

# ANTE UP

## GRINDER GETS HIS GOLD

**Ante Up's WSOP Player of the Year  
Michael Mizrachi wins his first bracelet,  
and he's not done yet...**

**... Grinder joins fellow  
Floridians John Dolan  
& John Racener at  
November Nine  
final table.**



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**TENNESSEE**  
WELCH WINS A BRACELET

**VIRGINIA**  
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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



Christopher Cosenza

Scott Long

# IN THE END, IT WAS GRINDER

To determine the *Ante Up* World Series of Poker Player of the Year we didn't hire some expensive firm to come up with a formula or have a team of bean counters and actuaries add up the buy-ins and place particular weight to different events. We're poker players (in the loosest sense of the word, of course) and as poker players we're driven by what our gut tells us.

Perhaps someday we might hand out something more prestigious than a mere cover story for this award, which likely would require us to be a little more sophisticated with the process. But until that day comes our winning players will have to settle with the pure joy of appearing on the front of our magazine and having us write something nice about them.

This year, picking our WSOP Player of the Year was about as tough as folding a set when your tournament life is on the line. There were numerous players from our corner of the country who had multiple cashes, great showings and even won bracelets. But, ultimately, it came down to two players: Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi and Frank "No Nickname" Kassela. On one hand there's Grinder, a Florida native who lives in Miramar and spends some time in Vegas. On the other hand there's Kassela, who lives in Vegas but once called Tennessee home and still has business ties there.

Right out of the gate Mizrachi won the first open event, the prestigious \$50K Players Championship, an eight-game mix that sports a field of the toughest rounders ever to play on the felt. He then made another final table just a few days later in the \$10K World Championship Stud event. But soon after Kassela made his presence known, winning the \$10K World Championship Stud/8 title and then capturing a razz event, making sure the WSOP had yet another double bracelet-winner in one series. Mizrachi would counter with another final table, as would Kassela, finishing third in the \$25K six-handed event.

Who would it be? Mizrachi had four final tables

(Kassela had three); Kassela won two bracelets and cashed six times; Mizrachi won one bracelet and cashed five times, but he took home more money overall than Kassela. They both entered the \$2,500 mixed event and Mizrachi finished higher, cashing 26th (\$6,324) while Kassela finished 36th (\$5,376). And as you likely already know, Grinder outlasted Kassela in the 7,319-player main event, currently sitting in seventh place at the November Nine. Is that enough to be the kicker that breaks the tie? Probably.

But we looked beyond the table, and that's where we found our answer. Mizrachi had just come under incredible public scrutiny when his nearly \$340K tax lien and subsequent home foreclosures were brought to light in the South Florida *Sun-Sentinel* newspaper. The news spread through the poker world faster than the blinds in a \$2 turbo. He also entered the Series with an extremely heavy heart after a family tragedy. Add to all of that the ignominious label of being arguably the best player in the world never to win a bracelet and you can see why the Grinder was indeed chosen as our 2010 WSOP Player of the Year.



To not only succeed but to thrive during a time when he easily could've tossed in the towel and gone into

hiding is a testament to his professionalism and poker courage. We salute the Grinder on his amazing accomplishment and tell his story on Page 30.

We'd like to congratulate Kassela on a fantastic effort. We're certain the two gold bracelets on his wrists will help him deal with the disappointment of not winning our award.

Also, we'd like to welcome aboard Pennsylvania and Delaware to the Ante Up Nation this month as those states recently joined the legal poker ranks. It's a natural addition to our expansion throughout the right half of the United States, and be sure to look for more states appearing in our magazine in the coming months.

We'll see you at the tables.

**Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long**

## ANTE UP

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# TELEVISION

## FLORIDA

Now that poker rooms in the Sunshine State have uncapped poker and longer operating hours, their staffs are forced to grow, which is great for the economy. **18**

The Nutz Poker League is joining forces with the Silks Poker Room at Tampa Bay Downs to host a benefit event for the families of fallen Tampa police officers. **16**

## VIRGINIA

The Portsmouth charity poker scene loses a great friend and player as Eugene "Papa Smurf" Shull died unexpectedly June 19 at age 77. **22**



This image was airbrushed on the side of the Poker Room II in memory of Eugene Shull.



## PENNSYLVANIA

Players from the Keystone State dominate the Borgata Summer Open by capturing seven of 22 titles. The Ante Up Nation had quite a few players at these final tables. **26**

## TENNESSEE



Nashville online phenom Ryan Welch gets his bracelet. **20**

## COVER STORY



Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi puts it all together to capture the World Series of Poker's \$50K Players Championship and his first gold bracelet. The Miramar, Fla., resident now sits in seventh place as a member of the 2010 November Nine. Is it any wonder he's Ante Up's WSOP Player of the Year?

Story by Christopher Coscia • Photography by Jonathan Dennis



Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi finally wins his first WSOP bracelet, and it comes in the prestigious \$50K Players Championship. His remarkable accomplishments during the Series, including making the November Nine, make him our choice for Ante Up WSOP Player of the Year. **30**

## PERSPECTIVE

Poker pro Lee Childs takes a hand from a \$1K Venetian DeepStack event and explains how sometimes players' betting patterns and physical tells don't add up to what they're trying to sell. Sometimes you have to make a tough call in poker. **47**

If you can see the dealer button on the right then that means you can see it on the table when you're playing as well, says a local dealer who writes our *Deal With It* column this month. Learn to act in turn! **50**



Is your arm feeling weak at the table? Are you dragging your foot on the way back from Little Doyle's room? Maybe you're having a stroke. You have a very important decision to make if you suspect you are. Dr. Frank Toscano explains. **46**

In our final installment from the *Winning Poker Tournaments* series, Eric "Rizen" Lynch makes a call on the river because his hand may be good, or he at least will get information for future hands. **51**



## ROAD TRIP

Perhaps we should call this feature a sea trip as three of the four poker rooms in our Atlantic Coast review are on gambling ships. *Ante Up* takes a look at Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. **42-43**



## ANTE UP NEWS

- More incredible free stuff will be given away on our \$299 poker cruise.
- Like a chance to win some terrific poker prizes just for answering a few questions? Take the Ante Up Reader Survey! **Stories, 28**

## ON THE BUTTON



Chris Rose appears on the *Ante Up PokerCast* to chat up PokerStars' *The Big Game* on Fox and discuss life as a poker announcer. **62**

## CORRECTION

Larry Henderson finished sixth in the Deep Stack Charity Classic. A different name was listed in the July 2010 issue.

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## DANIA JAI-ALAI



Tournament director Dorothy Huth and winner Christopher Lewis.

With the hope of winning a \$10,000 seat in the World Series of Poker, 435 players entered the Dan Le Batard Celebrity Poker Tournament at Dania Jai-Alai on June 30.

Dania officials said this was a record crowd for a poker tournament at the Dania Beach facility.

As the players at the final table struggled to survive, Christopher Lewis of Miramar held the chip lead and the possible \$10K prize. Just before 1 a.m., he and the final two players decided they'd rather take the cash in lieu of the ticket and agreed on "chopping" the remaining prize pool of more than \$16,000.

Lewis took the tournament trophy and pocketed \$6,500 while the second- and third-place finishers took \$5,093 each. The tournament paid 20 spots.

"We knew the low buy-in of \$79 would attract players to play for a WSOP \$10,000 Main Event seat," said Paula Lettiere, Dania Jai-Alai's poker room administrator. "But, that, coupled with the promotion and party atmosphere that the radio station brings, made it our biggest event ever."

The tournament had sold out all 26 tables the day before, but people were allowed to enter as alternates, sitting in when someone was knocked out.

"We finally had to shut down entries at about 7:15 p.m. because we had almost 200 alternates knowing they would have to wait a long time to even sit down," said Dave Winslow, Dania's director of operations. "We probably could have hit 500 entries."

## HARD ROCK TAMPA

The Fourth of July weekend proved to be very lucky at Seminole Hard Rock in Tampa as not one, but two Mega Bad Beat Jackpots were hit totaling more than \$300,000.

The twin holiday weekend jackpots were the casino's six and seventh, putting the total for Tampa Megs at more than \$1.5 million, giving it the distinction of the most hits as well as most money paid out to date of all the Seminole casinos.

The first of \$190,790 hit early July 3 as

Terri B. won \$95,393 when her four jacks lost to the four kings of James C., who took home \$57,237. The eight remaining players at the table each won \$4,770.

On July 5 another one hit, this time for \$110,664. Joseph DiSalvo, Jr. of Tampa won \$55,330 with the improbable losing hand of four 10s. Michelle Murray, also of Tampa, beat that with a straight flush to the king for \$33,198. The eight remaining players at the table each won \$2,767.

## EBRO GREYHOUND PARK



Chris Niquet



Joe Sciliano



Walter Reed



Jim Kelly

Chris Niquet defeated more than 40 players in the big stack event on July 11 to take home \$1,548. Niquet was followed by Gary Stewart (\$967), Henry Speigner (\$580), Chee Cheng (\$464) and Charles Kahler (\$309).

- Joe Sciliano defeated 27 players to win the monthly \$330 megastack tournament. His A♥-J♥ edged Daryl Stephens heads-up with a flop of A-4-A. Gary Stewart finished third. Sciliano earned \$4,050 while Stephens pocketed \$2,430 and Stewart \$1,620.

- On July 3, Walter Reed of Panama City bested nearly 80 players to earn the \$451 prize. Herb Williams was second (\$288).

- Jim Kelly won the \$100 bounty tournament on July 1, taking home \$1,202, including 11 bounties at \$25 each.

## PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK



Ronnie Bryant, left, took down the \$20K guarantee on May 29, besting more than 90 players and winning \$9,306 from the \$28K prize pool.

Bryant was followed by Neelesh Patel (\$5,851), Nancy Hadley (\$3,243), Willie Thomas (\$2,256), Eric Furnans (\$1,974), Mike Elmore (\$1,692), Chris Lahr (\$1,481), Roy Richards (\$1,269) and Jerome Myers

(\$1,128).

- The June 26 \$20K guarantee drew 89 players to the \$340 event. Gerald Martello finished first, followed by Roy Richards, Joe Sciliano, Ival Meyer Jr., Christopher Johnson, Donnie Deluna, Wayne Burnett, Willie Thomas, Pamela Cobb and Lito. The next two main events will be July 31 and Aug. 28.



# Beautifully played.



Aug 26 - Sep 7



DATE	EVENT	TIME	TOURNAMENT	BUY-IN
Aug 26	Thu	6PM	Satellites and Nightly Events Begin	
Aug 27	Fri	1 12PM (1 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$200 + \$30
Aug 28	Sat	2 11AM (1 Day)	High Heels Poker Tour Ladies Event	\$200 + \$30
Aug 28	Sat	3 12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Aug 29	Sun	4 12PM (1 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em Charity Event	\$200 + \$30
Aug 30	Mon	5 12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Aug 30	Mon	6 4PM	Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Aug 31	Tue	7 12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em Survivor Event	\$200 + \$30
Aug 31	Tue	8 4PM	Limit Omaha Hi-Lo	\$300 + \$40
Sep 1	Wed	9 12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Sep 1	Wed	10 4PM	Seven Card Stud/Stud 8/b mixed event	\$300 + \$40
Sep 2	Thu	11 12PM	No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Sep 2	Thu	12 4PM	Pot Limit Omaha/Rebuy	\$500 + \$50
Sep 3	Fri	13 12PM (1 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em Turbo	\$300 + \$40
Sep 3	Fri	4PM (1 Day)	Rebuy Mega Satellite	\$200 + \$30
Sep 3	Fri	8PM (1 Day)	Rebuy Mega Satellite	\$200 + \$30
Sep 3	Fri Night	MIDNIGHT	Midnight Mega Satellite	\$270 + \$30
Sep 4	Sat	10AM	Last Chance Mega Satellite Turbo	\$500 + \$40
Sep 4	Sat	14 2PM (4 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em Championship	\$4,800 + \$200
Sep 5	Sun	12PM	Day 2 of Championship Event	
Sep 6	Mon	12PM	Day 3 of Championship Event	
Sep 6	Mon	15 2PM (1 Day)	No-Limit Hold 'Em Turbo	\$200 + \$30
Sep 7	Tue	4PM	Championship Event Final Table	

Event 14 winner receives a seat into the WPT event at Beau Rivage, January 2011.

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PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB



The \$50K Big Dog charity event on June 26 drew 167 players as Tony Mariotto of Ft. Pierce took the top prize of nearly \$20K.

More than \$1K was raised by the players at PBKC for the family of John "Turks." The next Big Dog will be July 31, and don't forget the Palm Beach Poker Classic is Aug. 22-28 (schedule at right).

**Final results**

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Tony Mariotto, \$19,700  | 9. Jerry Willis, \$2,000      |
| 2. Manny Leon, \$15,000     | 10. Ken Weintraub, \$1,700    |
| 3. Jeff Charlton, \$15,000  | 11. Russell Friend, \$1,400   |
| 4. Anthony Roberto, \$6,700 | 12. Jim Gleason, \$1,300      |
| 5. Terry Britton, \$5,200   | 13. Billy Ryan, \$1,100       |
| 6. Alan Nowak, \$4,300      | 14. Jeff Kaufman, \$1,100     |
| 7. Greg Abell, \$3,200      | 15. Melvin Katz, \$1,100      |
| 8. Eric Riley, \$2,500      | 16. Timmy Marcus, \$1,100     |
|                             | 17. Anthony Petruzzi, \$1,100 |



**Palm Beach Poker Classic**

The fifth annual Palm Beach Poker Classic runs Aug. 22-28. Last year Mike May of West Palm Beach won the \$50K event and was named co-player of the series. Who will step up this year?

DATE	TIME	EVENT	BUY-IN
Aug. 22	Noon	Casino Employee	\$120
Aug. 23	Noon	\$10K Guarantee NLHE	\$120
Aug. 24	Noon	6-Handed NLHE	\$120
Aug. 25	Noon	\$10K Guarantee Rebuy	\$30/\$20 RBs
Aug. 26	Noon	H.O.R.S.E.	\$120
Aug. 27	Noon	\$20K Guarantee NLHE	\$200
Aug. 28	Noon	\$50K Guarantee NLHE	\$550

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## ALL IN POKER SERIES

Chris Buxton won the monthly tournament on June 12 in Orlando. Buxton bested more than 70 players to take home the trophy and a cruise for two in October.

## THE NUTZ POKER LEAGUE

The Nutz Poker League, Tampa Bay Downs and Copa Restaurant & Lounge have teamed for a three-day event (Sept. 6-8) to benefit the Curtis/Kocab Memorial Fund, which gives support for the families of Tampa Officers David Curtis and Jeffrey Kocab, who were slain in the line of duty. Buy-in is \$30 with a \$10 dealer add-on and unlimited \$10 rebuys through the first three levels, after which a \$20 add-on will be offered.

For more information about the events please contact Rick Danford at rickd@showmethenutz.com.

• Melanie St. Angelo bested the biggest monthly field in Nutz history, winning the bracelet at Buffalo Wild Wings in Clearwater.

She also earned a Caribbean Dream Cruise and said she was excited about her victory.



## JACKSONVILLE POKER ASSOCIATION



John Giacoma, left, won \$2,400 after beating Teresa Main (\$1,200) in the June monthly tournament.



## MAGIC CITY CASINO



Here's Douglas, one of the regulars at Magic City since the late '90s when he would play 25-cent-50-cent hold'em.

He won \$41,351 after hitting the Big Slick Royal Flush Jackpot on June 19. It's the second time he's won a royal jackpot there.

## TREASURE CHEST POKER



Ryan Smith won a June monthly event and will be going with his girlfriend on the Ante Up Poker Cruise to the Bahamas from Oct. 25-29 out of Port Canaveral.

## ISLE AT POMPANO PARK

The \$400K guarantee Florida State Poker Championships will be Aug. 2-10. Here is the schedule:

DATE/TIME	EVENT	BUY-IN	GUARANTEE
Aug. 2/noon	NLHE	\$330	\$25K
Aug. 2/7p	Ladies	\$200	\$10K
Aug. 3/noon	NLHE	\$230	\$20K
Aug. 3/7p	PLO	\$225	\$20K
Aug. 4/noon	NLHE	\$550	\$75K
Aug. 6-8/noon	Main Event*	\$1,100	\$250K

\*The Main Event has three starting days (Aug 6-8) all beginning at noon. Day 2 will be Aug. 9 and Day 3 will be Aug. 10, both starting at noon.

## PLEASURE ISLAND POKER

It's been a busy month for the folks at Pleasure Island Poker.

• Sammie Jo Palpallatoc won the Bets Helping Vets event that benefits local disabled veterans. She earned a sponsored seat to a tournament at the Pensacola Greyhound Track as well as two rounds of golf and other prizes.

• On June 5, R.C. Klein won the Save the Tatas tournament at Scully's on the Bayou, benefiting Susan G. Komen's "Run for the Cure."

Klein's victory earned him a sponsored seat at PGT.

• On June 15, Mike Gauthier won the monthly tournament, defeating more than 70 players at the Flightline Pub & Cafe in Ft. Walton Beach. He beat Mike Johnson heads-up, but both players were awarded prize packages, which included a tournament seat at PGT.

• Roger Knight won the Emerald Coast Foundation charity event June 19 at Scully's on the Bayou. He, too, gets a tournament entry at PGT.



Gauthier



Knight



Palpallatoc



Klein



McFarlane

• Terri "IceQueen" McFarlane won the Ocala monthly one week after making the final table of the TCP quarterly. McFarlane was the first female winner in Ocala.

• Crystal Matina won the Murphy's monthly, a quarterly seat for a chance to play in the World Series of Poker and a \$100 gift card.

• Rob Shutler took down the Tampa Bay monthly in St. Pete, earning a \$500 gift card.

• Kenny Cross captured the Stokers monthly, besting nearly 130 players for 32-inch LCD TV and a chance to play in the WSOP.



Matina



Shutler

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# NEW LIMITS? THAT MEANS NEW STAFF, TOO

By Garrett Roth

It's a new era in Florida poker. July 1, 2010 was not only a significant date for poker players, but for management of casinos and racetracks all over the state. New limits, games, hours and employees are just a few of the additions that were needed for the new Florida poker expansion.

Casinos and racetrack venues were forced to make some major changes to accommodate these new additions to Florida poker. Michael LaFroschia, CEO of the Casino Career Institute in Oakland Park, Fla., discussed transformations that these institutions would have to put in place for this transition to be successful.

"One of the biggest factors is the expanded hours," LaFroschia said. "Many places need to cover the extended hours with new employees and dealers."

Florida cardrooms such as Derby Lane, Tampa Bay Downs and Ocala Poker are just a few of the rooms that had to hire new dealers for the expansion. Hours for these rooms have been extended to accommodate players. There are, however, some casinos that didn't have to hire more dealers, such as the Semi-



Michael LaFroschia

nole Hard Rock in Tampa. Hard Rock always has been a 24-hour room, so hiring more dealers wasn't necessary.

What was necessary, however, was separating dealers according to skill. Since pot-limit games were introduced, the current dealers had auditions to deal these specific games. Hard Rock is one of the most popular card-

rooms in Central Florida, so it understands the quality of the dealer must match with the quality of the game.

LaFroschia also said dealers will have to deal with players from around the country.

"The new dealers need to be trained not only on mechanics, but also on customer service and professionalism," he said. "High-limit players want experienced dealers that are able to deal with game protection, work ethic, knowledge of management skills and collusion protection."

Poker rooms across the state are very selective in their hirings. The standard of dealers and casino employees has been raised along with the new limits. Along with hiring new dealers and new casino staff, there are other areas where these locations can improve to draw players from out of state.

"These casinos and racetracks need more knowledge of what players want and what gamblers are all about," LaFroschia said. "They need to offer players free drinks, rooms or comps to keep them coming back. The rooms need to market themselves more and have additional incentives. It will definitely get to that point."

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An occasional interview with a local player • By Garrett Roth



# WELCH WINS TRIPLE CHANCE

Online phenom from Nashville earns his first WSOP bracelet as friends in the stands cheer for him.

The Internet has not only transformed the way poker is played, but it has changed the caliber of player excelling at the game. Ryan "gutshhallin" Welch is a perfect example of an Internet prodigy who has turned into a live professional.

