

ANTE UP

FLORIDA'S POKER MAGAZINE™

APRIL 2009 | anteupmagazine.com

LADY MAVERICK

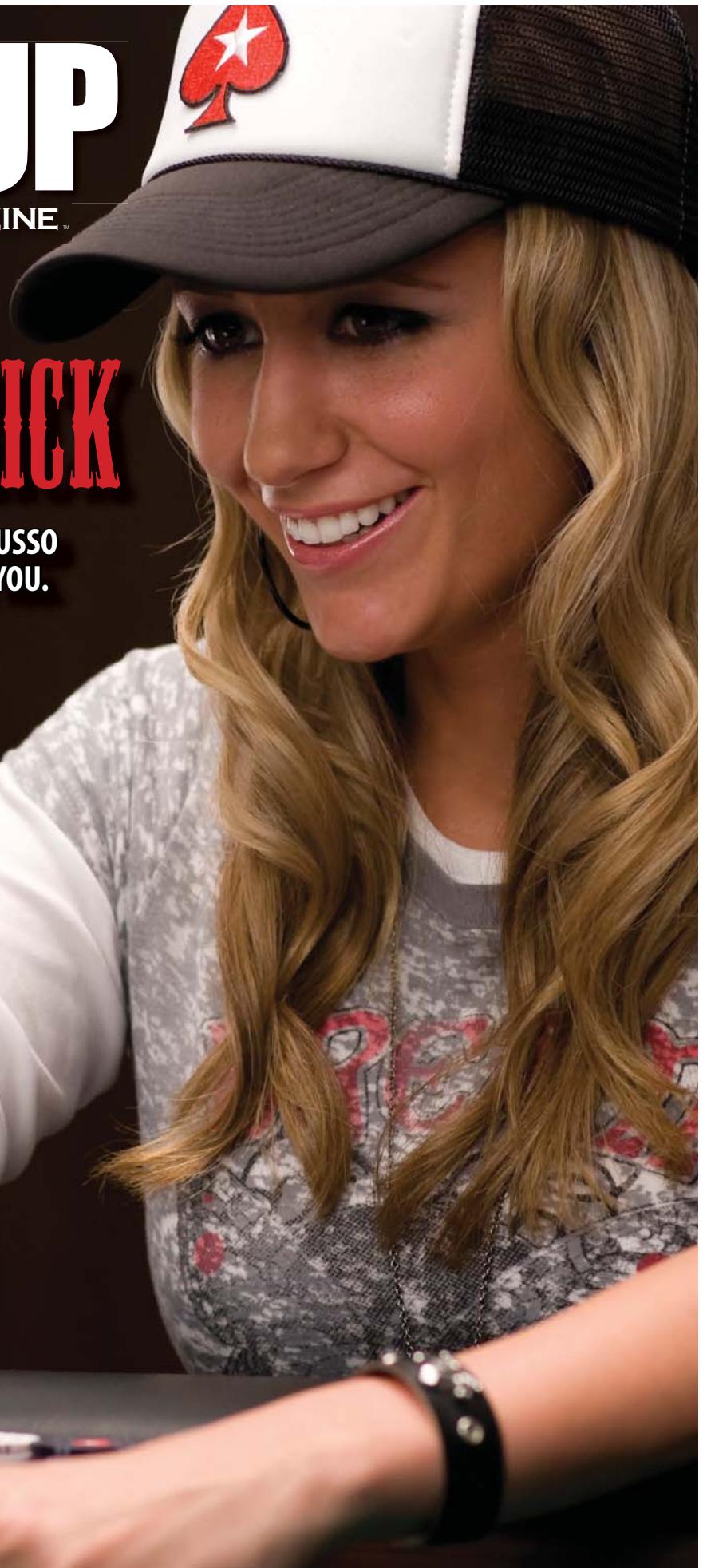
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Event	Low-stakes		Medium-stakes		High-stakes	
	Buy-in	Guarantee	Buy-in	Guarantee	Buy-in	Guarantee
1 NL Hold'em with Rebuys [6-max]	\$5.50	\$50,000	\$55	\$200,000	\$530	\$500,000
2 PL Omaha Hi/Lo	\$11	\$25,000	\$109	\$50,000	\$1,050	\$200,000
3 PL 5-Card Draw	\$11	\$25,000	\$109	\$100,000	\$1,050	\$200,000
4 NL Hold'em [2X Chance, turbo]	\$16.50	\$100,000	\$162	\$300,000	\$1,575	\$1,000,000
5 NL Hold'em Shootout [10-max]	\$16.50	\$100,000	\$162	\$150,000	\$1,575	\$150,000
6 PL Omaha [1R1A, 6-max]	\$22	\$50,000	\$215	\$200,000	\$2,100	\$400,000
7 H.O.R.S.E.	\$109	\$250,000	\$1,050	\$500,000	\$10,300	\$750,000
8 NL Hold'em [2-day]	\$33	\$250,000	\$320	\$1,500,000	\$3,150	\$3,000,000
9 FL Triple Draw 2-7	\$22	\$25,000	\$215	\$100,000	\$2,100	\$200,000
10 NL Hold'em Heads Up Match Play	\$16.50	\$50,000	\$162	\$300,000	\$1,575	\$500,000
11 Mixed Hold'em [6-max]	\$33	\$50,000	\$320	\$300,000	\$3,150	\$800,000
12 7-Card Stud Hi/Lo	\$22	\$25,000	\$215	\$50,000	\$2,100	\$150,000
13 FL Razz	\$22	\$25,000	\$215	\$100,000	\$2,100	\$150,000
14 NL Hold'em [6-max]	\$55	\$250,000	\$530	\$500,000	\$5,200	\$1,250,000
15 8-Game	\$44	\$25,000	\$425	\$150,000	\$4,175	\$250,000
16 7-Card Stud	\$33	\$25,000	\$320	\$100,000	\$3,150	\$150,000
17 NL Hold'em [1R1A]	\$22	\$150,000	\$215	\$500,000	\$2,100	\$1,000,000
18 FL Omaha Hi/Lo	\$55	\$50,000	\$530	\$150,000	\$5,200	\$400,000
19 PL Omaha	\$55	\$50,000	\$530	\$300,000	\$5,200	\$1,000,000
20 FL Hold'em [6-max]	\$55	\$25,000	\$530	\$200,000	\$5,200	\$400,000
21 NL Hold'em Heads Up Match Play	\$270	\$100,000	\$2,600	\$300,000	\$25,500	\$800,000
22 NL Hold'em Main Event [2-day]	\$109	\$1,000,000	\$1050	\$3,000,000	\$10,300	\$5,000,000

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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



TIME FOR FLORIDA POKER TO EVOLVE

As a poker player, your game must evolve to improve.

As a poker state, our laws must evolve to improve, too.

As you read this, 160 men and women you helped elect to write the laws we live by are huddled in Tallahassee, working to solve some of the biggest problems Florida has seen in a generation.

A smothering economic climate has many of us wondering whether the paycheck we just received might be the last we see for a while. The ripples of that fear lap against the state capitol, and the immediate responses no doubt will be to raise taxes or reduce the services on which many of us have come to depend.

But there just might be a gold lining in those stormy clouds hanging over the Panhandle. Poker remains as popular as ever here in Florida, and as a reliable tax producer that has been muzzled for far too long, every legislator, regardless of party, regardless of religious or moral conviction, will be hard-pressed to ignore that one small solution to our very big challenges just might lay with America's favorite card game.

But as responsible, passionate residents of this great state, we would be ill-advised to just sit back and hope the legislators that represent us will recognize that, and act on it appropriately, without a gentle reminder of those who sent them there in the first place.

So, on behalf of poker players across the state, *Ante Up* asks you to take just a few minutes to write your representative and senator to tell them just how important it is to us, and the state, to see poker laws change for the better.

Personal letters, written from your head as well as your heart, are always most effective. But time is of the essence, as "yeas" and "nays" are already being recorded. So, on the next four pages, *Ante Up* has printed two copies of a letter you can tear out, sign, fold and send

Directions

Tear out and sign the letters on the next few pages. Then, tri-fold them, tape them securely and apply a stamp. Address one to your representative and one to your senator. Not sure who represents you? Go to www.flsenate.gov, and enter your ZIP+4 code on the left-hand side of the page. Click on the district number, and you'll get the address of your legislators.

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to your representative and senator.

Don't underestimate the power of volume.

Just imagine what tens of thousands of these letters would mean to the game you love so much.

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long
Publishers

ANTE UP

PUBLISHING LLC

anteupmagazine.com

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

PUBLISHERS

Christopher Cosenza
Scott Long

CONTRIBUTORS

Lee Childs
Lauren Failla, John Lanier,
Dan Malka, Joe Navarro,
Frank Toscano,
Michael Zumpano

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Dear Honorable Member of the Florida Legislature,

You have difficult work ahead of you during this important legislative session, and I thank you for the deep thought you put into each issue that crosses your desk.

Our great state faces challenging economic conditions this year, more so than in any year in recent memory. As a concerned, tax-paying, registered voter from your district, I ask that before you vote to raise my taxes, and before you vote to cut my services, that you give careful consideration to all poker-related legislation introduced this session, and the impressive tax benefits that come with them.

During your deliberations, I ask that you please remember:

- Poker has a long, rich history in the United States. Presidents of both parties, from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama, played avidly.
- Poker is a game of skill. But Florida's restrictions on buy-ins, bet sizes and tournament entries actually detract from that skill, forcing Floridians to play the game less optimally.
- Poker laws more consistent with those in many states will allow Floridians to keep their poker dollars — and the taxes on them — right here in the Sunshine State. It will protect some of the state's longest and most loyal companies, and it will encourage players from around the world, as well as prestigious events, to visit the state and boost Florida's once-thriving tourism industry.

Thank you again for your service to our state, and I appreciate the careful reason you will give to this issue that holds great importance to me.

Sincerely,

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Name _____
Address _____
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Badugi!

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ON THE BUTTON



ROAD TRIP



So many rooms . . .

The Ft. Lauderdale area has too many rooms to fit into one Road Trip, so we broke up our series into two parts. This month we review the parimutuel card rooms. Next month: Seminole Casinos. **22-26**



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Matt Savage is the face of tournament poker. But there's a lot you may not know about him, including his healthy rivalry with One-Eyed Jacks poker room manager Sam Minutello. **46**



STILL TIME TO ENTER DERBY'S 600@\$600

St. Petersburg's Derby Lane is running daily satellites for its 600@\$600 Poker Classic, which will be March 27-29 and will be the richest poker tournament in Florida history. Single-table tournaments for \$85 are running all day, paying one seat plus \$40 to the winner.

Mega-satellites are as follows:

- 4 p.m. Sunday-Thursday: \$70+\$15, pays one seat for every 10 players
- 6 p.m. Friday-Saturday: \$85+\$15, pays one seat for every nine players
- 7 p.m. Sundays: \$85+\$15, pays one seat for every nine players

The main event will stretch across three days, with Day 1A being Friday (March 27) at 2 p.m., Day 1B on Saturday (March 28) and then the tournament will wrap up Sunday (March 29). The structure for the tournament also has been released. Players start with 20,000 units and there will be 40-minute blinds that begin at 25-50.

Go to derbylanepoker.com for more details.

WPTAPL/Tampa Bay Downs shine at Par & Poker charity event

Kathy Wolfe, head of the Tampa Bay division of the WPTAPL, said she had to send this picture along. During January's Par & Poker Celebrity Challenge she met Greg Raymer, the 2004 World Series of Poker Main Event champion and PokerStars Team Pro member. Wolfe had a long day, first setting up camp at the golf portion of the event at TPC course in Lutz, then playing in the poker tournament at the Silks Poker Room at Tampa Bay Downs.



It was a fruitful day for Wolfe, who not only got to meet one of her poker heroes but also won the hearts progressive jackpot (\$1,478) while playing cash games after she got knocked out of the charity event. Just an hour earlier one of her players, Tim Kerns, won the spades progressive jackpot, which was \$3,600.

"I'd like to give a special thanks to Patrick (Murphy) and his staff at the Silks Poker Room," she said. "They did a great job; the game ran very smoothly."



Treasure Chest Poker



On Feb. 21, Brothers Tavern had 23 players face off against 18 players from defending champion Strokers in the Battle of the Bars. But never count out the underdog because Strokers defended its crown as Robert Franklin secured the trophy.



There was quite a turnout (102 players) for the January monthly, which was held at Finley's Irish Pub on Valentine's Day. Adam Deforest, pictured here later in the week playing at The Slug, won first place. He was followed by Steve Czanecki, Joyce Eastham, Stephen Zalenski, Rick Danford, Wanda Pellin, Kim Fernandez and Jim Gross.

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QUARTERHORSE RACING MEANS MORE POKER

By Jim Freer

Special to Ante Up

The Isle Casino & Racing at Pompano Park has decided to not hold a quarterhorse racing meet this year, and thus will not be able to expand its poker room's daily operations from 12 hours to 24 hours.

But the harness track/casino in Pompano Beach remains interested in adding quarterhorse racing starting in 2010, Michael Bloom, vice president and general manager, said in late January.

Meanwhile, late 2009 apparently is the earliest any of Florida's new proposed quarterhorse tracks will open — featuring year-round poker, 12 hours a day.

"The recession had a main impact" on Pompano Park's decision to delay its plans, Bloom said.

It would cost about \$400,000 for a first-time conversion from harness racing to quarterhorse racing, Bloom said. In addition to differences in track configuration, a harness track has a much harder surface than a quarterhorse track.

Pompano Park felt potential quarterhorse fans might have more money to bet in 2010 for an opening season.

Also in late January, Pompano Park was not ready to sign a race-purses contract with the Florida Quarter Horse Racing Association, which would arrange for owners of Florida-bred quarterhorses and some from other states to race at Pompano Park.

Officials of Pompano Park and of the quarterhorse group agreed that a contract was needed by late January to coordinate the quarterhorse race meet that was planned for July 3 to Aug. 15.

The last quarterhorse races in Florida with parimutuel wagering were at Pompano Park in 1991.

The opportunity to have a poker room is a primary reason that several investment groups are preparing to bring quarterhorse racing back to Florida.

Since 1997, a state law has permitted quarterhorse tracks and all other parimutuels to have card rooms year-round up to 12 hours a day. To be eligible for a poker room, a quarterhorse track would need to hold a minimum of 40 racing programs per year.

