

ANTE UP

FLORIDA'S POKER MAGAZINE™

DECEMBER 2009 | anteupmagazine.com

2009 FLORIDA GAMING SUMMIT

Summary of PCA Events: Jan 4 – Jan 14, 2010

NO LIMIT TEXAS HOLD'EM

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| High Roller - 8 Max | \$25,000 + \$500 |
| Main Event | \$10,000 + \$300 |
| 5K PokerStars Heads Up Challenge | \$5,000 + \$250 |
| NL Freezeout | \$5,000 + \$250 |
| NL - 6 Max | \$5,000 + \$250 |
| Battleship Main Event | \$2,000 + \$150 |
| NL Freezeout | \$1,500 + \$100 |
| Battleship MMTT Challenge | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| Battleship Heads Up Challenge | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| NL Heads Up | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| NL - 6 Max | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| NL - 6 Max | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| NL Freezeout | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| NL Ladies Only | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| NL - 6 Max | \$500 + \$50 |
| NL PokerStars Bounty Hunter | \$500 + \$50 |
| NL Shootout | \$500 + \$50 |
| NL Ladies Only | \$300 + \$30 |
| Daily 32-player Battleship Games | Various |

OMAHA EVENTS

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| PLO Championship - 8 Max | \$5,000 + \$250 |
| PLO Heads Up | \$2,000 + \$150 |
| PLO - 6 Max | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| PLO | \$500 + \$50 |
| PLO8 (Hi/Lo) | \$500 + \$50 |
| PLO Shootout | \$500 + \$50 |

MIXED GAME AND SPECIALTY EVENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 8 Game* Championship | \$5,000 + \$250 |
| PLH - PLO Tag Team (2 person Event) | \$2,000 + \$150 |
| Limit HE - 6 Max | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| 8 Game* | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| Triple Stud (High, Razz, Hi/Lo) | \$1,000 + \$100 |
| Badugi / 2-7 Triple Draw | \$500 + \$50 |
| PL 5 Card Draw | \$500 + \$50 |
| 8 Game* | \$500 + \$50 |
| World Cup of Poker IV | Final |
| Charity Event | TBD |

TURBOS

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 5 - NL Turbo | \$200+ \$20 |
| 2 - PLO Turbo | \$200+ \$20 |
| 1 - PLO8 Turbo | \$200+ \$20 |

SUPER SATELLITES

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 - Main Event | \$1,060 + \$40 |
| 1 - Main Event - 1 Rebuy | \$530 + \$20 |
| 1 - Main Event - Unlimited Rebuys | \$200 + \$20 |
| 2 - High Roller Step 1 | \$550 + \$50 |
| 1 - High Roller Step 2 | \$2,700 + \$200 |
| 1 - NL Ladies Only | \$110 + \$10 |
| 1 - SCOOP Main Event - Unl. Rebuys | \$200 + \$20 |

SIT & GOS

CASH GAMES

* 8-Game is an 8-player mixed game that rotates through poker variants every 8 hands. The 8 games are: Limit 2-7 Triple Draw; Limit Hold'em; Limit Omaha Eight or Better (Hi/Lo); Razz; Limit Seven Card Stud; Limit Seven Card Stud Eight or Better (Hi/Lo); No Limit Hold'em; Pot Limit Omaha



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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



NO PHOTOS PLEASE, JUST MONEY!

Poker players are a funny bunch. You'd be amazed at some of the stories we've heard over the past 17 months, but what stands out are the excuses people dole out for not wanting to appear in the magazine, whether it be a photo of them winning a high hand or a mere listing in a tournament result they entered. We've actually seen people cover their faces to avoid being in a photo at a \$10K World Poker Tour event. Which begs the question: What would they've done had they made the televised final table?

Often we get players asking why their local poker rooms aren't represented better in the magazine, and that's when we get to rattle off some of these beauties.

- A poker room manager once told us none of the players in his poker room would pose for a bad-beat picture. When asked why, he said the excuse almost always given was they didn't want the Internal Revenue Service to know, not realizing any jackpot more than \$599 will be reported to the IRS through the W2 form given to you with your cash.

- One player asked not to be in a photo because he didn't want his wife to know he was playing poker. This prompted the player next to him to say, "She's sitting right behind you." If that weren't funny enough, the first player then said, "No, that's my girlfriend." And he was serious!

- On a recent road trip, we asked to take photos of the room and its players. We were told to get permission from everyone at a table before photographing them. Fair enough. We got permission from everyone at one table, but one guy said, "I don't want to be in, so I'll just sit back out of the picture." But when he saw the angle of the camera he feared he'd still be in the shot, despite our assurances he wasn't. Instead of just standing up and stepping back, he leaned further away from the table and fell out of his chair.

- If someone wanted to legally change their name to "Declined Points" they'd run away with the Ante Up Poker Tour Player of the Year race! What exactly could

be the reason for not wanting 700 points for second in an AUPT event? One player said there were warrants for his arrest. He was joking, but if he were serious he'd have bigger problems than accepting non-monetary points from a tournament in a public cardroom.

- We ran into a Florida player at the World Series of Poker this past summer. And this wasn't just your ordinary poker player. He's actually fairly famous for something that happened to him in the WSOP Main Event years ago. So, being the newshounds we are, we approached him and asked if we could do a "Whatever happened to ..." story. He politely declined, saying he liked his anonymity and the edge it gives him at the table. If he were anonymous how did we know who he was? To top it off, he posed for a photo that ran in *Ante Up* for a local event he had won the month before.

- Many times we receive photos from leagues and cardrooms of their winners, but they only send in first names or first names with last initials. We can only assume the reason for not giving their full names comes from one of the aforementioned excuses. But their PHOTO is in the magazine! Wouldn't you love to be the fly on the wall when a guy's wife sees this photo and says, "What do you mean it's not you?"

- One person told us he didn't want his last name listed in the magazine for fear family members would hit him up for a loan. ... OK, this one we agree with.

Seriously, players have every right to not want to be in *Ante Up*. But if you DO want to be recognized for your achievement then let the establishment know. That's why we started this magazine, to give our players the recognition they deserve, because no other poker magazine is going to do that for you.

In fact, take a shot of yourself with your trophy and/or winnings and have the room or league send it to us at editor@anteupmagazine.com. We'd like nothing more than to run your beautiful face in our magazine.

We'll see you at the tables.

Christopher C. and Scott L.

ANTE UP

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LETTERS

Got a gripe? Bad beat story falling on deaf ears? Drop us a line at letters@anteupmagazine.com and tell us about it. Leave your name and location.

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ANTE UP

NEWS

WSOP heartbreaker

Coral Springs' Kevin Schaffel looked to be the first player from Florida to take down the World Series of Poker Main Event, but a brutal bad beat sent him to the rail in eighth place. **33**



Studz opens

The Studz Poker Club at Calder Race Course is open for business, and things kicked off with a ribbon-cutting VIP party. **12**

Orlando poker efforts suffer

It was a brutal month for the future of Orlando poker. First, Orlando Jai-Alai announced it will close this month, ending any hope it would open a poker room. Then local elections kept three pro-poker leaders from office, including Minneola mayor David Yeager. **30**

Hard Rock's Fall Open

Nearly 1,900 rounders played for nearly \$500K in prize pools at the Paradise Poker Room in Hollywood. Nigel Murray won two titles and Homestead's Mohammad Masoud won the main event, good for \$73K. **16**

Isle's Open Deepstack

Lake Park's Dan Vranich wins two Deepstack events at the Isle Casino at Pompano Park and Lake Worth's Raj Vohra takes the main event, which was an official stop of the Ante Up Poker Tour. **14**

Can anyone win?

Marc Dunbar says the problem with playing Tallahassee Draw is the biggest losers will be the poker players in Florida. **42**



PPA encouraged

John Pappas of the Poker Players Alliance says he was pleased with his visit to Tallahassee. **48**

ON THE BUTTON

A.J. fights back

Ex-host of *High Stakes Poker* vents about his firing. **53**



COVER STORY



Is a 'level field' possible?

Ante Up publisher Scott Long reflects on the recent Florida Gaming Summit. **40**

• Also, Mr. Long takes a closer look at the competition that's heating up in South Florida. **43**

PERSPECTIVE

Ivey pwns her

Phil Ivey may not have won the WSOP Main Event this year, but he's successful at giving Susie Isaacs fits. **46**



Self honesty

Running bad? It's time to be truthful with yourself because maybe you're not that good, says Lee Childs. **44**

Physical tells may need surgery

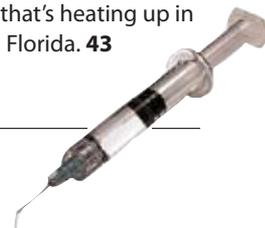
No, we're not kidding. Some players could benefit from getting Botox. Dr. Frank Toscano explains how. **45**

Goooooooooooooooooooooooooals!

Dr. Stephen Bloomfield says you need to set a series of goals to achieve optimal play. **47**

PokerStars remains trailblazer

High Heels Poker Tour founder Lauren Failla says the world's largest poker site leads way in supporting women. **50**



\$325,000 WINTER OPEN POKER TOURNAMENT

DECEMBER 11 – DECEMBER 21

| EVENT # | DATE | TIME | BUY IN | GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 1 | DECEMBER 11 | 11:00 AM | \$150 | \$25,000 |
| 2 | DECEMBER 12 | 11:00 AM | \$350 | \$30,000 |
| 3 | DECEMBER 13 | 12:00 PM | \$150 | \$15,000 |
| 4 | DECEMBER 13 | 6:30 PM | \$75 | \$8,000 |
| 5 | DECEMBER 14 | 11:00 AM | \$75 | \$6,000 |
| 6 | DECEMBER 14 | 6:30 PM | \$300 | \$25,000 |
| 7 | DECEMBER 15 | 6:30 PM | \$150 | \$15,000 |
| 8 | DECEMBER 16 | 6:30 PM | \$75 | \$8,000 |
| Satellite Day | DECEMBER 17 | 11 AM, 2 PM, 7:30 PM | | |
| 9 | DECEMBER 18 DAY 1A | 11:00 AM | \$1,100 | \$150,000 |
| | DECEMBER 19 DAY 1B | 11:00 AM | \$1,100 | \$150,000 |
| | DECEMBER 20 FINAL DAY | 11:00 AM | \$1,100 | \$150,000 |
| 10 | DECEMBER 20 | 6:30 PM | \$75 | \$8,000 |
| 11 | DECEMBER 21 | 11:00 AM | \$350 | \$35,000 |

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Grand opening!