Welch, who hails from Nashville, recently captured the most elusive prize in poker, a World Series of Poker bracelet. He took down Event No. 51 (no-limit hold'em \$3,000 Triple Chance) for an amazing \$560,000.

He started playing poker in 2004 with a high school friend who introduced him to Party Poker. He dabbled in sit-n-go tournaments and small events but was never really that interested in the game until he joined PokerXFactor, an online training site.

"I joined the site in 2008 and that's what finally pushed me over the edge and gave me the poker bug," Welch said. "It's been a complete 180-degree change for me because I am now a PXF Pro instructor for multitable tournaments."

Welch is one of the most admired, yet feared, players in the game today. He's been on a tear the past few years online, having won a ridiculous amount of tournaments. Some of his career highlights include wins in the PokerStars Sunday Warm Up (\$99K), Full Tilt \$1K Monday (\$80K), and a runner-up finish in the PokerStars Spring

Championship of Online Poker (Event 20, \$215,000). Over his short time playing, he has amassed more than \$3 million in tournament earnings.

Many factors contribute to success in poker, including talent, patience and determination. These, however, aren't the only aspects of a great player as Welch would say internal support systems are just as important. He explained how the support of his friends and family helped him win the coveted WSOP bracelet.

"Unfortunately, my family couldn't make it to Vegas during my win, but they have always supported me 100 percent throughout my poker career," he said. "It was awesome to have so many of my friends come support me throughout the last day of the tournament. Also, my wife Kristin is my No. 1 supporter and I'm very lucky to have a wife that understands poker and the ups and downs that go with it."

Welch is building a home in Las Vegas where he can live out his dream as a poker professional. He plans on playing and teaching poker for as long as possible.

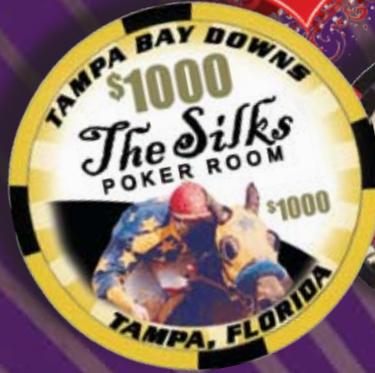
"I love the freedom that poker gives you," he said, when asked about his future in poker, "I absolutely can't think of anything else on Earth I would rather be doing. I know what it's like to work a 9-to-5 job and there's no way I'm going back to that!"

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Bets	Min
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\$4-\$8	\$40
\$8-\$16	\$80
\$15-\$30	\$150
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VIRGINIA



Mr. Shull congratulates Bill Elliot for winning a WSOP seat on June 17.

**Eugene B. Shull • 1933-2010**

Eugene Shull affectionately was called “Papa Smurf” because of the 2-inch pewter Smurf card protector he used when playing poker. Mr. Shull, 77, died June 19.

Texas Hold’em was Mr. Shull’s passion and he quickly became proficient and respected as a player from the charitable poker games in Delmarva, Del., and Portsmouth, Va., his home, as well as casino tournament tables.

Papa Smurf was a relentless advocate of the charitable games in Portsmouth, helping the Poker Room II, owned by his son, Neil Shull and the Victory Lanes Booster Club, a non-profit organization.

“It pains me to know he’ll never see the WSOP main event from the table,” Neil said, “but there’s no doubt in my mind he would have had a deep run and the loss of the race would have stopped him not a misstep or bad play.”

GEORGIA

Eric Russell bested nearly 240 players at the second annual Interstate Poker Club VIP tournament on June 20 at the Marriott in Duluth. In lieu of the WSOP seat he accepted \$6,500 cash.



Players at the Interstate Poker Club know a good magazine when they see one.

He was followed by Shane Maxwell, Joe Gonzalez, Ron Johnson, Troy Negron, Lamont Provost, Ron Miller, James Farnsworth, Ralph White and Scott Dukeman.



Ken Murphy

On June 12 at the Tilted Kilt in John’s Creek, the Atlanta Poker Club’s \$500 monthly event came down Frank Nicklas and Ken Murphy after several hours and 35 player eliminations.

The final hand of heads-up play was most memorable as Nicklas held J♥-3♥, and Murphy had pocket kings. Murphy flopped a set and turned quads to take the title.



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ALABAMA



Alyse Clayton won the title by just 133 points.

Alyse Clayton won the Bluff to Win Poker Club's points championship in June with 7,165 points. Jack Ingram was hot on her trail finishing with 7,032. Honorable mention goes to Fred Jones (5,516 points) and Tony Francis (4,260 points).

KENTUCKY

Tim McDonald of Lexington placed 748th in the WSOP main event, which made him the dreaded Bubble Boy. Had McDonald finished one spot higher he would've been guaranteed at least \$19,263. But, as is tradition, Harrah's will put McDonald into the \$10K main event in 2011.



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Sacks



Hill



Fishberg



Wallace



O'Connor



Habashzada



Guss

## PENNSYLVANIA CLEANS UP AT THE BORGATA

Pennsylvanians dominated the Borgata Summer Poker Open, grabbing seven of 22 titles, including Gilbert Sacks of Bala Cynwyd, who won the first tournament of the series on June 11, the \$230 no-limit hold'em event. Sacks pocketed a whopping \$28,077 for first place.

- Daniel Hill of State College, Pa., won Event 7, a \$230 deepstack turbo on June 17. He earned \$20,421 for his victory, edging fellow Keystoner Lewis Saxon of Philadelphia (second, \$11,831). There were 363 entries in this event, which saw Doug Blackburn of New Berlin, N.C., (third, \$5,845) and Gene Below of Mechanicsburg, Pa., (fifth, \$4,225) also make the final table.

- Greg Fishberg of Willow Grove, Pa., won Event 3, a \$560 deepstack event that drew 626 players. He earned \$84,221. Brandon Alcorn of Philadelphia (sixth, \$14,421) and William Patterson of New Kensington, Pa., (seventh, \$11,385) also made the final table.

- Event 5 was a \$200 NLHE rebuy event that Callen Wallace of Indiana, Pa., captured, pocketing \$26,731. Four Pennsylvania players made the final table, including Rob Noel of Johnstown (fourth, \$6,333), Dave Cericola of Linwood (sixth, \$4,457) and Graeson Burnette-Peake of Philadelphia (ninth, \$1,877).

- Three Penn players made a final table in Event 8, a \$350 NLHE

tournament (251 entries) on June 18 with Eric O'Connor of North Wales winning \$21,912 for first. Mark Devitis of Eagleville was third (\$6,829) and David Arsht of Radnor grabbed ninth (\$1,461).

- Event 12 (\$560 NLHE, 489 entries, \$244,500 prize pool) saw Torpekay Habashzada of Broomall, Pa., win first (\$67,877) as the top three spots went to Keystoners. Jerry Brown of Philadelphia was runner-up (\$36,761) and Mike Murphy of Wilkes-Barre was third (\$18,973).

- Brandon Guss of Warminster, Pa. won Event 20 (\$350 NLHE, 170 entries, \$51K prize pool) for \$15,235. Ben Coren of Lansdale, Pa., was sixth (\$2,474) and Dennis Summers of Charlottesville, Va., was eighth (\$1,484).

- **Gary Brudner** of University Park, Fla., captured the \$350 senior event on June 17, besting 140 players for a \$12,638 payday. Joining him at the final table was fellow Floridian Robert Branham of Cape Coral (sixth, \$2,052).

Though no Ante Up Nationals won the \$2,200 main event (321 entries) we did have four players at the final table: Mike Melkersen of New Market, Va., was fourth (\$43,592), Steve Curtin of Indian Trail, N.C., finished fifth (\$37,364), followed by Frank Dellaria of Burgettstown, Pa., (seventh, \$24,910) and Ed Corrado of Naples, Fla., (ninth, \$12,456).



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As the Aug. 18 booking deadline nears, two new sponsors of the Ante Up Poker Cruise have added even more value to the \$299 cruise from Port Canaveral, Fla., to the Bahamas.

The world-famous Atlantis resort in Nassau is offering all players a \$50 matchplay coupon for signing up for the casino's player rewards card, while Palm Gaming International of Holly Hill, Fla., is designing a custom ceramic Ante Up dealer button for every player.

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The Ante Up Poker Cruise features a 10-table professionally staffed poker room with cash games and tournaments aboard Royal Caribbean's *Monarch of the Seas*. The cruise sails Oct. 25-29 and, in addition to Nassau, calls on Royal Caribbean's private island, *CocoCay*.

Rates start at \$299 per person based on double occupancy, and include a free poker strategy course from World Series of Poker bracelet-winner Don Baruch and an open-bar cocktail party.

Players must book through Ante Up to be admitted to the poker room, per Royal Caribbean policy.

For more information or to book your cruise contact Scott Long at (727) 331-4335 or email [scott@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:scott@anteupmagazine.com) or you can visit us at [www.anteupmagazine.com/cruise](http://www.anteupmagazine.com/cruise).



## Win your way on board!

These poker rooms and leagues are giving away Ante Up Poker Cruise packages-for-two worth \$676:

**TAMPA BAY DOWNS:** Satellite tournaments guaranteeing at least three packages will be at 4 p.m. Aug. 14 and Aug. 28. Buy-in is \$60, with an optional \$20 add-on and a maximum of 50 players. Top three finishers win cruise packages, with any excess prize money paid out as cash to the next highest finishers. FREE Ante Up poker training courses at 1 p.m. on both satellite days. The room also will give away packages during promotions.

**CALDER CASINO:** Mega satellite on Aug. 8 and SNG satellites from 7-10 p.m. nightly starting Aug. 9.

**NAPLES FT.-MYERS GREYHOUND:** Details on high-hand giveaways coming soon.

**SEMINOLE IMMOKALEE:** Details on high-hand giveaways coming soon.

**TREASURE CHEST POKER:** The winner of the Aug. 14 monthly championship gets the option of a cruise package as their prize.

**OTHER GIVEAWAYS:** Details are pending on other giveaways in Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana, so visit [anteupmagazine.com/cruise](http://anteupmagazine.com/cruise) for an up-to-date list of giveaways and tournaments.

## Take Ante Up's reader survey and win great prizes

What's the most overrated starting hand in poker? Who are the best TV commentators? What do you think of that buck from every pot that goes to bad-beat jackpots?

These questions and more are part of this year's annual Ante Up Readers' Choice survey, which has been revamped to be more fun, provide more prizes and better evaluate the quality of poker being offered and played in *Ante Up's* expanding coverage area.

The survey, which takes only a few minutes to complete, begins with some general interest poker questions, some quirky, some straight to the point. The results will be published in the October issue of *Ante Up*, and will become great fodder for debate around poker tables and give poker proprietors some direction on what players are looking for in their poker experience.

"We're always curious to know what the readers are thinking," said Christopher Cosenza, co-publisher of *Ante Up*. "And I'm sure the managers of our rooms want to know as well. This is a chance for their players to tell them what they want without it being so invasive."

Players also can weigh in on how much they like their favorite poker rooms and poker leagues. Using a five-point scale, survey participants can rate the quality of poker room tournaments, cash games, promotions and staff, and poker leagues' overall experience. Rooms and leagues whose scores meet the appropriate thresholds will be honored with Ante Up's Award of Excellence.

"Ante Up's Award of Excellence gives credit to the poker rooms and poker leagues going above and beyond to improve the poker experience for us all," *Ante Up* co-publisher Scott Long said. "We received

### Fill it out, win stuff

The Ante Up survey will be open through Aug. 31 at [www.anteupmagazine.com/survey](http://www.anteupmagazine.com/survey). Players who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing to win these great prizes, and possibly more:

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complaints from managers and league owners, rightfully so, that last year's survey was merely a popularity contest. We believe this year's methodology has much more merit, as all deserving rooms and leagues have an opportunity to be recognized for their accomplishments."

And, finally, survey participants have the opportunity to provide feedback to *Ante Up* on what more they want to see from *Your Poker Magazine* and its related products.

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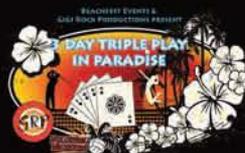
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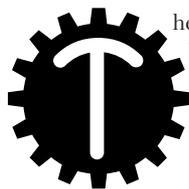
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# THE GRINDER FINALLY PAYS OFF

Michael “The Grinder” Mizrachi puts it all together to capture the World Series of Poker’s \$50K Players Championship and his first gold bracelet. The Miramar, Fla., resident now sits in seventh place as a member of the 2010 November Nine. Is it any wonder he’s Ante Up’s WSOP Player of the Year?

Story by Christopher Cosenza • Photography by Jonathan Dennis



he cell phone rang at 12:30 a.m. I was passed out in my room as jetlag had kicked my butt. I glanced at the phone as a courtesy, but there was no way I was answering. Then through the blurriness I saw the words “Michael Mizrachi” on my phone.

“This is Chris,” I said, the frog still hanging around in my throat.

“Hey man, it’s Grinder. I know we said we’d do the interview tomorrow, but can we do it right now? Lily and I want to take the kids to Disneyland tonight.”

I thought, “It’s 12:30 a.m. Are you really making that drive to L.A. now?”

But before I could say that aloud he continued. “Or can you do it Thursday? Will that work for you?”

*Whew!*

“I basically flew to Vegas to talk to you,” I said, slowly propping myself up in bed. “So yeah, I’ll do it whenever you want, but Thursday would be best.”

I understood. He was having a great World Series and just came off a very successful Day 1 of the main event, having built his starting stack of 30K to more than 140K. He wanted to celebrate his good fortune. This is what the Grinder is all about: family.

So we had a deal; we’d meet up Thursday morning.

Wednesday night rolled around and my text alarm went off at 10:07. It was Grinder — I could call him Grinder now because he woke me up at 12:30 a.m. so I earned that right — and his text said: “I’ll be back around 5pm tomorrow. Hope that’s good for u!!!”

That’s plenty of time to interview him and write the story before leaving Friday morning, I thought, so I agreed.

On Thursday I got a little antsy at 4:16 p.m. and texted him: “Got an update for me?”

His response: “See u arnd 7:30-8. Tonight.”

What’s another three hours, right? I could stay up late and work on this piece and maybe clean it up on the plane.

I understood. He was having a great run at the Commerce Casino’s \$100-\$200 stud tables in L.A. and was looking at a nice five-figure session. This is also what Grinder is all about: winning money.

At 7:18 p.m. my phone vibrated. I look down hoping to see Grinder was indeed at the Rio. Instead it said, “B there in an hr.”

An hour later at 8:15 he texted me that he’d “B by tourn registration in 10.”

I went to the designated area and waited. All of the players from the main event had returned to their seats so when there was a commotion coming my way I knew who it was. As Grinder strolled down the main hall of the tournament area I could see plenty of fans trying to take his picture and get his attention. One guy even started chatting up Grinder as if he knew him, but he didn’t.



Continued on next page



# COVER STORY

WSOP PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Continued from previous page

This was it. It was 8:30 and I finally was about to interview Ante Up's 2010 World Series of Poker Player of the Year. He wore a white-and-gray shirt (with jewel highlights) from his Royal Pain clothing line (think Affliction but with poker style) and a pair of dark blue jeans. We made our way into the tournament registration area, which was about the only quiet room around. Despite playing an all-night 12-hour session and making the five-hour drive from L.A., there still was a bounce in his step and a smile on his face. Winning nearly \$1.6 million and your first World Series of Poker gold bracelet will do that for you. And what a bracelet it is, the \$50K Players Championship, which also awards the winner with his name engraved on the Chip Reese Memorial Trophy.

"To say you won the \$50K for your first bracelet is any poker player's dream," he said, "and you know you're winning a large amount of money as well. And the field to overcome, you know, I was playing 115 of the best players in the world with a lot of the eight-game mixed players. It was a really, really tough field. Chip Reese was a legend, and played in my time, but I didn't get a chance to play much with him. I wish I could have. But from what I hear he was one of the greatest players, and just to have my name on his trophy is any poker player's dream. It's almost like winning another bracelet. It's almost like I won two bracelets in one. It's something I'll never forget and my name will always be there. I hope one day I'll be remembered as a legend as Chip Reese was."

He's certainly on his way. With a couple of World Poker Tour titles, nearly \$10 million in career tournament winnings and the removal of the "Best Player Never to Win a Bracelet" bullet from his resumé, Mizrachi's poker legacy is on the runway to immortality and he's been cleared for takeoff.

But this isn't anything you don't now. Let's find out how this Miramar, Fla., resident became the Grinder.

## The Beginning

Most autobiographical details of successful poker players follow one of two paths: savant with some sort of computer sciences/math degree or gambling degenerate. Mizrachi was the latter. That's not to say he isn't beyond intelligent, but school just wasn't his thing, and poker was.

"I was always skipping too many classes, always for poker," said Mizrachi, who graduated from Hallandale (Fla.) High and is nearly fluent in Hebrew. "In my senior year I had to pretty much get straight A's just to get my diploma. I was just skipping too many classes and poker was always conflicting with my school. And I don't recommend that for anybody, but it was just that I thought poker was going to be my career and I was skipping class to go to casinos. That's when you know you're a degenerate. And then I'd go to the (gambling) cruise ships at night to play poker."

There are reports of him sitting on Mama Grinder's lap learning stud, which today is still his favorite and best game, but his real poker mentor was his brother, Robert.

"Rob pretty much brought me to the cruise ships," he said. "We analyzed hands together, we learned from each other, and we were playing online poker. ... When we started playing poker (semi) professionally Robert and I were about 15 or 16," said Grinder, who was born in Miami Beach. "Robert and my mother went to deal at Dania Jai-Alai. ... My mom always loved casinos. My dad was always into casinos, but he slowed down because my dad was always a hard worker. He slowed down with the gambling and he wasn't always very supportive of it, but my mom was always very supportive of whatever we've done."



After Michael had a big Day 1 in the main event the Grinders drove from Vegas to Disneyland.

And you have to remember, this was before the no-limit hold'em boom, and this was Florida, where you had to play in a private game or on the day cruises to get any practical live experience because Florida poker was just in its infancy.

"At first I started playing \$1-\$5 spread-limit stud," he said. "You know, at the age of 16 you don't have the bankroll. ... So it took a lot of time, studying the game. ... Then I started playing \$4-\$8 limit hold'em and I was beating it all the time. Eventually I started playing \$5-\$10 hold'em online. I was more of a limit player, but as the game went on I started playing private games, \$10-\$20, \$20-\$40 limit hold'em, and then I started stepping it up."

That's when he "decided to be responsible."

"I wanted to have some responsibilities and try something else and have a job. But even though I was working at Bennigan's at 18 years old I really wasn't making much, just to make some money to play poker. Then I wanted to try something different and work as a poker dealer because I knew I could deal. But I was doing it more just to wake up in the morning and have something to do instead of just being lazy every day."

But like school, having a regular job didn't suit the Grinder.

"It wasn't too long before they terminated me. On the termination sheet there wasn't enough room on the paper to (list) all the reasons I had to get fired. (laughs) It was like every excuse in the world just to get fired because I wasn't used to being responsible and having a job. So I just took my own path."

That short career as a dealer at Seminole Casino in Hollywood (Fla.) did have one happy ending, however. It's where he met his wife, Lily. And she wants it to be clear they were co-workers, something that has been misconstrued in the past.

"People think I was a dealer and he was a player and he picked me up," she said, sitting at the table awaiting the start of her \$1K NLHE WSOP event. "But it wasn't like that. He was my co-worker. We both had the same cars (BMW's) at that point. I always noticed his car outside, and I didn't know if it was a guy's car or a girl's car because it was a nice light blue. That's kinda how we met, through our cars."

Continued on next page

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# FROM FIRST LADY TO FIRST PLACE IN THE \$50K

Michael “Grinder” Mizrachi watched his stack dwindle at the final table of the \$50K Players Championship and as the dinner hour approached he felt he needed a little refresher. What he got was a surprise and boost he’ll never forget. We’ll let the Grinder take it from here:

At the dinner break at the \$50K final table I was kinda short, a little over a million. So I decided to go back to the Wynn Casino and just take a nice hot shower and change and feel like I’m starting all over again with a fresh stack. When I went downstairs (at the Wynn) the Secret Service was there and they stopped us. And (his wife) Lily was like “We’re in a rush,” and they were like, “Please ma’am just wait 30 seconds,” and she was like “We’re playing for \$2 million!”