By holding harness races, Pompano Park has a 12-hour poker permit. Pompano Park also has a quarterhorse permit. Thus, for every year that it holds a quarterhorse meet it will have a second 12-hour poker permit.

The extension of parimutuel poker licenses to 24 hours is among changes the Florida Legislature might consider this year, said state Sen. Dennis Jones (R-Seminole). Jones is chairman of the Senate Regulated Industries Committee, which has initial jurisdiction over parimutuel issues.

Bloom declined to discuss legislative issues, but he said Pompano Park will remain interested in quarterhorse racing even if a law change

lets it have 24-hour poker with its harness permit.

"Even if we have a second permit (quarterhorses), we would probably not have more than 18 hours per day of poker and the hours would mirror our casino hours," Bloom said.

Pompano Park's poker room is open from noon until midnight Monday through Friday and from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. But the hours are changing come April 1 (see story page 14).

Like many other Florida parimutuels, Pompano Park competes with tribal casinos that can be open 24 hours a day for poker.

Since 2007, three other groups have received quarterhorse track permits from the Florida Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering. Officials and all of those groups have said they plan to include poker rooms, once they build and open their tracks.

Dr. Steve Fisch, president of the Florida Quarter Horse Racing Association, said officials of the proposed Hamilton Downs have told him they hope to hold their first quarterhorse meet in October. The track would be in Jasper, in Hamilton County about 70 miles west of Jacksonville.

Fisch, who is in frequent contact with applicants, said 2010 is the earliest he expects any of the other quarterhorse tracks with poker rooms to open.

Gretna Racing has state regulators' approval to open a quarterhorse track in Gadsden County, west of Tallahassee. ELH Jefferson has state approval to open a quarterhorse track in Hamilton County, east of Tallahassee. A group headed by David Romanik and Paul Micucci filed both applications.

Green Bridge Development Co., headed by Michael Goldstein, owns DeBary Real Estate Holdings, which has state approval to build a quarterhorse track in DeBary in Volusia County.

Green Bridge also has filed an application to open a quarterhorse track, with a poker room, in Fort Myers under the name Fort Myers Downs.

Florida has about 59,000 quarterhorses. Fisch, a veterinarian, said some are bred for racing and others are bred for show purposes.

Quarterhorse races are usually at a quarter-mile, and in most cases on a straightaway.

Fisch said there are several locations in Florida where owners hold informal races.

Many Florida-bred quarterhorses also race in state-sanctioned races in the sport's major states — Oklahoma, New Mexico, California and Louisiana.

The FQHRA has been advising several of the Florida applicants on racing issues and will help them bring horse owners from Florida and other states to Florida tracks, Fisch said.

"Our goal is to bring quality quarterhorse racing to Florida," he said. "The industry is here, and by adding racing it would add jobs and help the state's economy."



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MARDI GRAS NAMES HERRERA SENIOR DIRECTOR

Recently, Mardi Gras Gaming in Hallandale Beach named **Wil Herrera**, 38, as the Big Easy Poker Room's senior director of poker operations. Herrera, who's lived in the Sunshine State his whole life, is extremely excited about the opportunity to take over Mardi Gras' poker room. *Ante Up* wanted to get to know him a little better so here is a short Q&A.

Where are you from? I am a Florida native, born and raised in Miami. I have been living in Broward County for about 14 years.

How long have you been in poker? I am one of the early pioneers in Florida poker. I've been in the industry since 1992.

Where have you worked in poker leading up to this gig? I began my career in 1992 at Miccosukee Gaming in Miami. This was the first poker room in Florida. I then dealt on the Discovery Cruise Ship for a year. It was fun and it gave me an opportunity to deal higher-limit games. At the time, we only dealt stud because no one was playing hold'em down here. I then started working with the Seminole tribe in 1994. I worked my way up to be poker manager in 1997 and then director of poker operations for the Seminole Hard Rock (in Hollywood). After that, I left operations for a few years. I was still involved as a director of training and as an instructor with Casino Dealers Academy. Last year, I decided it was time to get back into what I did best, so I started dealing at Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track. It was a lot of fun and the staff was great.

What led you to Mardi Gras and when did you take over? A friend from the Casino Dealers Academy told me of a director opening in Broward. I jumped online and I applied. After a lengthy interview process I was hired. I felt very comfortable with the executive team here at Mardi Gras and I knew that they had the same transformational vision that I had for the Big Easy.

How big is your staff? We have about 50 dealers and a total staff of 65 or so. I am in the process of beefing up our staffing and creating a new

schedule that meets the needs of the room. I expect to have around 100 employees by the time the staffing is complete.

Do you think it will be difficult having competitors so close to you? Competition is a two-edged sword. Yes, it will be difficult; however, South Florida is a big enough market that we can all be successful. I like having competition because having strong competitors keeps you sharp and it keeps you from becoming complacent. I want to be not only the best room in Broward County but the entire state of Florida.

You're the only 24-hour parimutuel poker room. Do you still do the swap out at 4 a.m. and how has it been going with the 24-hour venture? Yes, we totally switch licenses at 4 a.m. We change the drop and jackpot boxes and we also swap out the cards. The 24-hour operation was a challenge here, but I'm very familiar with running a 24-hour operation and will be addressing those issues. We have a great deal of potential that we will be taking advantage of shortly.

You mentioned big plans for the future. Would you care to expand upon that? I want to keep it fairly vague for now; I don't want to give too much away until we actually put things in place. However, what I can tell you is going forward our guests can expect a high level of professionalism from everyone on my staff. My staff will be knowledgeable and well-trained. Most important, we will treat all of our guests as if they were guests in our own home.

Do you play? And if so, what's your favorite game and limit? I do play, but not often. I prefer \$2/\$5 NLHE or Omaha/8.

What do you think about Florida's poker limits and what do you hope comes out of the legislative session? For obvious reasons, I would like to see the operating hours stay the same. However, I would like to see the maximum NLHE buy-in increased to \$500. Players end up losing more money by taking \$100 shots at the big stacks than they would if they initially bought in for \$500. I would also like to see the limit bet increase to \$10 or \$20 as well.



High Heels Tour flourishes at Mardi Gras

Jasmine Schofill of Ft. Lauderdale, pictured above, won the first ladies \$5K guarantee event at Mardi Gras Gaming on Feb. 13, which drew 57 ladies. She took home \$1,805 of the \$6,260 total prize pool. Micheline Gajnon of Quebec finished second (\$1,370), followed by Tammy Goldshteyn of Aventura in third (\$1,063) Kelly Elliot of Lake Worth (\$848), Peggy Penning of Miami (\$670) and Danielle Tuvia of Miami (\$504).

Isle at Pompano Park

The poker room held a \$30K guarantee on Feb. 16 that attracted 158 players and had a \$63,200 prize pool. Here's the final table, which ended in a four-way chop.

Matt Waxman	Parkland	\$9,500
Mike Johnson	Miami	\$9,500
Joseph Stein	Davie	\$9,500
Javier Sarache	Hollywood	\$9,500
Richard Kirsch	Pompano	\$5,024
John Amrhein	Coral Springs	\$4,400
Barry Roth	Margate	\$4,400
Robert Zelinka	Del Ray	\$1,517
Rafiki Brown	Davie	\$1,390

In other news, starting April 1, hours of operation will be 1 p.m.-1 a.m. Sunday-Thursday and 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday-Saturday. All nightly tournaments will start at 7 and afternoon tournaments move from 2 to 3. And don't forget the Battle at the Beaches (March 22-29). A \$900 three-day event kicks off the series, followed by the \$550 NLHE championship (March 25). The series ends with a \$900 four-day heads-up event on the 26th.



Gross



Naranjo



Waxman

HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD PLAYERS ON A ROLL

It's safe to say the players who won the three divisions of the Seminole Hard Rock of Hollywood's Main Event tournament in February are playing better than your average rounder these days.

Take Sheldon Gross for instance. Not only did the Hillsboro Beach resident take down the Heavyweight Division, good for \$23,800, but he also won the Isle's \$30K guarantee

back in November for \$21K. We're pretty sure he was wearing the same shirt and sunglasses, too, so if you see him in this outfit you better know he means business.

Not to be outdone by Gross, Matt Waxman truly had a great month. The Parkland man took first place in the Middleweight Division, pocketing \$9,792, and he chopped the Isle's \$30K guarantee with three other play-

ers, good for \$9,500. (See the Isle story on previous page).

Finally, there's Juan Naranjo, who found himself in familiar territory. The Miami player took home \$14,000 for his victory in the Cruiserweight Division. It's the second time since December that Naranjo has won this division, taking home \$11,370 for that earlier victory as well.

All In Free Poker looks to dish out 2010 WSOP \$10K Main Event seat



All In Free Poker has announced its World Series of Poker qualifying series will culminate with a 256-player heads-up tournament at the Isle Casino at Pompano Park on Feb. 27, 2010, and it might just pay out a \$10K WSOP Main Event seat.

How do you win? To earn a \$2,500 WSOP seat you'll have to win the heads-up title. To learn how to parlay that into a \$5K seat or even a \$10K main event seat you'll have to visit allinfreepoker.com. There you also will find details on qualifying.

CENTRAL FLORIDA POKER SCENE: Charity events in Daytona

- The American Lung Association Daytona Hold'em Charity Poker Tournament and Casino Night will be 7 p.m. April 1 at the LPGA International Golf Club. A seat costs \$125, which includes an open wine and beer bar, tapas, DJ entertainment, raffles and access to all of the casino games. Go to daytonapokertournament.com for details.

- It's the Ante Up for the Animals charity poker tournament, held by the Critter Encounters Wildlife Rescue at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club. The event will be April 9 at 7 p.m. with an \$80 suggested buy-in for 2,500 chips, \$20 add-ons (1K chips) and \$30 rebuys. Winner gets a WSOP satellite seat at DBKC on April 26. Call 904-254-9245.

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai



Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai's Pat Garrity is flanked by his WSOP Main Event satellite winners, Philip Starner and Monty Van Ness. The \$300 tournament was sold out and paid two seats. The next WSOP qualifier will be March 29.

All in Poker Series

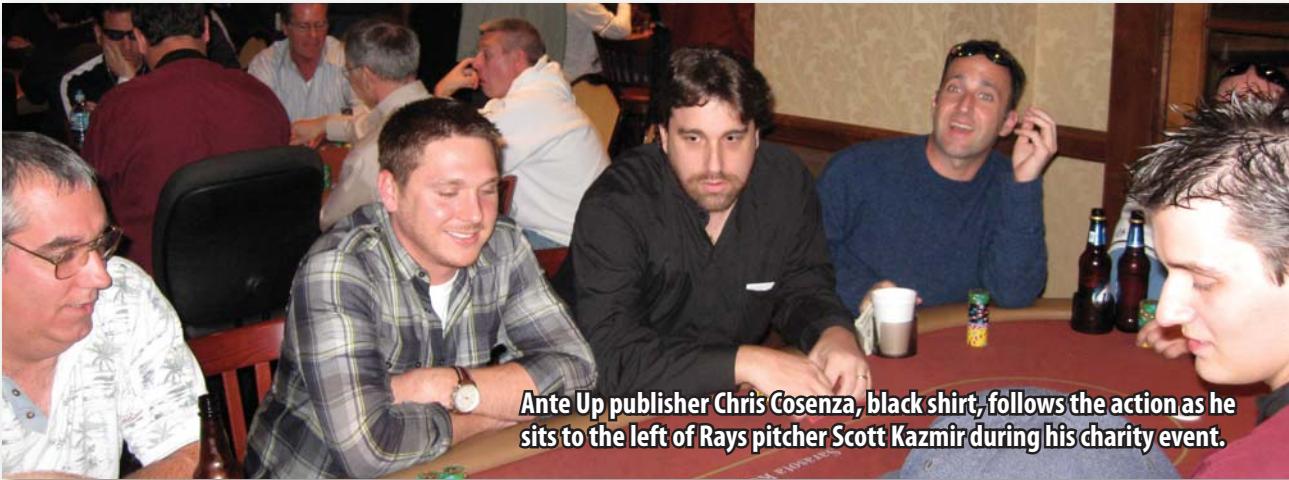


Ryan Walker may have only been playing the All in Poker Series for less than a year, but he knows how to win like a veteran.

Walker took first place at January's monthly tournament held at Hugo Joe's in Oviedo on Feb. 7, winning an iPod Touch, the champion's trophy and a chance to compete for a seat to Event 51 at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas this summer.

He bested a little more than 60 players for the title and says he plays three-five times per week.

Sarasota Kennel Club



Kazmir, Rays help raise \$16K for local children's charity

The American League champion Rays may not have been able to live their own dream by beating the Phillies in the World Series last year, but some of their players certainly are doing their best to help some children's dreams come true.

In February pitcher Scott Kazmir, the Rays starter in Game 1 of the World Series, got together with the Children's Dream Fund to raise some money by hosting a charity poker tournament at One-Eyed Jacks in Sarasota. Kazmir brought along a few of his baseball buddies, including B.J. Upton and former Rays pitcher Bobby Seay.

The players were a little late arriving for the event but that didn't faze Kazmir, who quickly doubled his stack and showed he had some game. It didn't take long for the celebrity players to get knocked out, however, and they donated prizes to

the players who ended their run.

The tournament raised nearly \$16K for the local charity. In the end it was pro Glen Chorny and Elmo Mariatchasan who chopped up \$7,600. The remaining cashers were as follows: Denise Tuck (\$1,575), Richard Sinclair (\$1,415), Carlos Mendez (\$1,260), Jeff Noll (\$1,100), Lori Walter (\$945), Chris Swanson (\$780) and Alvin

Aguiar (\$630).

\$100K HEADS-UP: One-Eyed's \$850 heads-up event with Chorny, Layne Flack, Bill Edler and Gavin Smith is March 27. It's not a guarantee event; the prize pool is based on a full field.



EPT champ Glen Chorny chopped the charity event.

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track



It may have been an eight-way chop in the end, but the \$350 buy-in deep-stack tournament on Feb. 21 still produced a champion as 77 players turned out for the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track poker event.

Ray Piccin, pictured with dealer Tom Barclay, was the dominating chipleader after Steve Calyore got knocked out in ninth place (good for \$350). So Piccin took home \$5K and the patriotic-looking trophy.

