.

"We want to customize the training for each individual who signs up," said Torina, a Debary resident who won \$3,524 in one of this year's World Series of Poker \$1,500 no-limit hold'em events. "That's what separates us from everyone else. I could have you come through the training and identify in the first 60 minutes exactly what's hurting your game. So then over the next day and a half my instructors and I will tailor our instruction manual on you."

And Torina means it. If the interest reaches 50 participants for any paid seminar then DeepStacks closes registration. The instructors want to focus on their clientele and not lecture to a sea of rounders

from afar: "Everyone at our training sessions has a seat at the table," he said, "and that's what makes us different."

Fellow co-founder and CEO Scott Previt echoed Torina's sentiment: "We're the only company in America that's doing what we're doing because we're coming to the players. Our goal is to become the leader in education for poker training."

You won't find household names instructing these seminars, just guys who have had much success at the tables playing higher limits and bigger tournaments than the average player. One of the instructors, however, is Mike Claravino, who won a WSOP circuit event in Tunica in 2007 and was ranked the No. 1 tournament player in Florida, according to *Bluff*.

Some of the concepts presented were very basic: "Cap your cards to let your opponents know you know what you're doing." But the hands-on "lab" at the tables — always the most popular aspect of any poker instructional seminar — was where the instruction explored talk, position and betting patterns.

The Tampa stop elicited more than 400 pre-registrants total for the six free seminars. The two-day paid seminar costs \$1,495 (there's a discount if you bring a friend) and DeepStacks is planning stops in Miami and Orlando. If after the first training day you don't think you're getting your money's worth, the company will refund your money no questions asked, but you can't attend Day 2, naturally. Go to deepstacks.com for details.



Torina deals a flop.

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Around the country

Our players don't just do well on the state tournament circuit. They've put together some fine performances around the nation as well. You can check out our World Series coverage (pages 22-31) but that wasn't the only game in town in Las Vegas.

At the Venetian's Deep Stack Extravaganza, Vladimir Boginski of Destin made the final table in one of the \$1K NLHE events. There were 355 players with a prize pool of \$342,575, of which Boginski pocketed \$10,277 for his eighth-place finish. In a different Deep Stack \$1K event we had another eighth-place finish by Boca Raton's Mike Chiappetta, paid for \$7,093.

The Heartland Poker Tour may spend most of its time at venues north of the Sunshine State, but that doesn't stop our players from taking down one of its events. Daniel Smith of Orlando recently won the \$1,500 event at Turning Stone Casino and Resort in Verona, N.Y. The field featured 250 runners with a prize pool of \$375,000. Smith earned \$101,960 for the victory.

And finally, we had two players make the same final table at one of the Bellagio Cup's undercard events in Las Vegas. Chester Admanson (\$15,915) of Cape Coral and Steven Buckner (\$3,095) of Coral Springs finished sixth and eighth, respectively, in the \$3,000 NLHE event.

NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

JOHN LANIER - A look at Florida's online players



POKER JUST CLICKS FOR THEM

Internet poker's success was secured long before Chris Moneymaker and hole cams, and it continues to flourish despite some sites restricting access to U.S. players due to the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act. Plenty of privately owned sites continue to offer Americans the freedom to play poker online,

and because of that this column will focus on how it affects Floridians and will chart the progress of its top rounders.

So with that in mind, here are the top-five online players from the Sunshine State, according to recent rankings compiled by PocketFives.com.

Chad Batista (Coral Gables)

"Jse81," "Mokkingmooes" or "lilholdem" is one of the most feared online multitable tournament players in the world as his results would make any pro envious.

Batista likes to maintain a hip-hop image, sporting a diamond-studded grill and black, baggy clothing. He's had multiple wins in the Full Tilt Poker \$1K Monday, the PokerStars \$100 rebuy and a win in FTP's \$750K Guaranteed.

He's now ranked No. 2 in the country. **2008 online earnings: \$324,502**

Brian Hawkins (Orlando)

"WarrickDunn28" on UltimateBet and "SNOWMAN" on PokerStars, Hawkins is best known for winning the PokerStars Monthly Sunday Million (\$300 buy-in) for a whopping \$278,500 in January. Then he followed that with a win in the PokerStars \$100 rebuy in March.

But his accomplishments this year are nothing new to Hawkins, who once made the final table of an FTOPS Main Event on the same day he won fifth in the Second Chance \$200 event on Stars. Hawkins is 19 and says he's been playing poker for two years. He attends the University of Central Florida. **2008 online earnings: \$504,981**

Thayer Rasmussen (Largo)

"THAYR" and "JINXY MONKLEY" on most sites, "UCF_THAYER" on UltimateBet. Thayer has made several final tables in the PokerRoom Weekly Big Deal, and has a win in the Full Tilt \$200 HORSE tournament.

Rasmussen has kept up his winning ways this year with victories in the UltimateBet \$75K Guaranteed, the POKER



Stars \$25K Guaranteed, and the POKERStars \$100 Turbo for more than \$48K combined. Ranked No. 45 in the country. **2008 online earnings: \$139,755**

Stuart Paterson (Boca Raton)

"THE DONATOR" is a Full Tilt pro and one of the all-time greats of online poker. He's made a WPT final table (2006 Borgata Winter Poker Open) and numerous big online wins over the years. Ranked No. 55 in the country. **2008 online earnings: \$243,745**

Adam Levy (Orlando)

Known for his solid play and consistent



results, "Roothie" has multiple final tables in the Stars Sunday Million. In January he continued his winning ways by final-tabling the Full Tilt \$1K Monday for \$33,500. Two months later, he captured victories in the Full Tilt \$90K Guaranteed and the PokerStars \$50 rebuy tournaments, for a combined \$37K.

He also captured a victory in the Full Tilt \$100 Cubed for another five-figure cash. Levy also had five cashes in this year's World Series of Poker, including finishing 46th in the main event. **2008 online earnings: \$133,174.**

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

Wexler's "Skill" act needs to overcome a split field

By John Lanier

Most successful poker players would say poker isn't gambling, but rather a game of skill. That's the premise behind the Skill Game Protection Act, a bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler (D-FL) that would exempt poker and skill games such as bridge and chess from an Internet gambling act passed by Congress in late 2006. In addition to lobbying on the bill's behalf, poker players and the poker industry weighed in with more than \$50,000 in contributions to Wexler's re-election campaign fund.

A congressional scorecard tracks which congressmen and senators are pro or con on Internet poker issues. It seems support of online poker is a very partisan issue.

Among Floridian congressmen only Connie Mack (R) stands against his party in support for online poker. Both senators

Florida's political scorecard for online poker		
Summary	Democrats	Republicans
With	113	15
Against	17	113
Unknown	108	72

are neutral on this matter. Wexler, Alice Hastings, Corrine Brown and Kendrick Meek (all Democrats) support the "skill" act and other pro poker legislation. Debbie Wasserman-Shultz, Anler Gresham, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Tom Frenney, Ric Keller, Jeff Miller, Adam Putnam and David Weldon have voted or have spoken out against online poker in the past.

Here are popular reasons given for not supporting online poker:

Abusive Behaviors: Concerns with abusive behaviors typically refer to the potential for

(1) money laundering by outside parties; (2) fraudulent Web sites or other businesses (typically financial) that develop simply to defraud potential Internet poker players; and (3) manipulating or cheating by game participants (e.g. use of instant messenger).

Compulsive or Problem Gambling: The concern here is access. The individual would have unfettered access to gambling sites throughout the day and night. Without adequate safeguards, problem gamblers might quickly face potential hardships through Internet activities.

Underage Gambling: Anonymity is at the heart of this concern. Under the current system, authorities have a limited ability to oversee or monitor underage gambling.

If you'd like to write your political leaders on this issue visit the Poker Players Alliance Web site at pokerplayersalliance.org.

Hole-card debacle inspires Secured Card Dealer LLC

Ante Up Staff

The hole card breaches at Absolute Poker and UltimateBet this year have online players a little skittish about what they can't see, but a new company is marketing a product it says should alleviate fears.

"The sites themselves have to maintain hand information, and whenever that data is available electronically, it's available to be snooped and used in an incorrect manner," Nick Maiorana, head of product development for Secure Card Dealer LLC of Charlotte, N.C., said in an interview with *Ante Up*. "We thought if we took that hand information away from the site, and provided a service that dealt cards out for them, we take away that possibility that someone at the site itself could feed card information to other players."

Using patent-pending technology called Hand Summary Obfuscation and Down Card Concealment, the Deal Guardian product separates the dealing of the cards from the online rooms, so neither Secure Card Dealer, the poker rooms nor the players have all the necessary information collectively to influence an outcome.

Maiorana and his partners Steve Binie and Bill Schoonmaker are marketing their product to regulatory agencies and software development houses. For more information visit securecarddealer.com, or listen to the Aug. 8 episode of the Ante Up podcast at anteupmagazine.com.

**PokerStars**

The seventh annual World Championship of Online Poker starts on Sept. 5

with a \$215 buy-in, \$1 million guarantee no-limit hold'em six-player max event, and runs through Sept. 21's \$5,200 buy-in, \$10 million NLHE main event. The 33-event series also features:

- **Hold'em** (limit, limit six-max, mixed six-max, pot-limit six-max, no-limit four-max, no-limit six-max, no-limit with rebuys, no-limit six-max with rebuys, no-limit triple shootout, two no-limit heads-up events and four other no-limit events)

- **Draw** (pot-limit 5-card, 2-7 triple draw, no-limit 2-7 single draw)

- **Omaha** (pot-limit high six-max, pot-limit high with rebuys, pot-limit high-low, mixed high-low, limit high-low and two pot-limit high events)

- **Mixed games** (eight-game event and two HORSE events)

- **Stud** (7-card, 7-card stud high-low, razz)

- **Doyle's Room**

"Rumble in the Jungle" satellites from \$4.80-\$5.50 are now running for a seat in the Costa Rica Challenge tournament

series at the La Condesa Hotel in Monte de la Cruz Sept. 11-13. A \$4,000 grand prize package includes a \$2,000+\$300 main event buy-in plus \$1,700 for travel and accommodations.

**Cake**

World Poker Tour satellites begin at \$5 for a chance to win a main-event seat in the WPT's North American Poker Championship at Fallsview Casino in Niagara Falls, Canada, from Oct. 10-16. Winners of the \$200+\$15 Sunday night qualifiers get a \$10,200 main-event seat and \$1,800 in cash.

**FullTilt**

Satellites start at \$1 or 50 points for September's European Series in London. Winners of the \$500+\$35 weekly qualifiers get a \$20,000 entry to the European Series and \$5,000 in spending money.

**UltimateBet**

Satellites starting at \$1 were giving players a chance to earn a seat in the seventh annual Aruba Poker Classic, which runs from Sept. 27 to Oct. 4. The \$5,000+\$500 buy-in was packaged with \$3,000 in travel money.

Bodog

Qualifiers for the WSOP Europe run daily with buy-ins as cheap as \$1. The Two Seats Guaranteed WSOPe semifinal is Sept. 7. The package, worth \$24K, includes a seat at the main event, airfare and more.

PROMOTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*



Dania Jai-Alai
 Phone: (954) 927-2841
 www.dania-jai-alai.com
 Tournaments: Sunday 5 p.m.; Monday 6:30; Tuesday 3; Wednesday 6:30; Thursday 6:30; Friday 3; Saturday 1:30.
 High hands: In the first three hours each day, high hand wins \$200; separate royal flush jackpots for each suit.

Daytona Beach Kennel Club
 Phone: (386) 252-6484
 www.daytonabeachkennelclub.com
 Tournaments: Daily, including Wednesday Ladies Only at 1 p.m. (\$25); Friday, 50-player max; and Saturday, Pot-Limit Omaha 8.
 SNGs: \$40-\$220.
 High hands: Every two hours, high hands win \$50-\$100; royal flushes in tournaments win \$1,000; royal flushes in cash games win \$250-\$500.
 Bad beat: Aces full of kings.

Derby Lane
 Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7
 www.derbylane.com
 Tournaments: Daily, including Knockout Deep Stack (\$65, 4K units); Knockout Double Deep Stack (\$110, 8K units); Monday KO Madness, 4 p.m. (\$70); and Midnight Madness (\$60).
 High hands: Separate royal flush jackpots for each suit in hold'em and stud.
 Bad beat: Aces full of jacks.
 Other promotions: Player of the Month wins cash equal to points won and the Player of the Year wins \$10,000.

Ebro Greyhound Park
 Phone: (850) 635-4048
 www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com
 Tournaments: Sunday Big Stack, (\$150, 2 p.m.); Monday (\$40, 7 p.m.) and Thursday bounty (\$75, 7 p.m.)
 Special event: Emerald Coast Championships, Sept. 14-20. See story, page 11 and back page ad.
 Promotions: Call for current offers.