STUDZ POKER CLUB

OCT. 22-23 • CALDER RACE COURSE • MIAMI GARDENS



The Studz Poker Club burst onto the scene with a swanky VIP grand opening, then cards flew for patrons the next morning.

The 29-table room is open 18 hours a day (24 on weekends) and is going after the big-end tournaments, director of poker operations Christopher Trabue said.

Trabue, shift manager Rick Koranda, assistant manager Mark Shunsker and others put in long hours in the months leading up to the VIP party, which featured a champagne toast and entertainment for about 150 invited guests.

The event also raised \$5,000 for Concerned African American Women Inc., which designs programs for at-risk youth.



The VIP party offered a taste of poker and celebration.



From left: Calder president Tom O'Donnell, vice president John Marshall and director of poker operations Christopher Trabue make the grand opening official.



Studz players will be able to get a rubdown from Casino Massage Services.



Mabon the dealer can't wait to pitch you some winning hands.



The Studz wait staff is ready to serve you.

South Florida gridlock

Ante Up publisher Scott Long's Florida Felt column takes a closer look at the new Studz Poker Club and the fierce competition it's up against in South Florida. **Page 43**

Beau Rivage

SOUTHERN POKER CHAMPIONSHIP



Play the best, at the best.



JANUARY 6 - 27, 2010

| DATE | EVENT# | TIME | GAME | BUY-IN |
|--------|-----------|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Jan 6 | Wednesday | 6 PM | Satellites and Nightly Events Begin | |
| Jan 7 | Thursday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 7 | Thursday | 3 PM | Seven Card Stud 8 or Better | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 8 | Friday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$500 + \$50 |
| Jan 8 | Friday | 3 PM | Limit Hold 'Em | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 9 | Saturday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$500 + \$50 |
| Jan 9 | Saturday | 3 PM | Limit Omaha 8 or Better | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 10 | Sunday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$500 + \$50 |
| Jan 10 | Sunday | 3 PM | HOSE | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 11 | Monday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 11 | Monday | 3 PM | Pot Limit Omaha/Re-entry | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 12 | Tuesday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em (Deep Stack) | \$300 + \$45 |
| Jan 12 | Tuesday | 3 PM | Limit Hold 'Em | \$500 + \$50 |
| Jan 13 | Wednesday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em (Deep Stack) | \$300 + \$45 |
| Jan 13 | Wednesday | 3 PM | Limit Stud 8 or Better/Omaha 8 or Better | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 14 | Thursday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em (Deep Stack) | \$300 + \$45 |
| Jan 14 | Thursday | 3 PM | Seven Card Stud | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 15 | Friday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$500 + \$50 |
| Jan 15 | Friday | 3 PM | HORSE | \$1,000 + \$70 |
| Jan 16 | Saturday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$1,000 + \$70 |
| Jan 16 | Saturday | 2 PM | Ladies No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 17 | Sunday | 12 PM | Seniors No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$500 + \$50 |
| Jan 17 | Sunday | 3 PM | Pot Limit Omaha 8 or Better | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 18 | Monday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em (Deep Stack) | \$500 + \$55 |
| Jan 18 | Monday | 3 PM | Pot Limit Omaha/Re-entry | \$500 + \$50 |
| Jan 19 | Tuesday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em (Deep Stack) | \$1,000 + \$80 |
| Jan 19 | Tuesday | 3 PM | Limit Omaha 8 or Better | \$500 + \$50 |
| Jan 20 | Wednesday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$2,000 + \$100 |
| Jan 20 | Wednesday | 3 PM | Lowball Draw A-5/2-7 | \$1,000 + \$70 |
| Jan 21 | Thursday | 12 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$300 + \$40 |
| Jan 21 | Thursday | 3 PM | Pot Limit Omaha Championship | \$5,000 + \$150 |
| Jan 22 | Friday | 1 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em | \$3,000 + \$120 |
| Jan 22 | Friday | 4 PM, 8 PM | WPT Mega Satellites | \$1,000 + \$60, \$500 + \$40 |
| Jan 23 | Saturday | 12 AM | Midnight Turbo WPT Mega Satellite | \$500 + \$40 |
| Jan 23 | Saturday | 2 PM | No-Limit Hold 'Em (1 day event) | \$200 + \$30 |
| Jan 23 | Saturday | 12 PM, 4 PM, 8 PM | WPT Mega Satellites | \$500 + \$40, \$1,000 + 60 |
| Jan 24 | Sunday | 12 AM | Midnight Turbo WPT Mega Satellite | \$500 + \$40 |
| Jan 24 | Sunday | 10 AM | Last Chance Turbo Satellite | \$500 + \$40 |
| Jan 24 | Sunday | 2 PM | WPT No-Limit Hold 'Em Championship Event | \$9,700 + \$300 |
| Jan 27 | Wednesday | 4 PM | WPT Final Table | |



\$500 + \$40 Mega Satellites for Championship Event every day at 4PM, January 7 - 21. \$175 + \$25 No-Limit Hold 'Em nightly events at 7PM, January 6 - 23.

Registration begins at 5PM on January 6. Registration is open from 8AM - 9PM daily. For more information call 228.386.7092.

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Second annual

ISLE OPEN DEEPSTACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

SEPT. 28-OCT. 5 • ISLE CASINO • POMPANO PARK

Every poker player knows winning two events in a series is one of the hardest feats you could hope to accomplish. But these days players at the Isle are making it look easy. Daniel Vranich of Lake Park won back-to-back tournaments to open the deepstack series (Vero Beach's Hayden Fortini won two events during the Isle's Battles at the Beach in March). Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi fell just short of winning the main event/AUPT title, which eventually Raj Vohra and Norman Contreras chopped.



Dan Vranich



Raj Vohra

Event 1: \$30K guarantee w/bounties

Buy-in: \$330 • Entrants: 176 • Prize pool: \$35,199

1. Daniel Vranich, Lake Park, \$8,341
2. Derek Buonano, West Palm Beach, \$8,341
3. Philip Consolo, Miami, \$3,978
4. Ian Bishop, Boca Raton, \$2,570
5. Dan Kolchikov, Pompano Beach, \$1,866
6. Robert Ratto, Boca Raton, \$1,584
7. Charle. Benjamin, Miami Gardens, \$1,162
8. Tom Willa, West Palm Beach, \$845
9. George Lukawski, Parkland, \$810
10. Mark Rose, Orlando, \$774
11. Chris Sapirman, Boynton Beach, \$739
12. Charlie Bifalco, Coral Springs, \$704
13. Rick Silver, Boca Raton, \$669
14. Jay Stafford, Deerfield Beach, \$634
15. Chris Koulouvaris, Coral Springs, \$598
16. Juan Naranjo, Miami Lakes, \$563
17. Franklin Michel, Miramar, \$528
18. Joseph Danise, Ft. Lauderdale, \$493

Event 2: \$50K guarantee

Buy-in: \$550 • Entrants: 162 • Prize pool: \$81K

1. Daniel Vranich, Lake Park, \$23,705
2. Jason Leet, Aventura, \$15,256
3. Timothy Morgan, Pompano Beach, \$9,396
4. Tristan Wade, Boynton Beach, \$6,075
5. Soo Han, Boca Raton, \$4,455
6. Julio Fernandez, Miami, \$3,645
7. Bobby Binsky, Hallandale Beach, \$2,673
8. Steven Frezer, Coral Springs, \$1,944
9. Fred White, Coral Springs, \$1,863
10. Payam Pourghassem, Lake Worth, \$1,782
11. Robert Transue, Ft. Lauderdale, \$1,701
12. Haim Toorgeman, Kenner, La., \$1,620
13. Salman Kamal, Coconut Creek, \$1,539
14. Larry Mazauskas, Boca Raton, \$1,458
15. Jim Deleo, Lighthouse Point, \$1,377
16. Ory Hen, Cooper City, \$1,296
17. Mike McBride, Lighthouse Point, \$1,215

DeepStack Main Event

Buy-in: \$900 • Entrants: 232 • Prize pool: \$185,600

1. Raj Vohra, Lake Worth, \$30,500
2. Norman Contreras, Ft. Lauderdale, \$30,500
3. Jose Torres, Cooper City, \$18,500
4. Rex Raymond III, Sarasota, \$17,500
5. Sharon Levin, Ft. Lauderdale, \$17,353
6. R.J. Sullivan, Bradenton, \$17,000
7. Charles Alexander, Coconut Creek, \$5,914
8. Michael Mizrachi, Miramar, \$4,301
9. Jeffery Gold, Lantana, \$4,122
10. Scott Zakheim, Davie, \$3,942
11. Kevin Deng, Port St. Lucie, \$3,763
12. David Shaw, Boca Raton, \$3,584
13. David Poces, Boca Raton, \$3,405
14. Fabian Forbes, Miami, \$3,226
15. Mark Proman, Boca Raton, \$3,046
16. Tony Herring, Ft. Myers, \$2,867
17. Stephen Goldfinger, N. Lauderdale, \$2,688
18. Richard Kirsch, Pompano Beach, \$2,509
19. Jacqueline Scott, \$2,330
20. N/A, \$2,150
21. Tim Bannigan, Delray Beach, \$1,600
22. Danny Shiff, Williams Island, \$1,600
23. Keith Ingham, Boca Raton, \$1,600
24. Marc Jean Marie, Pompano Beach, \$1,600



The Grinder

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\$300K FALL POKER OPEN

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Mohammad Masoud of Homestead was the big winner, pocketing \$73K for the main event. Nearly \$500K was up for grabs in a series that saw Miami Gardens' Nigel Murray win two events.