The remaining seven players each pocketed \$2,650 and they were: Frank DiMeglio, Lloyd Dutcher, Dave Alleman, Billy Walters, Coach, Starcher, William Burns and Lou Cheffy.

STATE REPORT

Palm Beach Princess



Here's a picture of Francis Ward after winning the Feb. 7 World Poker Tour satellite tournament aboard the Palm Beach Princess. Ward will join the other previous monthly winners in April at Foxwoods in Ledyard, Conn. to play in the WPT's \$10K main event. It's not Ward's first time winning a satellite seat, but maybe it will be his first WPT victory. *Ante Up* will report their results in a future issue.



Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai and Poker



Here's the final table of Ft. Pierce's February deep stack tournament. In Seat No. 1 is Steve Lucas, who chopped with Reggie Hill (Seat No. 3), each pocketing \$4,880. Eddie (No. 2 seat) took sixth place and \$925. Tom Vinson (Seat No. 4) won \$1,220 for fifth while Lacy Wills (Seat No. 5) won \$2,340 for third. The No. 6 seat is Jim K., who won \$720 for seventh, and Juan Torres (Seat No. 8) was the original chipleader and didn't want to chop. He took fourth place for \$1,630. The total prize pool was \$20,375. The next one is March 21.

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REVOKE RESURRECTS POKER IN PENSACOLA

Just when it seemed like the city of Pensacola was out of the poker game for good, the phrase "chip and a chair" never struck so poignantly. You see, the chip in this case is Kevin White, and the chair is his seat on the Escambia County Commission.

In December 2008 the commission voted 3-2 against allowing Pensacola Greyhound Track to expand into poker operations. But White, the District 5 commissioner who voted "nay" last time around, had a change of heart as he watched the lagging economy drain his constituents, and he requested a revote.

On Feb. 19 the commission reconvened and voted again. The other voters stayed true to their first casting, but White's swing vote struck a victory for Pensacola and Florida poker, reversing the December outcome, 3-2. Commissioners Gene Valentino and Grover Robinson IV again voted in favor of the expansion while Marie Young and Wilson Robertson stood firmly against the measure.

"We're very excited," Pensacola Greyhound Track general manager Nick Schlikin said. When asked what he thought about the revote resurrection Schlikin said: "Shocked, but cautiously optimistic at first. When you get shot down so many times in the past, as we were, you have to be cautiously optimistic. We have to give a lot of credit to the county commissioners. It's given us new life and we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Schlikin wouldn't come right out and say it, but without poker it would be very difficult for the track to survive.

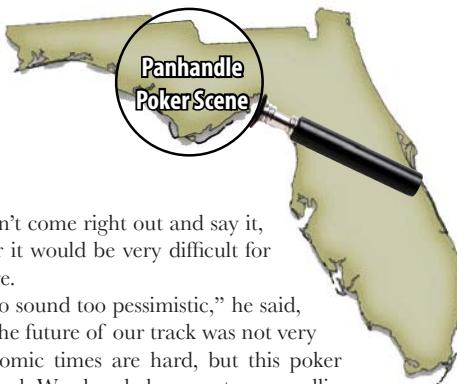
"I don't want to sound too pessimistic," he said, "but realistically the future of our track was not very bright. The economic times are hard, but this poker craze is phenomenal. We already have customers calling us up all excited about it."

The poker room, which is expected to have 15 tables, should create around 150 jobs and preserve about 60-70 more at the track. Generous estimates of nine months have been thrown around in certain reports as to when the room would be ready, but Schlikin didn't want to be painted into a corner.

"It's a slow process," he said. "I wish we could open up right now, but we're doing a lot of research. The general admission area needs a lot of work and we want to do it right. ... I'd like to say when but I just can't. You know when (Hurricane) Ivan blew through here I thought we'd be up and running in a couple of weeks, but that wasn't the case. So we just want to do it right."

On a final note, Schlikin said they will hire a quality director of poker of operations to help oversee the construction of the room.

— Christopher Cosenza



Hamilton Jai-Alai and Poker



Above, Will Rigsby poses with Ricky Chamblee and the other table members after Rigsby "took a bad beat" with quad jacks losing to quad aces. The flop came J-A-A and the jackpot was \$118K. At right, Alex Blair recently won a 42-inch LCD TV during a promotion.



Pleasure Island Poker



On Feb. 8 Teena Fendley bested the largest field in Pleasure Island Poker's monthly tournament history, outlasting 103 players at Starcade Billiards in Fort Walton Beach.

Shown here with her winning hand, Fendley edged out her husband, Bill, when it got down to heads-up action. For her victory she was awarded a sponsored seat into a tournament at the casino of her choice in Biloxi, Miss.



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NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

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



FLORIDIANS SHINE IN FTOPS XI

Adam Levy of Orlando led the Floridian charge during the 11th Full Tilt Online Poker Series, which was Feb. 4-15 and fielded 25 events for more than \$15 million in prize money.

Levy's strong showing proved he still is one of Florida's most consistent online players. Playing as "Roothlus" he cashed in four FTOPS XI events for \$407,436 with his biggest cash coming in Event No. 22, a \$5K buy-in tournament where he finished second (\$387,500).

Steven Burkholder showed his strong performance at the end of 2008 was no fluke, winning one of the FTOPS events. Playing as "PhiKappaRaider" he took home \$245,696 for his only cash in the series in 2009.

Finally, we have a newcomer: Chris Dombrowski of Wesley Chapel has been moving his way up the online listings. The 22-year-old plays as "cbdr3799" and has \$151,256 in online winnings this year. He cashed in two FTOPS events.

PokerStars

The world's largest online poker site has a new weekly leaderboard promotion: The Battle of the Planets series gives PokerStars sit-n-go players a chance to compete for prizes worth more than \$3 million per year. The series puts multiplayer sit-n-go tournaments into eight divisions, all named after planets. Anyone can take part in the competition regardless of stakes as each planet represents a different range of buy-ins (Mercury is \$1-\$2.99, Jupiter is \$300-plus).

Each division is split into leaderboards. The first is the Low Orbit leaderboard, which is tailored toward casual and recreational players. The second is the High Orbit leaderboard for high-volume players. Each division has a weekly prize pool distributed between the leaderboards.

Doyle's Room

The room is running satellites for the Irish Open, and the prize package includes a seat

AIPS primer

Each month we'll provide some online sites to help prepare for the upcoming AIPS event on PokerStars. Tournament No. 3 is stud on April 8. Be sure to go to anteupmagazine.com/aips for details and check out the next page.

pokernews.com/strategy/stud-poker

studstrategy.com/7cardstudstrategyhi.htm

online-casinos.com/poker/visualstud.asp

sevenpoker.net/strategy.html

in the €3,500 Irish Open main event (April 10-13), four nights at CityWest Hotel in Dublin and \$1,400 added to your account for travel.

Cake Poker

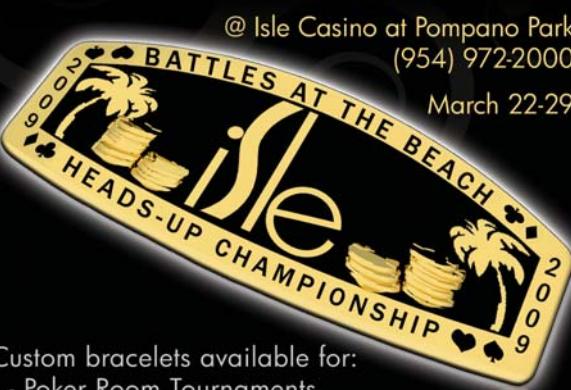
Cake is offering satellites into the Canadian Heads Up Challenge, and the \$5,500 package includes a seat in the event, which is May 14-17 at the Calgary Stampede Casino. Winners also receive \$1,400 for travel and VIP access to CPT parties.

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

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

Event #3	Event #5	Event #7
April 8 Stud \$5+\$0.50	June 10 8-Game Mixed \$10+\$1	Aug.12 NLHE Rebuy \$1+\$0.10
Event #4	Event #6	Event #8
May 13 Limit Hold'em \$5+\$0.50	July 15 Stud/8 \$5+\$0.50	Sept. 9 Omaha/8 \$5+\$0.50

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Southeast Poker



Here's Part 1 of a two-part series looking at the card rooms of the Ft. Lauderdale area. We'll look at the Seminoles' poker rooms that dot the Southeast corner of Florida in Part 2 in May.

Gulfstream Park Racing and Casino

The poker room at Gulfstream Park has had numerous incarnations, but its latest is its finest, settling in on the first floor of the Finish Line Casino back in September.

With 21 poker tables and 18 plasma TVs spread liberally throughout the room, Gulfstream makes sure there's plenty to see and do. The slot machines neighboring the poker room are quieted as to not be a distraction, and they give rounders' friends and family something fun to enjoy.

One of the finest upgrades that came with moving back down to the poker room's original location was the installation of the Genesis Bravo Tracking System, which allows the house to track players.

"It makes running the room much smoother with seating," director of poker operations [Scott Poole](#) said. "Players swipe their cards to sign themselves up for games and can follow themselves on the players' lists."

Poole started in poker in 1990 with the SeaEscape cruises and had a stint with Calder before moving on to Gulfstream in 2006. He prides himself on his room's integrity.

"We have a beautiful facility, but absolutely our customer comes first," he said. "Customer feedback is what we do. Players (say) this room is like a home game. That's not uncommon in a card room, but there's a special feeling here with the players that have a good

relationship with the dealers. They just feel comfortable here."

What's the hardest part about having such close competition?

"Being creative," Poole said. "We're always on our toes. We come up with what we think is a great tournament, a great buy-in amount, a great vig, a great starting amount and they one-up you across the street."

One of those great tournaments is the Poker Challenge points series. The Rolex and Real Money Poker Challenge concluded March 8. Players earned points by participating in nightly tournaments. Top 50 point-earners qualified for a freeroll to win a Rolex and \$10K. Gulfstream held a similar event in December, giving away a Mercedes-Benz as top prize.

You likely won't find a stud or Omaha table running as there usually isn't enough interest, but \$2-\$4 limit hold'em and \$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10 NLHE are spread. The room is open every day 1 p.m. till 1 a.m. and hosts daily tournaments, including bounty events on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Poole's biggest and best tournament is the Saturday Special: 10K chips for \$100, which gets you a lot of play for just a C-note.

Tableside massage is available as well as dining options, and betrunkers are there to make sure you don't miss any of the action.

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www.gulfstream.com/casino/poker



Dania Jai-Alai

The building may be old and rickety, and the glory days of a bustling fronton may be gone, but the heartbeat of Dania Jai-Alai is still very strong, and it's upstairs in the poker room.

Boyd Gaming recently made a few trims to the staff at Dania, but the poker room continues to be one of the best bets in town. With extended hours on Fridays and Saturdays (they can stay open till 3 a.m. or later because of dual permits) and very creative promotions, Dania's card room continues to be a trendsetter in Florida poker.

If you choose to play cash games at Dania you'll receive free drinks, and not just fountain beverages. ... we're talking alcohol here. It's just Dania's way if trying to give you that big-time casino experience.

Here are a few of the unique promotions that have come up in the past few months: Play Your Way to Cash rewards players logging the most hours in the poker room per month, paying the top 10 players cash and prizes; Mini-Royals pay players 10 percent of the overall royal-flush jackpot if they get the ace-king-queen-jack of the same suit; plus there's a \$50 high hand awarded every hour until 8 p.m. every day.

You can find hold'em, Omaha and stud cash games here on a regular basis, but the tournament scene is very popular at Dania. Everything from \$25 multitable tournaments with \$5 bounties to a \$100



buy-in on Friday nights and a \$120 event on Saturdays.

The signature tournament for Dania is the Dan LeBatard 790 The Ticket Celebrity event that packs the room consistently. It began as a \$25 event, but has grown to a \$50 buy-in and usually has specials tied to it, such as 50-cent hot dogs and drinks. The 3,000-chip starting stack gives you plenty of play, and a \$5 optional dealer add-on will get you 500 more units.

There is a snack bar and full-service bar, plus don't forget jai-alai games and simulcasting.

The card room, which has around 30 tables, is open noon till midnight Sunday through Thursday and stays open till at least 3 a.m. Friday-Saturday.



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

Mardi Gras Gaming

The Big Easy Poker Room can hang its hat on the fact that it's the only parimutuel room in Florida with a 24-hour poker operation. But why be complacent? New senior director of poker operations Wil Herrera (read his Q&A on page 14) is looking to become known as the *best* poker room in the state, regardless of hours of operation. The room recently completed a much-needed facelift, and now promotions and policies are getting an overhaul as well.

There are 30 tables (though the Big Easy is licensed for 40 so expansion is possible), about a dozen flatscreen TVs and the usual games are spread (\$1-\$2 and \$2-\$4 limit hold'em, \$1-\$5 stud, \$3-\$5 Omaha/8 and \$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10 NLHE). However, *Ante Up*'s spies hear some exciting changes (perhaps as early as April) may be coming to the limit and no-limit games to attract a new clientele.

Promotions haven't always been Mardi Gras' best attribute, but Herrera said that's all about to change.

"The future is very bright," he said. "I'm planning on making all of our promotions much more exciting for our guests. This is the Big Easy and we're going to make it feel that way. My plan is two-pronged: attract higher no-limit players and attract people 'in the biz'... our biz ... Poker employees from across South Florida will love what we will be offering them in the coming weeks and months. I do not want to divulge too much until the plans are actually in place, but things are going to be different at the Big Easy!"

In case you're wondering, yes, there are bad-beat jackpots in



hold'em, Omaha and stud (cash games only). There's also a \$599 royal flush bonus, a \$100 high hand of the hour Monday through Thursday and high hand bonuses Friday until Monday morning.

As for tournaments, Herrera promises a deep-stack event, a league and multiple daily tournaments to offer something for every level of tournament player. Don't forget, seats are available on www.ptseats.com.

The staff, which may be growing soon, is always courteous, there are betrunners for wagering and tableside dining is an option. A new look and new management: Things are looking up at the Big Easy Poker Room.