Flagler Greyhound Track
 Phone: (305) 649-3000
 www.flaglerdogs.com
 Tournaments: Sunday 1 p.m. (\$20) and Monday at 7 (\$75).
 SNGs: \$65-\$900.
 High hands: From opening to 3 p.m., high hand wins \$100, all other players at the table win \$25; non-heart royal flushes win \$500.
 Other: VIP card raffles at 3, 6 and 9 p.m. Sundays.

Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai
 Phone: (772) 464-7500
 www.jaiala.net/poker.php
 Tournaments: Monday 6:30 p.m. (\$75); Tuesday 12:30 (\$55); Wednesday 6:30 (\$150).
 SNGs: Thursday-Saturday (\$65-\$110)
 High hands: Every two hours on Mondays and Tuesdays.
 Bad beat: Aces full of queens (hold'em), quads (stud) and quad jacks (Omaha).
 Other: Happy Hour drink specials from 4-7 p.m. daily; free coffee and doughnuts from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Gulfstream Park
 Phone: (954) 457-6336
 www.casinoatgulfstream.com
 Tournaments: Daily at 6:30 p.m., plus \$50+\$5 bounty tournaments M-W-F; Saturday Special, \$100, 10K units.
 SNGs: \$100-\$500.
 Promotions: Call for current offers.

Hamilton Jai-Alai
 Phone: (800) 941-4841
 www.hamiltondownsjai.com
 Tournaments: Thursday 7 p.m., Sunday 3, \$65 (2K chips); Friday 7 (w/rebuys), \$65; Saturday, bounty event, \$100.
 High hands: Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday wins \$500; quad jacks win \$50 on Thursdays; jackpot for royal flushes.
 Bad beat: Aces full of kings.

Isle Casino of Pompano Park
 Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 or x5124
 theislepompanopark.com/casino-poker.aspx
 Tournaments: \$120-\$550; High Heels Women's event, Sept. 6 (\$250).
 SNGs: Include heads-up and bounties (\$60-\$840).
 High hand: Royal flushes win \$100.
 Bad beat: Call for details.

Jefferson County Kennel Club
 Phone: (850) 997-2561
 www.jckpokerroom.com
 Tournaments: Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. (\$50).
 High hand: Royal flush wins jackpot.

Mardi Gras Racetrack
 Phone: (877) 557-6887 x3167
 www.playmardigras.com
 Tournaments: Monday and Wednesday bounty events at 6:30 p.m. (\$65).
 SNGs: \$55-\$110.
 High hands: Royal flushes win \$599.
 Bad beat: Aces full of jacks (HE), quad jacks (OR) and aces full of kings (stud).

Melbourne Greyhound Park
 Phone: (321) 259-8000
 www.melbournegreyhoundpark.com
 Tournaments: \$65-\$120, include shootout and bounty events.
 SNGs and promotions: Call for details.

Miami Jai-Alai
 Phone: (305) 633-6400
 www.fia-gaming.com/miami/poker.htm
 Tournaments: Monday, 6:30 p.m. 7-card stud, (\$40); Wednesday, 6:30 NLHE Rebuy, \$25; Friday, 6:30 Ladies Only Rebuy (\$5).
 Promotions: Call for current offers.

Micosaukee Resort
 Phone: (877) 242-6464
 www.micosaukee.com/entertainment_poker.htm
 Tournaments: Super Hold'em Saturday, 7 p.m.
 SNGs: NLHE, 7-card stud and Omaha 8.
 Promotions: Call for current offers.

* Please call the poker room to confirm, and ask for details, rules and limitations.

DON'T SEE YOUR EVENT?*

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

Naples Fort Myers Greyhound Track
 Phone: (239) 992-2411
 www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com
 Tournaments: Sunday 2 p.m. (\$125); Monday 7 (\$65); Wednesday bounty, 7 (\$125); Thursday noon (\$65) and Saturday 2 (\$230).
 High hands: From noon to 2 p.m., high hand wins \$300; diamond royal flushes win jackpot.

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai
 Phone: (352) 591-2345
 www.ocalapoker.com
 Tournaments: Wednesday 6:30 p.m. (\$65-\$240)
 SNGs: Call for details.
 High hands: Noon to 5:45 and 6-11:45 p.m.; diamond royal flush wins jackpot.
 Other: Manager's specials noon to 3 and 9-11 p.m.

Orange Park Kennel Club
 Phone: (904) 646-0001
 www.jaxpokerroom.com
 Tournaments: Daily (except Tuesday), 30-player max, 8 p.m. (\$65-\$100).
 Bad beat: Call for details.

Palm Beach Kennel Club
 Phone: (561) 683-2222
 www.pokerclub.com
 Tournaments: \$65-\$200; bounty tournaments on Tuesdays at noon (\$90); Wednesdays at 6:30 (\$90).
 SNGs and promotions: Call for current offers.

Palm Beach Princess
 Phone: (561) 845-7447
 www.pbcasino.com
 Tournaments: Monday rebuys, \$55; Saturday, WPT satellites.
 Promotions: Call for current offers.

Sarasota Kennel Club
 Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054
 www.skpoker.com
 Tournaments: \$30-\$100, plus Saturday \$330 at 3:30 p.m.
 SNGs: \$40-\$300.
 High hands: Quads (hold'em), quad 10s (stud) and straight flushes (Omaha) or better.

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek
 Phone: (866) 222-7466
 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com
 Promotions: Call for current offers.

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

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood
 Phone: (866) 502-7529
 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com
 Tournaments: \$100-\$1,100.
 SNGs: \$140-\$1,050
 High hands: High hold'em hand of the hour wins \$500 from 4-8 a.m. and 4-8 p.m. Sundays-Fridays; first 10 players to get quads starting at noon Sundays-Fridays get a tournament

entry; first 20 players to get quads starting at 8 p.m. Sundays-Fridays get a \$140 SNG entry.
 Other: First 15 players to have aces cracked in hold'em starting at 8 a.m. Sundays-Fridays get \$100.

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

Seminole Hollywood Classic
 Phone: (866) 222-7466
 www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com
 Tournaments: \$30-\$150, plus an Omaha 8 event on Tuesdays at 6:30 (\$140).
 Bad beat: Call for details.
 Other: First 25 hold'em players every Thursday to have aces get cracked win \$100.

Seminole Casino Immokalee
 Phone: (866) 222-7466
 www.theseminolecasino.com
 Bad beat: Call for details.

St. Johns Greyhound Park
 Phone: (904) 646-0001
 www.jaxpokerroom.com/home.asp
 Tournaments: 30-player max, 1 p.m. and 6:30 (\$45-\$100). Other events include shootouts, deep stacks, ladies only and old school.
 Bad beat: Call for details.

SunCruz - Jacksonville
 Phone: (800) 474-3423
 www.suncruzcasino.com
 Tournaments: \$125 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday)
 Promotions: Call for current offers.

SunCruz - Port Canaveral
 Phone: (321) 799-3511
 www.suncruzcasino.com
 Tournaments: \$20-\$100.
 Promotions: Call for current offers.

Tampa Bay Downs
 Phone: (866) 823-6967
 www.tampabaydowns.com/PokerTheSilks.aspx
 Tournaments: \$45-\$120.
 SNGs: \$65-\$535.
 High hands: Royal flushes for each suit win jackpots in hold'em cash games and tournaments; royal flushes in Omaha win \$200-\$500; straight flushes in hold'em win \$200; quads and straight flushes in Omaha wins a hat, T-shirt and \$10 food voucher.
 Other: Each time the Tampa Bay Rays score during a locally televised game, a player gets a chance to win up to \$500; Player of the Year finalists to compete for \$100,000 in tournaments and giveaways; daily drink and food specials.

Tampa Greyhound Track
 Phone: (813) 932-4313
 www.luckycards.com
 Tournaments: \$45-\$80, including a rake-free.
 SNGs: \$65-\$500.
 High hands: Quads win \$75, straight flushes win \$200 and royal flushes win \$599.
 Other: Aces cracked win \$100 from noon to 2 p.m. daily.



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

Panhandle Poker

Looking for emerald green waters, Southern cooking and a little poker to boot? The Panhandle has three poker rooms to feed your inner rounder, while beautiful beaches, delicious cuisine and Old Florida attractions will keep the family entertained. Here's a look at the three rooms:

Ebro Greyhound Park



Where: Ebro
Phone: (850) 535-4048
Web site: www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com



Ebro Greyhound Park's poker room borrows liberally from the Emerald Coast's monikers in its stately design. Greens and golds highlight the upscale room, which features hardwood floors, grand bathrooms and a stylish bar.

"All of the tiles in the bar were hand cut and hand installed," says Dennis Hune, the new general manager of poker operations. "This is one of the nicest rooms I've seen anywhere."

The 22 tables deal mostly no-limit hold'em, but stud, pineapple and limit hold'em as well. No-limit hold'em tournaments run on Sundays (\$135+\$15), Mondays (\$33+\$5) and Thursdays (\$70+\$5) with \$10 buy-ins. The room is open noon to midnight seven days a week, and offers high-hand jackpots for royal and straight flushes.

Flascreen televisions keep you in touch with the world, and a large projection screen will soon be used to advertise upcoming events and promotions.

When you're not playing, greyhound racing takes place Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights, as well as Saturday afternoon. The restaurant offers fine dining, including a \$25 Viva Las Vegas dinner show at 5 p.m. every Saturday.



Hamilton Jai-Alai and Poker

Hamilton Jai-Alai and Poker has your comfort in mind — even when you're not playing.

A plush waiting lounge, with five recliners, couch and chair, wraps around a big-screen television.

"We added the lounge so our players would have a comfortable place to sit while waiting for their game," says Brandon Cowart, assistant general manager.

The 15 tables in the wide-open room offer a host of different games, though Cowart says no-limit hold'em is king. Tournaments, held Thursday-Sunday with \$65-\$100 buy-ins, qualify for the room's many jackpots. The bad beat (aces full of kings)

Where: Jasper
Phone: (800) 941-4841
Web site: www.hamiltondownsjai.com



stood at more than \$84,000 on a recent visit, and money is doled out for royal flushes. The high hand each Friday, Saturday and Sunday is good for \$300, and quad Jacks on Thursdays will win \$50.

When you're not playing, the 3-year-old facility offers live jai-alai from September through December, and on weekends has a \$10.99 prime rib special.

"We try to be a very friendly poker room," Cowart says. "We like to get to know our players' names."



1st Turn Poker Club, Jefferson County Kennel Club

Jefferson County Kennel Club's 1st Turn Poker Club is a welcome respite from poker rooms where rules are rarely enforced.

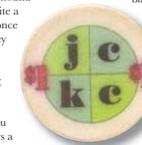
Gaming manager John Lyons runs a tight ship, which his players appreciate, even if not at first.

"We run our games technically by the book," Lyons says of his brightly lit 22-table room that overlooks the greyhound track. "Our rules created quite a stir in the room at first, but once players got used to them, they understood."

Spectators aren't allowed, and Lyons enforces a betting line like most rooms. "In short, always act like mature ladies and gentlemen and you will always be welcome," says a flier in the room.

No-limit hold'em dominates the offerings,

Where: Monticello
Phone: (850) 997-2561
Web site: www.jckcpokerroom.com



though an Omaha game gets going on some Fridays and Saturdays, Lyons said. Those days are also tournament days at JCKC with buy-ins starting at \$50. Saturday's event offers \$10 bounties. The

suited royal flush jackpot, currently diamonds, has hit three times in the first eight months it was offered, Lyons said.

There's greyhound racing every day except for Tuesday and on Sunday, when the facility is closed. The Turf Club features upscale dining options, and poker players have a parking lot next to the room.

COVER STORY: FLORIDA ROCKS THE WSOP

BY SCOTT LONG AND CHRIS COSENZA

\$6,945,796

MONEY WON

307

CASHES

21

FINAL TABLES

1

BRACELET

Do you think the world knows about Florida poker now? After 55 events over seven weeks, nearly 240 Floridians brought money and more home from the World Series of Poker this summer. And one player who cut his teeth in South Florida's poker scene will be back in November for the main event's newly delayed final table. Here's a look at how Florida put itself on the world poker map in Las Vegas this year.



Hollywood's Jacobo Fernandez looks at his hole cards during his five-hour heads-up marathon with David Singer in Event No. 3. Fernandez may not have won the bracelet, but he clearly was the class of the WSOP.

Jacobo Fernandez rules them all

They say sometimes players just get into a zone. But even when everything seems to be in sync, it's hard to consistently perform through the marathon rigors of the World Series of Poker. But Jacobo Fernandez of Hollywood did it.

With a staggering seven cashes, including three final tables, the Dominican Republic native held a tight grip on the prestigious World Series of Poker Player of the Year honors until well-known pro Erick Lindgren literally nipped him at the wire. Fernandez finished third, 13 points behind. He did, however, win *CardPlayer's* WSOP Player of the Year, as the magazine's criteria is slightly different.