Mohammad Masoud



Jacqueline Eichler



Dale Allen



Nicholas Visconti



Nigel Murray



Geddes Cooper

| Event | Entries | Winner/Hometown | 1st Place | Prize Pool |
|-------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 10/2 | 209 | N/A | \$7,180 | \$25,000 |
| 10/3 | 110 | Geddes Cooper/Lauderhill | \$11,055 | \$33,000 |
| 10/4 | 125 | Dale Allen/ Miami Gardens | \$4,875 | \$15,000 |
| 10/4 | 167 | Nigel Murray/Miami Gardens | \$3,059 | \$10,020 |
| 10/5 | 139 | Robert Moody/Long Branch | \$2,670 | \$8,340 |
| 10/5 | 125 | Leon Benmargui/Hollywood | \$10,156 | \$31,250 |
| 10/6 | 177 | Steven McKean/Miami | \$6,370 | \$21,240 |
| 10/7 | 212 | Nigel Murray/ Miami Gardens | \$3,616 | \$12,720 |
| 10/9 | 267 | Mohammad Masoud/Homestead | \$73,080 | \$267,000 |
| 10/11 | 205 | Jacqueline Eichler/Miami Beach | \$3,531 | \$12,300 |
| 10/12 | 161 | Nicholas Visconti/Boca Raton | \$14,732 | \$48,300 |



Leon Benmargui

• In other news, Hard Rock Hollywood has announced its \$325K guarantee Winter Poker Open series, Dec. 11-21, which features a \$150K main event Dec. 18-20 (\$1,100 buy-in). There will be 11 events total (See ad on Page 11 for full schedule).

• Starting Dec. 1 the Seminole Casinos are offering a Mega Bad

Beat Jackpot that's progressive and seeded at \$100K. All of the Seminole poker rooms are eligible for this bad-beat promotion, which requires quad 10s be beaten to win. Also, if you're playing in the Seminole Immokalee poker room when the Mega bad beat is hit at any Seminole property you'll receive \$100.

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Dania Jai-Alai & Poker



Abbott poses with 790 The Ticket's Mike Ryan.

Deguzman wins \$40K event; Abbott captures Le Batard tournament

The tournaments remain popular at Dania Jai-Alai's poker room.

On Oct. 10, after about 10 hours of grueling play, the final eight players decided to chop the \$40K guarantee event, which had a \$250 buy-in and 145 starters.

Luis Deguzman, pictured above and to the right of John the floor supervisor, held

the majority of chips at the end and agreed to split the prize pool, giving each player \$4,350. Deguzman was awarded the tournament trophy.

On Oct. 28, Cathy Abbott of Hollywood took the trophy in the \$50 Dan Le Batard Celebrity Tournament.

The event drew more than 200 players

despite Game 1 of the World Series and the NBA's Miami Heat opener.

The final four decided to chop the prize pool, giving each player \$1,381. Abbott was the chipleader and given the hardware.

Dania Jai-Alai features this celebrity tournament once a month and it usually draws a sellout crowd.

TOURNAMENTS TOURNAMENTS TOURNAMENTS

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Fri, Dec 5th @ 6:30: \$150 Multi

Sat/Sun Dec 12/13 @ 12:30: \$200 Mega-Level



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All in Free Poker

Tom Winningham bested a field of nearly 200 players on Oct. 20 at the Isle Casino's poker room.

Winningham defeated Parkland's Andy Payson to win more than \$1,600 in buy-ins to Isle events in Pompano Park. He also won a \$2,000 poker table used at a WPT Boot Camp.



Tom Winningham

Maria Del-lutri, the highest placing woman, finished third to win a few items, including an entry to the \$230 Tuesday \$10K guarantee.

Fourth place went to longtime player Walter Chance, followed by Al Hinson,

Mitch "Magic Man" Davie, Pam McDole, Janice Dippel, Robert Filter and John Lynch.

The top 50 qualified for the season finale in early 2010.

'Other' Mizrachi grabs 2nd at Aruba Classic



Robert Mizrachi studies his opponent at the final table.

Miami's Robert Mizrachi, who holds a WSOP bracelet and is the brother of former WPT Player of the Year Michael "The Grinder" Mizrachi, finished second on Oct. 10 at the \$5,500 Aruba Classic after holding the chip lead for most of the event, which had 475 players.

In the end he chopped with eventual winner Brandon Hall, but they held back some money to play for, and Hall chipped away at Mizrachi's lead until finally overtaking him. The official results will say Hall won \$753,330 and Mizrachi pocketed \$414,680.

Other Floridians who fared well were Parkland's Matthew Waxman, who won a \$100 charity tournament for \$2,030, and St. Pete's David Tuthill, who chopped the first side event of the series, winning \$11,670.



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Event 2, Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving), 5 p.m.

- \$100+\$20; 5K chips (5K more for \$10 dealer add-on)
- 20-minute levels, \$15K guaranteed prize pool
- Limited to 220 players

Main Event, Nov. 27, 1 p.m.

- \$500+\$40; 10K chips (5K more for \$10 dealer add-on)
- 40-minute levels; \$20K 1st-place guarantee
- Limited to 200 players

Event 4, Nov. 28, 3:30 p.m.

- \$300+\$30; 10K chips (5K more for \$10 dealer add-on)
- 30-minute levels; \$10K 1st-place guarantee
- Limited to 150 players



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FOR CRUISE DETAILS TURN TO PAGES 6-7

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Orange Park Kennel Club



Tom McEvoy and Susie Isaacs at Orange Park Kennel Club.

TWO CHAMPIONS, ONE GREAT BOOT CAMP

By Steve Washick

It's not every day a couple of World Series of Poker champs come to town, and when they're willing to teach you what they know, it's no surprise more than 40 players each paid \$100 to attend a boot camp presented by Tom McEvoy and Susie Isaacs at Orange Park Kennel Club in Jacksonville.

The camp stressed tournament strategy, as opposed to cash-game play, and the pros emphasized the "Five P's of Poker Success: Patience, Perseverance, Position, Psychology and Practice."

Midway through the camp, the attendees were split into separate poker tables to play and analyze hands. After every hand, each player's cards were turned up and the pros critiqued the play. The pros also allowed students to ask questions about their opinions of optimum play

for a particular hand.

Later, the pros took turns discussing the importance of changing gears during the different stages of tournament play, especially during levels when antes come into play. They also covered the art of bluffing, and the situations and type of players where bluffing should and should not be attempted.

When the camp was over, McEvoy (a four-time WSOP bracelet-winner who won the main event in 1983) and Isaacs (a member of two poker halls of fame) stuck around to answer every question the attendees had, as well as sign autographs and take photos. Many of the attendees said the boot camp was a great learning experience and were excited to inject what they had learned into their game.



David Randall

St. Johns Greyhound Park

The \$330 PokerFest Main Event at is gaining popularity in the Jacksonville area. Players began the two-day tourney with 20K chips with 30-minute levels. The October event attracted 95 players to generate a \$27,750 prize pool.

David Randall won first place, which paid \$10,550 and a custom bracelet from Madison Jewelers. The next event will be Nov. 28. Here are the October results:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 1. David Randall | \$10,550 |
| 2. Jerry Watterson III | \$5,850 |
| 3. Bob Woodward | \$3,605 |
| 4. Mike Speagal | \$2,220 |
| 5. Phil Collins | \$1,390 |
| 6. Robert Membrino | \$1,110 |



Roger Stewart won the WSOP satellite on Oct. 18.



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THIS VANN ROLLS OVER THE COMPETITION

By Ant Furnier

Donnie Vann never has splashed the pot, stacked his chips or pitched his cards into the muck. He can't do any chip tricks or card tricks, nor has he ever turned over the nuts to take down a big pot. If you think he must not be a poker player you're wrong.

He's a regular in tournaments and cash games at Jacksonville's St. Johns Greyhound Park and Orange Park Kennel Club. So how's this possible? Vann was paralyzed from the neck down 27 years ago after he dived into a lake with some friends.

Since then he's been in a wheelchair, and while that presents some obstacles, it hasn't stopped him from becoming a passionate and dedicated student of poker.

While most take a seat at the table, Vann rolls up to the table. A nurse or friend shows him the cards and then he tells them his intended action. This keeps opponents from picking up a tell on how he puts chips into the pot, but he has to verbalize every action, so he's well aware of this and delivers his instructions with this in mind.

And don't think he's there just to experience the game. He plays to win. Since learning poker on a field trip in the ninth grade, Vann always has had the itch to play. About 10 years ago he found his way into the poker room at the President in Biloxi, Miss. He started with the \$1-\$2 limit games, having fun and learning to play. Now he makes yearly trips to Biloxi, and one year he found himself at the Grand during a big storm. Due to some difficulties with the barge no one could get back to the hotel. Did he complain? Go to sleep? No way. He played a 24-hour session.

When the St. Johns poker room opened in 2004 Vann quickly became a regular. While he enjoyed the limit play, the no-limit tournaments were what really captured his interest. He has taken down

his fair share of sit-and-go tournaments as well as several cashes in the multitable events. One of his biggest wins came in a \$45 buy-in, 200-player event, pocketing more than \$1,200 and his first trophy. But his best moment came in a \$1K event at the Southern Poker Championship at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi. After more than 16 hours of play over two days he finished 17th out of the 484-player field for \$4,500.

So, why does he play?

"I don't need to use my arms or legs to compete on an even field with everyone else, just my head," he said.