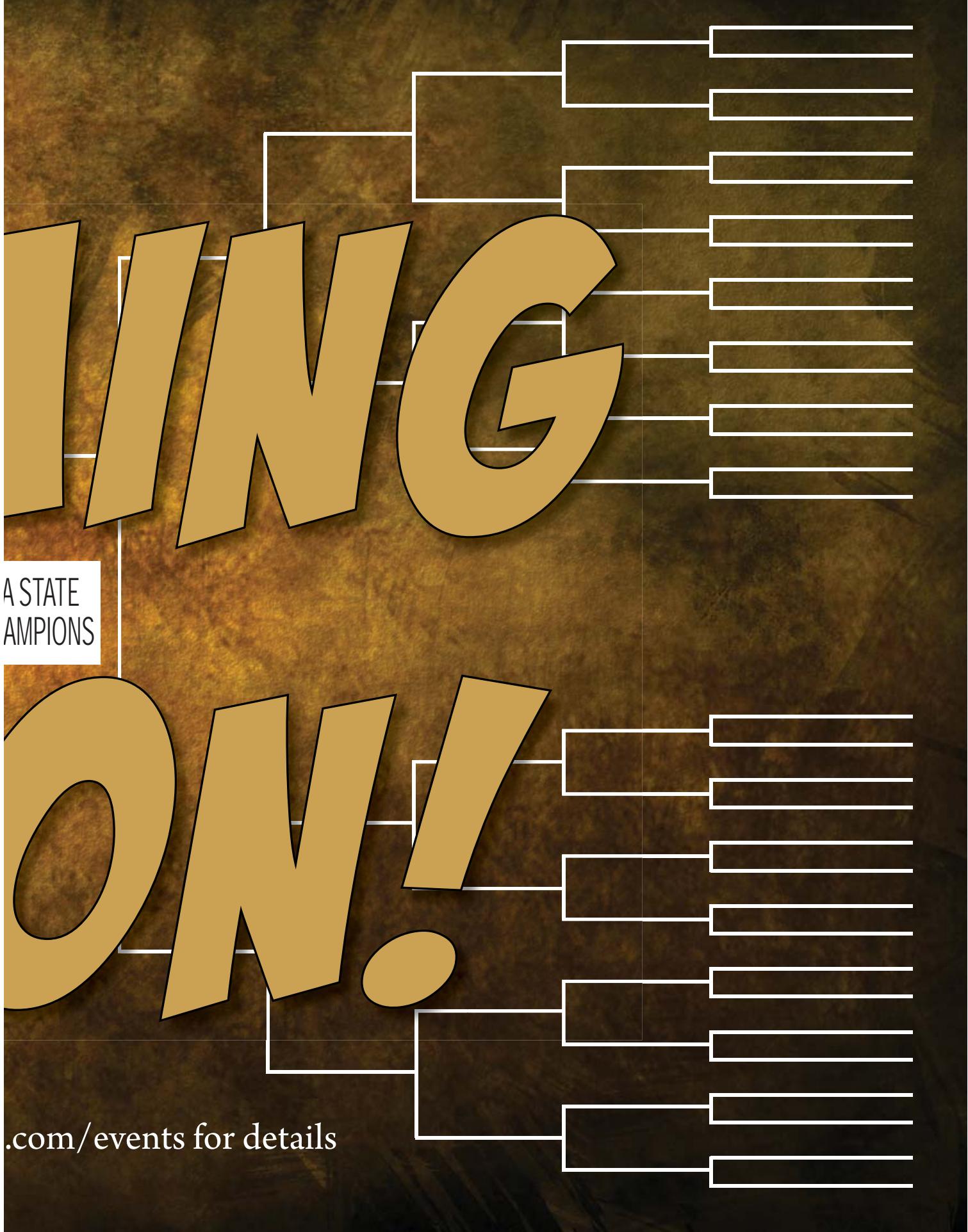


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The Isle at Pompano Park

It should come as no surprise to learn the poker room at the Isle Casino is consistently among the top money earners in the state. Everything about this room says class, from the Vegas-style remodeling job within the past two years, to the wide-open playing space for its 38 tables and tableside food service and massage.

And the success the room enjoys starts at the top with director of poker operations [Mike Smith](#), who has been with the Isle on three occasions, his latest stint nearing two years.

Smith has been in poker for more than 30 years, getting his start in Vegas, but he's most proud of where he is right now. "It's the nicest room I've had," he said. "We got a very nice product. I've got an outstanding staff; I've got a very good group of dealers, and we just open the doors and say 'Come on in!'"

Of the four parimutuel card rooms in the Ft. Lauderdale area, this one is the furthest removed from the bunch as it is about 30 minutes north of the three-headed cluster.

Smith says he was with the Isle Casino when it first dealt poker.



"It's grown a lot since 1997," he said, "you can look at it that way. Hopefully, as we continue to evolve, eventually (the state) will take the restraints off the limits, so to speak, and the timeframes. Right now we're a locals market; there's nobody coming from Las Vegas to play down here and we aren't getting anybody coming over from California. When that happens we will attract more tourists. Right now everybody, *everybody* is really just a local."

This poker room was one of the first in Florida to institute the Genesis Bravo Tracking System, which caters to players and is becoming more popular around the state.

"All in all it works a lot better than the old-fashioned way of hollering out 'Seat open!'" he said.

The usual suspects are dealt here (hold'em, Omaha, stud) and Smith says about 30 percent of the games are limit (\$1-\$2, \$2-\$4) while the other 70 percent is no-limit (\$1-\$2, \$2-\$5, \$5-\$10). But the Isle has become better known as the home of the Florida State Poker Championships.

"That was something that we as a group created," Smith said. "We wanted to do it at another place I worked at but it never got off the ground. When I came here we got the support of our GM and upper management and we just did it. We think it came out quite well. ... got nothing but compliments on the team, so I'm happy."

But it must be hard to be a tournament giant with a few rooms around you that never close, no?

"We try to strategically place tournaments," he said. "We obviously can't compete with places that are open 24 hours, so we have to modify our events a little bit because we have to close every night. We just try to offer the players at least some value, as much value as we can, with the time constraints we have." Starting April 1 the poker room will have new hours (see story on page 14).

There are plenty of daily tournaments in all price ranges, and don't forget to book your seat at www.ptseats.com. So, what can you expect at the Isle? "A professionally run poker room with a good staff," Smith said. "One of our philosophies is we have to look at what's best for the players, the company and the dealers. It has to be what's best for everybody."



Where: Pompano Beach
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Here's what to do if a windfall comes your way



If you've been dreaming about winning the World Series of Poker or collecting the Powerball jackpot, you have plenty of company. Though the odds of winning are extremely small, it's fun to think about the possibilities. And since you likely aren't ever going to win the Powerball, you might come into a more modest windfall somewhere down the road.



HELEN HUNTLEY

So here's what to do if you hit it big:

- **Take a deep breath.** Take your spouse or best friend out to dinner, but don't launch a spending spree you'll later regret. Stash your treasure in a money market fund or bank CDs until you've had time to think things over.
- **Don't spread the news.** If you won your poker championship on national television, this won't work, but if you can, try to keep your windfall private. The more people who know about it, the more people you'll have trying to get their hands on your money.

• **Put together a dream team.** Get an independent, fee-only financial adviser (you can find one near you at www.napfa.org) to look at your overall picture and bring in a CPA and a lawyer to handle the tax and legal angles. If your windfall is significant, good advice is especially valuable.

• **Pay Uncle Sam his due.** Find out what (if any) liability you have to the IRS and set up a plan to make estimated payments if necessary, for current and future years. The money withheld from big gambling winnings (generally 25 percent on winnings more than \$5,000) may not cover the tax bill.

The good news is you can deduct your gambling losses up to the amount of your winnings if you itemize. If you anticipate winning big, start keeping a diary of your wins and losses and hang on to those receipts.

• **Think about your priorities.** A windfall is a chance to make a big difference in your life. Depending on how big that windfall is, you may have an opportunity to secure your future and that of your children, to help your community or the world in some significant way, to build your dream house or to pursue a passionate interest. Figure out how much the important stuff will cost before you spend the money on things you care less about. Decide what charitable causes you want to endow rather than responding to pleas as they appear.

• **Avoid scam artists and be a smart investor.** The world is full of people with dreams of getting rich by separating people like you, Mr. Lucky Winner, from your money. You particularly want to be careful about investing in private business ventures, most of which fail. One option is to put part of your money in an immediate life annuity that will guarantee a base level of income for the rest of your life. However, you'll also need investments that will grow and allow your income to keep pace with inflation.

• **Think long term.** Maybe it's unlikely, but it's possible that your money will last longer than you. Your financial adviser and attorney also can collaborate to help you come up with an estate plan to carry out your wishes.

• **Enjoy!** Once you have your plans in place, you won't have to worry as much about the future.

— Helen Huntley is half of Holifield Huntley, a fee-only financial advisory firm in St. Petersburg. You can contact her at (727) 823-3801 or helenhuntley@gmail.com.

PROMOTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*



Dania Jai-Alai

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

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

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

Promotions: Play Your Way to Cash (ad pg. 21); every Wed. night a hot dog & fries, wings (3), 20-ounce soft drinks, 16-ounce drafts, frozen drinks or regular soft serve cone are each just 99 cents.

Daytona Beach Kennel Club

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

Tournaments: Daily, including \$80 No Juice Mondays at 7 p.m., Saturday, deep-stack hold'em at 2 p.m. (\$225) and Pot-Limit Omaha/8 (\$65) at 6:30.

SNGs: \$40-\$220.

Special event: WSOP qualifier, April 26.

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

Bad beat: Aces full of kings.

Derby Lane

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

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

Special event: 600@\$600 Classic, March 27-29, \$36K prize pool (see story, page 10).

High hands: Royals in hold'em and stud.

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

Ebro Greyhound Park

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

Tournaments: Big Stack Sundays, (\$150, 2 p.m.); World Series Wednesdays (\$30 w/\$20 rebuy, 7)

High hands: Royal flush jackpots and two high hands per day. **Bad beat:** Quad deuces.

Flagler Greyhound Track

Phone: (305) 649-3000
www.flaglerdogs.com

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

SNGs: \$65-\$800.

High hands: From opening till 3 p.m. wins \$100, others at table each win \$25; Happy Hour from 5-7 pays \$250; non-heart royal flushes win \$1K.

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

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

Isle Casino at Pompano Park

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

Tournaments: \$60-\$550.

SNGs: Including winner-take-all and bounty events (\$60-\$225).

Special event: Battles at the Beach, March 22-29.

High hand: All royal flushes win \$599.

Bad beat: Call for details.

Jefferson County Kennel Club

Phone: (850) 997-2561
www.jckcpokerroom.com
Tournaments: Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. (\$50).

High hand: Royal flushes win jackpot.

Mardi Gras Gaming

Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167
www.playmardigras.com
Tournaments: M-T-W-Su (buy-ins vary, \$65-\$150).
SNGs: \$55-\$110.
High hands: Royal flushes win \$599; Mon.-Thurs.\$100 high hand of the hour.
Bad beat: Aces full of jacks (HE), quad jacks (O/8) and aces full of kings (stud).

Melbourne Greyhound Park

Phone: (321) 259-9800
www.melbournegreyhoundpark.com
Tournaments: \$65-\$880, includes shootout, ladies, heads-up and bounty events.
SNGs, bad beats and promotions: Call for details.

Miami Jai-Alai

Phone: (305) 633-6400
www.miamijaialai.net
Tournaments: Saturday Freeroll, 3 p.m.; Sunday \$1,500 guarantee, 1 p.m. (\$30, 50 players max).
Special event: March Madness, March 22, \$110.
Promotions: Visit miamijaialai.net/promotions.aspx for high-hand, bad-beats and promotion details.

Miccosukee Resort

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

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track

Phone: (239) 992-2411
www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com
Tournaments: Sun. bounty 2 p.m. (\$125); Mon. 7 (\$65); Tue. 7 (\$45); Wed. bounty, 7 (\$125); Thurs. noon and 7 (\$65), Fri. 7 (\$65) and Sat. 2 (\$125).
SNGs: Six-player tournament (\$125-\$550)
Special event: Deep stack event, March 21, noon, \$440 buy-in, limited to 150 players.
High hands: From noon to 2 p.m. wins \$300, plus Fri. & Sat. from 7- 11:30 p.m. win \$1K; any royal flush pays \$5,000.

DON'T SEE YOUR EVENT?*

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

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai

Phone: (352) 591-2345
www.ocalapoker.com

Tournaments: Daily (\$65-\$240). **SNGs:** (\$45-\$80).
Special event: March 29, noon, WSOP Main Event satellite, \$300, two seats plus \$2,500 travel awarded; April 25, noon, WSOP Main Event satellite, \$300, two seats plus \$2,500 travel awarded.

Orange Park Kennel Club

Phone: (904) 646-0002
www.jaxpokerroom.com
Tournaments: Daily, except Tuesday (\$30-\$65).
Special event: April 26, WSOP satellite, 1 p.m., \$150, 10K chips (1-2 seats awarded)
High hand: \$100 every four hours; royals \$200.
Bad beat: Call for details.

Palm Beach Kennel Club

Phone: (561) 683-2222
www.pbkennelclub.com
Tournaments: \$65-\$200; bounty tourneys on Tuesdays at noon (\$65+\$25).
Special event: \$30K guarantee, Vanessa Rousseau tournament, March 28, \$200, 3 p.m.
SNGs, high hands and bad beats: Call for details.

Palm Beach Princess

Phone: (561) 818-5771
www.palmbeachprincess.com
Promotions: Call for offers and WPT details.

Sarasota Kennel Club

Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054
www.skcpoker.com
Tournaments: \$40-\$100, plus Saturday \$330 at 3:30 p.m.
SNGs: \$40-\$300.
Special event: March 27, \$100K Heads-Up tournament, \$850 buy-in. The prize pool is based on a full field. Pros Gavin Smith, Glen Chorniy, Layne Flack and Bill Edler are expected to attend.
High hands: Quads (hold'em), quad 10s (stud) and straight flushes (Omaha) or better.



Seminole Casino Brighton

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

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

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

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

Phone: (866) 502-7529
www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com
Tournaments: \$100-\$1,100.
Special event: Big Slick tournament, March 28, \$1,100, 11 a.m., 10K chips.
SNGs: \$140-\$1,050
High hands: Prizes vary; call for details.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Phone: (866) 502-7529
www.seminolehardrocktampa.com
Tournaments: \$100-\$550.
SNGs: \$125-\$1,075.
Special event: Spring Poker Extravaganza, April 3-5. There will be an \$1,100 entry fee with a maximum field of 600 players and a guaranteed first-place prize of \$100,000. Blind levels will last an hour and you'll start with 10,000 chips. There are \$100 super satellites every Friday and Sunday at 4 p.m., plus SNG satellites.
Promotions: Starting at 10 a.m. every day, the first 25 players with quads or better receive a free entry into the next Super Saturday tournament (a \$100 value).