And he said, “Ma’am! Step back!” And she was like, “What do you mean; what’s going on?” And then all of a sudden there’s Michelle Obama passing through and going up the same elevator we went up and she was kinda saying “hi” to everybody.

After that maybe she brought me luck, I don’t know. The president has a beautiful wife and maybe that little smile brought me luck, I don’t know. I know it was a pretty cool thing and it was exciting to see the president’s wife. Who knows if I’ll ever experience that again? After that it was like, “Go ahead, Grinder, go win it!” And I ended up winning the tournament. So I want to say thanks to her as well.

— Christopher Cosenza

Continued from previous page

One night she was dealing in Hollywood to one of Mizrachi’s friends named Ricky, who left his phone at the table on a coffee break. It started ringing and Lily saw “The Grinder” on the phone, “and I was like, ‘The Grinder? Who’s that?’” When Ricky came back she said “Someone named Grinder called you, who’s that?” He said it was a co-worker of hers and she said, “What? The Grinder, is my co-worker?” (laughs)

When she heard he was good looking as well, that was all she needed to know. “That’s the way I was back then,” she said. “If I liked you I was going to get your number. It was kinda meant to be, I guess.”

They crossed paths almost immediately after that, she said, and began talking about their BMWs. But Grinder remembers the latter part of that conversation.

“I met her in the casino in the break room,” he said, smiling. “I told her I was a really good poker player and I was excellent at heads-up. And she said, ‘Well, let’s play heads-up.’ She took my number down and she called me the same night and we’ve been together since that day.”

Indeed, and Mrs. Grinder is a fine player in her own right, taking second on the WPT’s Ladies Night Out event a few years ago and cashing in a couple of other big tournaments. But they never had that heads-up match, unless you count when they tied the knot in 2009. Now they’re raising three children, and Mizrachi brightens up whenever they are mentioned, and laughs when he says even they call him Grinder sometimes.

“I never hear Michael anymore,” he said.

With poker clearly in their blood, will Mizrachi support his children (like his mother did for him) if they want to follow in their parents’ footsteps?

“They know what I do every day,” said Grinder, 29. “They know I’m a pretty big poker player and they see me in magazines and TV and say, ‘Look, Daddy’s on TV. Look, Daddy’s on the front cover of the magazine.’ But I’m the type of father that I want my kids to be happy with whatever they do. I’m very supportive of whatever they want to do. If they want to become poker players I’m supportive of them. If they want to become a football player, baseball player, doctor, lawyer, an astronaut, a fireman, I don’t care. Whatever (they do), if they want to work in McDonald’s, I’m always ready to support them. And I’ll always be there for them.”

“He’s a great dad,” Lily said. “He’s very busy with all the traveling and the poker. But other than that he’s excellent. He’s a very affectionate father. I’ve never seen him hit my kids once. He’s a very good dad.

He’s very playful. When I reprimand them he’s always like ‘No, don’t do that to my babies.’”

## The Brothers Mizrachi

Casual poker fans know of the Grinder and Robert, but they probably don’t realize Grinder is the fraternal twin of Eric and older brother to Daniel. If you type “Mizrachi” into the Hendon Mob database it looks more like their family tree than a poker listings site.

Eric is a professional poker player and Daniel is a magician who has some poker chops as well. All four played in this year’s main event and all four cashed, both of which had never happened before.

“We left the moms and wives out,” Grinder said, laughing. “But we’ve all been very close, Robert, Eric, Daniel and myself.”

And despite not being identical twins, do Michael and Eric have that mind-reading thing going on?

“Oh, yeah, Eric and I always have one of those, you know, at the same time we’d both think of the same thing, and want to do the same things.”

Eric was the first Mizrachi sibling to make the same final as Grinder, not Robert.

“(We) finished first and second in a limit hold’em tournament once,” Grinder said. “It was a \$1K buy-in. Of course I finished first. I actually put him in the tournament so it was kinda funny. It was only a 41-person field at the Bike. I remember Jon Bonetti saying, ‘What is this, a f\*cking sandwich?’ Those were his words, not mine.” (laughs)

Grinder will tell you his tournament career has been so lucrative because his style was borne from everyone else’s style.

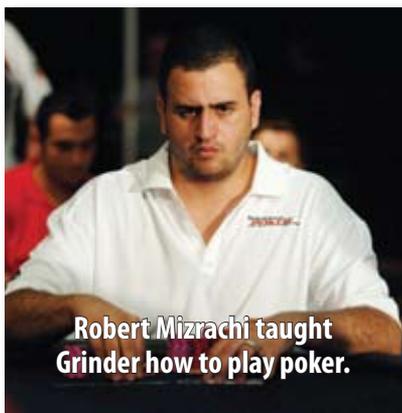
“When it came to tournament poker I kinda picked it up on my own,” he said. “When I was

watching (Rob) I was like, ‘No, that’s not the way to play.’ I was watching everybody play and I put everybody’s minds together and I created my own mind, my own style of playing and it worked out well for me. ... My tournament career started in ’04 ... I can’t believe it’s already been five, six years. That’s a long time.”

So who’s the best Mizrachi poker player? Grinder laughs and somewhat skirts the question.

“I remember when (Robert) and I were playing Chinese poker together like 10 years ago. Actually my brother’s mastered that game. I haven’t mastered it because I don’t play it as much. I’m good at it but my brother’s great at it. If there’s a game he’s better at than me, it’s definitely Chinese poker. But Rob and I are great at all games and I

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Continued from previous page

think we have great instincts as well. The way we analyze hands and the advice we give each other is unbelievable. I give a lot of credit to my brother (for my success) and I'm sure he gives a lot of credit to me. Thank God I have a family that's very supportive of each other and a great group of poker players and we can learn a lot from each other."

And now all of the brothers are linked in business as well, representing Deliverance Poker, an overseas online poker site that is just getting under way.

"Deliverance has a great logo and I think we have a legit shot," he said. "The four brothers have joined together and I think it will be a great site. It's gonna take a long time, but if there's time and great marketing strategy I think we have a legitimate shot at competing with the other sites."

## Quick rise to fame

Grinder became a star at the height of the poker surge in 2005, winning the nationally televised L.A. Poker Classic, a WPT Main Event worth nearly \$1.9 million. This came less than a month after his fifth-place finish in Tunica at the WPT's World Poker Open. Then in 2006 he finished second (\$566K) in Tunica when the WPO moved to the Gold Strike for the WPT event. One week later he captured his second WPT title (his second straight WPT final table) by winning the **Borgata Winter Open** for \$1.17 million. So it's easy to see why people think of him as a no-limit hold'em player, when in fact he steers clear of NLHE when he can.

"My favorite game has always been seven-card stud," he said. "Any stud game has always been my game of choice. I enjoy the draw games a lot. I play more of the other games than I do no-limit hold'em. I enjoy no-limit hold'em tournaments but not cash games, unless it's a great spot. I pretty much give most people credit in no-limit. It's not an easy game, but a lot of people have a grasp of it and there are a lot more weak spots in the other games. I've been playing mixed games for 10 years."

Over the next three years he stayed on the radar with a few undercard victories, but by Grinder's standards they were anything but stellar, and a few close calls at the Series made the drought all the more difficult to swallow. He decided he needed a rest from the "grind" and took nearly all of 2010 off leading up to the Series. ... a move that would pay off handsomely. The Grinder was headed home.

## 'I root for the hurricanes'

According to Grinder, he spent way too much time in Las Vegas, and he missed Florida. "I think it burned him out," Lily said of being in Vegas." Plus, having poker finally get uncapped in the Sunshine State made the move back all the more important.

"I expected myself to have a great World Series just because of the time I had taken off," he said, "It takes a lot out of you, traveling expenses, air. It takes away time with my kids. So I knew I oughta stay in Miami and just ended up playing a lot of PLO games, private games, and just enjoy myself in Florida. I was actually overworking myself in Florida, too. I was playing more poker in Florida than I was playing elsewhere. But I wasn't playing any tournament poker. I probably played four events throughout the year before the World Series started."

Family wasn't the only reason to return home.

"I'm very sports-oriented," he said. "I love my baseball team and my basketball team and my football team. And Las Vegas had noth-

ing for me, besides traveling to Los Angeles to watch the Lakers. I'm a Lakers fan as well, but my No. 1 preference would be all Miami teams. I'm a big Dolphin fan and big Heat fan. I missed it too much, the water, just the lifestyle, the beaches, hanging out with my kids at the beach. I'm not used to being in the desert with this blow-dryer weather. I just can't take it. I like the humidity actually. And I enjoy the hurricanes whenever they come to South Florida. Some people root against hurricanes; I root for the hurricanes. It's something that's fun to experience. Some people say no, but I'm a Floridian and I love the wet weather. I just prefer it not be on a football day." (laughs)

But the time off wasn't all rosy. In March the *Sun-Sentinel* published an article that said he owed nearly \$340K in back taxes from the mishandling of rental properties (that he owned with Robert) and his poker winnings. His house also was foreclosed and put up for sale. Mizrachi couldn't believe the false stories that ensued, such as he was penniless and that the IRS audited him.

"I have no idea what that article came out for," he said. "Some of the articles were false. Some said the IRS took my house away, which was never even true. First, why would the IRS take a house that's not worth anything, with all the homes in Florida going way down under. There's no real value of taking that home. So a lot of these things were not even true. The foreclosures that Rob and I (did were) a decision we came to. I took great advice from a lot of great businessmen and friends. ... The tenants weren't paying on time, so I just got tired of it. I can't afford to pay it anymore, 10-20 grand a month just in mortgages. So I decided to just drop everything and start all over again. It started working out for me. I just decided to throw all the bills away."

"There's no point of these high-maintenance things, the nice cars, this, that. I thought, 'What's the point of it?' The No. 1 priority is to take care of my family and make sure they get what they deserve. My primary home was under foreclosure, too, because it was way down under and I was going to rent a place on the beach. So I wasn't sure what I wanted to do yet. Maybe we'll save the (primary) house, but I'm still undecided. I just had a bad loan and I thought it was way too high for the

mortgage. I was paying for a house that wasn't even close to the value of it. I still have the primary and we're still working out a deal with the banks. I can always get another house; it's not like a big deal. There are a lot of options for me. But I never lost my primary."

Grinder made sure the problem was dealt with as soon as possible and has an idea as to how this story came out in the press.

"The IRS never audited me," he said. "They just had an investigation, but I had tax lawyer. I paid a lot of money for tax lawyers. I paid a fortune when I could've just paid the IRS. (Maybe the story came) up because I'm a high-profile poker player in South Florida and they looked into my case because Florida is getting high-stakes poker, and I represent pretty much South Florida."

"I think it came up because Lily made a joke, too. She put my trophy up (for sale) on the Internet as a joke. You know, how much we could get for it. I think she put the LAPC trophy up, as a joke, for like 10-15 minutes just to tease me, and maybe they got the story from that. I told the guy it was all a joke and I'm doing fine. (Then) after the article comes out I win the \$50K, so it was a pretty crazy time."

And in typical Grinder fashion he found a positive note from the experience.

"Sometimes it's better for people think you're broke so they leave you alone."



Continued on next page



### **The November Nine**

- JONATHAN DUHAMEL**, 22, Canada, 65,975,000
- JOHN DOLAN**, 24, Bonita Springs, Fla., 46,250,000
- JOSEPH CHEONG**, 24, La Mirada, Calif., 23,525,000
- JOHN RACENER**, 24, Tampa, Fla., 19,050,000
- MATTHEW JARVIS**, 25, Surrey, B.C., 16,700,000
- FILIPPO CANDIO**, 26, Italy, 16,400,000
- MICHAEL MIZRACHI**, 29, Miramar, Fla., 14,450,000
- CUONG "SOI" NGUYEN**, 37, Santa Ana, Calif., 9,650,000
- JASON SENTI**, 25, St. Louis Park, Minn., 7,625,000



Grinder is the first player to win the \$50K Players Championship and make the November Nine.

Continued from previous page

## The big one

Never doubt a woman with a premonition. Lily felt this was Grinder's year, and she never really told him that in years past.

"I said 'Babe, believe it or not I have a really strong feeling you're going to do really well this year at the Series,'" she said. "I even told his mom the same day that he was going to win a bracelet. ... So the first tournament he plays he says, 'Lily, if I'm gonna win a bracelet I want it to be this one.' And I said, 'You're due. You're like a 10-month pregnant lady so give birth to that baby already! You're like so pregnant right now you're full of it. Go do it! Push!'" (laughs)

The catalyst for Mizrachi being named Ante Up's WSOP Player of the Year was, of course, his victory in the \$50K Players Championship. He would make four final tables at this year's Series, including the November Nine, and win well more than \$2 million, but the \$50K win was the start to everything. And it turns out *that* victory had one very key hand, one that will live on in the annals of poker lore.

"In this tournament there really was never a close call until we got heads-up," Mizrachi said. "But one of the greatest hands that happened came against Lyle Berman when the flop came A♠-J♠-6♥. He had 6♠-6♣-7♠-7♥ and I had pocket aces, top set. I bet and then he said, 'Grinder there's no way you can have pocket aces again,' and then he decided to check-raise me all-in. I did have the aces, he had bottom set and turned quad sixes. He said 'OK, no more aces, no ace, no ace!' And the river comes an ace and I make quad aces. So that was probably one of the greatest hands in the championship ever. That was a hand I'll never forget."

After that he had another mountain to climb, one of the toughest final tables in history, including a little someone named Robert Mizrachi. The incredibly pro-Mizrachi crowd dealt with the bittersweet emotions by rooting for whoever won the pot, but it wasn't easy on any of them, especially Grinder.

"Knocking your brother out; it's a lose-lose situation or a win-win situation," he said. "If we finished fifth and fourth I think it's a lose-lose situation and I would have felt a lot worse. But now that I won and he came in fifth I'm sure if you were to tell him he would get fifth and I would get first I'm sure he'd say take it. And the same for me.

If I finished fifth and he finished first I would accept that invitation all day. I'm sure he's happy with the results and the way everything went."

Their final hand pitted Robert's A-10 vs. Michael's Q-J and a jack on the turn sealed not only Robert's fifth-place finish (\$341,430) but a few records. It was the best combined finish in a WSOP event for siblings, edging the Annie Duke-Howard Lederer sixth place-ninth place finish in 1995. The Mizrachis also are just the second brothers to each win a bracelet, as Grant and Blair Hinkle did in 2008.

"At least I put his chips to good use," he was heard saying afterward. And he mentioned there were no close calls until heads-up play. Here was the biggest landmine he had to dodge, and Lily's premonition was put to its ultimate test.

"I had A♣-7♣ and (Vladimer Shchemelev) had A♦-J♦ and that was for my tournament life," he said.

The flop came K♣-10♦-9♣ giving a glimmer of hope to Grinder as he picked up the nut-flush draw. The Q♥ on the turn gave Shchemelev the nut straight, but the 5♣ on the river saved Mizrachi.

"Thank God a 5♣ came on the river to give me a flush," he said. "And after that I never looked back. I played my heart out. I was actually drenched from this tournament. I never had a tournament take so much out of me, so many hours. Just watching cards, change of pace in games, you know? Sometimes you're in drive, sometimes you're in neutral, then you gotta go in reverse and slow it down a little bit. But I was always super-focused and just when that last hand finished I was like, 'Thank God it was over:'"

The final table took nearly 13 hours to complete and the field Mizrachi bested had 54 bracelet-winners in it (that's 15 percent of all bracelets in existence).

"I think that really drained me a lot for the rest of the Series. I had a great World Series, I'm not complaining, but I think I could probably put a little more effort into it and maybe get another bracelet. But this took a lot out of me. I made (four) final tables so it was good, no complaints. I'm very happy with my World Series."

And he's not done yet. As the first to win the \$50K and make the November Nine, don't be surprised if Grinder comes away with more hardware in November. After all, Lily saw this coming, right? ♠

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**Prize pool: \$2,863,500 • Entries: 1,245**

6. Steve Cowley, \$77,228, Midlothian, VA
8. Justin Smith, \$55,236, Kissimmee, FL
22. Farhan Madhani, \$18,612, Miramar, FL
26. Richard Robinson, \$15,062, Orlando, FL
40. Darryll Fish, \$10,537, Cape Coral, FL
86. David Poces, \$5,669, Boca Raton, FL
88. Mark Flowers, \$5,669, Greenville, NC
93. Narenda Banwari, \$5,211, Charlotte, NC
106. Stewart Newman, \$5,211, Weston, FL
124. Matthew Schwarmann, \$4,782, Orlando, FL

## Event #27 • \$1,500 Stud/8

**Prize pool: \$869,400 • Entries: 644**

23. Robert Campbell, \$5,607, North Miami, FL
27. Dale Phillips, \$4,729, Naples, FL
36. John Racener, \$4,060, Port Richey, FL
39. Hoyt Verner, \$4,060, Melbourne Beach, FL
55. John Womack, \$3,182, Lauderhill, FL
59. Ivan Schertzer, \$2,851, Miami Shores, FL

## Event #28 • \$2,500 PLO

**Prize pool: \$1,370,800 • Entries: 596**

7. Trevor Pope, \$41,850, Gainesville, FL
23. Harold McDonald, \$9,842, Lancaster, SC
29. Brian Powell, \$7,950, Louisville, KY
30. Calvin Habem, \$7,950, Tallahassee, FL
31. Anthony Cousineau, \$7,950, Daytona Beach, FL
34. Norman Collingsworth, \$7,950, Nashville
41. David Ashby, \$6,470, Louisville, KY
48. Chase Steely, \$5,304, Williamsburg, KY
53. Richard Tucker, \$5,304, Charlotte, NC

## Event #29 • \$10K LHE

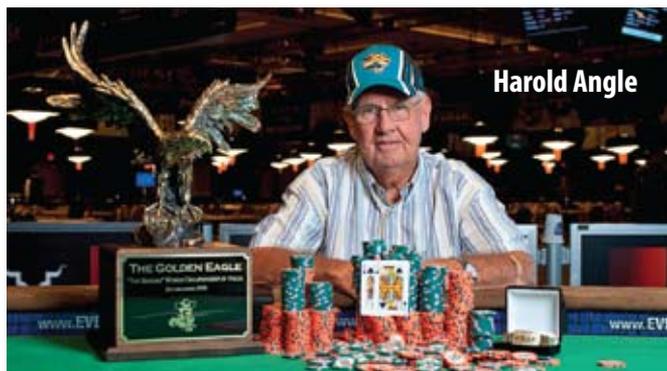
**Prize pool: \$1,607,400 • Entries: 171**

3. Kyle Ray, \$190,701, Fayetteville, GA
8. Michael Mizrachi, \$49,732, Miramar, FL

## Event #30 • \$1,500 NLHE

**Prize pool: \$3,231,900 • Entries: 2,394**

6. William Kakon, \$98,605, Miami
9. Jeff Cohen, \$42,790, Parkland, FL
16. Andrew Ferris, \$20,716, Harrisburg, NC
30. Alexander Barlow, \$13,541, Pembroke Pines, FL
32. John Dolan, \$13,541, Bonita Springs, FL
35. Thomas McTeer, \$13,541, Columbia, SC
44. Michael Glasser, \$11,150, Boca Raton, FL
58. Adam Adler, \$7,821, Ft. Lauderdale, VA
60. Massoud Nikjouian, \$3,382, Woodbridge, VA
82. Jenny Marczynski, \$4,977, Ellenton, FL
89. Felipe Montenegro, \$4,977, Farmville, VA
99. James Welsh, \$4,363, Kissimmee, FL
103. Steven Burkholder, \$3,878, Largo, FL
105. Linda Fredericks, \$3,878, Baton Rouge, LA
108. Chris Dombrowski, \$3,878, Wesley Chapel, FL
109. Darryll Fish, \$3,878, Cape Coral, FL
114. Walter Harris, \$3,878, St. Petersburg, FL
119. Martin Debruhl, \$3,878, Winston Salem, NC
121. William Looper, \$3,878, Greer, SC
123. John Bardwell, \$3,878, Lake Wales, FL
136. Jeff Coutroulis, \$3,490, Tampa, FL
142. James Giordano, \$3,490, Miami, FL
147. Manelic Minaya, \$3,490, Tampa, FL
156. Anthony Pope, \$3,490, Athens, GA
181. Jack Shea, \$3,199, Pfafftown, NC
195. Martin May, \$3,199, Plantation, FL
203. David Diaz, \$3,199, Bartlett, TN
204. Seth Fischer, \$3,199, Atlanta
206. Michael Davis, \$3,199, Okeechobee, FL
210. Stewart Newman, \$2,908, Weston, FL
215. David Fetzner, \$2,908, Jensen Beach, FL