Fernandez, who has four World Poker Tour cashes to his credit, spread out his success over the Series. He took third in Event No. 3 (pot-limit hold'em, \$1,500), and finished in 100th place in Event No. 48 (NLHE, \$2K). Along the way, he earned \$653,040 (the largest haul from Florida). And Fernandez is no specialist. His cashes came in stud, Omaha, Omaha/8 and three hold'em disciplines.

In Event No. 3, he went into the final table as the chip-leader with a quarter of the chips in play, but lost the lead when he got heads-up with pro David Singer. Fernandez banded Singer for five hours before the Las Vegas pro took the bracelet.

A bracelet, baby!

When Floridians make final tables 21 times, you have to think the law of averages will catch up sooner or later. And they did for Frank Gary of Fort Myers.

The 41-year-old retiree was the only Floridian to win the coveted bling this year, taking down Event No. 41 (\$1,500 mixed hold'em) for \$219,562. Gary, who sold his small high-tech company a few years ago and now travels the country in his RV, thanked God for his winning performance.



A look at the top Floridians at this year's WSOP:

Most money: Jacobo Fernandez, Hollywood, \$658,100

Most cashes: Jacobo Fernandez, Hollywood, 7

Most final tables: Jacobo Fernandez, Hollywood, 3

Five or more cashes: Jacobo Fernandez, Hollywood (7); Manelic "Manny" Minaya, Tampa (6); Michael Mizrachi, Hollywood (5); Benjamin Zamani, Boca Raton (5); Chad Brown, Margate (5); Stuart Paterson, Boca Raton (5).

The Main Event

Hold on, folks — it ain't over yet. A controversial decision by the WSOP to delay the final table of the main event for 117 days means nine players are still alive for the richest purse in poker this year.

David Rheem is one of them.

Rheem, sponsored by PokerStars, used to call Cooper City home, but now hails from Los Angeles.

Rheem will go into final-table play in November seventh out of the final nine with 10,230,000 chips. Nick Sortal of the *Star-Sentinel* has reported Rheem has an open arrest warrant for a misdemeanor trespassing charge in Hollywood.

That news led *Chicago Tribune* poker columnist Steve Rosenbloom to quip, "Harrah's and ESPN wanted a new kind of poker broadcast, and I'm thinking, having Florida authorities cuffing a wanted man as he reraises from the button at the biggest poker tournament in the

world is a new kind of poker broadcast."

Since then, Hollywood Police say they aren't actively seeking Rheem, so it looks like he can focus on his cards.

To say **Bernie Koerner** backed into his main event seat wouldn't be fair, but the story is funny just the same.

Imagine this: You're playing in Daytona Beach Kennel Club's satellite tournament for a chance to go to Las Vegas to play in the biggest poker tournament in the world.

It's bubble time and if just one more person gets eliminated it means you're flying west. And that's when you get a seven-hand penalty! That's what happened to Koerner, 64, of Daytona Beach.

"The girl on my left had her hands covering her cards," he said. "I didn't know she had a hand. Someone on my right went all-in and I was the chipleader at the time and I called and showed my cards. I didn't know there was someone left in the hand. I

should've just gotten a warning."

So off! Koerner went, banished to the rail (or in this case the lounge) to wait out seven agonizing hands as his stack was blinded off. But, when the penalty was over and he returned to his seat he discovered he already had earned a spot in the WSOP.

"When the penalty happened I turned to my tournament director and said 'Bernie's going to win a seat,'" Daytona Beach Kennel Club poker room manager Mark Hayes said. "Bernie's only been playing poker for about three years. It's a great story."

And he made the best of his WSOP seat, turning in the eighth-best performance by a Florida player. He finished 180th out of 6,844 and earned more than \$38,000. Considering he started his WSOP voyage by winning a \$65 satellite, Koerner isn't really complaining about the penalty.

"I probably would've won the tournament anyway," Koerner said, "but as it turns out the penalty ended up working in my favor."

2008 WORLD SERIES OF POKER

A look at how Floridians fared.



Is this you Stu?

WSOP photo/MP-01

WORLD SERIOUS!

The 39th annual World Series of Poker in Las Vegas was a record-breaking affair to say the least, and Floridians certainly contributed to the success. Here's a look at how the Sunshine State stacked up in the events, and when you see an event missing, relax, we didn't forget it. If Floridians were shut out of cashing in any tournament, such as the \$50K HORSE World Championship (Event No. 40), then we didn't list it.

2008 WORLD SERIES OF POKER

A look at how Floridians fared.

EVENT NO. 1: \$10K POT LIMIT HOLD'EM

Entrants: 352

Pro player **Nenad Medic** may have won the year's first event, but two Plantation players put Florida on the board.

Florida cashers

- 25. Ted Lawson, Plantation, \$26,470
- 28. Ben Sprengers, Plantation, \$23,162

NO. 2: \$1,500 NO LIMIT HOLD'EM

Entrants: 3,929

A total of 14 Floridians made the money in the largest non-main event tournament in history.

Florida cashers

- 49. Brian Haas, Celebration, \$12,871
- 54. Joseph Gollob, Hollywood, \$12,871
- 55. **David Zand**, Boca Raton, \$9,653
- 89. Manelic Minaya, Tampa, \$6,972
- 164. Christopher Elderkin, Apollo Beach, \$4,290
- 166. Robert Aron, Boca Raton, \$4,290
- 202. Michael Elderkin Jr., Apollo Beach, \$4,022
- 269. Jamin Shyers, Ocala, \$3,754
- 276. Jose Rosenkrantz, Miami, \$3,486
- 279. Terrence Albright, Orange Park, \$3,486
- 284. Martin Hammond, Merritt Island, \$3,486
- 361. Antuan Bunkley, Riviera Beach, \$2,949
- 367. Scott Krait, Dundee, \$2,949

NO. 3: \$1,500 NLHE

Entrants: 713

Jacobo Fernandez of Hollywood starts his incredible run with a runner-up finish to pro David Singer. Fernandez began the final table as chip leader, but his five-hour heads-up battle with Singer proved too much in the end.

Florida cashers

- 2. Jacobo Fernandez, Hollywood, \$136,644
- 10. Ryan Fair, Fort Lauderdale, \$12,766
- 23. Anthony Kushish, Tampa, \$5,547
- 46. Noah Schwartz, Bay Harbor Island, \$3,309
- 62. George Bronstein, Lutz, \$3,017

NO. 4: \$5K MIXED HOLD'EM

Entrants: 332

Benjamin Zamani of Boca Raton was the only Floridian to cash, pocketing \$23,406 for his 12th-place finish.

NO. 5: \$1K NLHE (W/REBUYS)

Entrants: 766 (2,258 rebuys)

Jamie Rosen of Boca Raton makes the final table but is the first eliminated once there.

Florida cashers

- 9. Jamie Rosen, Boca Raton, \$57,881
- 12. Adam Levy, Orlando, \$36,176
- 34. Chad Brown, Margate, \$13,602
- 35. Thomas Gabriel, Gainesville, \$13,602
- 42. James Kelly, Ormond Beach, \$10,708
- 60. William Jordan, Delray Beach, \$8,971
- 64. Kelly Slay, Jacksonville, \$8,103



NO. 6: \$1,500 OMAHA/8

Entrants: 833

George Guzman of Fort Lauderdale finishes third in the largest Omaha/8 tournament in history. Last year Guzman placed 36th in the same event.

Florida cashers

- 3. George Guzman, Fort Lauderdale, \$93,806
- 32. Robert Mangino, Plantation, \$5,230
- 37. Robert Campbell, North Miami, \$4,093
- 61. Robert Mizrachi, Sunny Isles Beach, \$3,411
- 65. Paul Wolfe, Boca Raton, \$3,070

NO. 7: \$2K NLHE

Entrants: 1,592

Manelic Minaya of Tampa earns his second cash of this Series, just missing the final table.

Florida cashers

- 10. Manelic Minaya, Tampa, \$33,321
- 35. Michael Scott, Tampa, \$11,590
- 40. Robert Thies, Debary, \$8,692
- 44. Ryan Franklin, Jacksonville, \$7,823
- 48. **Fred Goldberg**, Hollywood, \$7,823
- 51. Claudio Fonseca, Weston, \$7,823
- 95. Derek Tomko, Wreter Haven, \$4,636
- 69. Hung Lu, Cassiberry, \$4,636
- 117. Derek Feldman, Cocoa, \$4,056
- 131. Patrick Arnold, Ponte Vedra Beach, \$3,477
- 133. Richard Cleveland, Boynton Beach, \$3,477
- 142. Leif Forco, Tallahassee, \$3,477

NO. 8: \$10K MIXED EVENT

Entrants: 192

Popular professional player "Downtown" Chad Brown of Margate cashed for the second time, earning \$16,243 for his 23rd-place finish in this world championship event, which saw players rotate between eight games (No Limit Hold'em, Pot Limit Omaha, Deuce-to-Seven Triple-Draw Lowball, Limit Hold'em, Omaha/8, Razz, 7-Card Stud and Stud/8).

NO. 9: \$1,500 6-HANDED NLHE

Entrants: 1,236

David Zand of Weston bubbles out for the final table but still earns \$36K for his seventh-place finish. Antuan Bunkley of Riviera Beach, George Bronstein of Lutz and Ted Lawson of Plantation cash for the second time in this year's Series.

Florida cashers

- 7. David Zand, Weston, \$36,442
- 35. Antuan Bunkley, Riviera Beach, \$6,917
- 47. William Burdick, St. Petersburg, \$4,893
- 85. Timothy Bannigan, Parkland, \$2,868
- 94. Don Mullis, St. Pete Beach, \$2,531
- 103. George Bronstein, Lutz, \$2,531
- 114. Ted Lawson, Plantation, \$2,278
- 119. Bruce Sparks, North Fort Myers, \$2,278
- 122. Jeffrey Marr, Merritt Island, \$2,278
- 125. John Wierchek, PB Gardens, \$2,278

NO. 10: \$2,500 OMAHA/8 AND STUD/8

Entrants: 388

John Racener of Tampa, who won the WSOP Circuit Event in Atlantic City last year, and Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi of Hollywood each made the final table.

Florida cashers

- 6. John Racener, Tampa, \$37,481
- 8. Michael Mizrachi, Hollywood, \$24,095
- 18. Cory Wahnwitz, Palm Beach Gardens, \$6,247

NO. 11: \$5K NLHE SHOOTOUT

Entrants: 360

Adam Levy of Orlando and Jacobo Fernandez of Hollywood cash for the second time.

Florida cashers

- 11. Richard Kirsch, Pompano Beach, \$16,920
- 14. Adam Levy, Orlando, \$16,920
- 25. Jacobo Fernandez, Hollywood, \$16,920

NO. 12: \$1,500 LIMIT HOLD'EM

Entrants: 883

Dewey Tomko of Haines City picks up his 42nd career WSOP cash, placing him tied for 11th all-time for total cashes.

Florida cashers

- 28. Stuart Elkin, Delray Beach, \$5,526
- 34. Gregory Monaldi, Davie, \$5,526
- 41. Angel Navarro, Miami Beach, \$4,324
- 45. Ivan Scherzer, Miami Shores, \$4,324
- 68. Dewey Tomko, Haines City, \$3,243
- 72. Gary Marcum, Clermont, \$3,243

NO. 13: \$2,500 NLHE

Entrants: 1,397

Ariel Soffer of Hollywood finishes seventh and Adam Katz of Delray Beach bubbled the final table. Benjamin Zamani of Boca Raton picks up his second cash of the Series.

Florida cashers

- 7. Ariel Soffer, Hollywood, \$107,639
- 10. Adam Katz, Delray Beach, \$38,236
- 13. Jason Mercier, Fort Lauderdale, \$30,203
- 19. Adam Beas, Tallahassee, \$17,351
- 20. William Ragatz, Orlando, \$17,351
- 53. Benjamin Zamani, Boca Raton, \$9,961
- 66. Jeffrey Tomlinson, Jupiter, \$8,033
- 68. Putter Moore, Fernandina Beach, \$8,033
- 86. Tristan Wade, Boynton Beach, \$6,426

EVENT NO. 14: \$10K STUD

Entrants: 158

Jacobo Fernandez of Hollywood is the first Floridian with three cashes in 2008, taking 12th for \$33,417. Robert Mizrachi of Sunny Isles Beach took 14th for \$29,704.



2008 WORLD SERIES OF POKER

A look at how Floridians fared.

NO. 15: \$1K LADIES NLHE

Entrants: 1,190
Two Floridians — Maria Crumpler of Fort Lauderdale and Debbie Mitchell of Miramar — made the final table of the world championship event but couldn't close the deal.