Seminole Hollywood Classic

Phone: (866) 222-7466
seminolehollywoodcasino.com
Tournaments: \$30-\$150.
High hands: Saturdays-Sundays, every hour from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. top-two hands get \$100; Every Wednesday from 9 a.m. till noon every high hand for that hour gets \$100; royals win \$500.
Other: Mondays, first 10 players to get aces cracked wins \$100, at 3 and 6 p.m.; first 20 hold'em players (Tue. & Thurs. at 3) with aces cracked win \$100; every Friday, from 2-midnight, every 30 minutes a table will be picked at random and its next pot will be splashed with \$100; quads (2s-10s) get 25 entries, jacks or better get 100 entries, straight flush gets 500 entries and royal flush 1,000 entries into daily Golden Temptation drawing.

Seminole Casino Immokalee

Phone: (866) 222-7466
www.theseminolecasino.com
Tournaments: Wed., 7 p.m. (\$15+\$5+\$5 dealer toke, with \$10 rebuy); Thurs., 7, (\$30+\$5+\$5 dealer toke, with \$10 rebuy); Fri., 7 (\$50+\$5+\$5 dealer toke); Sat., 1, Knockout (\$30+\$5+\$5 dealer toke, with \$10 rebuy); Sat., 4 Big Stack (\$225, start with 15K chips; \$40 satellites available Mon. and Tue.); On Sundays, Deep Stack, \$115, 10K chips, 20-minute levels.

High hands: Quad aces (hold'em) wins \$50, straight flush (hold'em) wins \$100, royal flush (hold'em and stud) wins \$500. Payouts doubled between 12:01-6 a.m. and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. M-Th.
Bad beat: Aces full of jacks (hold'em), Aces full of kings (stud).
Other promotions: Hot dog and a beer for \$2 from 7-midnight Fridays and Sundays and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays.

St. Johns Greyhound Park

Phone: (904) 646-0002
www.jaxpokerroom.com
Tournaments: \$30-\$200, including shootouts, bounties and deep stacks.
Special event: April 19, WSOP satellite, 1 p.m., \$150, 10K chips (1-2 seats awarded)
High hands, bad beats and other promotions: Call for details.

SunCruz — Port Canaveral

Phone: (321) 799-3511
www.suncruzcasinocom
Tournaments: \$115.
SNGs: \$40-\$60.
Promotions: Call for details.

Tampa Bay Downs

Phone: (866) 823-6967
www.tampabaydowns.com
Tournaments: \$20-\$120.
SNGs: \$65-\$355.
High hands: Royal flushes win jackpots in hold'em cash games and tournaments; royals in Omaha win \$200-\$599, straight flushes in hold'em win \$200; quads and straight flushes in Omaha win a hat, T-shirt and \$10 food voucher.
Special event: March 29, \$599 is being given away every half hour to the highest hand.
Promotions: See ad pg. 19. All day Sunday and 8 p.m. to close Mondays, draft beer is \$1, hot dogs are \$2 and hamburgers are \$4. Prizes, including jerseys and cash, will be given away.

Tampa Greyhound Track

Phone: (813) 932-4313
www.luckyascards.com
Tournaments: \$45-\$200, and bounty event on Fridays; \$45 no-house-fee tournament on Saturday nights; \$80 no-juice tournament Sundays at 3; a Mega Deep Stack Friday and Saturday at 1 and Sundays at 6:30 (\$60 buy-in with 10K chips, 20-minute levels, no antes.)
SNGs: \$65-\$500.
High hands: Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royal flushes (\$599). Plus high hand wins \$100 on Sundays from noon-3 and 8-11 p.m.
Other: Aces cracked wins \$100, noon to 2 p.m.

* Schedules and events are subject to change;

SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted.

VANESSA
ROUSSO
IS ...

THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

BY
CHRISTOPHER
COSENZA

THE POKER PRO
FROM HOBE SOUND
HAS IT ALL, FROM
BRAINS TO BEAUTY.
NOW SHE'S COMING
TO A CARD ROOM
NEAR YOU!

S

orry, guys, she's engaged.

And perhaps it's that bit of news that gives men at the poker table a fighting chance against the spell that is Vanessa Rousso. How else can you

explain why Florida's favorite female poker player hasn't won every tournament she's ever entered? Her dizzying intellect is enough to thoroughly intimidate even the most accomplished scholars, and if looks were a factor, Rousso certainly would be at that final table. So it must be that she's so happily in love with fiancé and fellow poker pro Chad Brown that opponents can focus on beating her rather than dating her.

Here's a tip: If you're sitting across from her at the poker table, be sure to arm yourself with a copy of *Modern Bride*. You see, Vanessa may check-raise some of the biggest names in poker on a daily basis, but the ice that courses through her veins freezes up when it comes to planning a wedding.

"The whole wedding-planning process is the bane of our existence," said Rousso, who swam and played field hockey at Wellington High as class valedictorian in 2001. "It's so hard. I think we're gonna elope. We're gonna elope and then throw a big party for everyone at the World Series or something. ... That whole thing with the bride magazines, and the this, and the that, and what do I wear, and all

the flowers and the colors. ... It's too much. I can't handle it. I'm so busy, and honestly, that project was just overwhelming to me. I get it; I would love to have a really beautiful big wedding. Problem is it just takes an amount of planning that's overwhelming for me."

Yet she finished her bachelor's degree in economics at Duke University in 2.5 years. Go figure.

You get the impression after talking with Rousso that if her mind were a car it would be a Ferrari and she'd have lost her license years ago for chronic speeding. She's *that* smart. Thoughts race through her head as if powered by a Pentium chip, and, by her own admission, she speaks even quicker than she thinks. "If I'm talking too fast let me know and I'll slow down," she says.

But the newest "Go Daddy girl" insists she's just like anyone else.

"I'm just a normal person in a lot of ways," said the bungee-jumping, skydiving, freestyle-rapping, trilingual, globetrotting Team PokerStars Pro fashionista. "Yes I'm a professional poker player, but before the last three years I did poker the same way your everyday girl does, with her family and at the local casino. It was a hobby in my life for a long time. But it is pretty cool that I took something that was a hobby ever since I was a little kid and managed somehow to make it into my profession."

Rousso spent most of the first decade of her life in Paris, skipping





beneath the Eiffel Tower, enjoying a baguette or two and learning how to play poker at the **age of 5**. Now she has dual citizenship in France and America.

"Poker has brought me back there quite a few times," she said of the City of Lights. "I love going back, very nostalgic. I get to speak one of my maternal languages ... no wait, what's the word? (She's grateful when someone tells her it's mother tongue). Mother tongue! That's it! So that's always cool. I feel a cultural connection to it and I love the food out there. I'm lucky poker takes me there two to three times a year."

She says she's lived in more cities than an Army brat, but ultimately she settled in Florida with her mom and two sisters. Upon finishing high school, however, she was on the move again, heading off to Tobacco Road on a scholarship, and it was at the home of the Blue Devils where she found her passion in life. Only Rousso, a.k.a. Lady Maverick, could major in economics, minor in political science and find time to study something as mind-blowing as game theory. And here's where the dizzying intellect kicks in, so buckle up.

"Game theory is not as it initially may sound," she said, taking a deep breath. "It's not like we just play Monopoly and Scrabble all day. It's actually pretty scientific and mathematical in nature. Formally the definition is the study of **strategic decision-making**. What that really means is it takes complex human-involved real-world situations and breaks them down into mathematical form. We use variables and other scientific stuff, like equations. The reason we do that is we try to simplify otherwise extraordinarily complex things like human behavior and human emotions. And the purpose of which is to optimize behavior, or find the best way to act in a given situation with given payoffs for different courses of action. This sort of analysis actually applies to a wide array of things in life, everything from whether or not a country should arm itself up with nuclear weapons to whether a baseball pitcher should pitch to the upper left quadrant or the lower right, to the mating rituals of two chimpanzees, which I wrote a paper on in one of my game theory classes at Duke. And obviously poker, which is a very, very dynamic game."

This next bit is very important so we'll pause to let you catch your breath. ... Ready?

"In poker, how we use game theory is very complex," she said. "We break down different variables, like for instance the tendency of a person to bluff. Let's say zero-to-one, zero being he'll never bluff and one being he'll always bluff. Well, usually people fall in some spectrum in between there. Having that information will help you make your decision, given the amount of chips it takes to call that person's bet, given how many chips are in the pot should you call and win, given how many chips are in your stack and how much it'll hurt your stack to lose the amount of chips you'll need to call here, and given the amount of chips in your stack how much it will help you should you win this pot by calling this guy. Also, we try to include in the equation things like how it affects your image should you call and actually show that you raised the pot with 3-5 suited. So there are some detrimental effects to your image even though you'll end up winning the pot. Those kinds of things are factored in also. So honestly there's just a million different things and

it kinda gets complex."

Did you follow that? Excellent. Want to learn more? That's good, because Vanessa's coming to a card room near you.

"I actually teach game theory in poker seminars, and I'll be doing a tour of Florida with those clinics. So if people are interested it's definitely something they should check out."

Her first scheduled stop is March 21 at Orange Park Kennel Club in Jacksonville, followed by an event March 28 at the Palm Beach Kennel Club.

"I'll basically be giving a two-hour lecture or something to that end before hosting a tournament. And then it looks like we'll be giving out some sort of prize, like maybe the final table will get seats in a game theory and poker clinic I'll be teaching. And obviously I'll also be doing pictures and autographs and stuff."

She says she'll likely have more dates in Tampa, Daytona, Fort Myers, Miami and Hollywood, but that schedule hasn't been confirmed. Rousso also said she'll try to get Brown to appear in at least half of the clinics.

"I'm pretty excited because it will help me come back and see my parents a little more because they both live in Florida. Also they're helping me run these boot camps so to work with them is pretty cool. I really do love to teach, and even more specifically love to teach about game theory in poker because it's such a unique topic. And this is one of the few ways that people can learn about that topic through my clinics. I've had great feedback on the ones that I've done and I can't wait to offer that to the people of Florida."

Rousso credits a lot of her success to game theory, but if it weren't for the Seminole Hard Rock in Hollywood she might never have been a poker player.

"At the Hard Rock, that was awesome," she said. "I didn't realize at the time how great I had it. I was in law school (at the University of Miami) and on the weekends I would play poker with a great group of friends of mine that are still really close friends with me. ... They introduced me to the Hard Rock, and within a couple of weeks I was pretty consistently making a decent chunk of change every weekend, more than any of my law-school peers. It was pretty sick."

As it turned out, two of her college poker friends also had their pilot's license, so they "took it to the next level," as Vanessa said, and would shuttle to neighboring states to play in bigger events.

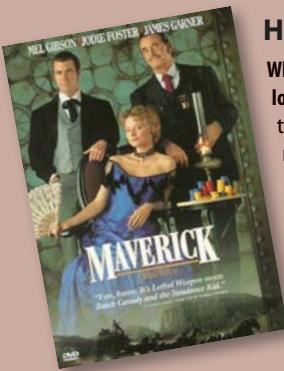
"So here I am during the week going to law school and then on the weekends ... heading out to these out-of-state locations to go play in tournaments, coming back, playing at the Hard Rock, coming back to law school. I mean I was living this really very unique lifestyle, and it obviously allowed me to sow the seeds for what eventually became a really rare but awesome job. It was just a great period in my life."

With such an affection for the Hard Rock, does she get back to play there often?

"I didn't for a long time because there are no big major events here, which I don't understand why they don't bring some major events here because everyone loves Florida. I hope they do eventually bring like a WPT event or a major circuit event ... you know, some sort of major buy-in to Florida. I wish that would happen. So I didn't (come back) for a while, but I do come back to teach a bunch."

It wasn't long after those Hard Rock days that Rousso began mak-





How did Vanessa Rousso become known as the Lady Maverick?

When one thinks of a maverick, thoughts of rebels, loners and John McCain come to mind. But with such a large family, lots of friends and a devoted fiancé, how did Vanessa Rousso get a nickname like Lady Maverick? Here's her answer: In the movie, *Maverick*, the main character sells shares in himself to go play the world championship main event, which I think was \$20K in the movie. Believe it or not that's how I played my first big main event in 2006; the \$25K WPT event at the Bellagio, the one I ended up getting seventh. At that point \$25K was way too much for my bankroll to go play. But I had this pipe dream ... so I went and sold shares of myself, like shares between \$100 and \$1,000 apiece, so I could sell a bunch of shares to friends and family in hopes of heading out there and doing well. And I ended up doing well and returning 10-to-1 on each investor's investment... Then when I came back one of my dad's friends actually said to me "What, are you the Lady Maverick of poker?" and he reminded me about the story from the movie and I kinda just thought it fit."

ing her name in the poker world, though in one instance it wasn't for her playing ability. Flash back to the 2006 World Series of Poker Circuit Event in Atlantic City. Turns out Ms. Rousso should have asked for a wakeup call.

"It was crazy. I woke up that morning and I was running late. I actually woke up 10 minutes into the start of the day. I had one of my friends with me and I called him up and I was like 'All right, do I show up late and miss some hands, or do I just throw on a bathrobe and head down there and just wing it?' First he thought I was kidding, and then he was like 'Go for it! But add a cowboy hat and boots for effect!' And so I did, and it was so funny. I mean, these guys did not know what to do with me at the table. It was a lot of fun; I'm glad I did it. ... I ended up going on to win (almost) \$20K that day so it was pretty cool."

It wasn't the usual chic outfits she's become known for on the tournament circuit (it does put the Lady Maverick moniker a little more into perspective), but the bathrobe incident proves she doesn't take herself too seriously and has a dynamite sense of humor. Again, sorry, guys, she's engaged.

Rousso, who once described herself as a fluid player because of her ability to change playing styles instantly, had a nice start to 2009. She just missed the final table of the WPT Southern Poker Championship's main event at Beau Rivage, but still took home \$79K for her seventh-place finish. And, as if right on cue as *Ante Up* was going to press, she placed second in the NBC National Heads-Up Championship, knocking off Doyle Brunson, Phil Ivey, Paul Wasicka and Daniel Negreanu along the way before falling to Huck Seed in the final. She now has more than 25 "live" cashes, including seven at the WSOP.