Harold Angle

237. Scott Cooper, \$2,908, Greenville, SC
242. Nathan Tingen, \$2,908, Evans, GA

## Event #31 • \$1,500 H.O.R.S.E.

**Prize pool: \$1,117,800 • Entries: 828**

8. Robert Mizrachi, \$21,525, Miami
22. David Brooker, \$6,877, Stuart, FL
33. Robert Campbell, \$4,923, North Miami, FL
38. Russ Salzer, \$4,923, Hollywood, FL
44. Jason Mercier, \$4,276, Davie, FL
60. Massoud Nikjouian, \$3,382, Woodbridge, VA
63. Eric Conti, \$3,382, Palm Bay, FL
66. Greg Monaldi, \$3,114, Davie, FL
69. Phillip Campbell, \$3,114, Duluth, GA
76. Michael Miccio, \$2,869, Jacksonville, FL

## Event #32 • \$5K NLHE 6-Handed

**Prize pool: \$2,669,600 • Entries: 568**

25. Anthony Spinella, \$17,325, Waxhaw, NC
32. Chris Bell, \$14,629, Raleigh, NC
33. Shannon Shorr, \$14,629, Birmingham, AL
42. Matthew Schwarmann, \$12,653, Orlando, FL

## Event #33 • \$2,500 PLH/PLO

**Prize pool: \$1,108,600 • Entries: 482**

16. Thomas Giorgi, \$9,988, Brandon, FL
21. Justin Smith, \$7,981, Kissimmee, FL
29. Stewart Newman, \$6,440, Weston, FL
31. Tom Hu, \$6,440, Oakton, VA
38. Mike Schneider, \$5,243, Covington, GA

## Event #34 • \$1K Seniors NLHE

**Prize pool: \$2,827,800 • Entries: 3,142**

1. Harold Angle, \$487,994, Sun City Center, FL
7. Ernest Ward, \$62,833, Ocean Springs, MS
16. Thomas Scott, \$17,475, Charlotte, NC
17. Jon Hair, \$17,475, Cornelius, NC
25. James Polanski, \$13,969, Palm Harbor, FL
27. Samuel Blum, \$13,969, Tampa, FL
48. Clifford Friend, \$7,606, Lighthouse Point, FL
52. Salah Levy, \$7,606, Cookeville, TN
56. John Spadavecchia, \$6,334, Lighthouse Point, FL
69. Mark Jagiello, \$5,316, Dover, FL
70. George Zater, \$5,316, Atlantic Beach, FL
71. Burt Grenell, \$5,316, Arlington, VA
72. Bobby Binsky, \$5,316, Hollywood, FL
85. Joseph Aronesty, \$3,874, Miami Beach, FL
86. Sam Crimaldi, \$3,874, Ft. Myers, FL
90. Chester Adamson, \$3,874, Cape Coral, FL
92. Jeffrey Taylor, \$3,365, Port St. Lucie, FL
96. William Paterson, \$3,365, Port St. Lucie, FL
105. James Allen, \$2,940, Macon, GA
109. Jack Sharp, \$2,940, Knoxville, TN
117. Joseph Mauro, \$2,940, Clearwater, FL

133. Douglas Hunichen, \$2,940, Ellenton, FL
155. David Cohen, \$2,601, Deltona, FL
158. Bertel Ladner, \$2,601, Biloxi, MS
162. Robert Gray, \$2,601, Atlanta
163. Jack Sloan, \$2,601, Alexandria, VA
206. Robert Webber, \$2,318, Goldsboro, NC
212. Michael Shannon, \$2,318, Satellite Beach, FL
217. Jeffrey Cavan, \$2,318, St. Augustine, FL
234. Tom Berting, \$2,318, Swansboro, NC
255. Calvin Dennis, \$2,092, Auburndale, FL
265. Deloris Batson, \$2,092, St. Augustine, FL
270. Travis Newberry, \$2,092, Canton, GA
273. Robert Chimento, \$2,092, Mt. Pleasant, SC
275. Robert Lichter, \$2,092, St. Augustine, FL
279. Karen McCauley, \$2,092, Longs, SC
281. Douglas Weidman, \$1,894, Marathon, FL
284. Larry Newman, \$1,894, Marietta, GA
291. Jay Vogel, \$1,894, Boca Raton, FL
293. George Villano, \$1,894, Wellington, FL
310. Otis Gardner, \$1,894, Midway Park, NC
312. Tom Franklin, \$1,894, Gulfport, MS
321. Donald Burchell, \$1,894, Marietta, GA
322. Joseph Wasylean, \$1,894, Ormond Beach, FL

## Event #35 • \$10K Heads-Up NLHE

**Prize pool: \$2,406,400 • Entries: 256**

5. Vanessa Rouso, \$94,956, Hobe Sound, FL
23. Michael Glasser, \$17,987, Boca Raton, FL

## Event #37 • \$3K H.O.R.S.E.

**Prize pool: \$1,319,280 • Entries: 478**

4. Ken Aldridge, \$93,418, Pleasant Gdn., NC
8. Chad Brown, \$29,406, Margate, FL
20. Dale Phillips, \$9,604, Naples, FL
22. Zachary Milchman, \$9,604, Hollywood, FL
25. George Trigeorgis, \$8,008, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
28. Devin Hanneman, \$8,008, Arlington, VA

## Event #38: \$10K PLO

**Prize pool: \$2,519,200 • Entries: 268**

3. James Calderaro, \$284,845, Venice, FL

## Event #39 • \$1,500 NLHE Shootout

**Prize pool: \$1,885,950 • Entries: 1,397**

12. Johnny Kitchens, \$10,844, Mount Dora, FL
16. Tristan Wade, \$5,620, Boynton Beach, FL
28. Kevin Ho, \$5,620, Gainesville, FL
53. Richard Phillips, \$5,620, Carolina Beach, NC
55. Barry Hutter, \$5,620, Bradenton, FL
57. Benjamin Palmer, \$5,620, Orlando, FL
75. Samer Khuri, \$5,620, Memphis
82. William McBride, \$5,620, Thonotosassa, FL
90. Berry Wheeler, \$5,620, Clearwater, FL
98. Benjamin Zamani, \$5,620, Boca Raton, FL

108. Felipe Montenegro, \$5,620, Farmville, VA
113. Bryan Porter, \$5,620, Wilmington, NC
130. Stewart Gillespie, \$5,620, Pembroke Pines, FL
132. Jeremiah Vinsant, \$5,620, Murfreesboro, TN
133. Mike Beasley, \$5,620, Hollywood, FL

## Event #40 • \$2,500 Razz

**Prize pool: \$839,500 • Entries: 365**

1. Frank Kassela, \$214,085, Rossville, TN
14. Bill Wood, \$9,687, Manakin Sabot, VA
26. Yuval Bronshtein, \$5,423, Charleston, SC
37. Greg Raymer, \$4,550, Raleigh, NC
39. Eric Conti, \$4,550, Palm Bay, FL

## Event #41 • \$1,500 PLO/8

**Prize pool: \$1,143,450 • Entries: 847**

14. Anthony Cousineau, \$11,731, Daytona Beach, FL
29. Karen Longfellow, \$6,346, Indian Shores, FL
33. Donald Vann, \$6,346, Jacksonville, FL
56. Flaminio Malaguti, \$3,761, Greenville, NC
78. Jordan Stone, \$2,847, Fayetteville, GA

## Event #42 • \$1,500 NLHE

**Prize pool: \$3,403,305 • Entries: 2,521**

22. Michael Vaccarello, \$17,289, Clayton, NC
25. Mike Sowers, \$17,289, Charlotte, NC
26. Kevin Schaffel, \$17,289, Coral Springs, FL
55. Marc Levy, \$7,963, Boynton Beach, FL
58. Raul Gonzales, \$7,963, St. Petersburg, FL
71. Eric Appel, \$6,738, Fredericksburg, VA
72. William Looper, \$6,738, Greer, SC
95. Michael Palumbo, \$4,322, Ft. Myers, FL
96. Ira Marcus, \$4,322, Coral Gables, FL
116. Aaron Lambert, \$3,811, Chapin, SC
121. Jay Houston, \$3,811, Orlando, FL
128. Jeffrey Balsewich, \$3,811, Boynton Beach, FL
148. Adam Adler, \$3,403, Aventura, FL
178. Terry Gaines, \$3,403, Starke, FL
190. Michael Glasser, \$3,063, Boca Raton, FL
195. Nicholas Avena, \$3,063, Ormond Beach, FL
203. Brian Sandman, \$3,063, Ft. Thomas, KY
204. Rodger Azadgarian, \$3,063, Charlotte, NC
206. Maciek Gracz, \$3,063, Raleigh, NC
216. Sadany Hevia, \$3,063, Miami
223. Alan Schottenfeld, \$3,063, Tampa, FL
228. Alexander Barlow, \$2,756, Pembroke Pines, FL
233. David Perry, \$2,756, Gainesville, FL
237. Bobby Binsky, \$2,756, Hollywood, FL
240. Chris Cornell, \$2,756, Clarksville, TN
254. Steven Dezelich, \$2,756, Ekron, KY
259. Shannon Kelly, \$2,756, West Palm Beach, FL
266. Jon Chartley, \$2,756, St. Cloud, FL
267. Dennis Nordman, \$2,756, Smyrna, GA
268. William Durkee, \$2,756, Miami

## Event #43 • \$10K H.O.R.S.E.

**Prize pool: \$2,265,400 • Entries: 241**

16. Brandon Adams, \$26,459, Miami
22. Abe Mosseri, \$21,997, Longboat Key, FL

## Event #44 • \$2,500 Mixed Hold'em

**Prize pool: \$1,166,100 • Entries: 507**

4. Michael Michnik, \$81,871, Hollywood, FL
18. Jovon Williams, \$10,459, Gretna, LA
31. Chris Bell, \$6,763, Raleigh, NC
39. Kyle Ray, \$5,503, Fayetteville, GA
53. Eric Froehlich, \$4,512, Springfield, VA
54. Narenda Banwari, \$4,512, Charlotte, NC



**Event #45 • \$1,500 NLHE****Prize pool: \$4,180,950 • Entries: 3,097**

5. Michael Goldfarb, \$167,405, Coral Springs, FL
8. Justin Conley, \$70,365, Prestonburg, KY
12. Douglas Gord, \$41,725, Lexington, KY
18. Tanya Gawarecki, \$25,838, Orlando, FL
25. Bryan Porter, \$20,653, Wilmington, NC
39. Michael Gibson, \$13,629, Alpharetta, GA
48. Anthony Consumano, \$11,246, Manassas, VA
53. David Nelson, \$11,246, Cary, NC
69. Robert Kalteue, \$7,860, Seminole, FL
73. Michael Vanwingerden, \$6,689, Huntersville, NC
83. Grady Walters, \$5,727, Gastonia, NC
105. Philippe Boucher, \$4,348, Duluth, GA
114. Steve Cowley, \$4,348, Midlothian, VA
133. Leo Whitt, \$4,348, Louisville, KY
149. Richard Johnson, \$3,846, Madison, AL
150. Robert Pilgrim, \$3,846, Manassas, VA
175. John Gallaher, \$3,846, Lebanon, TN
192. James Gladwell, \$3,428, Williston, FL
198. Samuel Fisch, \$3,428, West Palm Beach, FL
215. Derek Pasquarella, \$3,428, Greer, SC
225. John Myung, \$3,428, Vienna, VA
240. Michael Whitton, \$3,093, Hilton Head Island, SC
246. David Jackson, \$3,093, Charlotte, NC
251. Jonathan Zettle, \$3,093, Raleigh, NC
279. Phuong Tran, \$3,093, Charlotte, NC
287. Dave Terry, \$2,801, Alpharetta, GA
290. Charles Kelley, \$2,801, Staunton, VA
322. Chris Dombrowski, \$2,801, Wesley Chapel, FL
323. Paul Kohl, \$2,801, Leesburg, VA

**Event #46 • \$5K PLO/8****Prize pool: \$1,334,800 • Entries: 284**

1. Chris Bell, \$327,400, Raleigh, NC
6. Leif Force, \$65,311, Tallahassee, FL
16. David Hunt, \$14,455, Williston, FL

**Chris Bell****Event #47 • \$1K NLHE****Prize pool: \$2,815,200 • Entries: 3,128**

11. Laurence Stein, \$28,095, Boynton Beach, FL
12. Mike Beasley, \$28,095, Hollywood, FL
39. Stacy Taylor, \$9,177, Delray Beach, FL
53. Dwight Derringer, \$7,572, Prospect, KY
57. Benjamin Zamani, \$6,306, Boca Raton, FL
60. James Davis, \$6,306, Lafayette, LA
62. Benjamin Barrows, \$6,306, Lawrenceville, GA
84. Anthony Kaup, \$3,856, Virginia Beach, VA
94. Roger Stewart, \$3,350, Sanford, FL
109. Jeremy Menard, \$2,927, Raleigh, NC
115. Gabe Costner, \$2,927, D'iberville, MS
139. Michael Helms, \$2,927, Monroe, NC
140. John Matheny, \$2,927, Mooresville, NC
155. Robert Voit, \$2,589, Chesapeake, VA
164. Luiz Lamardo Neto, \$2,589, Miami
177. Philippe Boucher, \$2,589, Duluth, GA
183. Michael Jordan, \$2,589, Brandon, FL
216. Zachary Lee, \$2,308, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
248. John Hoang, \$2,083, Woodbridge, VA
297. Matthew Gullo, \$1,886, Fairfax, VA
301. Henry Wilken, \$1,886, Apopka, FL
310. Gurmit Advani, \$1,886, Brentwood, TN

**Event #48 • \$2,500 Mixed Event****Prize pool: \$1,041,900 • Entries: 453**

19. Chris Dombrowski, \$7,585, Wesley Chapel, FL
26. Michael Mizrahi, \$6,324, Miramar, FL
29. Justin Smith, \$6,324, Kissimmee, FL
36. Frank Kassel, \$5,376, Rossville, TN

**John Dolan  
Grinder  
John Racener**  
The November Nine ... including the Florida Three!**Event #49 • \$1,500 NLHE****Prize pool: \$3,433,050 • Entries: 2,543**

4. Ben Smith, \$193,418, West Palm Beach, FL
5. Chadwick Grimes, \$141,235, Grimesland, NC
7. Justin Zaki, \$78,067, Tierra Verde, FL
10. John Myung, \$35,051, Vienna, VA
14. Benjamin Eilers, \$27,464, Raleigh, NC
21. Thomas Gruber, \$17,439, Norfolk, VA
23. Anthony Spinella, \$17,439, Waxhaw, NC
24. Matthew Waxman, \$17,439, Parkland, FL
28. Steve Cowley, \$14,144, Midlothian, VA
35. Elia Ahmadian, \$14,144, Chantilly, VA
39. Ben Hjelm, \$11,603, Montgomery, AL
68. Kenneth Terrell, \$6,797, Sharpsburg, GA
87. Antonio Salorio, \$5,012, Coral Springs, FL
88. Gregory Roy, \$5,012, Stuart, FL
108. Ben Palmer, \$3,845, Orlando, FL
122. Kyle Brown, \$3,845, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
145. Joshua Smith, \$3,433, Greensboro, NC
149. Marc Davis, \$3,433, Orlando, FL
151. Samantha Cohen, \$3,433, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
161. Kevin Currey, \$3,433, Orlando, FL
180. Stephen Hindmarsh, \$3,433, Ft. Smith, AR
182. Frank Dagostino, \$3,089, Belleair Bluffs, FL
195. Thomas Schillo, \$3,089, Royal Palm Beach, FL
204. Maurice Hawkins, \$3,089, Tamarac, FL
232. Jeffrey Tomlinson, \$2,780, Jupiter, FL
262. Dave Fox, \$2,780, Jacksonville, FL
267. Judith Bass, \$2,780, Baton Rouge, LA
268. Kristie Linkowski, \$2,780, Huntersville, NC

**Event #50 • \$5K PLO****Prize pool: \$2,162,000 • Entries: 460**

8. Robert Mizrahi, \$52,471, Miami
16. Jason Mercier, \$19,479, Davie, FL
23. Di Dang, \$15,566, Springfield, VA
26. Justin Smith, \$15,566, Kissimmee, FL
30. Alan Reyf, \$12,561, Aventura, FL
32. Micah Smith, \$12,561, West Palm Beach, FL
41. Jonathan Zuchowski, \$10,226, Jupiter, FL

**Event #51 • \$3K Triple Chance NLHE****Prize pool: \$2,663,400 • Entries: 965**

1. Ryan Welch, \$559,371, Nashville, TN
22. Brian Hawkins, \$17,471, Ft. Myers, FL
39. Tom Franklin, \$12,251, Gulfport, MS
42. Jeremy Menard, \$12,251, Raleigh, NC
52. Ken Aldridge, \$10,333, Pleasant Garden, NC
64. Steve Karp, \$7,457, N. Miami Beach, FL
72. Karga Holt, \$7,457, Atlanta, GA
88. Jacobo Fernandez, \$5,992, Hollywood, FL

**Event #52 • \$25K NLHE 6-Handed****Prize pool: \$4,536,250 • Entries: 191**

3. Frank Kassel, \$556,053, Rossville, TN
12. Abe Mosseri, \$77,569, Longboat Key, FL

**Event #53 • \$1,500 LHE Shootout****Prize pool: \$739,800 • Entries: 548**

48. Andrew Petersen, \$4,135, Prairieville, LA
50. Kirk Banks, \$4,135, Naples, FL

**Event #54 • \$1K NLHE****Prize pool: \$3,459,600 • Entries: 3,844**

10. Johnny Kitchens, \$35,045, Mount Dora, FL
28. Benjamin Palmer, \$13,734, Orlando, FL
35. Micah Johnson, \$13,734, Duluth, GA

41. Matthew Waxman, \$11,105, Parkland, FL

70. George Ruby, \$6,158, Alpharetta, GA

72. David Holcomb, \$6,158, Benton, AR

73. Antonio Salorio, \$5,154, Coral Springs, FL

75. Robert Rini, \$5,154, Hilton Head Island, SC

120. Yuval Bronshtein, \$3,182, Charleston, SC

126. Patrick Madden, \$3,182, Lexington, KY

152. Laurence Stein, \$3,182, Boynton Beach, FL

169. Bobby Ledbetter, \$2,733, Wade, NC

171. Francis Anton, \$2,733, Memphis, TN

183. Michael Michnik, \$2,733, Hollywood, FL

191. Mitchell Smith, \$2,733, North Miami Beach, FL

198. Albert Strickland, \$2,733, Astatula, FL

214. Charles Tidmarsh, \$2,387, Greenville, SC

218. Richard Barone, \$2,387, Land O'Lakes, FL

235. Frank Gary, \$2,387, Ft. Myers, FL

240. Glenn Woodcock, \$2,387, Conover, NC

246. Frank DeGeorge, \$2,387, Orlando, FL

287. Martin Ball, \$2,110, Plantation, FL

301. Stewart Newman, \$2,110, Weston, FL

307. Thuyen Doan, \$2,110, Williamsburg, VA

311. Todd Louer, \$2,110, Delray Beach, FL

322. Justin Barnum, \$2,110, Clarksville, TN

326. Benjamin Early, \$2,110, Chester, VA

329. William Hill, \$2,110, Valdosta, GA

345. Jason Leet, \$1,868, Miami

346. Jena Delk, \$1,868, Merritt Island, FL

347. Robert Georato, \$1,868, Naples, FL

352. Peter Bronstein, \$1,868, Miami

364. Anthony Spinella, \$1,868, Waxhaw, NC

374. Chris Dombrowski, \$1,868, Wesley Chapel, FL

387. Ricky Stinson, \$1,868, Henderson, KY

389. Trenton Stephens, \$1,868, Athens, GA

**Event #55 • \$10K PLO****Prize pool: \$3,252,400 • Entries: 346**

10. Jason Mercier, \$50,867, Davie, FL
14. Anthony Cousineau, \$39,906, Daytona Beach, FL
16. Jason Lester, \$31,288, Aventura, FL
21. John Racener, \$24,815, Port Richey, FL