He lists Chris Ferguson and Gus Hansen as his favorite players. His style, however, is much more like Dan Harrington.

"I sit back and watch, pick my spots," he said. "And I don't bluff very often."

He might just get his chance to play with his poker heroes next year. Vann is planning a two-month trip out West during the World Series of Poker. He'd like to play about 10 events. A five- or six-hour plane ride for most, Vann has to make a three-day trip in his van. He'll be towing a trailer to carry all of the special things he needs to make the trip.

He plans on selling advertising space on the trailer to help fund his two-month voyage. Anyone wanting to advertise (email donniedot@gmail.com) is going to get a great deal as the

van makes its way across the country, ending up in Las Vegas for the two-month stay.

While his list of poker accomplishments is impressive, it doesn't begin to do justice to what kind of player Vann is. Winning or losing, he has the same easygoing attitude and personality that makes everyone else's day a little better. If you want to try your luck against Vann, you can find him at any of the big events at St. Johns Greyhound Park.

And he says don't bring your pity; he doesn't want it. He just wants your chips.



Jacksonville Poker Association

At the recent 13-week final, 54 players from the Jacksonville area competed for more than \$9K in prizes.

Charles MacLaughlin started out strong, built an impressive stack and handled Walter Woodard in heads-up play to win \$2,600.

Here are the top 10 results:

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| 1. Charles MacLaughlin | \$2,600 |
| 2. Walter Woodard | \$1,200 |
| 3. Mike Brickley | \$650 |
| 4. Roman Paje | \$600 |
| 5. Jesus Colon | \$550 |
| 6. Nardy Vergel | \$500 |
| 7. Benny St. John | \$450 |
| 8. Moli Kapuaala | \$400 |
| 9. Eric Soczak | \$350 |
| 10. Robert Poggio | \$300 |

PPA names Shapiro Fla. state rep

Martin Shapiro of Clearwater was named the Florida state director for the Poker Players Alliance, the leading poker grassroots advocacy group headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Shapiro will monitor poker-related issues and events in Florida and alert the national PPA office to emerging trends or issues as well as leading PPA activities in the state.

"We are very fortunate to have Martin as part of our team," PPA chairman Alfonse D'Amato said. "As Florida's PPA state director, Martin will use his passion and interest for the game of poker to help strengthen the PPA's efforts."

As the Florida state director, Shapiro will serve as PPA's "eyes and ears" to alert the membership to local news stories or legislation involving poker. He also will serve as the chief contact to quickly mobilize his fellow local PPA members to attend poker-related events or rallies. Shapiro will be tasked with recruiting individuals to join the PPA, contacting their elected officials and serving as a spokesperson for local media.

Shapiro can be contacted at: FL@pokerplayersalliance.org.



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High Heels Poker Tour



Jeffrey Morzella of Oldsmar, above, won the Battle of the Sexes to Battle Breast Cancer event Oct. 10 at the Silks Poker Room in Tampa. The \$100 event was run in conjunction with the High Heels Poker Tour. The winner of "Last Lady Standing" was Robin McCarty, left, the founder and owner of PMS Poker Wear.



Treasure Chest Poker

With more than 90 players in the monthly event on Oct. 10, Manuel Santos emerged as the winner, choosing to take a \$500 gift card instead of a trip to Las Vegas.

"There was a point where I went heads-up with the chipleader," Santos said. "I had pocket kings, he had A♥5♥. I went all-in for my last 7K and he called."

The flop was 7-6-4 to give the leader an open-ended straight draw and an 8 hit the turn. But, destiny was on Santos' side as a river 5 split the pot and saved his tournament.

"It felt good to accomplish this win," Santos said, "to show everyone who always doubted me that I can be a great player when I



want to be."

MORE NEWS: Beginning on Dec. 5, every first Saturday of the month the Stokers franchise will host a free tournament in which first place will receive a \$100 buy-in to any local cardroom tournament.

Be sure to check treasurechestpoker.com the week before the event to confirm which Stokers (Palm Harbor or Tampa) will be hosting the tournament.

BATTLE OF THE BARS: For the second straight month Country Club Lounge took down the title.

With more than 60 players in the event, Ryan Reffelt won a \$50 gift card and a party at Country Club. The team defeated JJ's Billiards.



Southeast Hold'em

In the Southwest Florida Region bi-monthly event at Potts Sports Cafe in Ft. Myers, Kevin Rhodes bested nearly 40 players to take first place. His pocket jacks held up against John Evans' A-9 for the title. This was Rhodes' second cash in a bi-monthly, finishing second in August.

Third place went to Mike Bastin.





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ELECTIONS, ECONOMY DEAL BLOWS TO ORLANDO POKER

By Christopher Cosenza

It looks as though the Orlando area will have to continue to wait for a parimutuel poker room as a pair of Nov. 3 elections dealt severe blows to the effort.



• Minneola mayor **David Yeager**, who tried to bring a “Fountainbleau-type” gambling complex to his small town to jump-start the struggling local economy, lost his bid for a third term.

City council member Pat Kelley unseated Yeager, whose grand plan would’ve included a horse track and poker room.

• In the Longwood city commissioners race, two seats could’ve had significant pro-poker ramifications, but those hopes were doused.



In District 3, Bob Cortes unseated Mike Holt, who had voted favorably in discussions of poker expansion in that area. In

District 5, challenger Johnny Richardson was no match for incumbent Brian D. Sackett, who had voted against poker expansion. The Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club has been trying to open a poker room for years, but the Longwood city commissioners have dismissed it in the past, and these results will only hinder any effort to revisit this expansion.

• All of these losses came on the heels of Orlando Jai-Alai announcing it will close its doors Dec. 27, eliminating another viable parimutuel option for poker in the Orlando area.

The fronton was unable to reach a deal with city or county officials that would have allowed it to open a poker room.



Windy City Poker Championship may be blowing into your town

Windy City Poker Championship, a new concept in televised poker, may be branching out in Florida soon.

Featuring the hottest no-limit hold’em action in Chicago, the heart of the WCPC show is to promote awareness for its local non-profit organizations. Each episode features a different tournament playing for a different local charity, supporting everything from children’s cancer centers to international-aid organizations. Cut in between the action are packages showing the featured charitable organization and the people they help.

Some Floridians may have seen WCPC on Bright House Sports Network, and that is serving as a foray into working with Ante Up Publishing to produce a Florida-based poker show. Stay tuned for that, but until then, creator and host Kirk Fallah has been overwhelmed by the success of the Chicago show and its impact.

“It’s been a dream to be able to produce a high-stakes poker show here in my hometown and the opportunity for the show to take part with featuring professional players along with your average Chicagoan was amazing as well... it’s really been a very rewarding experience knowing that something I’ve loved for so long can benefit so many others.”

All in! Poker Series

• **Michael Gates** took down the monthly invitational on Oct. 10, beating more than 50 players at Gators Dockside in Ocoee to win a weekend stay in South Beach. He also will be entered into the WSOP seat giveaway on Dec. 5.



Ocala Poker & Jai-Alai



Pat Garrity, top center, and his crew hosted Ocala’s Passionately Pink for the Cure charity tournament and raised about \$2,000.

In other news, below are the players who recently divided a \$103,879 bad-beat jackpot.

The “winner” was Nathan Cunningham (he’s the guy holding that fat check), who pocketed \$51,940 and Robert Listey was the “loser” with \$25,970. The rest of table each took home \$3,710.



Pleasure Island Poker

On Oct. 25, **Ty Romeo Garcia** came from behind to win the monthly tournament at International Lounge in Fort Walton Beach. Garcia won a sponsored seat to a tournament at the casino of his choice in Biloxi, Miss.





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Sat., Jan. 2 – \$10,000 Guaranteed NL Hold'em / \$100 – 1PM
Sun., Jan. 3 – Main Event "Big Dog" Super Satellite / \$30/20 Re-buy
Mon., Jan. 4 – 6 Handed NL Hold'em / \$100 – Noon
Tues., Jan. 5 – NL Hold'em Shoot-Out / \$100 – Noon
Wed., Jan. 6 – \$10K Guaranteed / \$30/20 Re-buy – Noon
Thurs., Jan. 7 – H.O.R.S.E. / \$100 – Noon
Fri., Jan. 8 – \$20K Guaranteed NL Hold'em / \$200 – 1PM
Sat., Jan. 9 – BIG DOG – \$50K Guaranteed / \$500 – 1PM

Fri., Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas – Track Closed



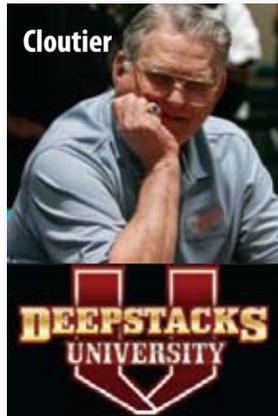
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CLOUTIER JOINS ANTE UP CRUISE

T.J. Cloutier, a six-time World Series of Poker bracelet-winner who has more than \$9 million in tournament winnings, will be sailing aboard the Ante Up Poker Cruise.

Cloutier will teach a four-hour poker course on board for new Ante Up Poker Cruise partner DeepStacks University, which is an innovator in poker training, holding live courses several times a year throughout Florida and the United States. DeepStacks recently launched its new online component as well.



Cloutier's course will cost \$199, which includes the activation fee and one free month to DeepStacks University's online training. The course tuition is optional and in addition to the cruise fare, which starts at \$479 per person based on double occupancy.

The Ante Up Poker Cruise sails March 25-29 from Tampa to Cozumel, Mexico, aboard Royal Caribbean's Grandeur of the Seas. The cruise features a professionally staffed, 10-table poker room with limits and games for all players, SNGs and daily tournaments, including a \$350 Ante Up Poker Tour event.

To book, call Mary Kolb of GO Travel at (727) 733-3498 or mkolb@gotravelorlando.com. (See ad on Pages 6-7.)