Plus, she recently had her 26th birthday in February. Notice the word "celebrate" wasn't used in that last sentence.

"It's the first birthday milestone that I have nothing really good to celebrate," she said with a chuckle. "At least last year I could celebrate that I could finally rent a car. ... This year there was nothing to celebrate; I was kinda bummed. My next big thing is like retirement benefits, wow!"

Perhaps Rousso can celebrate the fact that PokerStars and *Sports Illustrated* teamed up to put her in *SI*'s 2009 swimsuit issue. And again, for all her coolness at the table, Rousso was all a quiver in front of the *SI* lenses when they photographed her

in the Bahamas back in January.

"Any girl would be nervous," she said. "That's pretty much a girl's worst nightmare, having a picture taken of them in a bikini is pretty scary. But I'm really thankful to PokerStars for getting me that opportunity. ... You can bet I high-tailed my butt to the gym right after (I found out) and I worked out once or twice a day every day before the shoot for three weeks. I was happy to have a reason for once, given that I'm a poker player and I sit on my butt all day, to go to the gym with a consistency and really focus on being healthy. So for me that was a really good outcome from the shoot."

She also says feel free to bring copies of the swimsuit issue to any of her clinics around the state and she'll gladly autograph it for you. Of course *Ante Up* wouldn't mind if you had her sign the copy you're holding right now as well.

"I'm laid back about that kind of stuff," she said. "I'll sign it; I really don't mind at all."

With so much going on in her life, does she ever feel like she's going to burn out?

"It's kinda like the exuberance of youth right now," she said, laughing. "I'm sure there's gonna come a time in my life where my priorities will change. Eventually I do want to have a family and all that, and I definitely couldn't keep up this pace with a family. There's just not enough hours in the day. I'll probably still be playing poker, just not also doing the boot camp business, also running a charity, also teaching a lot of other boot camps, on top of that I also put in 15 hours a week online. I do do a lot right now, but I kinda like it that way. When I have too much free time I get antsy."

Vanessa's visits

Here is her schedule as she plans appearances, camps and tournaments across the state. For more info go to bigslickbootcamp.com, nolimitnonprofit.org and vanessarousso.com.

March 20-21: She'll attend a charity event at Orange Park Kennel Club in Jacksonville on Friday night. On Saturday she'll play in a tournament, which will be preceded by a two-hour mini boot camp.

March 28: She'll play in a \$30K tournament, preceded by a two-hour mini boot camp at Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach.

March 30: She's scheduled to play in the Battle of the Beaches event at the Isle at Pompano Park.

- Players in the Orange Park and Palm Beach tournaments will have an opportunity to win seats to upcoming, full-day boot camps that Rousso will teach. The camps, which cost \$399, will be April 11 in Jacksonville and April 26 in Palm Beach.



WHO'S YOUR GAMBLER NOW?



Is it the presence of money that blinds people from poker's skill factor?

Did you know professional golfer Tiger Woods is the world's most obsessed gambler? It's true. Shocked?

"Why haven't I heard this before?" you may ask yourself. "Wouldn't this send shockwaves through the PGA? This could make the Tiger Woods Foundation crumble."

So what's the catch?



Well, let's insert another name into that lead question and see if you have the same reaction: Did you know professional poker player Barry Greenstein is the world's most obsessed gambler?

"Oh, well, that might make sense," you tell yourself. "He's a poker player; of course he's a gambler."

Really? Why is that? What makes Barry more of a gambler than Tiger? Are they individuals competing against other players for a prize? Do they get paid if they're better than the rest of the field? Why is it people think playing poker is gambling but playing golf (or tennis, or bowling or billiards or any other sport for that matter) for a monetary prize isn't?

People pay money to enter golf, billiards, bowling and tennis tournaments all the time, and there's a prize pool for the top finishers. How is that any different than a poker tournament?

"Well, those sports require skill, whereas poker is driven by luck," you might say.

Not so fast, my friend. Barry has made a healthy living at poker for decades, winning World Series of Poker and World Poker Tour titles. That has to be the longest lucky streak in history! He better play the lottery this week, huh?

"What about cash games?" you ask. "Cash games aren't tournaments." Ever heard of Nassaus and Wing-Dings? Golfers play for cash at country clubs and public courses around the world every day. They bet on closest to the pin, longest drive, total score, hole by hole, you name it. But they're pitting their skill as a golfer against other golfers, just like poker players pit their skills against other rounders at the cash tables.

"Some sporting tours allow their top players to play for free, relying on sponsors to fund the prize pool, so there's no risk to the participants, right? No risk means no gamble." OK, so then freeroll poker isn't a gamble, right? Or those subscription poker Web sites that let you play for cash prizes for a nominal monthly fee, there's no risk there, right? Golfers pay dues to be members of the PGA and USGA, is that any different? And don't kid yourself. Every stroke means something to a golfer whether they pay to play or not. If Tiger all of a sudden couldn't win a tournament or make an amazing clutch putt, do you think he'd still have all of those endorsement deals? Unlikely. And scores of poker pros have endorsement deals that allow them to play tournaments for free, too. Are they still gambling?

Let's compare poker and golf from a skill and luck standpoint using the handy chart on the next page.



GOLF	CATEGORY	POKER
	SELECTION	Players need to know which hands to fold and which to play, and how hard to push the action.
You can get a lucky bounce off a tree, cart path, sprinkler head, or even a spectator's head.	GOOD LUCK	You can hit a one-outer that gives you the winning hand when all hope was lost.
Your drive goes down the middle but ends up in a divot, forcing you to make a poor second shot; or your putt could hit a spike mark that you didn't see in your line, sending the ball just past the lip of the cup, costing you another stroke.	BAD LUCK	Opponents could hit a miracle card for the winning hand, sending you to the rail. Or the dealer could expose a card that was meant for you, revealing an ace that would have given you pocket rockets, and then the replacement card is a deuce.
Players need to know when to lay up on a Par 5 or when to go for the green to achieve the desired outcome.	STRATEGY	Players need to know when, and how much, to bet to achieve the desired outcome.
Players need to know how to adjust to weather conditions that could alter their game.	ADAPTATION	Players need to know how to adjust to other players at the table so they can play the most effective style.
Players often calculate what score they will need to win their match or tournament, and then they play accordingly.	MATH	Players calculate odds to call a bet based on the remaining cards that can give them the winning hand, and then play accordingly.

Do you see where this is going? So why do people insist on calling poker players gamblers?

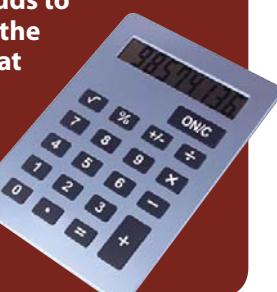
Here it is in a nutshell: People see actual money being won or lost on the table. They see cash changing hands on *High Stakes Poker* (or in their local casinos) on a turn of a random card. They don't understand the math and calculation that goes into decisions; they just see money going into the pot and they can't detach themselves from the value. If Barry thought he was betting a Corvette or half the net worth of Romania every time he raised all-in on *HSP*, it might be difficult to pull the trigger. But he knows chips are the tools of his trade, just like irons, woods and a putter are Tiger's tools.

Let's say we stop the Masters on the 18th green as Tiger is lining up a 10-foot par putt on Sunday. Then the guy who's tied with

him is allowed to run out on the green, place \$300K next to the hole and say "Tiger, that's how much you'll lose if you miss this putt!" Do

you think that would add a little pressure? Do you think people would realize a lot of money rides on his actions? Yet they still wouldn't think it was gambling. Odd.

When a poker player says, "OK, I'll gamble with you," as he makes a preflop call with a terrible hand, he uses the word "gamble" because he knows he's going into the hand as an underdog. Knowing you're taking a chance with the worst hand is a gamble, because you went against the skill it required to lay down your inferior hand. That's why there are no professional roulette or baccarat players, because you can't control the outcome. In poker, you can always fold, and therein lies the truth that poker is a skill-based game, not a gamble.



THREE DRAWS TO SQUASH THE \$5 LIMIT

Badugi! It sounds like something you'd shout as you charge a hill. Or when you call someone out in court. Or, it just might be something you'd shout when you want a game that's playable under Florida's \$5 bet limit. Pronounced buh-doo-ghee, it's a draw poker game, almost like the first poker game you played as a kid. For me, it was loading the cassette game into my Commodore VIC-20 and deciding whether to draw one to the flush or to hold on to my ace. It wasn't for many years later that Texas Hold'em swept the country and I began to play poker seriously.

And now, several years after that, I'm taking another look at that old draw game that first whetted my poker appetite.

Why? Because I think it just might be a game that can thrive under our repressive state laws.

Draw poker comes in many versions, not counting all those crazy ones your buddy calls after one too many Busch Lights in the home game. Single-draw is enjoying a small resurgence, likely fueled by the popularity of video poker across the nation. But it's best played pot-limit, and that's just not allowed in Florida (yet).

But a triple-draw game — well, that just might have enough juice for us limit-poker junkies. With four betting rounds, there's plenty of opportunity to build a nice pot. And while a spread-limit version would no doubt add an extra layer of strategy, it's a game where a fixed \$5 bet limit doesn't necessarily trample on recognized betting structures like it does in Texas Hold'em or Omaha.

Deuce-to-Seven Lowball, or even Ace-to-Five Lowball, are more popular triple-draw versions, so why is it that I'm advocating badugi?

It's just plain more fun.



SCOTT LONG

Where to play

Badugi isn't yet dealt in Florida, but while you wait for your local card room to spread it, practice on PokerStars.Com.

Here's the deal:

The game is played six-handed and with blinds. (That's the one hitch that we just can't escape yet in Florida. It's probably best played with \$3 and \$5 blinds to generate action).

Each player is dealt four cards down, and cards are never exposed (that's part of the allure of draw games. You have to make your decision purely off of betting patterns).

There's a round of betting, followed by three draws, each followed by a round of betting. Players can draw four cards each round.

Badugi is a lowball game, so the best hand is A-2-3-4.

But here's the best twist — to have a "badugi," those four cards all must be from a different suit. That's right. One spade, one heart, one club, one diamond. If you double up on suits, then an opponent who does have four different suits will trump you, regardless of rank. If you have three suits, then you have what's known as a "three-card badugi," and again, the lower your three cards are, the better.

One more thing: Pairs are bad, too. So an A-2-3-3, four different suits, is just a really strong "three-card badugi," and will lose to a 10-J-Q-K in four different suits.

So what does it take to get this great game going here in Florida? Just one poker room to ask the state. It's a legitimate, published poker game, so it's just a simple piece of paperwork faxed to Tallahassee.

But it's going to take players before a room puts forth the effort. So get on the Badugi Bus today, and tell your poker room manager that you want three draws to squash the \$5 limit!



THE ECONOMY STINKS

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WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

HELLMUTH MADE ADJUSTMENTS; YOU CAN, TOO

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

I noticed the other day that I was shaking my leg as the cards were being dealt to me during one hand. I never shake my leg, but at this particular moment I became conscious of it. I stopped it right away. But since these things sometimes happen subconsciously, is there a mental checklist you suggest to be sure physical tells stay at the forefront of my consciousness and therefore can be eliminated? — Jack in Tampa



JOE NAVARRO

Jack, while playing, go through a mental checklist and ask yourself: What are they reading on me? The less you move and the more you block the mouth area the less there is to read. If you have noticed, **Phil Hellmuth** has adopted a technique from my book for concealing behaviors (elbows on table, hands up to the mouth, thumbs hidden under the chin). If you can perch yourself like this for a few minutes, this will ensure you're revealing nothing. It's a good way to calm down and to assess for leg movements. Try it out.

I attended one of your World Series of Poker academies and someone asked you how do we differentiate what the tells mean. In other words, if someone is nervous, how do we know if he's nervous because he's bluffing or if he has a monster hand? I think your answer was along the lines of, "Well, then you have to know your player." But that isn't always easy to do. Can you expand on your original answer? — Elizabeth from Pompano Beach

Elizabeth, there is probably nothing harder than human behavior to decipher because we are all influenced by so much and so yours is a great question. People can become excited (aroused) from something



positive or something negative. Usually what we see is that when it's something negative, there may be something like the chest heaves up and down. We see this with criminals who get caught, but then this is attended to by a lot of pacifying behaviors. When we are excited in a positive way, we tend to see a lot of indicators of that excitement (opening of eyes, nose flares, etc.). Then you have players who are shaking when they have a monster hand and others who shake when they are bluffing. All I can tell you is this: You have to get to know your players, because this is not exact. If it were, it would be easy.

I recently heard on the Ante Up PokerCast an interview with Mike Caro, who wrote the original book on poker tells. He said he hadn't had the chance to read your book. Have you read his book? And if so, what is the biggest difference in the books? I'm thinking of buying one. Thanks! — Jose in Miami

Jose, I would definitely buy Mike Caro's book. I think he has a lot of good information from a player's perspective. My book took a scientific approach and looked at the research that had been done in the past 20 years on how the brain works and how it processes information such as a rag or monster hand. I also combined it with my work in the FBI catching spies. My book was not intended to replace Caro's book, which can never be replaced. My work is merely a contribution to the literature on the subject of tells. I would say buy them both, and buy them used if you have a limited budget or check them out at the library for free. I read his book after I wrote my book and I think it is still a classic, definitely worth reading.

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

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DRUG TESTS AT POKER TOURNAMENTS? WHY NOT?

Most poker players dream about sitting at a major-event final table. I have a nightmare.

In my nightmare, I gaze around the brightly lit table trying to assess the chip stacks of my opponents but, oddly enough, it's not chips that I see in front of each player.

To my left, instead of chips, there are six-packs of Corona stacked in neat piles. Behind them is sitting Scotty Nguyen, cursing at everyone, especially me. Sitting next to him behind a mountain of white powder is a faceless Internet pro hunched underneath a hoodie. He occasionally dips into his pile with a tiny spoon. Next to him, there is a fortress of stacked Red Bulls and from behind it bellows Hevad Khan:

"Buuulldozeeeerrrrr!" In the next two seats, Mike

Matusow and Paul Phillips are playing a side game using piles of Adderall and Provigil as chips.