**Event #56 • \$2,500 NLHE****Prize pool: \$4,466,600 • Entries: 1,942**

3. Bryan Porter, \$353,260, Wilmington, NC
7. Ali Alawadhi, \$103,527, Longwood, FL
22. Brian Hawkins, \$24,107, Ft. Myers, FL
25. Peter Walsworth, \$24,107, Sarasota, FL
35. Dave Baker, \$19,732, Tequesta, FL
37. Gabe Costner, \$16,339, Biloxi, MS
55. Maurice Hawkins, \$11,607, Tamarac, FL
65. Jason DeWitt, \$9,955, Decatur, GA
83. Tom Franklin, \$7,589, Gulfport, MS
89. Adam Adler, \$7,589, Aventura, FL
92. Michael McNeil, \$6,785, Wheeling, WV
103. Daniel Weinman, \$6,071, Atlanta, GA
107. Leon Bolton, \$6,071, Summerville, SC
110. Ken Christopher, \$6,071, Irvington, AL
121. Mike Beasley, \$6,071, Hollywood, FL
125. Timothy McDonald, \$6,071, Lexington, KY
148. James Wroten, \$5,491, Winston Salem, NC
159. Keith Barrett, \$5,491, Pine Bluff, AR
180. Darryll Fish, \$5,044, Cape Coral, FL
194. Jeffrey Pollard, \$5,044, Wendell, NC

**\$10K Main Event \*****Prize pool: \$68,798,600 • Entries: 7,319**

20. Patrick Eskandar, \$317,161, Gulfport, MS
26. Matthew Bucaric, \$317,161, Brentwood, TN

35. Gabe Costner, \$255,242, Biloxi, MS

53. Christopher Bolt, \$168,556, Murfreesboro, TN

56. Jared Ingles, \$138,285, Baton Rouge, LA

60. Bill Melvin, \$138,285, Huntsville, AL

74. Brock Bourne, \$94,942, Naples, FL

83. Jacob Tyler, \$79,806, Hoover, AL

113. Tristan Wade, \$57,102, Boynton Beach, FL

118. Karga Holt, \$57,102, Atlanta, GA

133. Charles Norris, \$57,102, Fayetteville, NC

200. Richard Kirsch, \$48,847, Pompano Beach, FL

205. Paul Dlugozima, \$48,847, St. Petersburg, FL

226. Jacob Petersen, \$48,847, Baton Rouge, LA

234. Elia Ahmadian, \$48,847, Chantilly, VA

237. Dalton Mills, \$48,847, Jacksonville, FL

260. Joshua Mancuso, \$41,967, Mandeville, LA

263. Stuart Breakstone, \$41,967, Memphis, TN

269. Alex Moore, \$41,967, Athens, GA

274. Jason DeWitt, \$41,967, Decatur, GA

305. Thayer Rasmussen, \$41,967, St. Petersburg, FL

312. Eric Morris, \$41,967, Atlanta, GA

314. Brendan Terrana, \$41,967, Alpharetta, GA

336. Joseph Parrish, \$36,463, Riverview, FL

344. Mark Burford, \$36,463, Shreveport, LA

345. Danny Mizrahi, \$36,463, Hollywood, FL

359. Joseph Ressler, \$36,463, Atlanta, GA

360. Steven Burkholder, \$36,463, Largo, FL

401. Fred Bell, \$31,647, Charlotte, NC

407. Bangalore Subbarao, \$31,647, Ashland, KY

419. Theodore McLean, \$31,647, Biloxi, MS

420. Philip Lowery, \$31,647, Atlanta, GA

426. Geoffrey Dombrowski, \$31,647, Jacksonville, FL

443. Richard Taylor, \$31,647, Raeford, NC

448. Amir Levavot, \$31,647, Weston, FL

456. Frank Jordan, \$31,647, Franklin, TN

463. Jason Mercier, \$27,519, Davie, FL

471. Dan Dumont, \$27,519, Maitland, FL

479. Gregory Goyke, \$27,519, Athens, GA

493. David Roper, \$27,519, Alpharetta, GA

494. Zuhdi Mansour, \$27,519, Tampa, FL

497. Larry Lipman, \$27,519, Ft. Myers, FL

507. Jason Lester, \$27,519, Aventura, FL

511. Jerry Connor, \$27,519, Tifton, GA

515. Shannon Shorr, \$27,519, Birmingham, AL

518. James Riggs, \$27,519, Maysville, NC

519. Eric Schneeberger, \$27,519, Alexandria, VA

522. Evan Wenn, \$27,519, Wesley Chapel, FL

540. Paul Weiner, \$24,079, Greenville, SC

544. Christopher Chambers, \$24,079, Canton, GA

574. Peter Bronstein, \$24,079, Miami Beach, FL

579. Frederico Dabus, \$24,079, Doral, FL

607. Alex Prendes, \$21,327, Miami

611. Virgil Beddingfield, \$21,327, Atlanta, GA

613. Garrett Utt, \$21,327, Atlanta, GA

615. Jay Houston, \$21,327, Orlando, FL

616. Steven Wiggins, \$21,327, Douglas, GA

619. Ray Santoli, \$21,327, Panama City, FL

628. Michael Fryett, \$21,327, Manassas, VA

634. Adilson Moraes, \$21,327, Pompano Beach, FL

640. Kenneth McGovern, \$21,327, Douglas, GA

655. Mark Wilds, \$21,327, Biloxi, MS

659. Scott Zakheim, \$21,327, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

661. Steven Curtin, \$21,327, Charlotte, NC

667. Julian Rembert, \$21,327, Raleigh, NC

674. Frank Kassel, \$21,327, Rossville, TN

676. Court Harrington, \$19,263, Mooresville, NC

704. Stan Sinclair, \$19,263, Douglas, GA

706. Randy Burstein, \$19,263, Miami

709. Thomas Lieb, \$19,263, Hollywood, FL

729. Jesse James Herron, \$19,263, Alpharetta, GA

731. Stephen Ekin, \$19,263, Vero Beach, FL

\* The final table features three Floridians who are guaranteed at least \$811K: John Dolan of Bonita Springs, Michael Mizrahi of Miramar and John Racener of Tampa.



# ATLANTIC COAST

When you think of poker in The South, you think of Mississippi. Louisiana. Florida. But there's poker to be played elsewhere, especially if you're on a road trip ... and isn't that what this feature is all about? In Georgia and South Carolina, poker is played on the high seas, while you don't need sea legs to enjoy poker in North Carolina.

BY SCOTT LONG

## HARRAH'S CHEROKEE



### Harrah's Cherokee

**LOCATION:** Cherokee, N.C.  
**WEBSITE:** [www.harrahsherokee.com](http://www.harrahsherokee.com)  
**PHONE:** (828) 497-8284  
**MANAGER:** Ronald Hager  
**TABLES:** 10  
**POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS:** \$1-\$2 no-limit is the most popular, but a \$3-\$6 limit is usually going. On weekends, expect a \$2-\$5 no-limit game and an interest list for pot-limit Omaha. Omaha high and high/low, stud and razz also offered.

PokerPro tables (electronic tables without dealers) are gaining in popularity around the country. They're a requirement at Harrah's Cherokee, where the state's gaming compact doesn't allow card games using actual cards, but table games supervisor Ronald Hager said his players prefer them and hope the casino doesn't change them if they're allowed to in the future.

"Faster play, no mistakes and no tipping are the main (advantages), but showdown odds, ability to view previous hands and session statistics are often mentioned," Hager

said. "As an operator, the ability to offer a wide variety of games literally at the touch of a button and no dealer mistakes makes running a poker room much smoother and profitable."

The room will begin multitable tournaments this month, and plans to tie in World Series of Poker events next year, with a goal of bringing a circuit event to the property next year. But in the meantime, Hager said, look for a big tournament to be scheduled by late this year or early next year.

The casino is halfway through a \$600 mil-

lion expansion. A state-of-the-art 3,000-seat entertainment showroom opens this month, and a new 535-room hotel tower opens at the end of this year, with multiple restaurants opening next year. And music to poker players ears is the poker room will move upstairs in 2012 with room to expand to 20 tables.

And while poker players look for fish at the table, Harrah's offers plenty of them away from the table.

"There are not many poker rooms where you can fish for trout while you are taking a break from playing poker," Hager said.

## TWO CASINO DAY-CRUISE SHIPS IN GEORGIA OFFER POKER:

### **Emerald Princess II**

**LOCATION:** Brunswick, Ga.  
**WEBSITE:** [emeraldprincesscasino.com](http://emeraldprincesscasino.com)  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (800) 842-0115  
**POKER:** \$2-\$2 no-limit, \$2-\$5 no-limit, stud, \$65 nightly tournaments and a \$125 tournament on Saturday nights.

### **Diamond Casino Savannah**

**LOCATION:** Savannah, Ga.  
**WEBSITE:** [diamondcasinosavannah.com](http://diamondcasinosavannah.com)  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (912) 897-3005  
**POKER:** Texas Hold'em (Friday night cruise and both Saturday cruises)

## SUNCRUZ AQUASINO

It's no surprise when Dan Malka made the move from the now-defunct SunCruz Port Canaveral ship in Florida to the new, thriving SunCruz Aquasino in Myrtle Beach that he brought his signature event with him: the World Offshore No-Limit Hold'em Championship.

That great event resumes Aug. 29 with a \$500 buy-in (plus \$50 entry fee) that's limited to 100 players. Malka expects a sellout by Aug. 14, in part because \$55+\$5 satellites award one seat for every 10 players. The tournament is expected to be repeated once every season, with plans to grow to 200 entrants with TV coverage like it had in Florida.

Malka beams with pride over the tournament's new home.

"Our new poker room on the third deck is beautiful and unique in that the room encompasses a sportsbook, full-service bar, eight spacious hold'em tables, eight flat-screen HD TVs and leather and glass lounge areas on the perimeter; surrounded by windows allowing you an ocean view from your chair!" he said.

And Malka beams with pride over his new home.

"The best thing about our ship is its location," he said. "Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, baby! I've always heard it was a golfer's



paradise. But I discovered the city planners must have researched the best of all American vacation destinations and decided to bring them all here."

This SunCruz Aquasino also features a full-service casino, entertainment area with a band, bar, outdoor grill and a restaurant with catered food.

"Sun Cruz Aquasino owner Robert Weisberg's management team addressed our greatest challenge for casino ships — time restraints — by employing the fastest, friendliest staff of professional employees you will find anywhere," Malka said.

### SunCruz Aquasino

**LOCATION:** Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**WEBSITE:** [www.suncruzaquasino.com](http://www.suncruzaquasino.com)

**PHONE:** (843) 280-2933

**MANAGER:** Dan Malka

**TABLES:** 8

**POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS:** \$2-\$5 no-limit is most popular, but \$5-\$10 limit, \$1-\$3 no-limit and \$5-\$10 no-limit also are played. \$110 tournaments on Monday evening and Friday morning cruises and \$60 tournaments on other cruises.

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# STRUGGLING WITH 'GREY MARKET'

From Florida to the Carolinas, The South seems to pride itself on its deliberate, methodical way of doing things. That seems OK if you're enjoying sweet tea on the porch, but when it comes to dealing with the gambling industry the approach, frankly, isn't working.

In The South, most state gambling laws were written when Al Capone and Meyer Lansky were in their heyday. Computers, Internet and state lotteries weren't on the radar ... heck, radar itself wasn't even invented. Gambling operators feared revenue officers and the local sheriff, and a judge knew a gambling device when he saw it.



MARC DUNBAR

Today, that's not even close to the case. All over The South these laws have been turned upside down by new computer networked slot machine environments. Any game of chance, be it bingo, lottery, sweepstakes, pull tabs, even charity raffles can be morphed into a slot machine apparatus. The industry refers to these devices as "grey market" machines as they're not specifically legalized but instead are operating in an undefined, unregulated environment.

To limit the extent of the "grey market" industry, many states have looked to a new industry that has emerged in the past decade to help sort out these devices, the gambling device test laboratories. Filled with engineers and mathematicians, the labs serve as the experts for most mature gambling jurisdictions to understand whether a device

is, in fact, legal. They also help state regulators and law enforcement officers evaluate if a purported legal game is fair to the public or incorporates certain house "cheats" that can manipulate the payout to the unknowing public. These labs test everything from slot machines and table games to the automatic shufflers used at poker tables.

These test labs usually work with a statewide commission or law enforcement agency tasked by the state legislatures to interpret the state's gambling statutes. Mature gambling jurisdictions such as Nevada, New Jersey and even Mississippi have formal gaming commissions that oversee all gambling within their borders.

In The South, every state save Mississippi is struggling to deal with the "grey market" industry. This industry ranges from slot machine operators to organized poker networks. Unfortunately, most southern states are still stuck in Prohibition in the manner in which they attempt to deal with this very sophisticated industry. Sheriffs and local prosecutors are regularly embarrassed by the industry when they attempt to bring the alleged criminals to justice. Often times, machines are surrendered only to have them returned when a judge misapplies or misunderstands the gambling laws written more than 80 years ago. If law enforcement has a good case, the alleged criminals merely plead to a misdemeanor and leave the county to set up shop in a neighboring city or county in the hopes of finding local officials who will look the other way or stumble in trying to build a case against them.

At the state level, rarely is it any better. State politicians, under the mantra of "no gambling expansion in my state," more times than not stick their head in the sand and ignore local officials who are requesting assistance in clarifying gambling laws and establishing bright line tests to identify what's legal. The net result is absurd prosecutions such as the case involving a home poker game in North Carolina, which probably will go all the way to the state Supreme Court to tell us what we already know: Poker is a game of skill. Or, you get the thousands of arguably illegal slot machines in Florida, Georgia and Alabama that continue to exist as the court cases wind their way up through the state appellate system to answer basic questions such as, "What is bingo?" or "What is a slot machine?"

Each southern state should look at the more mature jurisdictions and empower a state agency or commission to define the parameters of gambling within their state. The industry is now too sophisticated for part-time, often term-limited politicians to define the intricacies of a slot machine device or the amount of skill allowed in a game of poker. The empowered state agencies could then enlist the assistance of the testing labs in forming statewide standards that law enforcement and state attorneys could administer. The net result for players and proprietors would be a clear understanding of what is legal within these states. It will create a body of experts that can help the legislatures better evaluate the impact of gambling expansions on their state from a social cost and a budget perspective.

Slow and easy in The South is a way to make grits, not form comprehensive gambling policy in the Internet age. It's time lawmakers and bureaucrats recognized the reality that each state has an incumbent gambling industry within its borders that cater to millions. To safeguard the welfare of their constituents, they need to embrace modernizing their state's gambling laws and enlist the assistance of sophisticated techniques for evaluating and regulating the industry.

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

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\$15 + \$5, No-Limit Hold'em, No Rebuys

**Wednesday Evenings 8pm, (3,000 Starting Chips)**  
\$55 + \$5, No-Limit Hold'em, 20 Min Levels

**Thursday Evenings Bounty 8pm, (3,000 Starting Chips)**  
\$65 Prize Pool, \$25 Bounty, \$10 Fee  
\$100 Buy-in, No-Limit Hold'em, 20 Min Levels

**Saturday Evening Poker Academy Class Starts at 7pm**  
Tournament Starts at 8pm, (3,000 Starting Chips)  
\$15 + \$5, No-Limit Hold'em, No Rebuys

**Sunday Morning 3am, (3,000 Starting Chips),**  
\$15 + \$5, No-Limit Hold'em, \$20 Re-Buy, \$20 Add-On

**Sunday Afternoon 2pm, (5,000 Starting Chips),**  
\$90 + \$10, No-Limit Hold'em, 30 Min Levels

**Sunday Mega Stack - Last Sunday of every month - 2pm**  
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DR. FRANK TOSCANO • A look at how to stay healthy at the poker table

## HAVING A STROKE? YOU HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE

Witnesses said New Orleans native Paul “Eskimo” Clark (No, he’s NOT from Alaska!) passed out at the table three times during the 2007 World Series of Poker’s \$2K stud/8 event. They said he was groggy and having trouble handling his chips. Paramedics, believing he was having “mini-strokes,” wanted to haul him off to the hospital, but he was chipleader and, supposedly, deeply in debt. Reportedly, he waved them off, lit up a cigarette, ordered some chicken wings and finished fourth.



So, what was really going on with Eskimo? Were these events really strokes? How do you know if you’re having a stroke and what should you do about it? The quick-reflex response to put down your chips and get help is just the beginning. If you’re truly having a stroke, you’re quickly going to be facing one of the most difficult and complex choices

in all of medicine. I’m going to walk you through some of the basic math but, in the end, it’s you who might be called upon to make a life-altering decision from minimal information. Sounds a little like a WSOP final table, doesn’t it?

A relatively small number of strokes are caused by bleeding in the brain. These brain bleeds are usually terribly painful, dramatic and deadly. Not much decision-making here: operate, pray or pull the plug.

The more common variety of stroke is caused by a clot that breaks off and lodges in a blood vessel in the brain. The brain tissue downstream becomes starved of oxygen and quickly stops working. Headache is usually not the most obvious symptom. Usually an arm feels weak, a foot drags or a smile seems one-sided. Frequently, speech is involved. It’s slurred or maybe you know the word you want to say but you just can’t seem to get it from your brain to your mouth.

Pinpointing the exact time symptoms start is often difficult. If you were expertly shuffling your chips a few minutes ago and now you can’t lift your drink, OK, that’s your onset time. Stroke victims tend to wake up in the morning with a deficit and only notice it when they get out of bed. Was the onset one hour ago or eight? It makes a difference because timing is critical for the decision to come.

I’m going to apologize in advance to all the neurologists, interventional radiologists, stroke centers and researchers who will want to argue with the numbers that follow. Every month or two it seems another stroke study is published, statistics change, new miracle protocols are devised and new advancements are made. God bless you for the work you do. I’m not trying to nail down numbers so much as simply trying to give some insight into the kind of information a patient has to process quickly after arriving in an E.R. with a stroke. Poker players are used to thinking in terms of risk and benefit. In poker, it’s called expected value or EV. There’s a lot of that type of thinking in stroke

decision-making.

Here’s the dilemma. There’s a drug available that dissolves clots. Unfortunately, it dissolves clots everywhere. Some people who get it will bleed uncontrollably from somewhere and die quickly and horribly. Most E.R. docs who have given clot-busters have seen it. I have and it’s not pretty. Let’s say the chance of death from the drug is about 1 in 16.

The risks of not treating the stroke aren’t good, either. Some small group will get better, but most suddenly cannot bathe or walk or communicate normally. Life quality and life expectancy plummet. The burden affects whole families as well as individuals.

So, take the risk and take the drug? If you don’t die, you get better right? Not so fast. Only about 30 percent get better. The others take the death risk and don’t improve. It’s an EV decision from hell.

Smart people with an affinity for statistics have spent countless hours churning numbers and have identified a group of patients for whom taking the clot-buster is a positive-EV decision. By that I mean the statistical benefits outweigh the statistical risk. That group has several well-defined characteristics.

First, their stroke is not so small as to be trivial. A right-handed 85-year-old might not want to risk death to restore some fine motor coordination in his left hand; while a 65-year-old who suddenly can’t speak, write or dress himself might feel differently. Second, if there has been recent surgery, or if the blood pressure is sky high or the stroke is “really big” (I won’t define that; there’s a complicated score for “really big.”) then the risk of bleeding goes up and the EV takes a nose-dive. On the value side of the equation, a delay of over three hours from the onset of symptoms drops the expected benefits into negative-EV territory. That’s why getting help NOW is more important than finishing fourth in a WSOP event.

There are all sorts of factors that can push that EV equation one way or another. Stroke centers lower risk and improve benefit. Fancy interventions expand the time window for treatment. New techniques and protocols are beginning to show real promise.