For more information visit anteupmagazine.com/cruise.

Win your way on board!

Ante Up has partnered with several Florida poker rooms in cruise giveaways. Here are the events:

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track: Dec. 19 - Noon, deepstack tournament.

Buy-in is \$225. One cruise-for-two for every 20 players, plus normal cash prizes and dinner for players still in the event at dinner break.

Sarasota Kennel Club: Top players in November and December are entered into a tournament with cruise giveaways

Tampa Bay Downs: Nov. 29 - 12:30 p.m., Ante Up Poker Cruise tournament.

Entry fee is \$10, with \$10 rebuys and one \$20 add-on. Winner gets a cruise-for-two (with sufficient prize pool); Dec. 15 - 5:30 p.m., Ante Up Cards & Bars Team Tournament; \$30 per person. Four-person teams battle with the winning team getting two cruises-for-two.

Seminole Casino Immokalee: Jan. 2, Feb. 6 and March 6: Winner of 4 p.m.

Ante Up Poker Tour \$225 tournament wins cruise-for-two (plus normal cash payouts); Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, Feb. 22: High hand between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. wins a cruise-for-two; Feb. 7, Feb. 14, Feb. 21, Feb. 28: Winner of 7 p.m. \$115 tournament wins cruise-for-two (plus normal cash payouts)

Ocala Poker: Dec. 1-23: Two cruises-for-two will be among the prizes offered during the 23 Days of Christmas high-hand promotion.

- Details are pending for giveaways at Seminole Casino Brighton.
- Visit www.anteupmagazine.com/cruise for updated details.
- Your favorite poker room not listed here? Ask the room manager to call Scott Long at (727) 331-4335 to set up a giveaway.

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It's Your Thing!

WSOP TITLE NOT IN THE CARDS FOR SCHAFFEL

It's a good thing Kevin Schaffel said he believes in destiny, otherwise he might never be able to live with his exit from the 2009 World Series of Poker's Main Event in Las Vegas.

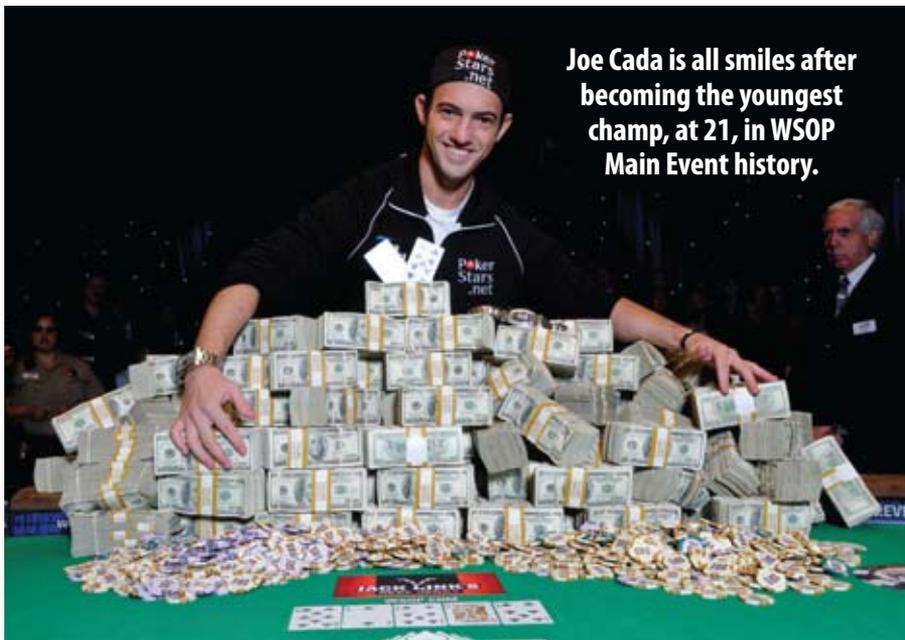
The Coral Springs resident entered the November Nine final table with high hopes, sitting in sixth place with a chance at \$8.5 million, but poker can be cruel. Schaffel had spent most of the night in the lower third of the standings and even was the short stack for a bit until he doubled through England's James Akenhead with pocket aces vs. pocket kings.

Not too much longer after that he busted Akenhead with 99 vs. 33 and things were looking up for Schaffel as he clawed his way back to his original sixth-place standing in chips. Then the following hand came up: Schaffel again held A♥-A♣ and again an opponent, this time New York's Eric Buchman, held K♥-K♣. All of the chips got in the middle preflop and Schaffel was an 83 percent favorite to move into second place.

Schaffel was almost beside himself with excitement as he turned to announce the cards to his supporters, who were all wearing "Schaffel Up and Deal" T-shirts and screaming with joy at the prospect of their friend winning a whopping 34.75-million-chip pot.

But the joy was short-lived as the flop came Q♠-J♥-K♠. There was still hope for the 52-year-old semipro as any 10 would make him the nut straight. But the dagger came on the turn in the form of the K♦, giving Buchman unbeatable quads.

"It was fun," said Schaffel, who earned \$1.3 million for his eighth-place finish. "It was



Joe Cada is all smiles after becoming the youngest champ, at 21, in WSOP Main Event history.

a lot of fun. But that was not how I wanted to go out."

In the end it was 21-year-old Joe Cada from Shelby Township, Mich., who bested Darvin Moon, the Maryland logger, heads-up to take down the 40th WSOP Main Event. Cada, who at one point had just 2.35 million chips at the final table, rallied to break the year-old record held by Peter Eastgate as the youngest to win the tournament. Eastgate had broken Phil Hellmuth's record, which stood since 1989.

"It still has not hit me yet," Cada said. "I don't know what to think. I have really put a lot into this. I have been playing poker for some time, and to come here and win it in my very first year, I feel very fortunate."

WSOP final-table payouts

1. Joe Cada, \$8,546,435
2. Darvin Moon, \$5,182,601
3. Antione Saout, \$3,479,485
4. Eric Buchman, \$2,502,787
5. Jeff Shulman, \$1,953,395
6. Steve Begleiter, \$1,587,133
7. Phil Ivey, \$1,404,002
8. Kevin Schaffel, \$1,300,228
9. James Ankenhead, \$1,263,602

Around the country



Chad Brown continues to be one of the hottest players on the poker circuit this year. The Margate resident won the \$1K Caesars Palace Classic Heads Up title on Oct. 20, good for \$22,254. There were 62 entrants.

Brown, who finished runner-up in the 2007 NBC Heads Up Championship at Caesars Palace, won three events in Mississippi over the past few months, including the Gulf Coast Championship main event.

Here are some other Floridians who also fared well:

- Orlando's Paul Kiang was 24th (250 entries) for \$691 at the \$340 WSOP circuit event at Harley's Lake Tahoe on Nov. 5.
- Taylor Stelfox of Hollywood won the first event of the Fall Poker Round-Up at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Pendleton, Ore. Stelfox won \$10,714 and a cruise in the 280-player event.
- At the Borgata \$250K guarantee (\$560 buy-in) on Oct. 21, Julio Fernandez of Miami couldn't overcome New Jersey's Greg Bock, so he settled for second place and \$40,575. Also cashing in



that 541-player event was Juan Naranjo of Miami (13th, \$2,569) and Nicos Ktori of Miami Beach (34th, \$1,137). Naranjo has won a couple of Hard Rock Hollywood Main Event series titles in the past year.

At the WSOP circuit event at the Horseshoe in Chicago, Bonita Springs' John Dolan (11th, \$1,814) and Ft. Lauderdale's Maurice Hawkins (21st, \$943) cashed in the 234-player \$555 six-handed event. Their cashes were the only ones by Floridians in any of the October WSOP circuit events in Chicago.

James Tilley, a 43-year-old demolitions supervisor from St. Cloud, chopped three ways in a WSOP circuit event at Horseshoe Southern Indiana.

Tilley, who has had success at SunCruz Port Canaveral, agreed to a three-way chop that gave the ring to Mark "Pegasus" Smith, who now has three rings, tied for the lead with Hawkins and others. Event 12 was the last tournament before the stop's main event.

NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

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



LEARN TO EMBRACE YOUR INNER 'ROI'

Do you think you play enough online poker to be called successful? Let's take this concept to Florida players and look at tournament frequencies for the top-rated player as well as four others and see if there's a pattern to their tournament frequency and tournament return on investment or ROI.

ROI determines if you're making money and provides a way to determine if your play is improving over time. Here is the formula: $(\text{Money won} - \text{Buy-in}) / (\text{Buy-in} * 100) = \text{ROI percentage}$.

The No. 1 player on the points list is Cesar Fuentes from Coral Springs. In October he cashed in 18 tournaments for \$21,282. The buy-ins totaled \$1,384 so he had an ROI of 1,438 percent.

No. 25 is "BomboKlaat" from Miami. During the same time he cashed in 61 tournaments for \$70,569 with buy-ins totaling \$4,044, an ROI of 1,645 percent.

No. 50 is Tyler Denson, a 23-year-old from Orlando. He cashed in 25 tournaments for \$11,253 with buy-ins of \$3,558, an ROI of 220 percent.

No. 75 is a Ft. Lauderdale player named LEGGGGGGGGGY. His line was 30 cashes for \$3,828, buy-ins of \$757, and an ROI of 80 percent.

And finally, No. 100 is Cory Ward from Titusville. He earned \$1,938 but had buy-ins totaling \$516 for an ROI of 73 percent.

Another frequent playing technique is that of multitableting. The more you play the better you become. The key factor in multitableting is to find the "sweet spot," where the amount of tables you're playing will maximize your win rate. For most people the right number is between two and four tables. Some are comfortable with much more than this.