There is a tap on my shoulder and the cocktail waitress offers me my choice from her tray of pills, mounds of powder, energy drinks and beer. "You'll need something to keep up with this crowd, Sir," she says.

"WTF," I mutter and suddenly a bald beefy tournament director appears. "No F-bombs allowed at this table!" he says as he grabs me by my collar and hauls me off to poker jail.

Okay, it's just a crazy dream. Hevad quit drinking Red Bull a year ago. But maybe the rest of the details of my dream are not so far-fetched at all.

In my last two columns I gave you a brief overview of a few of the various drugs that could be used to enhance performance at the poker table. I dismissed caffeine as ineffective and dissed cocaine and speed as dangerous, addictive and illegal. I named a few pros who have admitted using Adderall, a form of legalized speed, at the table but, in fairness, those particular pros suffer from true mental disorders and have obtained these drugs legally with a doctor's prescription. Last month I discussed Provigil, a true performance enhancer with minimal side effects. Some pros are already using it to improve their game.

There are many other drugs that might be helpful to poker players. Beta blockers reduce heart rate and blood pressure and could help you hide that pulsating neck vein you get with a big hand. The Restless Leg Syndrome drug, Requip, reduces inhibitions and could help convert a tight-passive player into a loose-aggressive one. There are drugs for dementia that improve memory, concentration and pattern recognition. Even Botox can be used to paralyze some of the facial muscles and reduce tells.

Before you dismiss this as fanciful or unlikely, consider some tournament fields number in the thousands and millions of dollars are at stake. Surely some players are using drugs to get an edge. The real question is not whether it's happening, because it is. It's what, if anything, the poker community should do about it.

Let me be clear: This issue involves tournaments only. In cash games, house rules apply. The house, whether it's a casino or your home, can allow cigars, drugs, booze, eating at the table, wild cards, Pass the Trash, or running the flop more than once. If you don't like the rules, you don't have to play.

But when you've coughed up hundreds or maybe thousands of dollars to try to win a tournament, you have a right to expect the rules are structured so no one has an unfair advantage. So here's the big question: Should major-event tournaments develop a list of prohibited drugs and then drug-test the final table?

Here are some bullet points AGAINST drug testing:

Poker always has been associated with booze, drugs and hard living. Poker players are Libertarians. Leave them alone.

How easy would it be to spike someone's drink at a final table so they would fail the drug test? A whole new level of security would have to be established. Olympic teams commonly bring their own food and chefs for this very reason.

Are tournament sponsors prepared to deal with the legal earthquake that would occur if a main event bracelet winner fails a drug test?

What about players who truly suffer from mental disorders such as ADHD and need these drugs to function? Should they be prohibited from entering tournaments? Or must they stop taking their medication and risk a relapse? Can they be considered disabled and can they sue for discrimination under the ADA?

All right, what are the major points FOR drug testing?

How can poker gain legitimacy as a serious international competition while continuing to ignore drugs that enhance performance?

The Olympics, football, baseball and even horse racing require its champions be drug-free. What kind of message is the poker community sending to young people about this issue?

You've been sitting at a final table for hours. You're fatigued. Life-changing money is at stake. If everyone else at your table is taking something to stay awake and improve performance, would you feel pressure to risk your health and take something, too? Is that fair?

For now, I'm going to remain strictly neutral on this issue, but I would love to hear what you think about it. Send me your opinions and comments and I'll report back to you in a future column. Contact me at ftosciano@redbamboomedispa.com or vote on the Ante Up forum at anteupmagazine.com/forum.



FRANK TOSCANO M.D.

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ACUMEN POKER

LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way.

TEAMWORK IS VALUABLE, BUT TRUST YOURSELF

Last month I talked about the importance of teamwork and how others can help take your game to a higher level. But I also promised to discuss a key hand from the Borgata Winter Open's main event and how I used this teamwork to improve my game. So here it is:



LEE CHILDS

This tournament had a phenomenal structure: 75-minute levels and 50K in chips. I had a great starting table with only a couple of strong players, some average players and several weak players (calling three bets lightly and seeing many multiway flops).

One player in particular had proved to be extremely loose (sometimes passive, sometimes aggressive) and frequently overly bluff-happy. He was called down correctly at least three times by an opponent with ace-high in the first four levels! He also paid me off in a monster pot with AK on a QK6Q3 board when I was holding pocket queens for quads! We'll refer to him as Timebomb as we're waiting for him to explode and donate his chips to someone — hopefully me again.

At the dinner break, I had 77K and was feeling great about my play. The second hand back from dinner, with blinds at 300-600 plus a 75 ante, a tight player under the gun raised to 1,800. I was two to his left with A♦K♦. I re-raised to 6,000, in part to isolate in position and also to get information on just how strong the UTG player was. To my surprise, Timebomb called out of the small blind and UTG folded.

Timebomb and I see a flop of K♣8♣7♣ with 15,450 in the pot. Timebomb checked and I bet 10,000. He check-raised all-in for another 34,300. What now? If I make the call, I would be down to about 26K and if I let it go, I'm still sitting at a very comfortable 61K with a lot of play left at a weak table. I have the A♣ in my hand, so it's less likely he's on a flush draw. But it's certainly possible he flopped a set, in which case I'd be almost drawing dead. Most players will not flat-call a three-bet out of position with a hand like 9-10 or 5-6, so I figured it was a set or bluff. Based on all of the history with this opponent and all the bluffs, I decided it would more often be a bluff in this spot than a monster. Plus I had shown the ability to lay down hands on multiple occasions, so I made the call. He tabled two kings for top set!

As I mentioned last month, I had the opportunity to discuss this hand with fellow Team PPI Elite players Bill Blanda, Eric "Rizen" Lynch and Kathy Leibert. Bill was adamant about me folding in this spot. My table was so weak overall that it was just not worth the risk of

losing that many chips with one pair when we're still so deep-stacked. In fact, his line of thinking is exactly like what I would do pretty much every time in this spot. Rizen and Kathy thought this was the spot I was looking for against this guy and that based on all of the information I had on him, there was no way I should fold even though folding ensures I maintain a very competitive stack at this weak table.

In fact, Kathy said she would snap-call. Adding to her confidence in this decision was the fact that if I laid it down, I would be questioning the laydown for the rest of the tournament and it could negatively affect my play from that point on.

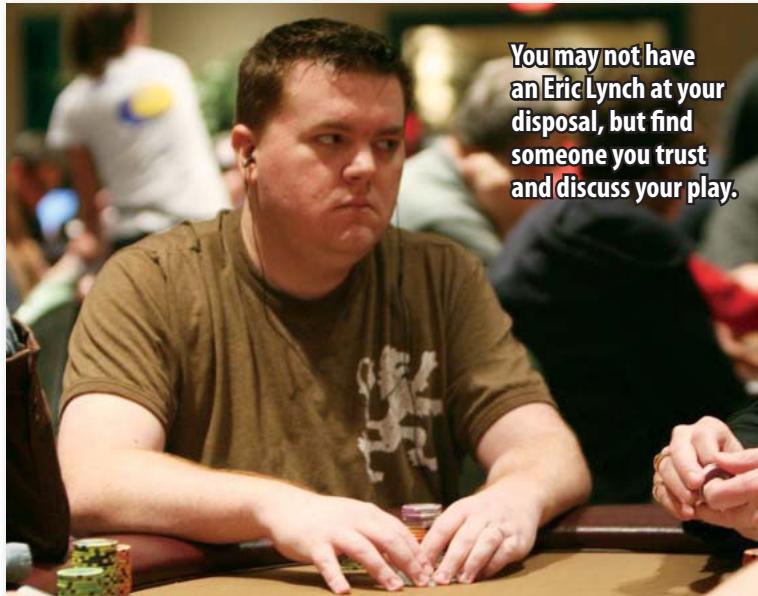
You have to make the best decisions based on the information you have. You have to factor in opponents' actions, tendencies, range of hands and so much more. If I took the safe route and folded my hand, I would not be leveraging all of my information and pouncing on the situation I had been waiting for. So while it's almost always incorrect to call off this many chips with just one pair when you have a deep stack, especially if you're seated at a weak table, in this case, three out of four PPI pros agree it was right to call.

I thought about this hand a lot the rest of the day and realized we neglected one key detail. This was the correct decision based on my situation at the time. But, I created a more difficult situation with my continuation bet (c-bet). I'm going to c-bet a large majority of the time when I'm the pre-flop aggressor, but in this case, was that the right move? I have a moderately strong hand with top pair, top kicker and I have position against a guy who likes to bluff a lot.

I'm probably way ahead or way behind with this flop, so why even bet? Why not just check behind and control the size of the pot with my one-pair hand? If he flat-called with a pair that didn't already make a set, he was drawing to just two outs and there was no reason to be concerned about the flush draw or straight draw here based on the pre-flop action. Putting all of this together led me to the correct line I should have taken with this hand regardless of his holding. I should have checked behind on the flop for pot control in this way-ahead/way-behind situation against a weaker, bluff-happy opponent.

If you don't already have a team of poker friends, develop one. Talk with other players about the hands you play. Learn how they think about the game, get their insight and share yours. The more perspectives you get and the more you really think about the game when you are not in the heat of battle, the better you will become. Decide to Win!

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



MALKA'S MEMORIES

As told to *Ante Up* publisher Christopher Cosenza

ROBISON'S CASANOVA IMPRESSION FALLS JUST SHORT

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

Chip Reese and Danny Robison were poker partners.

But Reese, a Dartmouth grad in investment banking, controlled the money. He considered Robison the best seven-card stud player in the world, a title other greats would eventually bestow upon Reese.

Stud was the most popular game in Las Vegas in 1979, so Robison generated a lot of cash with his skills. But he had an unusual leak in his game: women. His true ambition was to rival Casanova.

At the time Reese and Robison were about 27, but Reese acted more like a 40-year-old businessman with four children. I always respected him, and as I got older I aspired to be more like him. Robison was the only high-limit player who would hang out with the guys, so I liked Danny.

One day a furrier came in to the Dunes card room and was selling four mink coats for \$1,000 each. Robison bull-rushed Reese, who was playing in a game. "Chip, I need \$4,000 quick!"

"No, Danny, you don't have four girlfriends."

"Yeah, well, I will after I get these four coats."

Reese refused to budge and Robison began to panic. He snatched Reese's stack, gave him change, and then took off with the furrier. Reese shook his head in frustration, but raised his hand to stop anyone from interfering. This is what Robison was like.



DAN MALKA

About a year later at the Silverbird card room my shift had just come to an end and I saw Robison so I walked up to him. He immediately spotted the prettiest, young blackjack dealer at the Silverbird as she made her way to the break room.

"Hey, hey, hey, check this out," he said as she approached. "Hi, how ya doin'?"

She gave him a dirty look.

"Excuse me," he said. "Have I done something to upset you?"

"Look, I could get in trouble for this," she said, "but I don't like you. I don't like you because you're cheap."

"Miss, I've been called a lot of things by women, and rightfully so, but you're the first one to ever call me cheap. Why in the world would you say that?"

"Because you played on my table the other day and won \$700 and didn't even tip."

"Miss, let me explain. I'm a high-limit poker player. I lost \$30,000 to an out-of-town guy who quit early on me. So I was playing chump change on 21 to calm my nerves before calling my partner to tell him the story."

She wasn't impressed.

"Miss, let me make it up to you. I'll take you shopping, buy you a new wardrobe and fly you to Paris. We'll have dinner on the Champs-Elysées and do it on your next days off."

"I have a boyfriend," she said as she walked off.

"Can you believe that?" he said to me. "Do me a favor. Follow her to the break room and tell her all about me."

I said sure and followed her until we were out of his sight. She went to the break room and I walked to the time clock, punched out and made my own plans.

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WOMEN IN POKER

LAUREN FAILLA • Founder of High Heels Poker Tour

A LOOK AT OUR UP-AND-COMING FEMALE PLAYERS

I've watched many female poker players over the past few years and I keep coming back to the same thought: If you knew what I knew about some of today's rising Florida female poker stars, you might be interested to find out how they maneuver through the poker world every day. You just might be surprised how their daily lives are sometimes similar or such a contrast from their personas at the poker table. Here are some of the ladies from Florida who have had much success in the poker world and are quickly becoming ladies to watch in the future.

Name: Jena Delk of Merritt Island

Cashes: nine (\$68,021)

Hobbies: Hmm, poker, reading about poker, dreaming about poker, thinking about poker — did I mention, poker?

The Skinny: Jena's most successful tournament cash came recently at the Southern Poker Championship at Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Miss. in January, grabbing 11th place and \$26K. The mother of four also won the World Series of Poker circuit event's ladies title at Harrah's in New Orleans in May 2008.

Name: Lisa Adams of Boca Raton

Cashes: five (\$153,149)

In her own words: I am the CEO and co-founder of very successful businesses; I am a mom and had a 20-year career in sales that has prepared me for life on the felt. I frequent the Palm Beach Kennel Club, the Isle of Capri Casino and Seminole casinos. I am always looking to sharpen my skills in both mixed and ladies-only events.

The Skinny: Lisa's biggest score came when she took down the Wynn Classic in 2007, which was good for \$110K. She also won a WSOP circuit event's ladies title at the Grand Casino in Tunica, Miss. back in January 2006. The win was worth \$27K.

Name: Marla Crumpler of Ft. Lauderdale

Cashes: one (\$60,101)

The Skinny: Marla is a mother of twin boys, a corporate business-women and plays at Seminole casinos. She ranks 78th on the top 100 female money earners in the country. Her cash came in the 2008 WSOP ladies event, finishing fifth.

Name: Randi Calabro of Harmony

Cashes: six (\$123,762)

The Skinny: Randi, who started playing just two years ago, ranks 46th on the list of top 100 female money earners. Her biggest cash was a third-place finish in the WSOP ladies event in June 2007, good for \$106K, though she has placed first twice in other smaller events.