- Florida cashers**
5. Maria Crumpler, Fort Lauderdale, \$60,101
6. Debbie Mitchell, Miramar, \$47,106
13. Jena Dak, Merritt Island, \$10,179
21. Nancy Ricks, Jacksonville, \$5,848
63. Lauren Falty, Hollywood, \$3,032
98. Irany Rodriguez, Orlando, \$1,949

NO. 16: \$2K OMAHA/8

Entrants: 553
Florida cashers
14. Joe Aronesty, Miami Beach, \$11,071
27. Hilbert Shirley, Winter Haven, \$6,541
35. Lamar Johnston, Cocoa Beach, \$5,535

NO. 17: \$1,500 NLHE SHOOTOUT

Entrants: 1,000
William Burdick of St. Pete picks up his second cash as Donald Baruch of Tampa (the event's defending champion) played, but didn't cash.

- Florida cashers**
25. Cory Zeldman, Coral Springs, \$5,596
52. William Burdick, St. Petersburg, \$5,596
79. Dale Phillips, Naples, \$5,596
81. Andrew Moss, Davie, \$5,596
99. Lisa Teobagy, Lighthouse Point, \$5,596

NO. 18: \$5K NL DEUCE-TO-7 LOWBALL

Entrants: 85
Chad Brown of Margate picks up his third cash, finishing 11th for \$34,700.

NO. 19: \$1,500 PLO OMAHA

Entrants: 759
Florida cashers
24. James Lampropoulos, Boca Raton, \$5,905
38. Anthony Cousineau, Daytona Beach, \$3,833
55. Christopher Landgraf, Tequesta, \$3,211
65. John Womack, Landerhill, \$2,900

NO. 20: \$2K LIMIT HOLD'EM

Entrants: 480
Peter Ferderber of Sarasota was the only Floridian to cash, placing 40th for \$4,368.

NO. 21: \$5K NLHE

Entrants: 731
Three Floridians — Benjamin Sprengers of Plantation, Jacobo Fernandez of Hollywood and Rajesh Vohra of Lake Worth — made the final table. For Fernandez, it was his fourth cash and second final table. It was Sprengers' second cash. Manelica Minaya of Tampa earns his third.



Going All In never felt so good

For most people, walking past a commercial booth and hearing someone hawk their product is like listening to fingernails on a chalkboard. But not Kendall's Michael Gaetjens. He has 107,000 reasons why he's glad he stopped by the All In Energy Drink booth at this year's World Series of Poker Expo in Las Vegas.

"The drink company fronted and co-funded by two-time WSOP Main Event champ Johnny Chan, was conducting a contest for its \$500,000 Invitational Poker Tournament. Gaetjens, in town to play one WSOP event, entered the freeroll. ... and

won \$107,000, plus a seat in the \$10,000 WSOP Main Event.

"This is my biggest win by far," said Gaetjens, who donated a portion of his winnings to the United Way. "I'm very proud of the laydown I made of two jacks that cost me 20 percent of my stack, but I knew the other guy had aces. It left me alive to come back and win."

Chan intervened Gaetjens after his victory and presented him with the prize.

Gaetjens didn't parlay the prize. Main Event seat into \$9 million, but it's safe to say he's ahead of the game.

- Florida cashers**
3. Benjamin Sprengers, Plantation, \$292,034
4. Jacobo Fernandez, Hollywood, \$288,781
5. Rajesh Vohra, Lake Worth, \$195,834
11. Michael Mizrahi, Hollywood, \$42,946
42. Manelica Minaya, Tampa, \$12,712
54. Joshua Ludines, St. Cloud, \$11,681
67. Christopher Miranda, Miami, \$9,619

NO. 22: \$3K HORSE

Entrants: 414
Dewey Tomko of Haines City gets his second cash, earning \$5,141 as the lone Floridian to cash.

NO. 23: \$2K NLHE

Entrants: 1,344
Florida cashers
12. Rick Lenoble, Coral Springs, \$29,108
19. Matthew Ehrlich, Wellington, \$13,208

24. Christopher Dombrowski, Dade City, \$13,208
33. Earl Coggin, Rockledge, \$10,162
53. Robert Perry, Highland Beach, \$7,582
63. Joshua Moskow, Boynton Beach, \$6,849
73. Duane Remington, Jacksonville, \$5,381

NO. 24: \$2,500 POT LIMIT HOLD'EM PLO

Entrants: 457
Kyle Hegeman of Jacksonville makes the final table and former bracelet winner Hilbert Shirley of Winter Haven gets his second cash of this year's Series.

- Florida cashers**
5. Kyle Hegeman, Jacksonville, \$62,014
35. Hilbert Shirley, Winter Haven, \$6,306

NO. 25: \$10K HEADS-UP NLHE

Entrants: 256
The Brothers Mizrahi — Robert and Michael

2008 WORLD SERIES OF POKER

A look at how Floridians fared.

— make the top 11 but can't secure the first bracelet for the family.

- Florida cashers**
7. Brandon Adams, Pensacola, \$54,144
8. Robert Mizrahi, Sunny Isles Beach, \$54,144
11. Michael Mizrahi, Hollywood, \$36,096

NO. 26: \$1,500 RAZZ

Entrants: 453
Manelica Minaya of Tampa cashes for the fourth time and former bracelet winner Ted Lawson of Plantation earns his third cash of the Series.

- Florida cashers**
37. Manelica Minaya, Tampa, \$2,473
38. Ted Lawson, Plantation, \$2,473
46. Eric Tomberlin, Orange Park, \$2,287

NO. 27: \$1,500 NLHE

Entrants: 2,706
Benjamin Zamani of Boca Raton and Hilbert Shirley of Winter Haven cash for the third time each.

- Florida cashers**
14. Jeffrey Brown, Hollywood, \$29,180
22. Salman Al, Miami, \$17,360
39. Benjamin Zamani, Boca Raton, \$10,711
68. Ronald Bording, Pincrest, \$7,387
112. Gary Muzlach, Winter Springs, \$4,063
126. Joshua Bird, Dade City, \$4,063
155. Ian Lowinger, Aventura, \$3,509
172. Leroy Davidson, Sunrise, \$3,139
234. Michael Pakovoda, Pembroke Pines, \$2,954
256. Hilbert Shirley, Winter Haven, \$2,770
263. Gary Long, Naples, \$2,770

NO. 28: \$5K PLO (WIREBUYS)

Entrants: 152
Ted Lawson of Plantation earns his fourth cash as the only Floridian in the money. He finished 17th, good for \$54,003.

NO. 29: \$3K NLHE

Entrants: 716
Stewart Newman of Coral Gables made the final table and "Dangerous" Don "Final Table" Mullis of St. Pete Beach got his second cash of the Series. In 2005, he made eight final tables in eight months on the WSOP Circuit, including wins at Tunica Grand and Harvey's Lake Tahoe. Stuart Paterson of Boca Raton also got his second cash of the Series.

- Florida cashers**
6. Stewart Newman, Coral Gables, \$88,927
16. Don Mullis, St. Pete Beach, \$14,821
31. Ron Remington, Jacksonville, \$9,287
41. Thomas Akorn, Sunrise, \$7,311
56. Stuart Paterson, Boca Raton, \$6,126
57. Hilbert Shirley, Winter Haven, \$6,126
66. Hans Wenzler, Miami, \$5,533



NO. 30: \$10K LIMIT HOLD'EM

Entrants: 218
Dewey Tomko of Haines City picks up his third cash in the world championship event. Tomko was runner-up in the 1982 and 2001 main events. Michael "The Grinder" Mizrahi of Hollywood picks up his fourth cash as well.

- Florida cashers**
15. Michael Mizrahi, Hollywood, \$30,738
23. Dewey Tomko, Haines City, \$20,492

NO. 31: \$2,500K 6-HANDED NLHE

Entrants: 1,012
Seth Fisher of Palm Harbor finished runner-up to Dario Minieri of Italy. Before taking up poker, Fischer played college basketball and attended Emory University in Atlanta. Manelica Minaya of Tampa cashed for the fifth time, and Jason Mercier of Davie and Christopher Dombrowski of Dade City for the second time each.

Florida cashers

2. Seth Fischer, Palm Harbor, \$330,519
15. Jonathan Honig, Boca Raton, \$19,086
22. Jason Mercier, Davie, \$15,594
34. Scott Zalkheim, Davie, \$9,775
37. Manelica Minaya, Tampa, \$8,379
51. Michael Glasser, Boca Raton, \$6,284
69. Christopher Dombrowski, Dade City, \$4,655
74. Bobby Bradley, Wellington, \$4,655

NO. 32: \$1,500 NLHE

Entrants: 2,304
Anthony Signore of Boynton Beach, playing in his first major poker tournament, earned second place in a monster field.

Florida cashers

2. Anthony Signore, Boynton Beach, \$366,387
15. Scott Kahler, Gainesville, \$26,732
88. Richard Ramsey, West Palm Beach, \$5,031
92. Raquel Siegel, Orlando, \$4,402
112. Steven Miller, Key Largo, \$3,773
133. Victor Lento, Sunrise, \$3,144
166. Justin Kramer, Fort Lauderdale, \$2,830
179. Alvin Willis, Haines City, \$2,830
183. Barry Stoves, Orlando, \$2,830
186. Richard Whitebrook, Miami Beach, \$2,830

NO. 34: \$1,500 PLO (WIREBUYS)

Entrants: 320
Jacobo Fernandez of Hollywood adds to his impressive run, taking third and earning \$222,659 for his efforts as the only Floridian to cash.

NO. 35: \$1,500 SEVEN-CARD STUD

Entrants: 381
Chad Brown of Margate picks up his fourth cash of the Series.



Florida cashers

10. Roy Ross, Hollywood, \$11,441
16. Chad Brown, Margate, \$4,680

NO. 36: \$1,500 NLHE

Entrants: 2,447
Doug Middleton of Orlando made the final table while Thomas Gabriel of Gainesville, Earl Coggin of Rockledge and Justin Kramer of Fort Lauderdale earned their second cash.

Florida cashers

5. Doug Middleton, Orlando, \$177,028
19. Thomas Gabriel, Gainesville, \$16,032
33. Gerald Martello, Baker, \$12,692
39. Richard Daeb, Haleah, \$10,020
48. Howard Millan, New Port Richey, \$9,018
65. Joss Lopez, Miami, \$7,014
73. Jose Delaguardia, Panama City, \$6,012
93. Matthew Smith, Litchia, \$4,676
99. Tony Burton, Santa Rosa Beach, \$4,676
145. Earl Coggin, Rockledge, \$3,340
176. Arthur Evans, Davie, \$3,006
179. Justin Kramer, Fort Lauderdale, \$3,006

NO. 37: \$10K OMAHA/8

Entrants: 235
Stuart Paterson of Boca Raton picked up his third cash. He finished 15th in this world championship event as the lone Floridian to cash.

NO. 38: \$2K PLHE

Entrants: 605
Benjamin Zamani of Boca Raton gets his fourth cash as his third and Robert Perry of Highland Beach earns his second.

Florida cashers

10. Benjamin Zamani, Boca Raton, \$14,314
15. Christopher Dombrowski, Dade City, \$11,561
20. Robert Perry, Highland Beach, \$6,606
23. David Brooker, Stuart, \$6,606
54. Veronica Castellana, Tampa, \$4,074

NO. 39: \$1,500 NLHE

Entrants: 2,720
Michael Glasser of Boca Raton, a criminal defense attorney before turning pro poker player, made the final table and earned his second cash of the Series. Hilbert Shirley of Winter Haven got his fourth cash. Adam Levy of Orlando his third and Tristan Wade of Boynton Beach his second.

Florida cashers

8. Michael Glasser, Boca Raton, \$85,394
37. Norman Contreras, Fort Lauderdale, \$10,767
45. Gerald Watters, Jacksonville, \$10,767
46. Todd Link, Plantation, \$9,653
58. Robert Giangullit, Lake Worth, \$8,539
59. Scott Ritchey, Miami, \$8,539
74. Adam Levy, Orlando, \$6,311
93. Evan Cappello, Sebring, \$4,826
97. Christopher Weaver, Jacksonville, \$4,826

2008 WORLD SERIES OF POKER

A look at how Floridians fared.

- 124. Russell Ellison, Tallahassee, \$4,084
- 141. James Leonard, Jacksonville, \$3,527
- 160. Joseph Daniels, Fort Lauderdale, \$3,527
- 161. Marc Levy, Boynton Beach, \$3,527
- 163. Hilbert Shirey, Winter Haven, \$3,155
- 258. Louis Corrie, Pompano Beach, \$2,784
- 259. Tristan Wade, Boynton Beach, \$2,784

NO. 41: \$1,500 MIXED HOLD'EM

Entrants: 731
 Frank Gary, a 42-year-old retiree from Fort Myers, wins Florida's first bracelet in 2008. A former software engineer, Gary, who won \$219,562, sold his small high-tech company a few years ago and travels the country in his RV, playing poker in three-month intervals, according to the WSOP. Stuart Paterson of Boca Raton got his fourth cash and Marc Levy earned his second.