Here are the key points: Recognize the symptoms: one-sided weakness or numbness in an arm or leg, facial droop, confusion, speech difficulty, loss of balance. Don’t delay. The treatment window closes very rapidly. Anticipate that very soon after your arrival in the E.R., you will be presented with some critical decisions to make. Ask risk-benefit (EV) questions about the options immediately available. There is very little time for thoughtful detailed analysis. The clock has been called.

Eskimo Clark is a secretive kind of guy so we’ll probably never know if he really suffered a stroke. I would hope that most of you would place a higher value on your health than a WSOP bracelet.

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

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## ACUMEN POKER

LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way

## LISTEN TO THE STORY; SEE IF IT MAKES SENSE

It's been a lot of fun playing live poker after the high volume I've been playing online. Most online tells come from betting patterns. Dedicating yourself to reviewing online hand histories will give you a tremendous edge playing live because those same betting patterns ring true AND you get the attitude, image and physical tells of the players at your table. That's why I find live poker to be so much easier than online.



LEE CHILDS

You have to be cautious of false tells or when some players appear weak with hands that are actually better than yours. Sometimes they convey strength because they're not that experienced and they may overvalue the relative strength of their hands causing you to fold a better hand. It's OK to fold the better hand, of course. If you don't do that quite a bit you're simply calling too lightly and will get yourself in a lot of trouble.

I had a hand in a Venetian \$1K tournament that illustrates both the betting patterns and physical tells and how I was able to use them to make a call that I may not have been able to make online.

I raised in middle position with A-10, affectionately known as the "Cosenza" in the Ante Up Nation. Only the big blind called. He was a pretty loose player and didn't like to fold his big blind very often, so I expected him to call. The flop was K♠-Q♣-4♠ and my opponent checked. I bet my standard two-thirds pot and he called.

At this point I thought he might have a queen or a flush draw, but I didn't suspect a king or a set because he most likely would raise to protect his hand against the possible draws. Your opponents won't always do this, but more often than not I find they protect or "see where they're at."

The turn was the 6♦ and he checked again. I checked behind for pot control and to take a free shot at my gutshot straight. This will help me evaluate on the river what to do. If I bet and get raised, I obviously have to fold, so I would rather get to the river cheaper and possibly get to showdown with ace-high if he was on the draw and missed. I know if a spade comes and he bets I probably will have to fold. The river was the K♣ and my opponent made a near pot-sized bet. Now what?

Well, like I said, I really didn't think my opponent had a king, so why did he make such a big bet? If he had a queen, I would have expected him to check-call a bet. If he had flopped a set, I think he

would have check-raised the flop hoping I had a king, especially with the flush draw out there. I also think he might've led into me on the turn, so this all made it seem like he was bluffing. Yes, he could have a king or a set that just turned into a full house, but because of the betting patterns, I have to trust the hundreds of thousands of hands I've played and rule that out here.

So, I go into the tank a bit and start cutting out chips while keeping my eyes on his hands and cards. Each time I move with the chips, he acts like he is ready to flip the cards over, indicating he wants a call and he's about to flip over the nuts. So, I go back to my chips several times, counting my stack, looking at the amount set aside that I would have to call, and his "about to flip the nuts" action gets more exaggerated with the cards coming a little higher each time. Suffice to say, I have used this little trick successfully and unsuccessfully in the past, and I was 100 percent sure he didn't want a call. I trusted the read and made the call. He sighed and said "jack-high" and showed J♦-5♦. It would be a silly call based on just betting patterns here. It's possible I may have been able to make this call online because his story really didn't add up to be able to bet the river.

I'm not bragging here, just showing if you put in the time to practice, really pay attention to betting patterns, take your time to really put a hand together, it will help you make calls you might not otherwise make. Keep in mind most of the time your opponents will have the hands they're representing. The betting patterns will help you with that, but if you trust yourself when the betting story doesn't make sense, you just might be able to snap off a bluff in the right spot. I also wanted to point out this physical tell of people acting like they are excited to flip their cards.

When someone has a strong hand, they're more likely going to remain still so as not to dissuade you from calling. If they really have a monster, why would they let you know they're about to flip the nuts as quickly as possible? You can also use this against your better opponents when you DO have the nuts and you want them to call.

Work on your game, pay attention to all of the hands you see whether you're involved or not and learn the tendencies of players and betting patterns. Combine that with reliable physical information when playing live and trust your instincts! The more time you put in and the more hands you see, those gut feelings will be reliable.

Decide To Win!

— Lee Childs is founder and lead instructor of Acumen Poker. He also is an instructor with the WPT Boot Camp. Go to [www.acumenpoker.net](http://www.acumenpoker.net).

## STRATEGY

Finding edges in high stakes mixed games

## A BOLD CHECK-RAISE DOES THE TRICK IN OMAHA/8

By Jay Houston

Since I started playing poker eight years ago I have read hundreds of poker blogs. I'm always curious to see how players take their games to the next level. What I found in common in all of those blogs was that every young player's game was kicked up a notch when they started discussing advanced strategy with players who were playing higher than them.

I was fortunate enough to hang out with some of the biggest names in online poker during the World Series of Poker this summer and

I got to talk some mixed-game strategy. I was in a hotel room and a couple of the guys started talking about a fixed-limit Omaha/8 hand. I found it very interesting so I thought I would share.

Playing a \$400-\$800 seven-game, our hero was in the big blind with A♥-J♦-4♦-2♣. The button raised and our hero called to see a flop of K♠-Q♥-10♥. Our hero, who flopped the nuts, led out and the villain helped him cap it. The turn brought the 8♠ for a second flush draw and once again the players capped the pot.

The river brought the K♥ to complete one of the flush draws and



DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

# WHY DON'T PLAYERS PREPARE MENTALLY?

Since my last column focused on preparing for a tournament I figured it would be a good idea to talk to some professional players about the topic. In June I went to Las Vegas to play in the World Series of Poker's senior event, and as it turns out, most pros are playing constantly so there's little special preparation for any specific tournament.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

So I changed my plans and interviewed lots of players. And what did I discover? Our competitive arena is way behind the curve in terms of preparing for a grueling competition. My guess is as poker gets more organized, so will the players. Many folks just show up, plop down their entry fee and play. At my first table, several folks didn't know we started with 3,000 chips.

I was stunned people who know the key to winning is to minimize variance don't take the best opportunity to do so by mentally preparing for a tournament. Think about it: The area you have most control over is *you*. Why not spend the most time on you, on doing things that will enhance your ability to perform at your peak?

More serious players make mistakes and try to figure out how to correct those mistakes. The small number of players in every competitive endeavor that want to achieve their peak work at it. In poker we have to reduce chance and variance. Obviously we can't control the cards or the one-outer that beats us on the river. But we have to look at what got us there. How do we handle this setback?

Poker can be seen as a card game played by people or a people game played with cards. I will take the latter. What I come away with is that if someone wants to perform at his peak, he has to work at it, but that many people don't.

If you're striving to play perfect poker or striving to achieve peak performance in your poker game or if you're just playing, you need to be willing to put in the work to get there. These are very different ways of approaching poker.

It's essential to remember you can't play perfect poker since you can't control the cards and you sure can't control the villains. You can control your play and you can *account* for the cards and your opponents. If you're not interested in peak performance or don't want to put in the work, then you can still have fun. If you want to achieve peak performance you have to put in more work (and also still have fun).

Achieving peak performance in poker involves: purpose; patience; practice; preparation; persistence; perception; patterns; passion; pleasure.

I think my preparation helped me. After talking to many at the

WSOP I'm convinced folks could improve their games with mental preparation, but most just want a quick fix like a mantra or a pill to take that will perfect their game and get them to the next level. This is not the way to go. Develop a purpose by defining why you play and the rest will fall into place. Be patient and play your game. You need to practice, you need to prepare and you need persistence. You need to sharpen your perceptions and learn to identify patterns. If you're going to achieve you need a passion for the game and the game should be pleasurable.

Here's my story: The event started with 3,200 runners and 3,000 chips. With about 18,000 left on Day 2, I looked down at 9-9 on the button. It was folded to me. I made it 5K to go and the small and big blinds called; I was surprised. I just wanted to take down the blinds and antes. The flop came uncoordinated and low. My 9-9 would be top pair. Small blind and big blind checked, I pushed all-in; I really wanted to take in a pot that would double me up. Small blind folded, big blind called and had me covered by only a minimum amount, with 8-8. He spiked a set on the river. I busted out, just short of cashing.

So, I gave myself a break. I blew off some time and the next day played in a deepstack tournament and did well. I did take some time to analyze my play. I made a decision; it turned out I got my money in right and then lost. It's possible I could've played passively and made the money. To do this I would've had to count on a lot of other people making mistakes. I decided to control my destiny, as best as I could.

Though my goal was to cash, I decided to play "right." I spent a good deal of time trying to figure out if I had not made that play would I have sneaked into the money by hoping enough players busted out before me? Ultimately I decided my goal was not to play perfectly but to play to my peak. I attempted to account for all the variables and had to accept that a two-outer on the river is one of those I can't account for, but have to accept.

I had kept a journal as I got ready for the senior event and was satisfied with my preparation. I avoided tilt by realizing I got my chips in good; I couldn't control the river; in this situation I win most of the time. I assessed my preparation and goal-setting. I made two new goals and treated this as a learning experience. Playing poker is a lifetime experience and I can't get too tied to one hand or one tournament. I decided if I want to achieve in this kind of event I need to play more deep-stacked tournaments. I need to accept there are no guarantees in poker; there are no "I deserved to win," or "this is not fair."

I think I did a pretty good job of preparing for the tournament and keeping my head in the game and hope you do as well.

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

Continued from previous page

pair the board. Here is where it gets interesting: After our hero decided to check, the villain took a few seconds and put out a bet, and then our hero check-raised! The villain tanked and then folded as our hero scooped.

Basically what happened was both players flopped the nuts and capped it until the river. Our hero knew the villain had A-J-X-X at the very least and would not fold to a bet on the river. By checking he left the villain to a decision to bet the scary board for a value bluff or to check behind and save money on rake. When the villain

bet, our hero took the gamble of risking an extra bet to win the entire pot and prevent the chop. His gamble was hoping he wasn't freerolled by a hand like A-J-K-10, but since our hero had the A♥ in his hand it increases the play's chances of success.

I can honestly say if I were in this situation a few months ago, check-raising definitely would not have been in my arsenal. But now it is, and I hope it's in yours as well.

— **Jay Houston is a young poker pro and is a sit-n-go specialist. You can email him at [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com)**

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# IT'S NOT YOUR TURN, SO PLEASE DON'T ACT

By Sand Farnia

People make mistakes. But when you're playing poker, mistakes may cost you the tournament, or your entire stack in a live game. As a dealer, I see players make all kinds of mistakes, from misreading hands to bluffing their entire stack into the nuts. I've seen many a poker player take that walk of shame to the exit mumbling expletives at themselves. And usually, they learn from these types of mistakes and they become less frequent. But there's one mistake that's by far the most frequent and annoying to a dealer: acting out of turn. When I'm dealing, I see players play out of turn constantly. It's so common that it happens not just every day, but almost every half-hour down at every table. Usually, acting out of turn costs nothing and has no consequences, but sometimes acting out of turn can cost everything.

The rule regarding out-of-turn play is: An act out of turn is binding if the bet has not changed; an act out of turn is retractable if the bet has changed. This means I must give each player who was skipped a chance to act on their hand, neglecting the player(s) who acted out of turn. If the bet has not changed (all skipped players check or call) then the out-of-turn play is binding. However, if the bet has changed (players who were skipped bet or raise), then the out-of-turn play is retracted, and the player can reconsider his action. At times this can be complicated.

Just the other day I had a player say, "I check those diamonds" and tap his hand on the table as soon as the flop came out with two diamonds. Unfortunately for him, he was on the button and there were still five players in front of him. So the five players all checked, and he tried to make a \$20 position bet to buy the pot. Dumbfounded, I responded, "Um, sir, you already checked, you can't bet."

"I didn't check!"

"Sir, you said 'I check those diamonds' and tapped your hand on

the table."

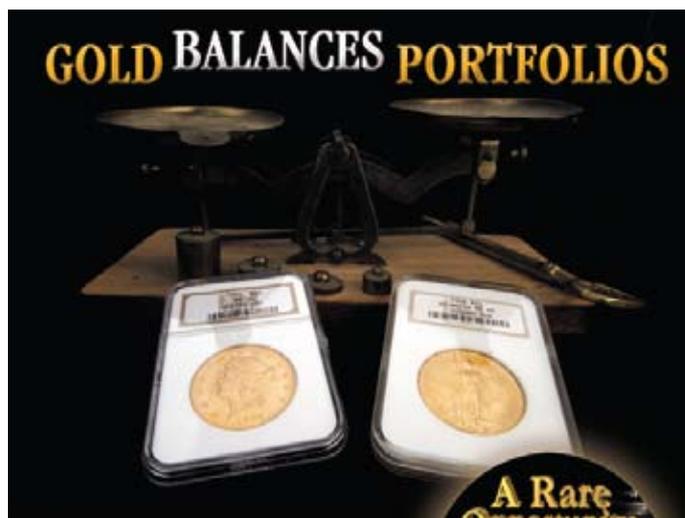
Fortunately, I wasn't the only witness. There were eight players who saw the same thing and he really couldn't argue, and if he did, I would've been more than happy to have the supervisor decide. But he conceded the point and in this case, the turn card didn't hurt his position, and he made the same play on the turn and won the pot. But he got really lucky. I've seen the opposite happen where playing out of turn had disastrous consequences.

At a tournament table not too long ago, four players were in a pot, deep into the tournament and close to the money. After the flop, two checked and the third was considering his bet, when all of a sudden, the last guy made an enormous bet into the pot. The third guy, knowing the out-of-turn rule, immediately checked his action. The bet became binding and after the other two folded, he promptly moved all-in over the top with the nuts. Now the player who tried to buy the pot (out of turn) was forced to make a decision for the rest of his stack, which was measly compared to the size of the pot. Though he knew he was beat, he called and was eliminated from the tournament on the bubble.

Most people follow the rules and the etiquette. Some, on the other hand, purposefully act out of turn. This is illegal and frustrating. I have little tolerance for players who intentionally disregard rules, and when it happens at a table I'm dealing, I rarely hesitate to call a pit boss to let them handle the situation.

The bottom line: Please don't act when it's not your turn. You could be saving yourself money, or at the very least, you won't seem like a bozo in the eyes of the dealer. Oh, and on that same token, please DO act when it IS your turn and quit slowing down my game.

— Sand Farnia is a dealer at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, Fla. If you're a dealer and would like to submit a column send it to [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com).



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# RIVER CALL EARNS FUTURE INFORMATION



This series is taken (with permission) from the No. 1 poker book on Amazon.com, *Winning Poker Tournaments One Hand at a Time Vol. II* by Eric “Rizen” Lynch, Jon “Pearl-Jammer” Turner and Jon “Ape-styles” Van Fleet. In this book, each author chose one multitable tournament to discuss key hands, from making the money to heads-up play. This hand from Rizen looks at how he played a weak pair when three-handed in a tournament. Be sure to check out *Ante Up* next month for a look at Travis Steffen’s new Dimat book, Peak Performance Poker.

## Hand 41

- SEAT 4:** 493,942, Button, aggressive player
- SEAT 7:** 100,352, Small Blind, tricky/slow plays
- SEAT 8:** 626,706, Big Blind, Rizen

**Level: 6,000-12,000 blinds, 1,500 ante**

**SETUP:** I doubled up the short stack, but it’s not the end of the world. While I would rather be heads-up with a chip lead, having the short stack at the table potentially gives me more time to exploit the three-handed dynamics where Seat 4 does not want to bust before Seat 7. I cannot really afford to double up Seat 7 again, but doing this once is not too bad, and could actually lead to greater chip accumulation.

**PREFLOP:** (22,500) A♦-2♣ — Any A-x is potentially playable when three-handed. The button raises the minimum to 24,000. Seat 7 folds. I could reraise here, but the minimum raise is a bit unusual from this player, and I don’t really know what it means yet. I don’t know if he’s scared and looking to lose the minimum if I reraise, or if he is strong and trying to induce action. I decide to call.

**FLOP:** (58,500) 8♥-3♥-2♦ — I flop bottom pair. On this flop, it is reasonable to expect bottom pair to be the best hand. I could check-raise here, but given the flop texture and the aggressive nature of my opponent, I think check-raising would make me vulnerable to reraises on this board. My opponent could easily have a flush draw, straight draw or an overpair.

Most likely I have the best hand, and there are plenty of turn cards that could scare my opponent giving me other potential opportunities to win the pot on a later street. I decide to check and my opponent bets 32,000. I call.

**TURN:** (122,500) K♣ — I could lead at this card, as it’s probably a scare card for my opponent. However, my opponent also knows it’s scary for me and may view my bet as defensive and raise me to try to take the pot away. A king is a really good card for my opponent to be “two-barrelling” with, as a bluff. I decide to check with the intention of check-raising, figuring my opponent will be betting at this card often, with it missing him far more frequently than it helps him. I check, and, unfortunately, he checks.

**RIVER:** (122,500) 8♣ — I only have a pair of deuces. The fact that my opponent didn’t bet the turn as I had expected indicates he holds a hand that he felt couldn’t stand a check-raise. This probably includes some flush and/or straight draws, vulnerable connectors (that paired) like 9-8, 8-7, 8-6 as well as 77-44 or even A-8 or A-3. Given that an 8 fell on the river, it makes all of the combinations of hands with 8s in them less likely (but not impossible), since there are only two 8s left in the deck. With just a pair of deuces, I beat all his bluff hands and lose to all his made hands. If I bet, I’ll only be called by those hands that beat me and he’ll fold his missed draws (although he may occasionally bluff-raise with them, but that creates another dilemma altogether with just a pair of deuces). I check.

He bets 52,000. The bet is pretty small in relation to the pot. Getting over 3-to-1 pot odds means that I only need the best hand here 25 percent of the time, or less. I feel as if he could easily be bluffing a missed draw here one time in four, so I call.

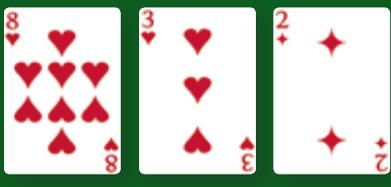
He tables 9♦-8♦ and I muck. Seeing that he made a rather small river value bet with a hand that is nearly the nuts in this situation is something I may be able to use later. He may mix his value bets and bluffs well, but many players fall into the trap of always betting small with big hands and betting big with more moderate hands. This may allow me to make a better river decision later on.

Also, note that he min-raised the button preflop with a good suited connector. Next time I’m faced with this, I don’t have to be quite as worried about him being tricky, so I can three-bet him preflop with a wider range if I choose.

— *Winning Poker Tournaments One Hand at a Time Vol. II*, a Dimat poker publication, is available at Amazon.com, many Barnes and Noble stores and [pokerbooks.InternetTexasHoldem.com](http://pokerbooks.InternetTexasHoldem.com).



**RIZEN**



**FLOP**



**TURN**



**RIVER**



**OPPONENT**

Seeing that he made a rather small river value bet with a hand that is nearly the nuts in this situation is something I may be able to use later. He may mix his value bets and bluffs well, but many players fall into the trap of always betting small with big hands and betting big with more moderate hands. This may allow me to make a better river decision later on.

## WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

# Tell-reading can be innate

Do you think there are players who are born with the skill of intuition for spotting tells while others aren't? — BRAD from Sydney, Australia

I think definitely so. I've work with guys, for instance Daniel Negreanu, who has an unbelievable ability to look at things and draw inferences from them that leave me floored and leave most people just knowing that they're in a different league. Knowing that, however, I know this:

We can all improve our ability to observe and pick up on tells. It's just a matter of being taught. If I taught you, for instance, that when you put your hands on top of your cards the distance between each finger will be dominated by how you feel about your cards, so that when you're strong your fingers will be spread apart than when you're weak, having that knowledge (which is accurate) now you know what to look for. Now you can internalize that and use that in your gameplay.

When we're strong we tend to spread out, our fingers spread out and when we're weak we tend to withdraw. It's the same way when you have a cat or a dog, when they feel threatened they tuck in their ears, our brain tucks in the fingers together so they are not spread apart.