Name: Debbie Mitchell of Miramar

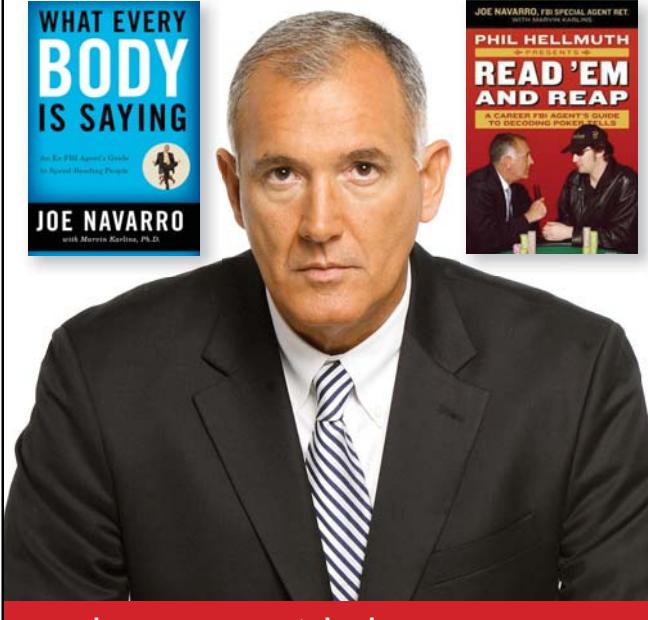
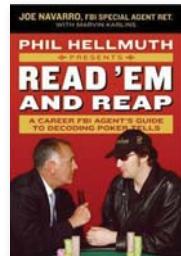
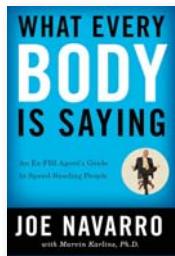
Cashes: 2 (\$47,883)

The Skinny: Deb has a fantastic career playing online with more than \$250,000 in winnings. She credits her playing abilities to studying the game, watching training videos, reading articles, discussing poker with friends and other great poker minds and being dedicated to succeed. She is a business owner and avid softball player. Her online ranking is 1,155 out of about 746,000 players. On the top 100 female live money earners in the country she ranks No. 91.

As these women have proved, poker comes in all shapes and sizes, professions and lifestyles. We're very proud of our hometown "women of poker" and want to see more Floridian women achieve this level of competition and achievement.

— Lauren Failla writes a monthly column for *Ante Up*, tracking the progress of women in poker. Email her at lauren@highheelspokertour.com.

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BENZA SAYS FANS SAVED 'HIGH STAKES'

Did you see the letter(s) we included on pages 5-8 for you to send to your Tallahassee representatives to improve Florida poker? If you feel such campaigns are futile, here's a perfect example where poker players saved something that was dear to them.



CHRIS COSENZA

Game Show Network debuted Season 5 of *High Stakes Poker* on March 1, and for anyone who followed the events that unfolded in June, this is nothing short of remarkable. It started with a short online report that GSN was moving in a new direction, looking to appeal to female viewers, and that *HSP* might be on the chopping block. Outraged fans lit up the forums and blogs, and even the show's co-host, A.J. Benza, was so upset he appeared on the *Ante Up PokerCast* to vent his feelings. After months of campaigning and complaining, GSN recognized the fan base for *HSP* was just too large to ignore and granted another season. And this came on the heels of the network surrendering its rights to broadcast the World Poker Tour, which had better ratings. Well, Benza is forever grateful, and he's convinced if the fans had kept quiet the show wouldn't be on the air.

"It was gone," he said in the Feb. 27 episode of the *Ante Up PokerCast*. "And I tell ya, it ticked me off. ... We have a core audience and base of fans that are so crazy for the show. ... It was horrifying for me because we literally went through a year without working, and that

ain't easy these days.

"With the help of you guys (*Ante Up*) and a lot of bloggers ... I really think that was a big part of them bringing us back. And now we're looking for a 52-week commitment after these 13 weeks are done, so we could be here for a while."

It's no secret *HSP* is my favorite poker show. Perhaps it's the *Godfather* references Benza and Gabe Kaplan always make, maybe it's because the best players in the world are on week-in and week-out, or maybe it's just because I'm a cash-game player. Whatever it is, *HSP* is here to stay. So what do we have to look forward to this season?

"One guy I've got to point out," Benza said, "who is unequivocally the best poker player I have ever seen. He's 22 years old; you've ever heard of Tom Dwan? He's like 'Rain Man' good. ... He figures out every single hand. He makes Doyle Brunson, who I know is spectacular, seem like a dunce. ... Poker takes a tough turn for Daniel Negreanu in the first five shows; there's a half-million dollar pot that an old-timer takes over a young gun. ... (But) Dwan, I've never seen poker like his on *High Stakes* in the last five seasons. ... Some of the stuff Dwan says, he sounds like Napolean Dynamite. If someone says to him, 'What'd you have, king-jack?' Instead of just saying no, he'd go, 'Huh, that's like the worst hand that I could've had.' I would punch that guy's face in at a high stakes game."

High Stakes Poker airs Sunday nights at 9 ET on GSN, and if you'd like to hear the rest of Benza's hilarious interview go to anteupmagazine.com and click on the Feb. 27 episode.



POKERVISION

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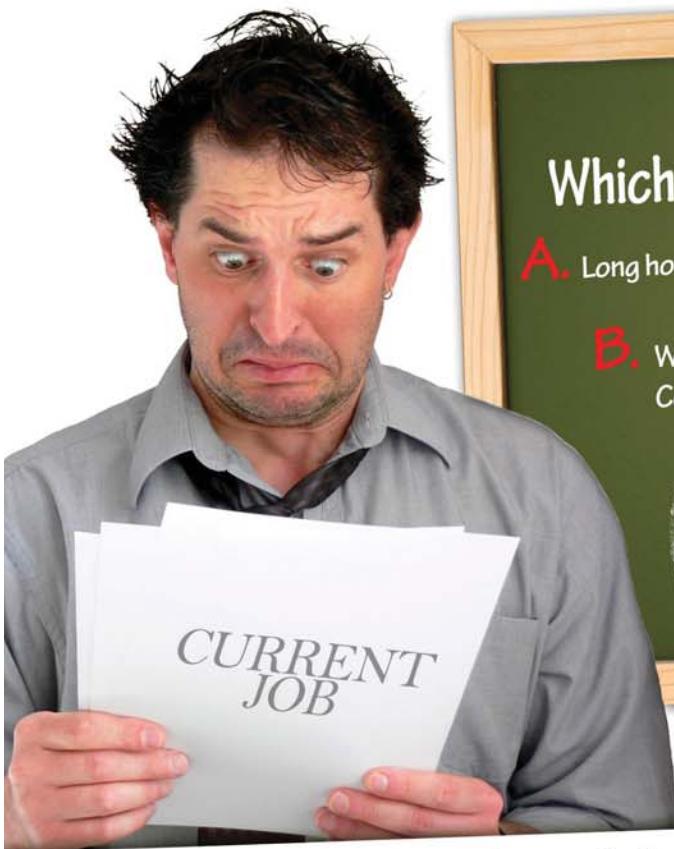
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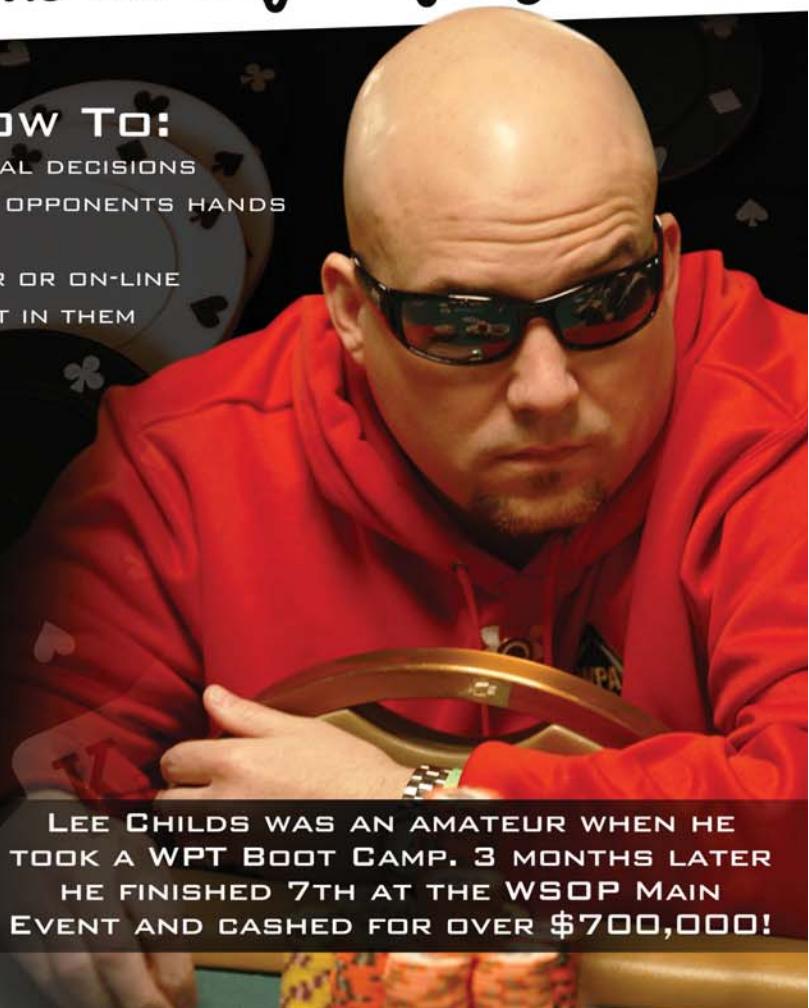
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And we're proud to have turned out five World Series of Poker dealers. The course instructor has dealt for two years of the World Series of Poker Main Events and in 2007 was the feature dealer in four different episodes of the ESPN WSOP coverage. With his experience, course content and his connections with the event planners, it is a course worth looking at.

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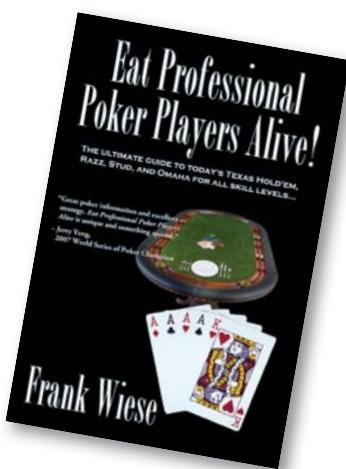
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Q&A

WITH MATT SAVAGE

He is the face of tournament poker. Matt has directed nearly 400 televised tournaments and was recently named tournament director at the Commerce Casino in L.A. He took time out while in the Philippines to discuss such topics as the TDA, his overexposure on TV and One-Eyed Jacks' Sam Minutello. You can hear the full interview at anteupmagazine.com.

A lot of people may not know this, but you founded the Tournament Directors Association. Is it your dream to have all tournaments worldwide follow your TDA rules and how do we get there? It's kind of a passion for me. When I started the TDA back in 2001 I was told that it could never happen, and right now the TDA is used in most major tournaments around the world. It's something that is easy to use and better for the players because now they can go into a casino and say 'Hey, they're using TDA rules; I know I'm gonna get the same consistent rules here that I get everywhere else.' So we have people looking out to join us in the TDA, and it's never been for any kind of profit, which I'm very proud of, and we work really hard to make sure the people get those questions answered that they have in their home games, in their small tournaments and in the major ones.

On your Web site, SavageTournaments.com, you offer to help people wanting to make tournament poker their career. How many people approach you for this kind of guidance and is the offer still on the table? A lot! (laughs) There are a lot of people who've said I want to do what you do, I want to have a career in poker. It's hard because what am I really doing if I'm training people to do what I do? It's kinda taking away from a craft that I have, but at the same time I'm totally willing to offer any kind of encouragement I can. Recently I've been hit with a lot of inquiries from dealers, from floor people, from people in college who want to (do what I do). ... I've already placed a couple of people that have become tournament directors in their casinos.

Name a situation that came up in a tournament where you either didn't know what to do or were just sick because you realized later you made the wrong decision. I don't make wrong decisions. (laughs) Basically every day. There are different situations that happen ... players feel that there's a bet and a call on the river, and the player that bet on the river throws his hand away without showing it, a lot of people feel that the other player that called needs to show two cards to win the pot even though he's the only player with a live hand. I disagree. I went around and talked to a few of the other tournament directors and they seem to agree with me for the most part. But one in particular, Jack Eiffel at the World Series, feels that the player that bet needs to show his cards as well. So we do tend to disagree. And those are the types of things that, when we have those TDA meetings, we try to rectify, get everybody on the same page. And, hopefully, even though we may not agree on the ruling, we go with the same one and it's better for the industry as a whole.

There was a point in poker where we couldn't turn on the TV without seeing you in a tux. You even had your own TV show called *Inside Poker*. Do you think a tournament director getting his own show was the pinnacle of the poker boom? I might have been the pinnacle, you never know. With the UIGEA affecting us the way it has it's been problematic, but at the same time growing internationally, maybe not. So we'll have to see.

I think it's yet to be told where poker has to go.

OK, let's get this one out there. A friend of *Ante Up* is Sam Minutello, the poker room manager at One-Eyed Jacks here in Sarasota. He obviously has called a lot of tournaments on TV as well. Is it safe to say you guys have a rivalry? I wouldn't say rivalry. Obviously there's a lot of stuff going on so there's plenty of things to do.

You know there was an event out at the Playboy Mansion that he ran. Everybody was calling me up saying you need to run this event; it was a total disaster, and all this stuff. So I tried to get involved the following year, found out that Sam Minutello was the one that was running it so, in that respect I backed off right away because I like Sam. I would say a healthy rivalry is kinda what we have.

Who's a better tournament director, you or Sammy the Deuce? Definitely me. There's no question. (laughs)

You used to put your *Inside Poker* guests on the spot and ask them one-word questions, sort of like word-association. So, we'd like to do that with you now if you don't mind. Sure.

TDA: Integrity. I'm proud of that.

Jack McClelland: He is historic ... he's influenced my career a lot. I respect him and the job that he does.

World Series of Poker: Tradition. Unfortunately I think some of that's been lost with Harrah's, but at the same time I think that what they've done over there is great for the game as well.

Linda Johnson: Respect. She's basically the one that helped me get the TDA started and without her it probably never would have gotten done.

Drunk players: They don't happen in my tournament, not nearly as much as it does in others.

Commerce Casino: It is an amazing place. ... It's all about the live games there, and now with me as tournament director hopefully we can build up the tournament side of things and make it just the No. 1 poker

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Sam Minutello: I'd like to work with him more, actually. I think he's got a reputation in the industry of integrity and fairness, and that's the kind of people I like to work with. He's welcome to work with me any time. ... under me of course. (laughs)



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