Generally, the best strategy when multitableting is to keep a simple pattern of ABC poker, where you bet strong hands and fold weak ones. Your attention is going to be divided, so you won't be able to pick up

Monkeying around



For the first time *Ante Up* had a back-to-back winner in AIPS, and from the looks of this photo it's a good thing it doesn't happen often. These little guys are always fighting, according to their new owner, PokerGeekMN, who won our Omaha/8 and Razz titles. Congrats PokerGeek, and good luck with cleaning up after them!

on card reads or betting tells from your opponents. It's also true if you try to make sloppy bluffs you'll get into an unprofitable position since opponents will be concentrating more than you. Stick to basic strategies.

Multitableting is one of the greatest advantages of playing poker online over casino poker. In addition to increasing the amount of money you can win, multitableting also can help reduce boredom in between playing hands. Expect a Broadway-type hand once in about 10 hands if playing four ways. Don't let yourself get bored or distracted if cards are not coming on one table. Patience is a virtue.

ANTE UP POKERCAST PRESENTED BY POKERSTARS

The Ante Up PokerCast is the longest running poker show on the Internet. Tune in Fridays at anteupmagazine.com or subscribe on iTunes for free.



AIPS schedule

Event #11

Dec. 9: Badugi, \$5.50

Main Event

Jan. 13: H.O.R.S.E., \$22

Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series

The Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (a.k.a. AIPS) is our PokerCast's monthly fan tournament series on PokerStars.com. Square off against the Ante Up Nation for bragging rights, cash and, yes, the ultimate prize — the AIPS banana. And new this year: Every winner gets a PokerStars stuffed monkey!

If you win email us a photo of you with the banana and monkey to editor@anteupmagazine.com and we'll

publish it. For bragging rights, knock out one of the *Ante Up* publishers — Scott "OffDeadline" Long and Chris "aun2112" Cosenza.

Don't have a PokerStars account? No problem. Go to anteupmagazine.com and click on our online poker rooms link. Use marketing code ANTEUPMAG and signup code STARS600 to get a 100 percent deposit bonus up to \$600!

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AS TOLD THROUGH PICTURES

Yes, there were some interesting storylines this past month, such as Player of the Year frontrunner Walt Strakowski Jr. widening his lead with a victory on the Palm Beach Princess, but we decided this month to let the pictures tell the story. Here are some of the best from the events around the state.



About 200 players came out for the Boys & Girls Club of Broward County's charity Ante Up Poker Tour event, which raised about \$26K for the charity on Oct. 23 at the Westin Diplomat in Hallandale Beach. Matt Ridley of Jupiter won the event and a seat into the 2010 World Series of Poker Main Event. Ridley has 1,700 player-of-the-year points.



Bellevue's Carleen Heath became just the second woman to win an AUP event when she took down the Ocala Poker tournament on Oct. 24. She also placed second there in August and has 1,700 player-of-the-year points.



↑ Nearly 115 players, including the final table above, showed up at the Trump International Beach Resort in Miami on Oct. 17 for the Israel Defense Forces charity event. Peter Smurfit won the \$10,000 WSOP Main Event seat.

↪ *Ante Up* publisher Scott Long attended Tampa Bay Downs' Halloween/AUPT event dressed as a \$100 Florida Poker Buy-In. He didn't win best costume and he didn't win the tournament.

OCTOBER RESULTS

DANIA JAI-ALAI OCT. 10

1. Luis Deguzman
2. Downes Harnan
3. Stephen Goldfinger
4. Larry Dry
5. Irwin Block
6. Sadany Hevin
7. Bruce Phillips
8. Don Mazzarelli
9. Steve Carlson
10. David Collins

DERBY LANE OCT. 25

1. Glenn Fullone, St. Petersburg
2. Bradley Zubillaga, St. Petersburg
3. Declined points
4. Christopher Williams, Plant City
5. Phillip Parisi
6. Declined points
7. Mark Bongo
8. Declined points
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

EBRO GREYHOUND PARK OCT. 4

1. Wayne Burnet
2. Roger Oelke
3. Joe Greene
4. Eli Saliba
5. Tom Gibson
6. Tiffany Brenier
7. John Sexton
8. Cale Weeks
9. Vinco Zanghi
10. Mike Scharnhorst

FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER OCT. 17

1. Josh Gates
2. Bill Montgomery, Vero Beach
3. Ross Chambers, Port St. Lucie
4. Teddy Trahan, Port St. Lucie
5. Mike Hobbs, Palm Bay
6. Bonnie Schechtman, Port St. Lucie
7. Chris Judah, Palm Bay
8. Antonio Pinzari, West Palm Beach
9. Eddie Meagher, Palm Beach Gardens
10. Peter Merola, Jensen Beach

GULFSTREAM PARK OCT. 24

1. Alberto Dominguez, Hollywood
2. Declined points
3. John Evans
4. Daniel Tibbitt
5. Rolando Wong
6. Steven Sanford
7. Peggy Penning
8. Joseph Lachovich
9. Diane Devereaux
10. Sergio Cortella

ISLE CASINO OCT. 1-2

1. Raj Vohra, Lake Worth
2. Norman Contreras, Ft. Lauderdale
3. Jose Torres, Cooper City
4. Rex Raymond, Sarasota
5. Sharon Levin, Ft. Lauderdale
6. R.J. Sullivan, Bradenton
7. Charles Alexander, Coconut Creek
8. Michael Mizrahi, Miramar
9. Jeffery Gold, Lantana
10. Scott Zakheim, Davie



Stephen Affetto of Tampa resembles Phil "Unabomber" Laak at the Tampa Bay Downs' Halloween tournament. He finished fourth.

OCALA POKER & JAI-ALAI OCT. 24

1. Carleen Heath, Belleview
2. Alex Abernathy, Gainesville
3. Sebastian DeCastro, Gainesville
4. Adam Lawson, Gainesville
5. Jon Blaze-Griger, Gainesville
6. Declined points
7. Eddie Uehara, Waldo
8. Mike Winter, Gainesville
9. James Paladino, Gainesville
10. Peter Nadeau, Gainesville

ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB OCT. 23

1. Tomas Singson, Orange Park
2. Mike Howell, Orange Park
3. Lynn Knowles, Jacksonville
4. Steve Mitchell, St. Augustine
5. Paul Barnett, Jacksonville
6. Declined points
7. George Yousef
8. Declined points
9. Declined points
10. Mike Mitchell, St. Augustine

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB OCT. 24

1. Victor Dillon
2. John Phillips
3. Bill Smith
4. Rich Ramsey
5. Joe Casella
6. Tom Vellia
7. Joe Massare
8. Mike Dotson
9. Eddie Thompson
10. Ben Carroll

PALM BEACH PRINCESS CASINO OCT. 4

1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach
2. Omar Diaz, Coconut Creek
3. Joshua Gerzog
4. Ken Basilio, Ft. Lauderdale
5. Darin Wimberly
6. Ron Ventura
7. Ross Blow, Port St. Lucie
8. John Stabb
9. Gary Schlein
10. Dorma Ernst

Ocala's final table



Mistakes? Omissions? Please let your poker room manager or tournament director know. Or you can feel free to contact us at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB OCT. 31

1. Steve Marcozzi
2. David Maddox
3. Declined points
4. David Steves
5. Randy Montgomery
6. Rich Yonker
7. Declined points
8. Declined points
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

SEMINOLE IMMOKALEE OCT. 3

1. Chuck Gold Hammer, Naples
2. Amos Marshall, Naples
3. Rosa Muchovej, Ft. Myers
4. Joey DiPascale, Naples
5. Declined points
6. Declined points
7. John Nacheff, Marco Island
8. Declined points
9. Grady Yeager, Naples
10. Paul Smith, Cape Coral

ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK OCT. 25

1. Brenda Page, St. Simons Island
2. Alta Sudduth, Jacksonville
3. Becky Dery, St. Augustine
4. Declined points
5. Declined points
6. Declined points
7. Declined points
8. Declined points
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

TAMPA BAY DOWNS OCT. 31

1. Jim Brinkley, Tampa
2. Nicole Prada, Orlando
3. Stephen Burn, New Port Richey
4. Stephen Affetto, Tampa
5. Marilyn McConnell, Clearwater
6. Jeff Morzella, Tampa
7. Jerry Nalywajko, Chicago
8. Phillip Khavin, St. Petersburg
9. Tom Wysong, Hudson
10. Victor Lemolo, Sarasota

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BROWARD OCT. 23

1. Matt Ridley, Jupiter
2. Lenny Brass
3. Mark Rochotte
4. Sylvia Bernstein
5. Stuart Baker
6. Monroe Wolfert
7. David Shienberg
8. Sheldon Gross
9. Bruce Freeman
10. Faye Gordon

IDF CHARITY OCT. 17

1. Peter Smurfit
2. Yossi Kiblsky
3. Salmon Korion
4. Isaac Possin
5. Sharon Bachar
6. Jerry Spilman
7. Itai Benosif
8. Dean Sorrentino
9. Charles Silver
10. Shelly Dayan



Ante Up Player of the Year bracelet provided by Madison Jewelers. Go to www.madison-jewelers.com.