Florida cashers

- 1. Frank Gary, Fort Myers, \$219,562
- 40. Marc Levy, Boynton Beach, \$3,691
- 62. Stuart Paterson, Boca Raton, \$3,093

NO. 42: \$1K SENIORS NLHE

Entrants: 2,218
 Gerald Martello of Baker earned his second cash of the Series in this world championship event.

Florida cashers

- 10. Ronald Puelo, Sarasota, \$22,202
- 32. Lawrence Bass, Tamarac, \$7,669
- 44. Horace Thomas, Lake Geneva, \$6,055
- 50. Bruce Schaefer, Fort Myers, \$5,149
- 72. Jerry Kosoy, St. Augustine, \$4,238
- 88. Dana Parham, Pembroke Pines, \$3,229
- 123. Paul Gratsch, Cocoa, \$2,422
- 156. Gerald Martello, Baker, \$2,018
- 158. Jerry Smith, Pembroke Pines, \$2,018
- 177. Robert Adien, Port Orange, \$1,816
- 179. Samuel Hays, Tampa, \$1,816

NO. 43: \$1,500 PLO/8

Entrants: 720
 Jacobo Fernandez of Hollywood cashed for the sixth time to move into the points lead for WSOP Player of the Year.

Florida cashers

- 13. Mark Gallo, Lake Worth, \$9,828
- 18. Ian Graham, Indian Harbour Beach, \$7,371
- 30. Jacobo Fernandez, Hollywood, \$4,619
- 43. John Lloyd, Madeira Beach, \$3,636
- 49. Damon Singer, Coral Springs, \$3,341
- 62. Henry Palocz, Sarasota, \$3,046
- 70. Robert Lewis, Miami Beach, \$2,751

NO. 44: \$1K NLHE (W/REBUYS)

Entrants: 879
 Stuart Paterson of Boca Raton got his fifth cash to finish in 55th place.

Florida cashers

- 38. Gustavo Echeverri, Miami, \$11,664
- 55. Stuart Paterson, Boca Raton, \$9,720
- 73. Bryan Asch, Port Orange, \$7,776

NO. 46: \$5K 6-HANDED NLHE

Entrants: 805
 Christopher Dombrowski of Dade City got his fourth cash while Jason Mercier of Davie and Michael Glasser of Boca Raton each got their third cash.

Florida cashers

- 33. David Farber, Heathrow, \$16,647
- 34. Christopher Dombrowski, Dade City, \$16,647
- 51. Jason Mercier, Davie, \$10,972
- 66. Michael Glasser, Boca Raton, \$9,080
- 69. Glen Chong, Sarasota, \$8,323
- 75. Peter Alan Smarfit, Aventura, \$8,323

NO. 47: \$1,500 STUD/8

Entrants: 544
 David Brooker of Stuart got his second cash. The winner of the event was Ryan Hughes, a 27-year-old pro from Phoenix. His mother, however, lives in Florida and ordered him a peanut butter and jelly sandwich served tableside, the World Series of Poker reported. She included a card to wish him well, and the sandwich was sliced diagonally, just like he liked it as a child.

Florida cashers

- 12. David Brooker, Stuart, \$11,880
- 37. Michelle Polgar, Orange City, \$2,895

NO. 48: \$2K NLHE

Entrants: 2,317
 Jacobo Fernandez of Hollywood gets his seventh cash. Adam Levy of Orlando gets his fourth. Tristan Wade of Boynton Beach his third and Gary Long of Naples, Gerald Watterson of Jacksonville Duane Remington of Jacksonville their second each.

Florida cashers

- 24. Sean McCabe, Sunny Isles Beach, \$20,241
- 40. Jose Severino, Panama City, \$12,650
- 46. Tristan Wade, Boynton Beach, \$11,385
- 58. John Bird, Dade City, \$10,120
- 65. Adam Levy, Orlando, \$8,855
- 79. Gary Long, Naples, \$7,590
- 82. Alex Prondis, Miami, \$6,747
- 86. Richard Blancher, Fort Lauderdale, \$6,747
- 100. Jacobo Fernandez, Hollywood, \$5,060
- 107. Gerald Watterson, Jacksonville, \$5,060
- 115. Gerald DeNicholas, Tampa, \$5,060
- 123. Duane Remington, Jacksonville, \$5,060
- 139. Raymond Millard, Davie, \$4,216

NO. 49: \$1,500 NLHE

Entrants: 2,718
 Tampa's Manelic Minaya notched his sixth cash.

Florida cashers

- 41. Manelic Minaya, Tampa, \$10,759
- 68. Steven Schaefer, Davie, \$7,420
- 88. Carlos Fernandez, Sunny Isles Beach, \$5,565
- 117. Alan Bieler, Plantation, \$4,081
- 121. Eugene Bauerlein, St. Petersburg, \$4,081
- 133. Christopher Tolina, DeBary, \$3,524
- 149. Steven Karp, North Miami Beach, \$3,524
- 159. Paul Balzano, Sunrise, \$3,524
- 167. Nicholas Lupold, Ponte Verda Beach, \$3,153
- 168. Jack Sumner, St. Augustine, \$3,153
- 187. Brandon Gerstein, Tallahassee, \$3,153
- 202. Greg Silverstein, Davie, \$2,948
- 242. Bruce Simberg, Boca Raton, \$2,782
- 245. William Soffin, Delray Beach, \$2,782

NO. 50: \$10K PLO

Entrants: 381
 If just wasn't I meant to be for Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi of Hollywood, who pocketed \$331,279 for his third-place finish in this world championship event. Mizrachi, who was the chipleader when the final table started, was the lone Floridian to cash (his fifth).



NO. 51: \$1,500 HORSE

Entrants: 803
 Jason Dollinger of Coral Springs made the final table and Chad Brown of Margate earned his fifth cash.

Florida cashers

- 5. Jason Dollinger, Coral Springs, \$54,804
- 18. Hoyt Verner Jr., Melbourne Beach, \$6,686
- 24. Chad Brown, Margate, \$6,486
- 51. Kristian Lord, Palm Harbor, \$3,288
- 68. Teddy Selby, Coral Springs, \$2,630

NO. 52: \$1,500 NLHE

Entrants: 2,693
 Marc Levy of Boynton Beach picked up his third cash, and it was another mammoth field. Richard Kirsch of Pompano Beach, Gary Marcum of Clermont, Derek Tomko of Winter Haven and Eugene Bauerlein of St. Petersburg all earned their second cash.

Florida cashers

- 20. Richard Kirsch, Pompano Beach, \$17,276
- 36. Gary Marcum, Clermont, \$13,600
- 88. Keilen Ledbetter, Coral Springs, \$5,513

2008 WORLD SERIES OF POKER

A look at how Floridians fared.

THE NOVEMBER NINE!



After 12 days of play these nine players will have to wait a bit longer to see who'll be the 2008 WSOP Main Event champion. They'll return to the Rio in Las Vegas on Nov. 9 to play for the title and the \$9.1 million first prize. They are, in descending chip count: Dennis Phillips, 53, St. Louis, 26,995,000; Ivan Demidov, 27, Moscow, 24,400,000; Scott Montgomery, 26, Perth, Canada, 19,690,000; Peter Eastgate, 23, Odense, Denmark, 18,375,000; Yoon Schwartz, 38, Brooklyn, 12,525,000; Darius Saharov, 39, Toronto, 12,520,000; David Rheem, 28, L.A. (though he cut his teeth in Florida poker rooms), 10,230,000; Craig Margulis, 23, Arlington, Texas, 10,210,000, and Kelly Kim, 31, Whittier, Calif., 2,620,000. The final two will play heads up Nov. 10 and ESPN will broadcast the final table at 9 p.m. on Nov. 11.

NO. 56 \$10K NLHE MAIN EVENT

Entrants: 6,844
 The slate did well in the last WSOP tournament of the year with 37 cashes.
 48. Adam Levy, Orlando, \$135,100
 51. Alfredo Fernandez, Miami, \$135,100
 53. Alan Gould, Plantation, \$135,100
 70. Terry Lado, Ormond Beach, \$96,500
 91. Timothy Taylor, Tampa, \$51,466
 92. Geoffrey Hering, Jacksonville, \$51,466
 156. Joshua Freeman, Plantation, \$41,816
 180. Bernie Kooser, Daytona Beach, \$38,600
 206. William Soffin, Delray Beach, \$38,600
 246. Doran Malinasky, Hollywood, \$35,383
 253. Marc Fineman, Boca Raton, \$35,383
 294. William Burdick, St. Petersburg, \$32,166
 317. John Gordon, Clearwater, \$32,166
 321. Thayer Rasmussen, Largo, \$32,166
 324. Kevin Schaffel, Weston, \$32,166
 335. Tracy Scala, Ocean Ridge, \$32,166

NO. 53: \$1,500 LHE SHOOTOUT

Entrants: 823
 Sja Mammom of Plantation was the final Floridian to cash before the Main Event. Mammom took 22nd, good for \$5,055 as the only Floridian to cash in the event.

NO. 55 CASINO EMPLOYEES NLHE

Entrants: 930
 Mark Ellwell of Miramar took 71st and earned \$1,088 as the lone Floridian to cash in the event.



The ultimate freeroller

Alfredo Fernandez of Miami, the second-highest finisher from Florida in the main event, paid nothing to enter the tournament, the WSOP reported. Fernandez won his seat through AOL's Games.com Web site in a free online tournament series, beating 2,396 players for his seat. He lasted until Day 6 of the main event, bowing out in 51st place.



2008 records
 58,720 entries (an increase of 8 percent over last year's 54,288)
 \$180,676,248 prize pool (an increase of \$20,880,030 over last year)
 118 countries/territories entered events (an increase of 31)
 3,929 Event No. 2 entrants — largest non-main event field in history

SCOTT LONG'S TOP PICKS FROM THE 2008 WSOP EXPO

My wife says I'm easily marketed. And she's right. I love gizmos, gadgets and plain old neat stuff. That's why I never miss the Gaming Life Expo at the World Series of Poker. Here are some of the highlights, and for audio, check out the July 18 and July 25 podcasts on antepmagazine.com.



PokerTips, \$4.95
pokerdie.com
 Faced with an excruciating decision at the table? This cylinder card protector comes to the rescue. Just shake it up, and the die inside will give you the advice you need to make it to the final table. For special orders, put your company logo on it.



Gamblin Clothing Co.
gamblinclothing.com
 This Canadian poker-themed clothing company has moved south into the States. Its most unique offerings are for kids. Don't worry — they're responsible. The Playin line puts a smile on parents' faces.

Big Slik Poker Tables
bigslikipokertables.com

If you want to really impress at poker night, a custom table handmade from quality materials won't disappoint. Choose from traditional luminescent, championship or elite styles, and customize from there. They'll be crated and shipped to your front door.



Royal Poker Eye-Wear, \$79.95
royal-eyewear.com
 Ever misread your cards wearing sunglasses in the dimly lit poker room? A "dual dielectric anti-reflective film coating" on these glasses brightens your view while still hiding your intentions.



Navigamer, \$89.99
onlinepokercasinos.com
 Plug this keypad into your USB port and you immediately have all the required poker commands, including a "raise 4x" option just a key away.



Poker Heads, \$19.99
pokerheads.net
 Bring your favorite poker player down to size (well, except for the head, but then again, have you met a poker player without a big head?). All the top pros are now bobbleheads that can sit on your desk, or even your cards. Need advice? Um, they'll probably always bobble "yes."



Poker Fokus, \$29.99
pokerfokus.com
 These little capsules use Rhodiola rosea and other all-natural ingredients to help you keep your mind sharp when you're at the poker table. And the best thing? No running to the little boys room like you do after downing an energy drink.



Poker Faces, \$9.99
pokerfaces.tv
 Humberto Brenes made these famous with his shark attacks at the World Series, and now you can put a humorous face on top of your cards. The protectors come in appropriate names, like Rock, Shades or Nuts, and you can even honor U.S. soldiers with a Screaming Eagle.

SCOTT LONG'S TOP PICKS FROM THE 2008 WSOP EXPO



Pokersides Side Tables, \$79.99
suidedinc.com
 If you're fitting tight and snugly in your den for poker night, and grimace every time Uncle Phil puts his beer on your table, then check out these triangular tables with drink holders designed to slip nicely between players. These come in a number of different finishes, too.



Pimp My Table, \$199
pimpmytable.net
 If you're building that poker table you always wanted, why not take one more trip around the block and really personalize the felt? Any logo can be printed on your felt (those copyright images will need to get approval), so it's great for fans of all kinds of things to show their pride.

Ultimate Dealer Button, \$29.95
ultimatedealerbutton.com

The "official dealer button of the World Series of Poker" can handle your tournament night, too. Programmable to up to 19 rounds, 99 hours and \$99,000-chip levels, you can run your tournament right from the table without a laptop.