— Ex-FBI counterintelligence officer Joe Navarro of Tampa specialized in behavioral analysis for 25 years. He's a star lecturer with the WSOP Academy and has penned *Read 'Em and Reap*. Email Joe at [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com) and he'll answer your questions.



JOE NAVARRO

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MANAGER'S CORNER

A look at the TDA

TDA OFFERS STABILITY FOR ALL TOURNAMENTS

By Jody Russell

You know that feeling most of us get the first time we play in a new room? Uncertainty, apprehension ... We've all been there. We make sure we don't cross "that line" with chips we don't want to bet; we announce our actions and we're careful not to swear too much. Then it happens. We do something trivial and suddenly the dealer shouts, "Decision!" We soon find ourselves on the unfavorable side of a ruling because of a procedure that no other room follows. "This is ridiculous!" we say. "I've never heard of that anywhere!" But it's too late. It isn't going to change, so we accept it, leave or continue arguing and eventually get asked to leave.

When this situation occurs it's often followed by conversations among players that poker rooms should follow the same rules. That sounds like a great idea. How nice would it be if you already knew what rules and procedures to expect before you ever stepped foot in a particular poker room?

Well, a group of poker professionals did get together to try to accomplish such a goal. What they realized from the start was poker can be so different from room to room that getting all the people running all the poker rooms to agree on someone else's rules would never happen. Because of the near impossibility of this task they took on a smaller piece of the problem: tournaments. Surely we can all agree on what rules to follow in tournaments. And so the TDA was born.

In 2001 Matt Savage, Linda Johnson, Jan Fisher and Dave Lamb established the Tournament Directors Association. What started

with four people has grown into a membership of more than 1,200 in almost 40 countries. The membership is made up of tournament directors, managers, players, dealers and writers. They meet every two years and discuss ideas for new rules that help standardize tournaments. TDA rules are followed at major tournaments such as the World Series of Poker, World Poker Tour, European Poker Tour and many smaller events worldwide.

The TDA rules are at least recognized if not followed in more poker rooms than not. Whenever I plan to play a tournament in an unfamiliar room I always call ahead and ask if they follow the TDA rules. If the answer is yes I know what to expect. Sometimes they say, "What's the TDA?" at which point I explain what that means, take a moment to encourage them to check out the TDA website, then hang up and find a tournament to play in a different room.

The TDA is open to anyone and membership is free. It has a really great website, [www.pokertda.com](http://www.pokertda.com), that lists up-to-date rules and provides online discussion forums for any member who has questions, comments or ideas for new rules.

Next month *Ante Up* will be launching a new column called "Call the Floor" where Cassie Greene and I will answer your questions about situations that have arisen in a poker room. We'll also feature a different TDA rule each month and give our impressions of that rule. Email [editor@anteupmagazine.com](mailto:editor@anteupmagazine.com) if you have a question.

— Jody Russell and Cassie Greene are veteran poker room managers in Nevada who also run the Ante Up Poker Room.

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<b>DANIA JAI-ALAI</b> Phone: (954) 927-2841 www.dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (12:30p and 6:30p), including a \$15K guarantee every Friday (\$105, 6:30p). Dan Le Batard Celebrity Tournament (Aug. 4, 8p, \$50)	Hold'em tournaments are included in the bad-beat jackpot. A \$5 jackpot fee will be added to buy-ins.	Hold'em High Hands (2p, \$100; 4p, \$150; 6p, \$200; 9p, \$250; and midnight, \$400).
<b>DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB</b> Phone: (386) 252-6484 www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily, including Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Sat. deepstack (\$225, 2p). See ad on Page 57 for new hours.	Bad beats in limit, no-limit (\$118K) and Omaha. Daily high hands paid every two hours.	Cracked Aces (Mon.-Tue., 4-10p) pays \$50 for limit hold'em and \$100 for NLHE.
<b>DERBY LANE</b> Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7 www.derbylanepoker.com	Daily (buy-ins vary); \$220 Mega Stack, last Saturday of the month (\$12K, 2p, 30-minute blinds)..	Daily royal flushes and mini bad beats. Full calendar of jackpots varying day-to-day. See website.	Ladies Only event on Aug. 21 (see ad on Page 27 for details and more promotions).
<b>EBRO GREYHOUND PARK</b> Phone: (850) 234-3943 www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily, except Friday (\$20-\$330), including Mega Stack (last Sunday of month, \$330, 2p, 10K chips). See ad on Page 45 for tournament schedule.	Ultimate Big Easy Bad Beat (See Page 45); mini bad beat is \$2K.	See ad on Page 45 for all promotions and details.
<b>FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI &amp; POKER</b> Phone: (772) 464-7500 www.jaijai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$100, 6:30p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). <b>SNGs:</b> (Thurs.-Sat., \$65-\$110).	All new bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha. Call for details or visit website.	Deepstack event is the third Saturday every month (\$150, 3p). See ad on Page 33 for promotions.
<b>GULFSTREAM PARK</b> Phone: (954) 457-6336 www.gulfstreampark.com	Daily, (\$60-\$150, 6:30p), including bounties M-W-F, plus the Saturday Special, (\$150, 8K units). <b>SNGs:</b> \$60-\$120 (10 players, pays three spots).	Bad beat: aces full of jacks; hourly high hands, M-F, 2-10p, starting at \$250 (\$500 4p, 6p, 8p).	Royals pay \$500. See ad on Page 15 for new hours. Free drinks after midnight.
<b>HAMILTON JAI-ALAI &amp; POKER</b> Phone: (800) 941-4841 www.hamiltondownsjaijai.com	"Almost Freeroll" Sundays (\$5, 3p, 2K units; \$20 add-on good for 1,500 more, plus a \$10 add-on after first break worth 1,500).	Hearts royal pays \$1,466 (mini royal is \$146). Bad beat is aces full of kings and pays \$5K.	Call about the \$1,500 Points Challenge.
<b>ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK</b> Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 www.theislepompnopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$720), including \$15K guarantee on Tuesdays (\$230, 2p, 13K chips, 30-min. blinds). <b>SNGs:</b> \$60-\$225.	Bad beat was \$172K at press time.	\$400K Fla. State Championships (Aug. 2-10). See story on Page 16 for schedule and buy-ins.
<b>JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB</b> Phone: (850) 997-2561 www.jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., \$50 (2K chips and 15-minute blinds)	Royal flushes win jackpot.	Call for promotions.
<b>MAGIC CITY CASINO</b> Phone: (305) 649-3000 www.flaglerdogs.com	Sundays, low-rake bounty event (\$40, 1p). Monday night is a \$75 NLHE event (7p). <b>SNGs:</b> \$65-\$800.	High hands (\$150); non-heart royals win \$1K, heart royals pay \$2,500; Big Slick Royal progressive.	\$500 progressive hot table paid at 3p & 9p.
<b>MARDI GRAS CASINO</b> Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167 www.playbigeasy poker.com	Starting Aug. 15, \$15K guar. deepstack (\$250, Sundays, 2p); Super 7 Shootout (\$177, Mon., 7p), 7 tables, 7-handed, win table advance to final.	Two high hands hourly 11a-4a (\$75 limit; \$150 no-limit); \$75 4a-10a. \$500 at noon, 3p, 6p, 9p, mid., 3a.	Every Tue., Thur., & Sat. in Aug. \$1K high hands at noon, 3p, 6p, 9p, mid, 3a. See ad Pages 4-5.
<b>MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK</b> Phone: (321) 259-9800 www.mgpark.com	Daily, (\$65-\$120), including Sat. Super Stack (\$120, 2p, 10K chips) and Sunday (\$65, 1p, 3K chips, free sandwich buffet).	Bad beat (\$47K) is only in hold'em and requires aces full of jacks be beaten by quads or better.	Quads win \$50, straight flush \$100, royals \$500. Spin to Win Saturdays. See ad Page 23.
<b>MIAMI JAI-ALAI</b> Phone: (305) 633-6400 www.miamijaijai.net	Daily (\$20-\$165).	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day progressive; see website for more information.	Hourly \$100 high hands plus tickets for Sunday raffle.
<b>MICCOSUKEE RESORT</b> Phone: (877) 242-6464 www.miccosukee.com	Fridays (\$60, 8p). Super Saturday no-limit hold'em tournament (\$60, 8p) gets you 3K chips. Free buffet for all tournament players.	Spade royal flush pays jackpot.	Call for information.
<b>NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK</b> Phone: (239) 992-2411 www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Sun. bounty (\$125, 2p); Mon. (\$40, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed., (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$65, 7p).	Big Slick Royal Progressive has a \$25K guarantee; all other royals pay \$1K.	Aug. 15, high hand pays \$1,000 hourly from 11a-midnight. Other days \$100 every two hours.
<b>OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI</b> Phone: (352) 591-2345 www.ocalapoker.com	Daily (\$30-\$500). <b>SNGs:</b> (\$45-\$500).	See website for numerous jackpots and other cash giveaway promotions.	Super Saturday High Hands pay \$300 hourly from 4p-mid.
<b>ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB</b> Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150). See website for details to Florida Poker Tour, including \$1,500 buy-in) Mega Stack Main Event, Aug. 27 (6p).	Royals and Steel Wheels \$250 (spades \$500); Super High Hand; Spin to Win High Hand.	Florida Poker Tour, Aug. 19-29, see ad on Page 49 for full schedule. Tier event players can win cruises.
<b>PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB</b> Phone: (561) 683-2222 www.pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120), noon & 6:30p Sun-Thurs.; 1 & 6:30 Fri.-Sat. See ad on Page 17.	Visit website or call for information on daily high hands and bad-beat payouts and qualifications.	Palm Beach Poker Classic, Aug. 22-28 (See story on Page 14 for schedule and details).
<b>PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK</b> Phone: (850) 455-8595 www.pensacolagreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$65-\$120), including Sat. (\$65, 4p); Sun. (\$120, 4p) will be \$5K guarantee. Also, Aug. 28 is the \$340 main event (call for details).	Hold'em and stud bad beats (any quads) and in Omaha (quad jacks).	Cash giveaways for full houses our better starting at 11a every day.

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

# FLORIDA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
<b>SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB</b> Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054 www.skcpoker.com	Daily, plus Fri. (\$100, 1p, 25K chips, 25-minute blinds); Sat. \$12K guarantee with minimum of 10 spots paid (\$230, 2:30p). <b>SNGs:</b> \$35-\$300.	Progressive jackpots in all games. Bad beat is quad threes (\$10K).	High hands pay \$599 Fri. & Sat.
<b>SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON</b> Phone: (866) 222-7466 ext. 121 www.seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. & Wed., (\$20, 6:30p) with optional add-on. <b>SNGs:</b> \$25, \$65, \$110.	Quad aces pay \$50; straight flushes pay \$100, royals \$1K; Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$164K at press time).	Fridays: double reward punches; Rolling Cash Fever, Wed., \$500 drawings at 8, 10 and midnight.
<b>SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK</b> Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	<b>SNGs:</b> \$55, \$85, \$135.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$164K at press time).	See website for details or call poker room for current offers.
<b>SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD</b> Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Mon. (\$300, 6:30p, \$20K guar.); Tue. (\$150, \$12K, 6:30p guar.); Fri. (\$150, 11a, \$12K guar.); Sat. (\$100, 11a, \$10K guar.); Tue. & Wed. (\$35, 11a., \$1,500 guar.).	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$164K at press time). High hands (limit and no-limit) of the hour every day.	Hourly high hand (9a-7p, \$100 limit, \$150 no-limit); Bonus High Hand (10a, 1p, 4p & 7p) wins triple.
<b>SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA</b> Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including Night Owl every Wednesday (\$40, with \$40 add-on, 12:30a). Back page ad lists schedule. <b>SNGs:</b> \$50-\$1,075.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$164K at press time).	Royals pay \$500 in all suits in August. See ad on back page.
<b>SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC</b> Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com	<b>SNGs:</b> \$50-\$100 and are now jackpot eligible.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$164K at press time).	In-house bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads. Starts at \$2,500, capped at \$10K.
<b>SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE</b> Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7p); Thurs. (NL O/8, \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 7p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & DeepStack (\$115, 7p, 25K chips, 25-min. blinds); Sun., Winner Take All (\$30, 7p).	Mega-Bad Beat (quads 10s), plus players get \$100 if Mega hits at any Seminole room. \$10K mini bad beats.	Poker Gives, charity tournament, (Sept. 5, 4p, \$45, \$50 rebuys for charity). See ad Page 24.
<b>ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK</b> Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150). Satellites into Orange Park's \$1,500 buy-in are running all month. Call for details.	Royals \$250 (spades \$500). Plus a Super High Hand and Spin to Win High Hand.	Mega Stack Main Events every Saturday night in August (\$225, 7p, 10K chips, 30-minute blinds).
<b>TAMPA BAY DOWNS</b> Phone: (813) 298-1798 www.tampabaydowns.com	Daily, starting at \$30 and up. <b>SNGs:</b> \$100 and up, starts with as few as 4 players.	Quads or better win cash all the time in jackpot eligible games.	Check for new events and promotions online, such as Rays Rack Attack and Aces Cracked.
<b>TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK</b> Phone: (813) 932-4313 www.luckyscards.com	Daily (\$45-\$200), at 1p and 6:30p, including \$115 Sunday Challenge (last Sunday of the month, 1p, 14K chips). <b>SNGs:</b> \$65-\$200.	Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$599). Spade royal progressive. Call for details.	Friday Bounty (\$150, 7:30p, 8K chips, 20-minute blinds). Aces cracked noon-2p pays \$100.

# PENNSYLVANIA

<b>HARRAH'S CHESTER</b> Phone: (800) 480-8020 www.harrahschester.com	Tournaments have yet to be approved by the state at press time but may begin by the time Ante Up reaches you.	Call for information.	Call for information.
<b>HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL</b> Phone: (717) 469-2211 www.hcpn.com	Tournaments have yet to be approved by the state at press time but may begin by the time Ante Up reaches you.	Call for information.	Call for information.
<b>MEADOWS CASINO</b> Phone: (724) 503-1200 www.meadowsgaming.com	Tournaments have yet to be approved by the state at press time but may begin by the time Ante Up reaches you.	Call for information.	Call for information.
<b>MOHEGAN SUN/POCONO DOWNS</b> Phone: (570) 831-2100 www.mohegansunpocono.com	Tournaments have yet to be approved by the state at press time but may begin by the time Ante Up reaches you.	Call for information.	Call for information.
<b>MOUNT AIRY CASINO</b> Phone: (877) 682-4791 www.mtaircasino.com	Tournaments have yet to be approved by the state at press time but may begin by the time Ante Up reaches you.	Call for information.	Call for information.
<b>PARX CASINO</b> Phone: (215) 639-9000 www.parxcasino.com	Tournaments have yet to be approved by the state at press time but may begin by the time Ante Up reaches you.	Call for information.	Call for information.
<b>PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS</b> Phone: (866) ERIE-FUN www.presqueisledowns.com	Tournaments have yet to be approved by the state at press time but may begin by the time Ante Up reaches you.	Call for information.	Call for information.
<b>RIVERS CASINO</b> Phone: (412) 231-7777 www.theriverscasino.com	Tournaments have yet to be approved by the state at press time but may begin by the time Ante Up reaches you.	Bad beat available soon, call for details.	Call for information.
<b>SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM</b> Phone: (877) SANDS-77 www.sandsbethworks.com	Tournaments have yet to be approved by the state at press time but may begin by the time Ante Up reaches you.	Will have a bad beat soon, call for details.	Call for information.

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

## LOUISIANA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
<b>AMELIA BELLE CASINO</b> Phone: (985) 631-1745 www.ameliabellecasinocom	No tournaments until further notice.	Bad beat is quads over aces full of 10s (\$8,300 at press time).	Call for information.
<b>BELLE OF BATON ROUGE</b> Phone: (800) 676-4847 www.belleofbatonrouge.com	Wed. & Sun., (10a, \$50).	Bad beat (any quads) was \$10K at press time.	Aces Cracked on Mondays (9a-3p). Call for details.
<b>BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS</b> Phone: (800) 366-7711 www.boomtownneworleans.com	Tue. (11a) freeroll for players with 20 hours of play in the room, otherwise it costs \$10; Wed. (\$35, 7:30) and Thurs. pot-limit Omaha (7:30p, \$50)	Bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha.	Check website or call for more promotions.
<b>COUSHATTA CASINO</b> Phone: (800) 584-7263 x7336 www.coushattacasinosort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230), including Tue. (\$15, 6:30p) with rebuys & add-ons; Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$20, 7:30p) with rebuys; Sat. (\$220, 2p, 7K chips).	Bad beat was \$32K at press time.	Call for promotions, which were being finalized at press time.
<b>CYPRESS BAYOU CASINO</b> Phone: (800) 284-4386 www.cypressbayou.com	Wed. (\$40, 6:30p); Saturday Super Bounty, (\$60, 3p) with two \$20 rebuys and two \$20 add-ons. Bounties are \$20 and Super Bounties are \$100.	Bad beat: quads (\$69K at press time).	Aces cracked, first Thursday of the month (noon-10p). Call for details.
<b>ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT</b> Phone: (318) 220-5274 www.eldoradoshreveport.com	Daily (\$50-\$125), including Saturdays (\$125, 11a) and Tuesday rebuy event (\$75, rebuys are \$25-\$50 with \$25-\$50 add-ons at first break, 6:30p).	Bad beat: quads (\$93K at press time); Royal flush progressives pay by suit (call for current totals).	Aces Cracked Fridays (4a-6p), pays \$100. High hands (M & Th, 3p & 9p) pay \$250.
<b>HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS</b> Phone: (504) 533-6000 www.harrahsneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad beat: quads.	Aces cracked Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call for details.
<b>HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY</b> Phone: (800) 895-0711 www.horseshoebossiercity.com	Daily (\$100-\$400), including last Sunday of the month (\$400, 2p, 10K chips, 30-minute levels).	Bad beat: quads; plus mini-bad beat pays 10% (aces full of 10s). Aces cracked (7a-noon).	Numerous promotions that change daily, including Splash the Cash. Call for details.
<b>ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES</b> Phone: (337) 430-2407 www.lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Weekdays at 6:30p, including PLO Thurs. (\$115). A noon event on Fridays (\$60) & Saturdays (\$115), plus Sundays (\$60, 2p).	Bad beat is \$168K; "Minor Jackpots" pays quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125), 24/7. Call for details.	Isle of Capri Fall Classic, Sept 17-26. Satellites will be Sept. 13-16. Call for details.
<b>PARAGON CASINO</b> Phone: (800) 946-1946 x1975 www.paragoncasinosort.com	Mondays (\$20 w/rebuys, 7p); Tue. (\$18, 10:30a); Thursday bounty event (\$20 with \$15 rebuys, 7p) and Fridays (\$60 with one \$50 rebuy, 7p).	Loosest bad beat in the state: Aces full of eights. In Omaha straight flush must be beaten.	Call for offers.

## ARKANSAS

<b>OAKLAWN RACING &amp; GAMING</b> Phone: (501) 623-4411 www.oaklawn.com	Daily, including SNGs (\$30), on PokerPro tables. Also, qualifiers for Arkansas State Championships every Wed. & Fri. (\$50, 7p) until Aug. 3 final.	Bad beat paid in all hold'em cash games. Call for details. Daily \$100 high hands.	\$50 Splash the Pot Tue. and Fri. (7p-midnight). \$5 MTT (Sundays, 10a, \$500 guarantee).
<b>SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING &amp; RACING</b> Phone: (870) 733-3670 www.southlandgreyhound.com	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Sat. (\$20, 2p), 3K chips and 15-minute blinds.	Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	Player Rewards cards offer comps based on play and 10% gift shop discounts. Call for offers.