Race for the Bracelet

Points are earned by finishing in the top 10 and are distributed as follows: 1,000, 700, 500, 300, 250, 200, 175, 150, 125 and 100. Players also receive a 100-point bounty for eliminating an Ante Up publisher from an event. Here are the Ante Up Player of the Year leaders as of press time. For complete, up-to-date results be sure to log on to anteupmagazine.com/tour

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach | 5,100 |
| 2. Ken Basilio, Ft. Lauderdale | 2,575 |
| 3. Jay Roden, Estero | 2,350 |
| 4. Mitchell Abrahams, Miami | 2,075 |
| 5. Robert Beyra, Hollywood | 2,000 |
| 6. Ronnie Browne, Gainesville | 1,700 |
| 6. Carleen Heath, Belleview | 1,700 |
| 6. Matt Ridley, Jupiter | 1,700 |
| 9. Luis Cristobal, Coral Gables | 1,675 |
| 10. Peter Nadeau, Gainesville | 1,625 |
| 11. Alberto Dominguez, Hollywood | 1,500 |
| 11. Steve Mitchell, St. Augustine | 1,500 |
| 13. Brian Capobianco, Tampa | 1,400 |
| 14. Scott Long, Safety Harbor | 1,350 |
| 15. Glenn Fullone, St. Petersburg | 1,300 |
| 15. Raymond Witt, Lake City | 1,300 |
| 15. Manny Leone, West Palm Beach | 1,300 |
| 18. Omar Diaz, Coconut Creek | 1,200 |
| 18. Larry Powell, Palm Beach Gardens | 1,200 |
| 20. John Sexton | 1,175 |
| 20. Jerry Giulio, Port St. Lucie | 1,175 |

Upcoming events

- Nov. 28: Palm Beach K.C., 1, \$200 (\$25K guar.)
- Nov. 28: Sarasota Kennel Club, 6:30, \$100
- Nov. 29: Derby Lane, 1, \$100 (10K chips)
- Dec. 5: Dania Jai-Alai, 12:30, \$150
- Dec. 5: Seminole Immokalee, 4, \$225 (\$1K added)
- Dec. 6: Palm Beach Princess, 10 a.m., \$100
- Dec. 6: Ebro Greyhound Park, 2, \$100
- Dec. 12: Gulfstream Park, 6:30, \$150
- Dec. 13: Calder Race Course, 8, \$250
- Dec. 13: St. Johns Greyhound Park, 4, \$100
- Dec. 18: Orange Park K.C., 7:30 p.m., \$100
- Dec. 19: Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai, 2, \$100
- Dec. 19: Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai & Poker, 3, \$150
- Dec. 20: Tampa Bay Downs, 1, \$350
- Dec. 26: Hard Rock Hollywood, 11 a.m., \$1,100
- Dec. 26: Palm Beach K.C., 1, \$200 (10K units)
- Dec. 26: Isle Casino, 2 p.m., \$720
- Dec. 26: Sarasota Kennel Club, 6:30, \$100
- Dec. 27: Derby Lane, 1, \$100

Updated schedule at anteupmagazine.com/tour

The Ante Up Poker Tour champion will win a cover story in *Ante Up*, an interview on the Ante Up Poker-Cast and a custom bracelet from Madison Jewelers.

Calder Race Course

Phone: (305) 625-1311
www.calderracecourse.com/poker
Tournaments: Daily, \$40-\$550, including \$550 deepstack (15K chips, 40-minute blinds) on Saturdays at 11 a.m. and a \$350 bounty event Wednesdays at 8 p.m. (bounties are \$100, 8K chips, 30-minute blinds).
SNGs: Turbos \$40-\$300; standard \$500-\$800.
Special event: Dec. 13 (8 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$250 (8K chips, 30-minute blinds).
High hands: Royals pay \$250.
Bad beat: Mega is any quads; mini is aces full of jacks.

Dania Jai-Alai

Phone: (954) 927-2841
www.dania-jai-alai.com
Tournaments: Daily \$25 with \$5 bounty, 12:30, plus M&W, 6:30; \$55 T&Th, 6:30, Sun, 8; \$100, 9K chips, Fri., 6:30; first Sat. of the month, 12:30 (\$140 + \$10); first Sun. of month, Omaha/8 Deepstack, 3 (\$100); remaining Sundays will have \$15 beginners NLHE tournament, 4.
SNGs: \$30 or \$50 between 2-5 p.m.
Special events: Nov. 28 (12:30 p.m.) Shootout, \$100 (max 100 players); Dec. 5 (12:30 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour, \$150; Dec. 12-13 (12:30), Mega-level, \$200.
High hands: \$50 hourly 1-8 p.m.; royal flush \$500 (Omaha pays \$250).
Bad beat: Stud, Omaha/8 and hold'em; call for details.
Promotions: Free drinks to cash-game players all day, plus free sandwich from 1-3 p.m.; coffee and sweets served at 3 p.m.

Daytona Beach Kennel Club

Phone: (386) 252-6484
daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom
Tournaments: Daily, including Wed. Ladies Day (\$25) at 1 p.m.; Sat. deep-stack (\$225) at 2 and pot-limit Omaha/8 (\$65) at 7.
SNGs: \$40-\$220.
High hands & bad beats: Check Web site for payouts and details.
Promotions: Daily spins for winners of drawings (tickets for quads or better) must have player card at time of drawings and spins at 4, 7 and 10 p.m. (various prizes, up to \$250)

Derby Lane

Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7
www.derbylanepoker.com
Tournaments: Daily, (1, 4 and 7 p.m. Su-Th and 2, 6 and 8 p.m. F-Sa), and pays the bubble over 60 players and two bubbles with more than 100; The Friday 535 is the third Friday of every month (Dec. 18, 6 p.m.) \$535.
Special event: Dec. 27 (1 p.m.)

Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100.
High hands: Royals (hold'em, stud); One-and-One, Mon.-Thurs. wins \$100 and one entry hourly, Mega Sundays wins a \$220 Mega Stack seat.
Promotions: Monte Carlo Weekends Friday and Saturday (2-5:30p.m. and 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m.).

Ebro Greyhound Park

Phone: (850) 234-3943
www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com
Tournaments: Big Stack Sundays, (\$100, 2 p.m.); Ebro Poker Academy, Tue. & Sat., \$10, 7 p.m. (free class at 6:30); Wednesday Rebuy, \$30 w/\$20 rebuys for three levels, 7; Thursday Bounty, \$65 + \$10 bounty, 7.
Special event: Dec. 6 (2 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100.
High hands: Royal flush jackpots and two high hands per day.
Bad beat: Quad deuces.
Promotions: Bonus days every Friday, plus Dec. 23 & 26 (See ad on Page 27 for more information).

Flagler Greyhound Track

Phone: (305) 649-3000
www.flaglerdogs.com
Tournaments: Sun. 1 p.m. bounty (\$40); Mon., 7 (\$75).
SNGs: \$65-\$800, including turbos.
High hands: \$200 all day; non-heart royals win \$1K, heart progressive and Big Slick progressive (see Web site for details).
Promotions: \$500 progressive hot table (see Web site for details).

Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai and Poker Room

Phone: (772) 464-7500
www.jaijai.net/poker.php
Tournaments: Mon. 7 p.m. (\$75); Wed. bounty 6:30 (\$100); Sat. 1:30 (\$100); Sun., 4 (\$55). Deep stack is third Sat. every month, 3 p.m. (\$150).
SNGs: Thurs.-Sat. (\$65-\$110)
Special event: Dec. 19 (3 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$150.
High hands: Call for details.
Bad beat: Aces full of queens (hold'em, \$34K at press time), quads (stud) and quad jacks (Omaha).
Promotions: Visit Web site for list of new specials.

Gulfstream Park

Phone: (954) 457-6336
www.gulfstreampark.com
Tournaments: Daily at 6:30 p.m. (\$60-\$150), plus bounties M-W-F and Sat. Special, (\$150, 8K units).
SNGs: \$60-\$120 (10 players, pays three spots).
Special event: Dec. 12 (6:30 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$150.
Promotions: Second annual Mercedes-Benz Challenge (See ad on Page 15 for details).

Hamilton Jai-Alai & Poker

Phone: (800) 941-4841
hamiltondownsjaijai.com
Tournaments: Super Bounty Sunday 2 p.m., \$35 (\$10 bounties, 100-player cap); Rake Break Saturday, no rake on \$40 entry, 5 p.m. (2K chips, \$20 add-on gets 2K more, plus \$10 add-on at first break gets 1K chips)
High hands: Fri.-Sun. \$500; spades royal \$2,396; mini-royal \$239.
Bad beat: Aces full of kings (\$5K).
Promotions: Football Fever: For selected NFL games, every player gets paid \$50 if there's a safety scored, \$25 for a kickoff returned for a touchdown and \$20 for an interception returned for a touchdown. See Web site for list of games.

Isle Casino at Pompano Park

Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123, x5124
www.theislepompanopark.com
Tournaments: \$40-\$230, including 7 p.m. bounty events (T, Th, Sa. & Su) and a \$10K guarantee Tuesdays at 2 p.m. (\$230, 13K chips, 30-minute blinds).
SNGs: \$60-\$225
Special events: Dec. 26 (2 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour, \$720 (see ad on Page 19 for details); Jan 12-18, second annual Isle Poker Classic.
High hand and bad-beat jackpots: Call for details or visit Web site.
Promotions: Players can win a share of \$10K on Sundays during the NFL season. Tickets can be earned all week by making a full house in jackpot-eligible hold'em games.

Jefferson County Kennel Club

Phone: (850) 997-2561
www.jckcpokerroom.com
Tournaments: Fri.-Sat., 7:30, (\$50).
High hand: Royal flushes win jackpot.

Mardi Gras Gaming

Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167
www.playbigeasy poker.com
Tournaments: Deepstack Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., (\$100), 10K units, \$40 add-on for 5K units.
Special event: Dec. 17 (6:30 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100
SNGs: \$25-\$110.
High hands: 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. \$100 hourly (Omaha excluded). 6 p.m. worth \$500 M-F. Royals win \$599; quad 10s or better in Omaha pay \$50 all day. Quad 10s or better pay \$50 from 2 a.m.-8 a.m. in all games.
Bad beat: Aces full of jacks (HE), quad jacks (O/8), aces full of kings (stud).
Promotions: Payouts doubled in no-limit games (up to \$500). Please see ad on Pages 4-5.

Melbourne Greyhound Park

Phone: (321) 259-9800
www.mgppark.com
Tournaments: \$65-\$120, including a Super Stack on Saturdays at 2.
Special event: Wednesday is Ladies Night at Club 52.
Promotions: Call for details.