Hands Free Poker, \$99
handsfreepoker.com
 Those long online sessions take a toll on the wrists. Untether yourself from your computer with this voice-recognition poker aid. When it's your turn to act, just tell the computer whether you want to raise, call or fold.



Poker Whiz Wheel, \$25.49
pokerwhizwheel.com
 When Donny Campbell of St. Petersburg was in the Marines, he kept complex data sets about weapons on a spinning wheel. Today, he uses a wheel to decide how to play each of the Texas Hold'em starting hands, depending on position and number of opponents.



DBDealer products
dbdealer.com
 The folks who thought to put a handy timer into a dealer button have been busy creating a lot of new products, from jewelry to card protectors that let you spin for your outcome.



Terrapin Treasures, \$30
terrapintreasures.com
 Use a photo of your grandkids, your company's logo or even a reminder to not chase flushes — whatever you want — to make this borosilicate glass card protector a personal keepsake. For a one-time setup fee of \$60, you can insert some personality into the clear glass.



TUNE IN TODAY

Ante Up, the longest running poker show on the Internet, is still cranking out the best podcast on the planet. Tune in Fridays at anteupmagazine.com or subscribe on iTunes for free. And just in case you haven't heard our latest shows (how dare you!) here are some recent highlights.

JULY 11, SCOTT RETURNS FROM THE WSOP

"It looks like a little wave. I said 'Scott, that signature is really pathetic ... I want you to turn over this slip and write your name down in real letters, in cursive. Do you know what that means?' He takes the pen ... and he says 'I forgot how to make a cursive S!'"
 — Ante Up friend Mike Fasso talking about Scott Long's inability to master something we all learned in third grade.



"The first time I see Scott sign his name ... I look at it and say 'Were you just checking to see if the pen had ink?'" — Chris Cosenza, suddenly nervous about launching Ante Up Magazine with Mr. Long.

AUG. 1, EVY SPEAKS



"Yeah, but we already had been there for a few days so it wasn't so bad. You know like when you bust out of a tournament in, say, Tunica, Mississippi, you're in TUNICA, MISSISSIPPI (laughs) but, when you bust out in Manila at least you're in some exotic location."
 — Poker pro Evelyn Ng, describing her recent trip to the Philippines, which took 18 hours by plane only to bust out of the main event (her only tournament there) in 10 minutes. Read the full interview on Page 44 or go to anteupmagazine.com to listen to the entire show.

AUG. 1, WSOP EXPO REVIEW

Scott suddenly gets inspired by the Red Bull Flugtag that recently visited Tampa.
Scott: It only has to be 450 pounds, including the pilot, which means you're out.
Chris: Yeah, I'd tip us over right there.
Scott: They want you to get some semblance of air time, and almost nobody did, everybody went straight into the water, kinda like Leonardo and Kate did.
Chris: I'll never let go Jack; I'll never let go!



JULY 25, HAND OF THE WEEK

We're holding Q♠10♠ in a cash game with the river coming. It's heads-up, the board's 10♥10♦K♥5♣ and the betting has been fairly strong to this point.
Scott: "We go to the river ... Queen of hearts."
Chris: "Sweet ... It seems like we have the best hand."
Scott: "There could also be a straight flush out there."
Chris: "Yeah, a royal flush is possible. But you know what? If the guy has a royal more power to him."
Scott: "Exactly. Oh, you sound more like Mike Sexton every day."
 To find out what happened in the hand go to anteupmagazine.com to download this show.

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HOLDOUT

A look at non-Texas Hold'em games — This month: PINEAPPLE

YOU GET 3 HOLE CARDS? NOW, THAT'S CRAZY!

If you think you've mastered your two-card poker hand, maybe it's time to add a third card and experience the tropical fun of Pineapple.



The pained look on her face summed it up. Karen, a player in our home game, agonized over her decision. The clock ticked. Players got restless. The clock ticked some more. And Karen was no closer to figuring out what to do.

In the end, she broke her made set, tossing one of those sevens into the muck to try to complete her flush. We all knew it, too, by her shrug of disgust as nary a heart appeared on the turn or the river. Welcome to the wacky world of Pineapple.

If you take up this crazy game, you'll surely find yourself in Karen's shoes early on. But that anguish is all part of the fun of this "three-card, then discard" poker variation. I call Crazy Pineapple often in our home game. It's an action game,

and a good change of pace from Texas Hold'em that actually helps you fine-tune your hold'em skills. It's also good training wheels for my favorite game: Omaha/8 or better.

A couple of things to keep in mind the first time you deal yourself in:

With three starting cards, hand values go up: Don't get married to top pair, top kicker.

Adjust your game depending of the number of players: Heads up, that pair might be safe. But against multiple players, consider going for that draw.

Remember that discard: If you have three spades in your hand, you'll have to give one up. That's one less card that can complete your flush.

Oh, and here's one final story of caution. At the Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles, I once sat down and turned a straight on my first hand. The dealer barked out: "Jack-high straight for high ... no lows!"

Oops. I probably should have asked the dealer whether we were playing high-low before I sat down.

How to play

Pineapple comes in three main flavors, but all are based on Texas Hold'em with one big twist: You're dealt three hole cards instead of two. The rest of the game is played just like hold'em with a three-card flop, one-card turn and one-card river with betting rounds after each. It can be played high-low split, too, with the highest hand taking half of the pot and the lowest hand taking the other half. The flavors:

Pineapple: Discard one of your cards after the pre-flop betting.

Crazy Pineapple: The most popular flavor, you discard one card after the flop-round betting.

Tahoe: You never discard, but you can't use all three cards in your hand at showdown.

On the web

Pineapple-Poker.com: A good site with tips and strategy, including how to play jammed pots.

Where to play Pineapple

- Ebro Greyhound Park
- Miami Jai-Alai
- Ocala Poker & Jai-Alai
- Orange Park Kennel Club
- St. Johns Greyhound Park
- Tampa Bay Downs

A recent Crazy Pineapple hand from the Ante Up home game. I raised pre-flop, got heads up, threw away the K♠ and won the hand.

ME: A♠, K♠, A♣
 FLOP: 2♣, 4♣, 7♣
 TURN: 6♣, 9♣
 RIVER: J♣
 OPPONENT: [Ante Up logo]

COLUMBO TURNS THE PAGE

Solve the mystery.

TWO BIG STACKS, ONE BIG BUBBLE

Welcome to my new column where you'll have the opportunity to play with me on a crucial hand. For this first episode, I signed up for a \$20 sit-and-go tournament online.

The Steiny: We've been playing for a while and we're down to our final four players. This is a standard SNG that pays three places. The night air is cool and the faint scent of cigar smoke lingers in the air. As we enter the next orbit on the button, we notice two players have opened up a lead. ... and we're one of them.

Let's set up the scene of the crime.

Seat 4: Cutoff (2,260 chips)

Seat 6: Columbus (4,582) on the button

Seat 7: SB (4,650)

Seat 8: BB (2,000)

The level is 60-120 and the cutoff slyly folds. We're dealt 9♠10♠. I'll show you mugs how it's going to work before we put you to the real test. Do you:

- Just fold and let the blinds battle it out?
- Limp along?
- Raise it for a steal?

Well, if you folded you made a solid decision. There's no reason to get involved with marginal hands on the bubble against the only player who can break you.

Did you limp in to see if you can flop big and knock someone out? Well, OK. You're on the button and it seems safe enough. But with short-handed play you have to expect to react to a raise here. And sure enough, the chip-leading SB now makes it 3x. Thinking of folding now? With a limp raise that's not really an option and you would have to admit your mistake. If you still decide to fold now, go get a piece of paper and write down 10 times "I will not limp if I'm ready to fold."

But limping and calling is not our style, see? In this world, you need to steal before you're stolen from. That's life at the tables, Kid. So you raise to 360 and the chipleader in the small blind calls. The big blind knows trouble when he sees it and folds, hoping to back door into the money as the leaders go to the flop heads-up. The pot is 840.

You look back and stare at your 9♠10♠

on the screen as if the cards might upgrade through force of will ... and they do! The flop is a glorious one: A♠10♠10♠. At this point the SB checks. You're in position and you just flopped trips. The smirk on your face is hard to wipe away as you decide your next move. Carefully weighing the value of a probe bet to disguise strength vs. a strong continuation bet you decide to make a strong bet of 720 chips. We like our hand and want to get more money into the pot.

Your opponent calls! The pot is 2,280 and the turn is the Q♠. He checks, refusing to take control of the hand.

The board's becoming more coordinated than that 3-piece suit, but here's where the metal meets the muscle. If you check, you're trying to see a showdown at the current pot size. If you bet, you're post-committed. Rather than a big decision on the river, we need to decide our action now.

If you want to play for your opponent's stack turn to page 46.

If you want to see a less climactic showdown turn back to page 14.

"Columbo" has a weekly mystery on the Ante Up Poker Podcast at anteupmagazine.com.

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WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

The Nonverbals of Our Age

I'm often asked if culture makes a big difference in nonverbals. It's a valid question and asked so often that it serves as a reminder that even an amateur can recognize that where we grow up will influence some of the things our body says. The question I've never been asked after years of giving seminars is, "How does age affect the nonverbals or poker tells?" So let me jump in with some observations and hopefully some answers.

I'm no authority on aging, but five years into an AARP membership I can now see how I'm changing and how time has affected some of my nonverbal behavior. Let me start with some of the behaviors we see with aging, because here in Florida, with its large retired population who have taken up poker, understanding the changes that are occurring could be significant.

Those of you who are familiar with my book *Read 'em and Reap* are aware I don't get into culturally derived behaviors. The book is dedicated to the study of those behaviors that are most accurate because they're controlled by the emotional part of the brain known as the limbic system, and are thus universal. The behaviors that stem from that region of the brain can't be faked readily; they truly reflect what we feel, think and intend. Because this part of the brain reacts to the world in real time, we also call it the honest brain. This part of the brain doesn't know how to say, "Tell them we are not home." It merely reacts to how we feel, and in poker that's huge because we're comfortable or uncomfortable with our hole cards or community cards, accurately reflecting whether we're strong, marginal or weak.

So the question is: "Do limbic reactions change with age or over time?" Yes, however, it requires a lot of explanation, which for the serious poker player may make a difference.

As we get older we have less testosterone. This affects our body chemistry, including the makeup of our

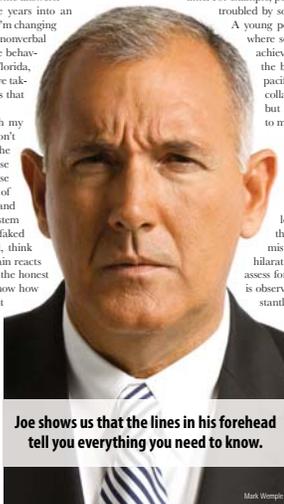
muscles and our reaction times. This is why athletes take artificial hormones. What to young people may look like an awfully long time to change lanes or look at hole cards, is merely a reflection of the slowing down of our bodies. But just because we slow down and no longer have "cat-like reflexes" doesn't mean our bodies don't show emotions. The reactions are there and so are the emotions; they just take time. For example, people often touch their necks when they're troubled by something (including having a rag hand).

A young person may reach for that neck instantly where someone later in life may take their time achieving that same behavior. In both instances the brain is saying, "Please do something to pacify my concern (rub the neck, ventilate the collar, massage the back of the head, etc.)," but with the elderly, it just may take longer to manifest.

The elderly may show more shaking or quivering of the hands that's not associated with how they feel about their cards but rather is a reflection of their health. Low blood sugar, stress, fatigue, alcohol, drugs, coffee or any number of neurological disorders can cause the hands or the body to tremble or shake. This is often mistaken for excitement or anticipatory exhilaration. It is not. One of the easiest ways to assess for this is to determine when this behavior is observed and in what context. If we see it constantly, most likely it's physiological or neurological, not game-driven.

Because we lose more precise muscle movements in our hands as we age, often times mature poker players will accidentally knock over or fumble with their chips. It's not excitement necessarily, but rather this natural progression that unfortunately afflicts many of the elderly, especially those with arthritis.

Another factor is the lines of our faces. The older we are the more lines we have on our faces. These lines develop as a result of muscle activity



Joe shows us that the lines in his forehead tell you everything you need to know.

Mark Wemple

underneath our skin so that over time, when we smile, we have lines on the corners of our mouth that frame a smile. We also have lines on our forehead from frowning and so forth.

As we grow older we're at a distinct disadvantage in that these lines are not only deeply imbedded, they reflect our true emotions (frowning of forehead, knitting eyebrows, frowning, etc.). These are extremely accurate in revealing what we feel or think and are easily read.

One of the recommendations I make to older poker players and even young ones is wear a visor or a hat to mask those very expressive lines. You can't monitor them or control them so you may as well hide them.

Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on your point of view), young people who avoid stress and sun can avoid having these lines, including some well into their 30s. I also know women in poker who have gotten Botox injections so the lines disappear, thus reducing their exposure to being read and obviously lowering their apparent age. And, I know of at least one pro male poker player who confided in me he does this. I suspect there are more, or will be.

Daniel Negreanu, whom I have known for the past five years and is a terrific poker player, often reveals the strength of his hand by the lines and contortions of his face. So young players aren't exempt from this tell. On my face you can fairly much read how I feel as the lines of my face, perhaps marked by life's experiences, tell quite a bit about me.

So what about young people? Well they play a lot of poker online. They've played thousands of hands so they're really good with betting patterns and statistics. But I find few are really good at reading people, lacking interpersonal skills. Young players who attend our WSOP Academy camps find they need extra handson help in assessing tells. The good thing is their minds are more flexible and can be more receptive to new information.

One other thing that often happens with new poker players, usually youngsters, is called "irrational exuberance." This is the phenomenon that often irritates Phil Hellmuth. A novice player with a marginal hand becomes giddy and excited over a "rag" hand causing pros to fold when they had stronger hands. I know this can happen to old timers, too, as sometimes I get excited for a pair of anything, including deuces.

So, next time you're at the table be sure to look around. Whatever your age, you'll notice behaviors that will inform and instruct. The tells are there, somewhere on the body, young and old, men and women, for there is such a thing as a poker face, but there is no such thing as a poker body.

Joe Navarro is the author of *Read 'em and Reap* and *What Every Body Is Saying*. He lives in the Tampa area and is a frequent guest on Ante Up's poker show at anteupmagazine.com.



Daniel Negreanu often gives away the strength of his hand by his facial expressions... what's he holding here? One thing's for sure: He needs an iron for that shirt.

Neil Stoddard/PokerStars

RIDING WITH THE COWBOY

KENNA JAMES • Our pro columnist shares his thoughts on the poker life.

LURE OF THE FELT WAS TOO MUCH TO IGNORE

I hope to teach you how to play better poker with my column, but first I thought I'd give you a peek into how I came to fall in love with the great game of poker. It's a hot summer afternoon as I turn my car into Hollywood Park. The casino, then only a couple of years old, is attached to the famous horsetrack and it's race day.



KENNA JAMES

The horses thunder by, the crowd screams and I pause for a moment, enveloped in an atmosphere that reflects what I feel inside. It's 1996 and I'm applying for a job as a dealer. I've given up my dream of becoming a famous movie actor and am looking for a new career. I'm 34 years old, yet today I feel as young, naive and nervous as a kid applying for his first job at McDonald's. I've been in dealers' school for the past couple of months but I still feel a bit green. I walk in and see a sea of poker tables spread out across the floor. A security officer directs me to the dealer coordinator, who is very busy, clipboard in hand, controlling and monitoring the dealers from his perch above the floor. "Go break Table 34," he says to one dealer. "Push 18," he says to another. "Excuse me, sir, I was wondering if you're hiring dealers?" "We're pretty set on dealers right now," he said. "But you can take an application and we may have some auditions next month. I

wouldn't count on anything, though." A bit disheartened I saunter out of the casino and make my way to the safety of my dealers' school to continue my training. It was my friend John who introduced me to the idea of dealing and playing cards. He gave me a couple of books, including *Hold'em for Advanced Players*, to study the game. I started playing \$1-2 limit hold'em but had no illusions about playing cards for a living. At the card room John always headed to the top section and I headed to the bottom. I paid \$40 for two stacks of sky-blue checks. The game was \$1-2 limit hold'em. I can't remember what my first hand was, I just remember how much I loved playing the game. I absorb myself in my new world of cards and chips as if I had found an escape from the harshness of the realities of the outside world. "It's on you, sir!" the dealer snaps. I awake from my trance and check my cards: ace-queen. "I raise!" A cascade of cards folded to the muck, but both blinds called. The flop: A-6-6. The first player bet, the next player raised, I re-raised and everyone called. The turn was a seven. They checked, I bet and got raised. We put in two bets apiece on the turn. The river was an ace and again both players checked. I bet and got one caller. He flipped over 7-6 and I won the pot. The dealer shoved the pile of blue chips my way and just then my phone rang. My wife wants to know when I'm coming home. I tell a white lie and say I'm still working but will be home soon. "As soon as I win a few more pots." I think to myself. I put up my blind to play a few more rounds before heading home... *To be continued.*

ACUMEN POKER

LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way.

FIRST KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS, THEN PLAY IT

A common phrase of encouragement thrown around in sports is "Go out there and play your game." I'm told this when I'm playing poker, too, and I often catch myself saying it to others. "Just play your game." Well, that's nice to say, but what if you can't have a game you can call your own? What if you don't have a style you're comfortable with? And, worst of all, what if your game is really not that good? What do you do now? Think of yourself as a football coach. You must figure out which personnel is right for which positions. ... offense, defense and special teams. You need to test players at different positions and objectively evaluate who works best together and in what situations. You need something outside your standard game plan to spring on your opponents.



LEE CHILDS

Well, poker is no different. You need a game plan with your go-to plays to use consistently to maximize your chances of winning. But substituting plays and taking chances at times to catch your opponents by surprise is also very important. The only way to develop all of this is to put in the time to develop your game. You need a style that fits your personality and a game plan in place that you're comfortable executing. If you don't, you'll consistently make mistakes. About a year and a half ago I was really struggling with my identity as a poker player. Enter my smart and insightful wife. She pointed out I was playing with a mix of other people's styles and hadn't developed a style I was comfortable with and could execute consistently. If you can't honestly explain what your style of poker is and how you approach the game, then you need to spend time developing your game. I spent countless hours at the tables trying new strategies, ones I had read about and agreed with, and ones I came up with that just felt right. Feeling strongly about a par-

ticular play in a given situation is an emotion that can't be overlooked. If you know the right thing to do, there's a reason for that and you must follow your instincts. Follow what your mind tells you and trust yourself and your game plan. There's absolutely no substitute for experience. Play with an active learning mind-set and objectively evaluate every hand. Try to learn something every time you sit down at the felt. Figure out what works and what doesn't. Take the time to put yourself through your own training camp and find the style of play you're truly comfortable with. Conduct your training camp at low-level buy-in tournaments so when you're playing in a larger event, you have your game plan in place... and then execute it. There are many successful game plans, but to ensure consistent success, you must come to the table with the one you have developed and feel confident executing. — Lee Childs is founder of Acumen Poker. You may remember him from his seventh-place finish at the 2007 WSOP Main Event. Check out acumenpoker.net.

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POKERVERSION

Observations from a TiVo junkie.



ONE MORE HIT OF WPT BEFORE THE ASTEROID COMES

I'm a TiVo poker junkie. If it's about poker and it's on TV, I've watched it. And if I don't have time to watch it, then TiVo's got my back.

Yes, I've suffered through *Hip-Hop Hold 'Em* (this actually was a show), *The Best Damn Poker Show* (that title couldn't be more wrong) and *Celebrity Poker Showdown* (this one nearly sent Phil Gordon to the nouthouse). I've even sat through the *Texas Hold 'Em Billiards Championships* and the *World Series of Golf* because they recently had poker tied to them. I will watch reruns of *Three's Company* just so I can pick up tells on Jack when he and Larry play strip poker with Lana and Mr. Furley. Hell, I once wrote a heartfelt letter to ESPN begging the network to bring back its original drama, *Tilt*. "What happens to *The Matador*? I have to know!"

That's not to say all TV poker is bad. The World Series is airing on ESPN and I literally count the minutes until the new episode airs every Tuesday night. I've seen so many WSOP reruns I can recite Josh Arieh's 12-letter cussing tirade from 2004 by heart, but not before telling you the hole cards of every player, the flop, turn and river of the hand that busted him in third place. And, of course, there's *High Stakes Poker* on Game Show Network, but we'll save that for another column.

I want to find out if I'm alone in my tortured TiVo universe. Let's take a very short World Poker Tour quiz to see if you're as sick as me, shall we?

With Season VI coming to a close last month, it gave me some time to reflect on the efforts of the WPT announcing duo of Mike Sexton and Vince Van Patten. Hopefully these guys will see this column and maybe reach deeper into their bag of "witty" one-liners and poker "analysis"

for Season VII on Fox Sports Net. Their comments usually are as stale as a forgotten loaf of bread in a condemned Panera.

For each question I'll set up a poker scenario and you have to pick the overused phrase uttered by Sexton or Van Patten. For each correct answer you receive one point.

1. There's a raise under the gun and the action gets to Daniel Negreanu on the button. He looks down at 7♠8♠. Sexton would then say:

- A. He's got position and should see a flop.
- B. Now, Vince, he has the type of hand you like to see flops with.
- C. I love 7-8 suited; it's my favorite hand.
- D. The nickname for 78 is RPM. I miss my portable record player.

2. After two callers Chad Brown is dealt 7♥7♠ and Van Patten says:

- A. You know, Mike, I got my first hickey in '77 on the set of *Eight is Enough*.
- B. He's got Walking Sticks. If he plays them he'll be walking back to Florida.
- C. Chad Brown looks down at a wired pair of sevens.
- D. Two sevens... he should split those.

3. Barry Greenstein moves all-in with Q♥Q♦ and gets called by Doyle Brunson with A♥K♠. As the cards are shown Sexton pulls out this one:

- A. What we have here is a classic race situation, Vince, two overcards vs. a pair.
- B. Back in the day they called ace-king walking back to Houston.
- C. Ace-king is only a drawing hand, Man, Doyle's nuts!
- D. Barry loves the ladies and the ladies love Barry!

4. On the same hand Van Patten can't help himself as he cuts off Sexton:

- A. Barry's picked up Siegfried and Roy!
- B. Barry's picked up the Hilton sisters!
- C. Barry's picked up the Gabor sisters!
- D. All of the above.

I could've gone on (Show tunes going off in his head)... There's gonna be fireworks on this hand! but I thought I'd save a few trees this month. The answers are 1-B, 2-C, 3-A and 4-D. How'd you do?

0 points: Nice job; you have a life.

1 point: You're doing fine. Go ahead and keep watching that Discovery Channel documentary on the mammoth asteroid that's hurtling toward Earth.

2 points: You probably only knew one answer and just guessed right on the other one. You can go back to playing Asteroids.

3 points: There's still hope, but you must act now. Unplug the TiVo and step away from the remote. Do something useful with your life while you still can. Go plant a tree so the asteroid will have a larger target.

4 points: Congratulations, you're a slave to your poker TV addiction. Not even a poker intervention can save you now. It's a sick, twisted existence full of rooting for cards you know aren't coming because you've seen this WPT episode 147 times and no matter how hard you wish for it, Phil Ivey's A♠Q♦ just will not hold up. The only thing you can do is subscribe to another Season Pass and hope the asteroid goes here soon.

—Email me at chr@anteupmagazine.com and maybe together we can enter a 12-step program for Poker TV junkies.

This month
Be sure to catch ESPN's continuing coverage of the World Series of Poker every Tuesday night at 8.



CHRIS COSENTINO



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HANSEN

REVEALED!

Go inside the mind of the Great Dane as he takes you on a tournament journey you'll never forget.

By Mike Fasso
Ante Up Correspondent

Who knew Gus Hansen was such a math guy? His reputation as a wild gambler has been incubated on television, where big bluffs with no pair, no draw make for great theater. What television rarely highlights is the methodical, calculating, selectively aggressive Hansen. That's the poker player readers meet in the entertaining and instructive *Every Hand Revealed*, an account of Hansen's march to victory, hand-by-hand, at the 2007 Aussie Millions no-limit hold 'em main event championship.

This type of book, providing a ticket inside the head of a great player as he makes thousands of decisions about hundreds of hands, is all too rare on the groaning shelf of fluffy, self-promoting poker titles. There are no personal anecdotes or biographical filler here — just pure poker. For each hand, Hansen gives his chip count, table position and the blind/ante level.

Two factors are stressed repeatedly: aggression and adjusting to changing conditions. The tournament didn't start well for Hansen, who drew a table that included Phil Ivey, Evelyn Ng and Kathy Liebert. After losing nearly half his 20K stack by Level 2, Hansen is grateful to get a table change and for the start of Level 3, which adds antes. The ante structure might seem like a small thing, but Hansen takes full advantage when the antes get high in relation to the blinds. At blinds of 200-400 with a 50 ante, a raise to 1,200 has the chance of winning 1,050 chips uncontested. Hansen doggedly goes after those chips in the middle and even more relentlessly defends his blinds. An example: At the 200-400/50 level, Hansen holds 5-4 offsuit in the big blind when a player in third position raises to 1,200. The small blind calls and Hansen calls, too. "I only have to call 800 more to win 3,200. Even if I am up against KK and AT I get the right price."