## VIRGINIA

<b>POKER ROOM II</b> Phone: (757) 393-1512 www.takeitdownpl.com	7:30p events: Mon. (\$40, w/one \$20 rebuy), Wed. (\$60), Thurs. (\$15) and Fri. (\$105). Sat. Super Deep Stack. (\$122, 6:30p, 30K chips); Sun. (\$60, 4p).	Bad beat (\$30K) is aces full of nines. Quads progressive and super progressive jackpots.	Check website for promotions. Fridays are the Mid-Town Classic (\$105, 25K chips, 7:30p).
<b>THE POKER PALACE</b> Phone: (757) 488-4912 www.thepokerpalace.net	Tuesdays (\$20, \$20 rebuys, \$20 add-on, 7:30p) and Saturdays (rebuy events at 1 & 7p, buy-ins and rebuys vary).	Bad-beat qualification descends from aces full of jacks when jackpot reaches \$10K.	Call for information/promotions.
<b>SKILLZ POKER ROOM</b> Phone: (757) 966-5613 www.skillzva.com	Saturdays (1p & 7p). Room open Mon.-Thurs. and Sat.	Bad beat in hold'em is aces full of sevens (\$29K at press time), Omaha is quad 10s (\$11,500).	Call about Monthly Freeroll, Frequent Player Club and Refer a Friend.
<b>VICTORY POKER LOUNGE</b> Phone: (757) 472-1203 www.victorypokerlounge.net	Wed., Thurs., Fri., including SNGS (\$30, \$50 and \$125).	Bad beat is kings full of sevens (\$36K at press time).	There is a nightly \$200 high hand. Call for details.

## GEORGIA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

<b>DIAMOND CASINO SAVANNAH (GA.);</b> Phone: (912) 897-3005; www.diamondcasinosavannah.com: For tournament, jackpot and promotional information call the ship. <b>EMERALD PRINCESS II (GA.);</b> Phone: (912) 265-3558; www.emeraldprincesscasino.com: For tournament, jackpot and promotional information call the ship.			
<b>HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (N.C.)</b> www.harrahscherokee.com Phone: (828) 497-7777	Tournaments and cash games on PokerPro tables. <b>SNGs:</b> Tuesday and Sunday (\$115).	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
<b>SUNCRUZ AQUASINO (S.C.)</b> Phone: (843) 280-2933 www.suncruzaquasino.com	Mon. cruise (7p, \$110) and Fri. cruise (11a, \$110). See ad Page 43 for World Offshore event details. <b>SNGs:</b> \$60	Quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200). Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	World Offshore \$50K No-Limit Hold'em Championship, Aug. 29, \$500 + \$50. See ad Page 43.

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# MISSISSIPPI

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
<b>AMERISTAR VICKSBURG</b> Phone: (601) 630-4996 www.ameristar.com/vicksburg	Thursdays, (\$70, 7p) with one optional add-on.	Mini bad beat (quads over aces full) pays 10% of full bad beat (any quads).	Call for details.
<b>BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO</b> Phone: (228) 386-7092 www.beaurivage.com	Daily at noon & 6p (\$120-\$340), including \$20K guarantee first Saturday of the month (\$335, noon, 4K chips, but 2K more for \$10 add-on).	Royals pay \$200 but spades wins \$500; aces cracked all day Mon.-Fri. (\$100). Weekly cash drawings.	Gulf Coast Championships, Aug. 26-Sept. 7, ad Page 13. (High Heels event, Aug. 28, 11a., \$230).
<b>BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI</b> Phone: (228) 436-8999 www.boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad beat is aces full of kings (More than \$50K). Mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks).	Aces cracked enters you into a drawing where you can win \$100.
<b>GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT</b> Phone: (662) 357-1136 www.goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340). \$5K guarantee first Sun. of the month (\$230, 1p), 10K chips, 30-minute blinds. Third Sat. is \$5K guarantee (\$100, 6p, 8K chips)	Call for current bad beat and royal flush jackpots. Cash drawings (\$100 hourly) Tuesdays (1-10p).	Win \$50 hourly in \$4-\$8 Omaha/8 cash games. Tickets given for drawings.
<b>HARD ROCK BILOXI</b> Phone: (228) 374-7625 www.hardrockbiloxi.com	Daily at 3p (\$25-\$55). Chip stacks, bonus chip offers and blinds vary. Website has all details. <b>SNGs:</b> \$75, \$125, \$235, \$550.	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads (\$11K).	Royal flush wins Hard Rock Poker Room jacket; straight flush wins Hard Rock Poker Room hat.
<b>HARLOW'S CASINO</b> Phone: (662) 335-9797 x144 www.harlowscasino.com	Tuesday & Saturday (\$60, \$5 add-on, 7:30p) and these events count toward the poker league. <b>SNGs:</b> Thursday & Friday (\$50, 6p).	Bad beat (aces full of 10s beaten by quads or better) was \$9,200 at press time.	Call about the Thursday Quads promotion and new summer league tournament series.
<b>HARRAH'S TUNICA</b> Phone: (800) 946-4946, x33760 www.harrahtunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110) and first-place guarantees ranging from \$500-\$1,200 set with a min. of 20 players. Plus events at 6p (Thurs.-Sun.).	Bad beats in hold'em, Omaha and stud. Progressive Royal Flush pays jackpot.	Call about the \$150K WSOP Fantasy Freeroll.
<b>HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS</b> Phone: (866) 758-2591 x4026 www.hollywoodcasinobsl.com	Daily (\$30-\$55) including a pineapple tournament on Thursdays (\$45, 6:30p) with 2,500 chips, 20-minute blinds.	Bad beat and mini bad beat. High hands win \$50 Wed. & Thurs. (10a-6p) and Mon (10a-midnight).	Aces cracked, Mon.-Fri., including Progressive Tuesdays.
<b>HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA</b> Phone: (800) 871-0711 x5005 www.hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$70), including Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 gets 500 chips, \$5 dealer token gets 1,500 chips, \$10 rebuys and \$20 add-on for \$10K, 2p)	Hold'em bad beat (quads or better) must be in \$3-\$6 or higher and there's a new Omaha jackpot.	Aces cracked on Wednesdays and high hands on Thursdays let you spin the prize wheel (\$25-\$500).
<b>HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA</b> Phone: (662) 357-5608 www.horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$55-\$150), including Sat. \$10K guarantee (\$150, 4p) with 10K chips (2K more for \$10 add-on); Sun (\$100, 2p) Super Deep Stack (15K chips).	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em.	Flush Frenzy (\$100) if you make a flush in every suit during your session.
<b>IP CASINO RESORT &amp; SPA</b> Phone: (888) 946-2847 x8554 www.ipbiloxi.com	Noon (\$60, 4K chips). Play Your Way: Play at least 4 hours (9a-9p on Mon., Tue. or Sat. and the house pays \$50 of a \$60 buy-in for the next day's event.	High hands pay \$75 hourly Tue. & Thurs. (midnight-4p). Hands must be at least a full house.	Aces cracked pays \$100 (Tue., Wed., Fri.). Poker Squares (Sun.-Mon.). Call for details.
<b>ISLE OF CAPRI BILOXI</b> Phone: (228) 436-7967 www.biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Daily (\$45-\$60), including bounty rebuy event on Saturdays (\$60, 3p), featuring 3K chips, 20-minute blinds, \$20 rebuys, \$25 add-on and \$20 bounties.	Bad beat available in numerous games, but hold'em is aces full of queens.	Ask about the Aces Full or Better and \$55 Special promotions.
<b>SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA</b> Phone: (800) 456-0711 www.samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$80), including a \$3K guarantee on Saturdays (\$20, 7p). <b>SNGs:</b> \$60-\$120.	Bad beat is any quads.	Ask about \$50 high hands, \$50 aces cracked and the room's apparel program.
<b>SILVER SLIPPER CASINO</b> Phone: (866) 775-4773 x3766 www.silverflipper-ms.com	<b>SNGs:</b> \$45, \$65 (2K chips, 10 players).	Bad beat is \$75K in hold'em, \$2,300 for Omaha. Mini is aces full of deuces (\$550 to loser).	Aces cracked (Mon.-Fri., amounts vary). Sunday is Player Appreciation with \$100 hourly drawings.
<b>SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER)</b> Phone: (601) 650-1234 www.pearlriverresort.com	Daily, (\$35-\$60), including a \$2,500 guarantee on Saturdays (\$60, 2p). Events M-T-W-Th start at 7p; F-S-Su start at 2p.	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad 7s) and stud (quads). Diamond royals (\$500).	\$3,500 freeroll is last Sunday of every month (5p). Call for details. 4 aces pay \$50; high hands (\$100).

# WEST VIRGINIA

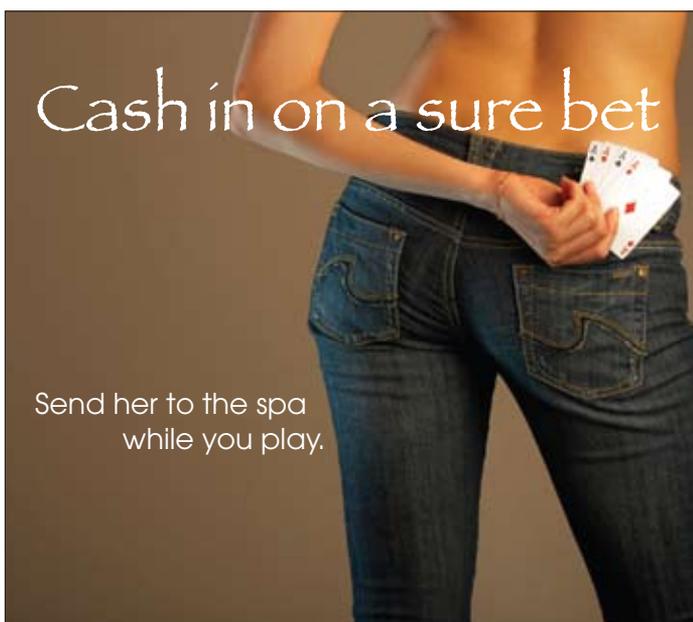
<b>HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN</b> Phone: (800) 795-7001 www.ctowntables.com	Call for any tournament information. Room opens at 3p Friday-Sunday and 8p Monday-Thursday.	Call for details.	Call for any promotions.
<b>MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM</b> Phone: (304) 387-8458 www.mountaineerpoker.com	Daily at 12:15p and 7:30p (\$50-\$225), plus Sundays (\$65, 2p).	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was \$78K at press time.	July 31, Shootout (\$125, 12:15p, 8K chips).
<b>TRI-STATE RACETRACK AND GAMING</b> Phone: (800) 224-9683 www.tristateracetrack.com	Generally events are Sun. (2p), Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p) & Wed. (7p) and buy-ins vary (\$40-\$125). Big Stack is last Sunday of month.	Bad beat totals vary by game, but hold'em (aces full of jacks) was \$35K at press time.	July 28, Omaha High Bounty Tournament (\$75, 7p, 3K chips).
<b>WHEELING CASINO</b> Phone: (304) 232-5050 www.wheelingisland.com	Sun-Fri. (\$40, 10a); Sat. (\$150, 3p, 6K chips), plus tournaments every night (\$40-\$65, 7p). Heartland Poker League (Sat., \$65, 10:45a).	Bad beat was \$86K at press time; quads (using both hole cards) Mon.-Sat. lets you spin the wheel.	Pick of the Litter, Monday-Friday at 12:30, one player chosen for chance at \$1K.
<b>THE GREENBRIER</b> Phone: (304) 536-7806 www.greenbrier.com	The poker room open only to guests; call for information.	Call for details.	Call for details.

## WHERE TO PLAY

### DELAWARE

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
<b>DELAWARE PARK</b> Phone: (302) 355-1050 www.delawarepark.com	Monday-Friday (\$65, 10a, 5K chips)	Call for information.	Call for promotions.
<b>DOVER DOWNS</b> Phone: (302) 674-4600 www.doverdowns.com	Call for schedule and buy-ins.	Call for information.	Call for promotions.
<b>HARRINGTON RACEWAY</b> Phone: (302) 398-7223 www.harringtonraceway.com	Call for schedule and buy-ins.	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was \$11,300 at press time.	Call for promotions.

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



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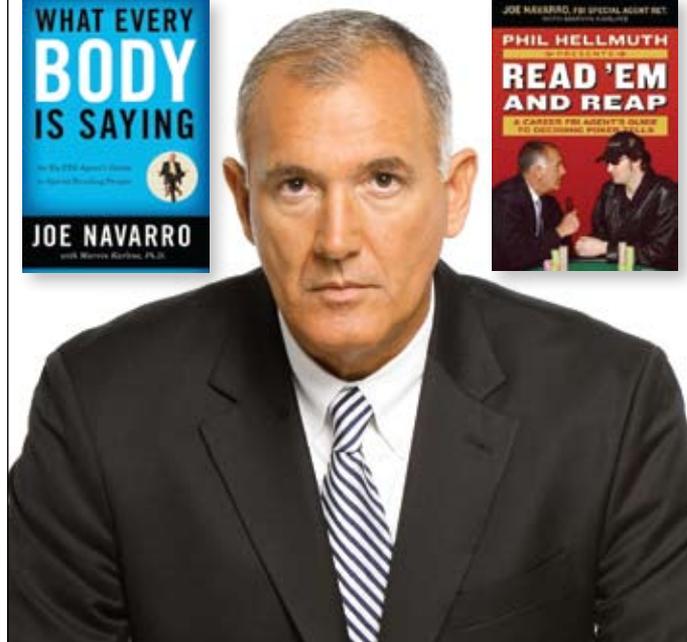
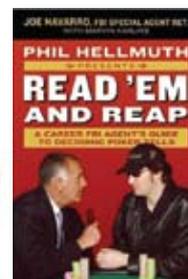
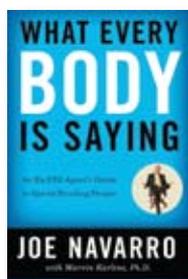
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After five years of playing poker in Florida, Mississippi, Las Vegas, Connecticut and occasionally online, Doc is sharing his skills with Ante Up readers through periodic columns, titled Head Games. Doc offers support to some of the region's best professionals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

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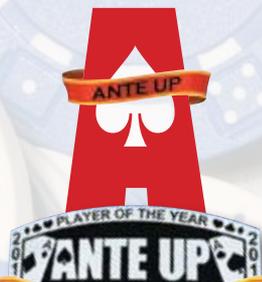
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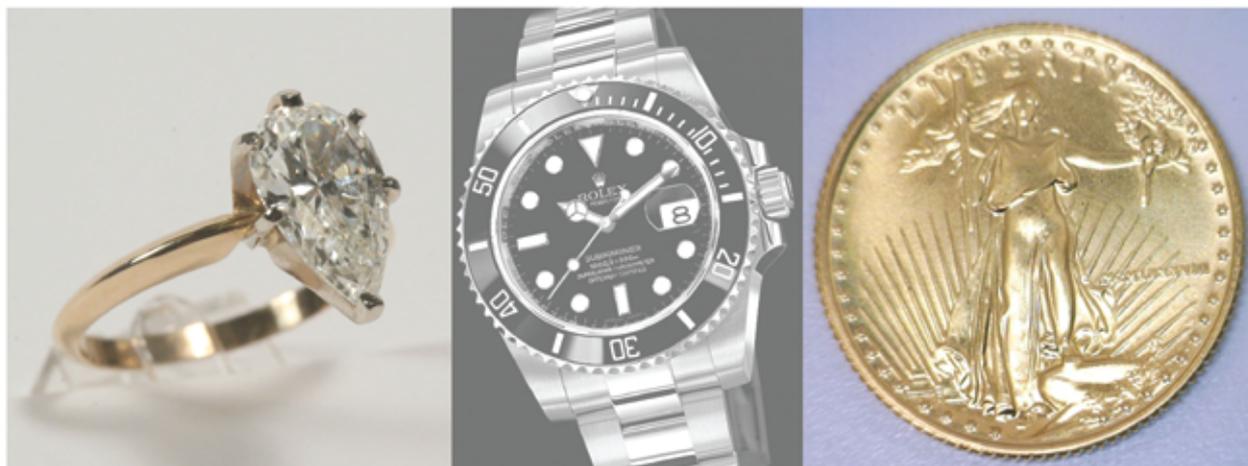


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# Q&A

## WITH CHRIS ROSE

Chris Rose has commentated on many poker TV shows, such as the latest from PokerStars, *The Big Game* on Fox. Rose recently appeared on the *Ante Up PokerCast* to discuss bathroom breaks, a possible waste of \$10K and poker-playing priests.

**Going over your resume we have to ask, when do you find time to use the restroom?** It's usually during breaks when we're taping *The Big Game*. (laughs) Actually I'm thinking of attaching a colostomy bag to save time. (laughs) It's been a little busy but it's great work, and as long as my bosses aren't listening I'll admit I have the best job going.

**How does commentating for poker differ from baseball and football for you?** Poker is not a live event. We did a few of them on FSN and I think we realized it just doesn't have the drama as when you're doing edited down versions of the game. ... It's tedious work in the sense that the guys at the table, whether it's Daniel (Negreanu) or Phil Hellmuth or Phil Laak or Tony G, any of those guys can shine at any time. They are the superstars and you want them to be heard above you. The key is dancing around the little conversations and the quips that they'll say while at the table. It's a trying voiceover session. Whereas when you're doing baseball and football, it's happening right in front of you. ... You're driving the action along with what's happening on the field. That's the biggest difference.

**You've worked on a lot of poker shows, but how often do you get a chance to play?** Well, I'm the father of two young boys, so once I put them down to bed I will occasionally dabble. (laughs) I'll hop on to PokerStars and do my thing. I'm not going to give you my screen name because I am NOT good. (laughs) I want my kids to go to college; I want to keep that money; I don't want you guys taking it all. (laughs)

**The easy answer here is *The Big Game*, but what was your favorite poker show to host and why?** The two I've done most recently have been great. *The Big Game* is actually my first experience at calling a cash game, which is so different from tournament poker. And I love the idea of a "Loose Cannon." I love an amateur getting a chance to be staked \$100K and perhaps change the way they live their life. I think that's really cool. And that's why I loved doing the *PokerStars.net Million Dollar Challenge*. ... Last year we had a guy who was a 9-11 hero ... who won a million dollars. How can you not feel good about that?

**Has being a poker commentator helped your poker game?** I thought so until last night. (laughs) Then it was a struggle. Yes, I have gotten better. ... I don't have time to go play live, unfortunately, so when I play online some jokers are calling with some serious junk. And now I know why Phil Hellmuth goes cuckoo. (laughs) I'm like 'You stuck around with that?' (laughs) I get it, I understand it. It hurts when someone is calling me with 10-3 offsuit after I make

a sizeable bet. Whatever! (laughs)

**Why haven't you signed with one of the online poker rooms to play in the World Series of Poker Main Event?** It's a good question. My guess is once they saw my poker skills that they would figure it would be the worst \$10K they ever spent in their lives. (laughs) ... As long as I don't want to see one of those high-priced divorce lawyers coming my way I think I'll sit this one out. But it's a good question. (laughs)

**Do you need to be a poker expert to be a poker commentator?** No. Do you have to have a good knowledge of what's going on? My job is to call the play by play. So as long as I'm calling the right bets, raises, reraises, what's out there on the board, that's my job. The analyst has to know what they're talking about.

**What's the craziest thing you've seen on these shows; is there a moment that stands out?** Well, the first week of *The Big Game* I thought Phil Hellmuth was either going to (a.) punch Tony G in the face or (b.) start crying. (laughs) It's one thing to lose chips in a tournament. As we all know, Phil Hellmuth is not an expert cash-game player. It's not his forte. The guy has 11 World Series of Poker bracelets for a reason. He's arguably the best tournament player we've ever seen. But when it comes to cash games it's a different story. Tony G, in the middle of the week, just started crushing him. Saying, 'Phil, I can't believe you're playing those hands. It's an embarrassment. You're a professional!' And Phil's just sitting there; he looks like a sixth-grader curled up in his chair. And he's going, 'Tony, just shut up! You're not even in this hand! Shut up, Tony!' And these guys just kept going back and forth. It was a thing of beauty.

**You mentioned the "Loose Cannon," who is staked by Stars. How intimidated are these players?** The first week Earnest Wiggins was intimidated. He got huge hands early on and did virtually nothing with them. ... You can understand the nerves. Throw on top of it, probably never having been in a television setting before, it can be difficult. It's a challenge.

**When you took your first broadcasting job way back when, did you ever envision you'd someday be interviewing a priest on a show like *Million Dollar Challenge*?** Oh yeah, of course I would have figured that. (laughs).

I was disappointed during Weeks 2 and 3 we didn't have a rabbi and the Dalai Lama. (laughs) That's what we're going to try to work into Season 2 when it comes back this fall. We want to cover the whole religious gamut.



Father Trapp of South Carolina  
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