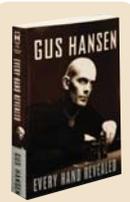
He flops two pair and wins the hand. In another hand at this level, Hansen re-raises in the big blind with K7 offsuit after the cutoff opens for 1,300. Late-position raises get little respect, and in this case the raiser folds. Later, playing six-handed: "Everybody folds to my button and with two fairly tight players in the small and big blind I am going for the steal just about 100 percent of the time." His hand? Seven-three offsuit. In this case one of the blinds doesn't oblige and goes all-in, forcing a fold.

As these examples show, Hansen's raises and re-raises are not dependent on having premium hands. Of the 850 hands he was dealt,

only 22 were top-notch. But Hansen entered pots anyway, sometimes with "napkins," and took what the table would give him. In all, he won an amazing 55 hands in the tournament *uncontested*.

The strategy carried through to post-flop play, where his aggression was based on simple math. Hansen knows most hands will not connect with the flop. He'll likely win when his hand does connect. If his opponent connects and he doesn't, he'll likely lose. If both connect, there may be fireworks. But in the key fourth possibility, when neither connects, Hansen is likely to be the aggressor, showing that "nothing" is good enough if you're willing to go after the pot.

It is the contested pots, however, that give the deepest look into the player's thinking. Hansen helpfully indexes 21 crucial hands on his way to the championship. In one at the 6K-12K/2K level, starting with 807K chips, he open-raises with A6 offsuit to 39K and is called by Paul Wasicka in the big blind. On a flop of 8-7-5 rainbow, Wasicka checks, Hansen bets 52K and Wasicka raises all-in for 386K. Hansen goes to work breaking it down: "532,000 in the middle — 334,000 to call — 38.6 percent winning chance is what I need!" He then runs through 12 possible scenarios and calculates his winning chances against all of them. Needless to say, this kind of detailed analysis is not possible at the table, but as Hansen points out, making rough estimates on the fly is essential to winning poker. He puts Wasicka on everything from a set to a gut-shot semi-bluff, calculating his winning chances at from 25 to 74 percent. In the end, he admits he has no clue what his opponent is holding. "But if I fold this hand and Mr. Wasicka shows me a total airball, I will definitely lose some momentum." Hansen makes the call, and Wasicka flips over ... well, I won't spoil it.



EVERY HAND REVEALED
By Gus Hansen
Lyle Stuart Books, \$15.95,
370 pages

Hansen's run isn't error-free, and he's tough on himself when he goes wrong. There are missed bets, missed raises, bad reads, even one case where he didn't realize he had the nut flush and nearly mucked his hand.

Through it all, he writes with a clear, casual style that threads the line between overly technical and overly chatty. The book closes with a section of statistics, including this stunner: Hansen limped only 19 times, a number he considers high. He also fired out continuation bets at just about his target rate, 80 percent. And he had all his chips in the middle only four times. The junk hands Hansen played (89 to be exact) are grouped in the category, "Don't Try This at Home," but the average player could do a lot worse than to pattern his play after one of the most thoughtful and successful tournament players around.



Neil Stoddard/PokerStars

Q&A

WITH EVELYN NG



There's more to Evelyn Ng than chip tricks and nicknames. After a deep run in the main event of this year's World Series she carved out some time for *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza and gave us the lowdown on being a gamer nerd, playing poker in Manila (if only for 10 minutes) and shredding *Guitar Hero* better than Slash.

You have a ton of nicknames! They call you Queen of the WPT ... They do?

Well, that's what I've seen online. ... Ms. Champagne.

The champagne nickname ... I actually tried to clear up recently in some interviews. It's not even my nickname. It's kind of a joke my ex-boyfriend Adam Schoenfeld used to make. ... There used to be a singer from the '70s named Evelyn Champagne King ... so he would call me Evelyn Champagne Ng. (laughs) And he said that in a World Poker Tour interview and it got printed on Wikipedia. ... And now people just call me Champagne, but it's not just Champagne, it's Evelyn Champagne Ng or nothing. (laughs)

OK, so we're setting the record straight today then. A lot of people call you Eevybabee and EeeVee ...

A lot of Brits call me EeeVee because that's how they pronounce it, but it's just Eevy (short for Evelyn).

That's what I thought because with a nickname like EV you'd want to stay positive all the time, right? Because otherwise you'd be "Negative EV" and that's not good for a poker player.

(Laughs) That's cute.

You know our magazine is based in Florida, and a little while ago you came here for the Pros vs. Joes tournament at One-Eyed Jacks. How did that come about and what did you think of Florida players.

My friend Karina Jett actually hooked me up with that

tournament and the people in Florida were fantastic. Everyone was so nice. There were a lot of fans there; everyone was really friendly and I had a fun time there.

And what did you think of the room there at One-Eyed Jacks?

I thought it was a great room. It was very comfortable; it felt almost like a home atmosphere like everyone was friendly with each other, everyone knew each other. And I really liked that it was a real poker community there.

Obviously traveling the world playing poker tournaments is nothing new to you. I hear you had a lot of time to see the Philippines ... do you want to explain that for me?

There was a tournament, the first Asian Poker Tour stopped in Manila. It was my first time there and I had a really fun time.

And how'd you do over there?

I only played the main event there ... and I actually busted out in 10 minutes (laughs) so I didn't really get to enjoy the Manila poker scene too much.

So you flew like 18 hours or whatever and only got to play ... oh my God!

Yeah, but we already had been there for a few days so it wasn't so bad. You know like when you bust out of a tournament in, say, Tunica, Mississippi, you're in TUNICA, MISSISSIPPI (laughs) but, when you bust out in Manila at least you're in some exotic location.

I interviewed Justin Bonomo recently, and when he signed with Bodog



the CEO said "Justin lives and breathes the Bodog lifestyle. Now back in 2006 they used those EXACT same words when they signed you. What is up with that?"

(Laughs) Well I think Bodog is a really hip company and the people that represent Team Bodog - Justin, myself, David Williams and Jean-Robert (Bellande) - I think we all kind of have that lifestyle. And I think that's perhaps the reason they chose us for the team. I think we're all super lucky and super thrilled to be on the coolest, hippest team in poker (laughs).

So explain to me what that means for you, "the lifestyle of a Bodog player."

The Bodog lifestyle I guess is what the quote is (laughs) ... I'm not sure. We all kind of have our poker side of our lives but we all have other interests. We all enjoy nightlife, the finer things maybe, but we're also big poker nerds at heart (laughs).

What's it like being the only female star in the Bodog constellation?

I really like it. The Bodog standard for females is up there so I guess it's a compliment to me.

I read an article recently about Jennicide (Jennifer Leigh) where she posed nude for Playboy. ... and she said she'd love to see you do that.

(Laughs) I have actually talked to her about that. It's not something that I've ever pursued or really even entertained the idea very much, but I wouldn't say that I wouldn't ever, never do it. But it's not something that I've ever dreamed of.

Were you taken aback by her saying that in the article or were you fine with that?

No, it was a compliment and I'm friends with Jennicide. ... It's like something she's always wanted to do, so for her to say that, for me, it just shows that she thinks highly of me I guess.

I used to consider myself a pretty good *Guitar Hero* player until I saw you play. (At this point she laughs, perhaps at me) What is the deal? You are awesome at that game.

(Laughs again) Well, I feel like that game was seriously made specifically for me. (Laughs) 'Cause I always secretly wanted to be some kind of musician or music producer, or do something musically, which I never really followed through with. I had some lessons when I was a child for piano, but I never really stuck with anything. So I guess *Guitar Hero* is my way of living out my Rock 'n' Roll fantasy I guess



You decide: Does this look like Evy?



Have you played the Aerosmith version yet?

Yeah I have. Aerosmith but I haven't gotten a lot of time to play it because of the World Series.

I hear there's a Metallica version on the horizon.

Yeah, that would be really cool. I mean, if anything, that's the one band that all Guitar Heroes love.

If you could have any song made for *Guitar Hero* what would it be?

Crazy Train by Ozzy Osbourne.

From one video game to another, what is it like being immortalized in Daniel Negreanu's game, *Stacked*?

That's just the coolest thing ever because I am such a video game nerd. (Laughs) To be in a video game that's just like the epitome of cool for a big gamer nerd like me.

It's like the mothership calling you home.

(Laughs) Yeah, if they ever made a *Guitar Hero* or *Rockband* character after me I could die happy.

I've seen your avatar and it doesn't look anything like you.

In the *Stacked* game I think it looks exactly like me.

Really?

In the *World Poker Tour* game it doesn't look like me. (Laughs)

Oh, OK. What was that process like? Did you have to do anything or did they just take it from a photo?

They took a LOT of photos. (Laughs) It wasn't just one.

They put sensors on me. They took a lot of photos of different perspectives and different positions.

Would you ever have dreamed growing up in Canada that this would be your life, becoming a video game star and poker star?

Totally not, because when I started playing poker it was like very fringe. It was not

something that was so commonly accepted. I remember I went to my ex-boyfriend's Harvard reunion ... and there were all these magistrates and nobleman (laughs) doctors and lawyers ... and they would ask me what I did. I would tell them I was a professional poker player and 95 percent of them would have nothing to say and they would just turn and talk to the next person. (Laughs) And if I went to that Harvard reunion now they would all say "Oh, do you know Johnny Chan? Do you know Howard Lederer?" So now it's pretty surreal how accepted and how huge poker is now. It's definitely really cool for people who have been in the game for so long.

Speaking of when you first learned how to play poker and Daniel, his book is finally out and I had a chance to read your chapter. Did you feel like there was a lot of pressure knowing your chapter would appear first in the book?

Um, I didn't know that (laughs). But there was a little bit of pressure just because it's Daniel Negreanu's book and knowing that people are going to expect to have the high caliber of knowledge and insight that Daniel has shown us over the years. So I guess there was that pressure to live up to it.

It was his system that you sort of embellished on. ... could you hear him in your ear as you were writing it?

Yeah, Daniel's voice is so strong ... when you read his blogs and his articles ... you definitely hear Daniel's voice and character come through in his writing, and so yeah I guess I always have that voice in my head. 'Cause I've known him for so long. (Laughs)

It's a pretty good time to be friends with Daniel, huh?

Yeah, I mean I've known him for half my life so (laughs) I'm used to it I guess.

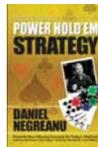
If you could put in a good word for me I'd appreciate it.

(Laughs)

You firmly put your opponent on A-x and decide to put him to the test. You push your chips in.

The river: 7♦. Not great if he had a flush draw. But that seems unlikely. Your jaw hits the table like a dropped frying pan when instead of A-x, he turns over K♠10♥. You are outkicked on the bubble and will spend the rest of the day outkicking yourself for being such a palooka.

Colombo Turns the Page, continued from page 35



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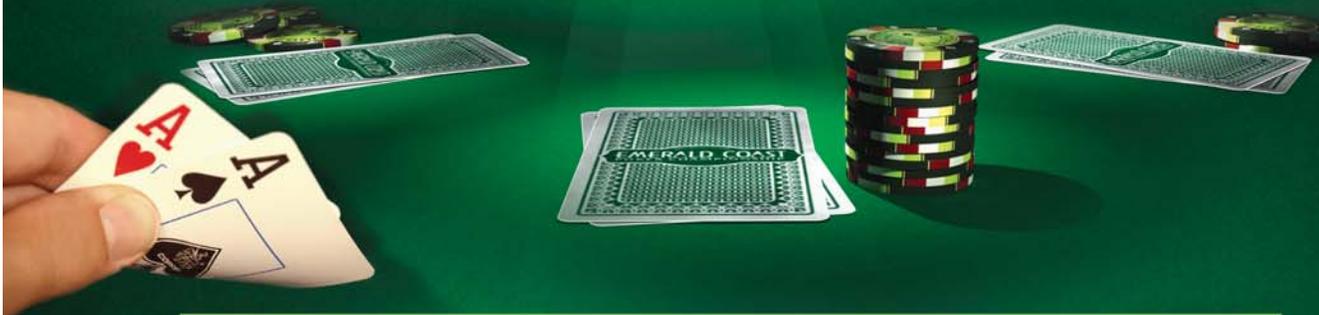
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Sept 14, Sun	-	12pm	Player Sign-In, Welcome	-	-
Sept 14, Sun	1	2pm	Ladies Only NL Holdem	\$100+\$10	None
Sept 15, Mon	2	2pm	NL Holdem	\$250+\$25	1
Sept 16, Tues	3	2pm	NL Holdem	\$400+\$35	1
Sept 17, Wed	4	2pm	NL Holdem	\$300+\$30	1
Sept 18, Thurs	5	2pm	Day 1 Emerald Coast Championship	\$800+\$50	None
Sept 19, Fri	6	2pm	Day 2 Emerald Coast Championship	\$800+\$50	None
Sept 20, Sat	7	12pm	Final Table Emerald Coast Championship	Top 40 Players	None

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