Miami Jai-Alai

Phone: (305) 633-6400
www.miamijaijai.net
Tournaments: Sat., 3 p.m., \$20 (extra 1K chips for \$5 dealer token, unlimited \$20 rebuys in first hour for 2K chips, \$20 add-on gets 3K chips).
High hands: Progressive royals and rolling quads progressive; straight flush of the day wins \$500 Best Buy gift card; \$100 every hour (win three a day and get an extra \$500); Four aces or straight flush wins \$100.

Miccosukee Resort

Phone: (877) 242-6464
www.miccosukee.com
Tournaments: Saturday, 7 p.m.
Promotions: Call for current offers.

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track

Phone: (239) 992-2411
www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com
Tournaments: Sun. bounty 2 p.m. (\$125); Mon. 7 (\$65); Tue. 7 (\$45); Wed., 7 (\$65); Thurs. noon and 7 (\$65) and Fri. 7 (\$65). Deep stack events third Sat. every month, noon.
Special event: Dec. 19 (noon) Deep-stack/Ante Up Cruise tournament, \$225, 10K chips, 40-minute blinds, free dinner for players remaining at dinner break, tourney will pay cash prizes plus one "cruise voucher for two" for every 20 players entered.
SNGs: Six-player (\$125-\$550)
High hands: \$250 every two hours; royals pay \$1K in all suits except diamonds, which pays \$5K.

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai

Phone: (352) 591-2345
www.ocalapoker.com
Tournaments: Daily (\$65-\$500).
SNGs: (\$45-\$500).
Special event: Dec. 19 (2 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100; Dec. 20 (1 p.m.) WSOP satellite, \$150.
High hands: 24 Days of Christmas (See Web site for details).
Bad beat: Any quads.
Promotions: Text poker to 39649 for details and jackpot updates.

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



Poker room managers email editor@anteupmagazine.com

Orange Park Kennel Club

Phone: (904) 646-0002
www.jaxpokerrroom.com
Tournaments: Daily (\$30-\$150).
Special events: Dec. 5 (2 p.m.) Mega Stack, \$225; Dec. 18 (7:30) Ante Up Poker Tour \$100. (See ad Page 23)
High hands: Royals \$250 (but spades pay \$500).
Bad beat: \$1,000 mini jackpot and a full jackpot (See Web site for details).
Promotions: Super High Hand, M&W, noon-3, hourly high hand wins \$100 and other players at winning table get \$25.

Palm Beach Kennel Club

Phone: (561) 683-2222
www.pbkennelclub.com
Tournaments: \$65-\$200, new tournament structures and larger chip stacks (see Web site for details).
Special events: Dec. 26 (1 p.m. Ante Up Poker Tour, \$200 (10K units).
Jackpots: Call for details.
Promotions: Players Club Rewards Card; 12 Days of Christmas (See ad on Page 31 for details).

Palm Beach Princess Casino

Phone: (561) 818-5771
www.palmbeachprincess.com
Tournaments: 6:30 Wed. (\$30+\$5+\$5 toke); 6:30 p.m. Thurs. (free, \$300 prize pool); 7 p.m. Fri. (\$50); 6:30 p.m. Sat. (\$60).
SNGs: \$40/\$60/\$100
High hands: \$50-\$100 per table
Special events: Dec. 4, 7 p.m. cruise features a \$1K high-hand jackpot with no minimum players; Dec. 6 (10 a.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100.
Promotions: Free food-drinks-board-ing for qualified players. (Ad Page 29)

Sarasota Kennel Club

Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054
www.skcpoker.com
Tournaments: New payouts and structures; see Web site for details Also, Fridays at 1 p.m. (\$100) deep-stack (25K chips, 25-minute blinds).
SNGs: \$35-\$300.
Special event: Nov. 25-28, Gavin Smith Invitational II (See ad Page 21 for details); Dec. 26 (6:30 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100.
High hands: On Fridays and Saturdays all qualifying high hands pay \$599; Progressive jackpots; quads (hold'em), quad 10s (stud) and straight flushes (Omaha) or better.
Bad beat: Quad sixes.
Promotions: Tournament Daily Double — Cash in 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. tournaments on same day and win a share of the Daily Double Jackpot. Win both tournaments and earn more.
Monday Night Football Squares — get a flush and win \$5 plus a square. See Web site for details.

Seminole Casino Brighton

Phone: (866) 222-7466 ext. 121
www.seminolecasinobrighton.com
Tournaments: Mon. & Wed., \$10, Low Dough-Match-n-Go (house matches the prize pot), 2 p.m.; also on M&W, \$20, 6:30 (optional add-on).
SNGs: \$20, \$65 or \$110.
High hands: Any four aces wins \$50, straight flushes win \$100 and progressive royals win a minimum of \$1K (spades win posted amount); Tuesdays, noon-10, top three high hands win \$300, \$100, \$100.
Bad beat: Starting Dec. 1 is the Mega-Bad Beat (\$100K progressive, quad 10s beaten).
Promotions: Thursdays, aces cracked from 4-7 p.m. wins \$100; Fridays, double punches on reward cards; Sundays, seniors who buy-in for \$40 will receive \$15 in free play; Christmas Day earn triple punches.

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

Phone: (866) 222-7466
seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com
SNGs: \$55, \$85, \$135.
Bad beat: Aces over jacks, plus starting Dec. 1 is Mega-Bad Beat (\$100K progressive, quad 10s beaten).
Promotions: Call for current offers.

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

Phone: (866) 502-7529
seminolehardrockhollywood.com
Tournaments: \$75-\$1,100.
SNGs: \$60-\$1,050.
Special event: Dec. 11-21 Winter Open \$325K guarantee (see ad Page 11); Dec. 26 (11 a.m.) AUP/T/Big Slick \$1,100, \$75K guarantee.
High hands: 10 a.m.-midnight gets \$50, plus free entry into a specified event (\$100 value); High Hand Bonus Sun.-Thurs. 10 a.m., 1, 4 & 7 \$500 added (no limit) \$250 added (limit).
Bad beat: Offered daily, and starting Dec. 1 is Mega-Bad Beat (\$100K progressive, quad 10s beaten).
Promotions: Poker reward program offers Players up to \$1/hour with a poker player card; starting at 6 a.m., first 20 hold'em hands to make quads get \$50, plus a free tournament entry (\$75 value).

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Phone: (866) 502-7529
www.seminolehardrocktampa.com
Tournaments: \$100-\$550.
SNGs: \$125-\$1,075.
Bad beat: Quads or better, plus starting Dec. 1 is Mega-Bad Beat (\$100K progressive, quad 10s beaten).
Promotions: Full houses earn entries into cash giveaways. Call for details.



Seminole Casino Hollywood Classic

Phone: (866) 222-7466
seminolehollywoodcasino.com
SNGs: \$25-\$50.
Bad beat: Starting Dec. 1 is Mega-Bad Beat (\$100K progressive, quad 10s beaten).
Promotions: See Web site.

Seminole Casino Immokalee

Phone: (866) 222-7466
theseminolecasino.com
Tournaments: Wed., 7 p.m. (\$35); Thurs., 7, (\$50); Fri., 7 (\$60); Sat., 1, KO event (\$50); Sun., 7, \$115, 10K chips, 20-minute blinds.
Special event: Dec. 5 (4 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$225 (\$1K added); Dec. 6 (1 p.m.) Holiday Angels charity event, \$60.
High hands: Quad aces win \$100, straight flush wins \$200; Royals pay \$1,100 in spades, \$900 in hearts, \$700 in diamonds and \$500 in clubs.
Bad beat: Four 10s beaten (\$25K) until Dec. 1, then the Mega-Bad Beat (\$100K progressive) begins: four 10s beaten. As a bonus, every player gets a \$100-per-person room share every time it hits at any Seminole room.
Promotions: Weekly \$2K high hand freeroll; hourly spins T&Th on wheel.

St. Johns Greyhound Park

Phone: (904) 646-0002
www.jaxpokerrroom.com
Tournaments: \$30-\$150.
Special event: Dec. 13, (4 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100; Dec. 26, 2-Day Mega Stack (\$550).
High hands: Royals \$250 (but spades pay \$500).
Bad beat: \$1,000 mini jackpot and a full jackpot (See Web site for details).
Promotions: Super High Hand, M-W, noon-3, hourly wins \$100 and other players at winning table get \$25.

SunCruz — Port Canaveral

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

Tampa Bay Downs

Phone: (813) 298-1798
www.tampabaydowns.com
Tournaments: \$20-\$540, including new Double Mega Stack (20K chips) on Tue. and Thurs. at 12:30.
SNGs: \$60-\$535.
Bad beat: Jackpots are available in live games and tournaments. See Web site for amounts and details.
High hands: Quads pay \$25 and a satellite ticket, straight flushes pay \$50 plus satellite ticket and royals pay \$200 plus \$100 entry into Turkey Shootout. On Dec. 24 high hands pay \$599 all day every 30 minutes.
Special event: Nov. 27, Turkey Shootout (6 p.m.) \$100, 250-players max; Dec. 20 (12:30 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$350.
Promotions: Ante Up Poker Cruise giveaway Nov. 29 (See ad on Pages 6-7); Mondays are no rake day. For more specials see ad on Page 17.

Tampa Greyhound Track

Phone: (813) 932-4313
www.luckycards.com
Tournaments: \$45-\$200.
SNGs: \$65-\$500.
High hands: Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$599). Sundays (\$100) from noon-3 and 8-11 p.m.; spade royal progressive.
Other: Aces cracked wins \$100, noon to 2 p.m.

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

FLORIDA GAMING SUMMIT

Here's why Florida will never have a 'level-playing field'

Analysis by Scott Long of Ante Up, Florida's Poker Magazine

As spring faded into summer, a sliver of hope emerged from the halls of Tallahassee. We were teased with the prospect that 2009 just might be the year Florida took that giant leap into gaming. That 2009 just might be the year "real" poker came to the Sunshine State. That 2009 just might be the year, dare we say, we all got along.

But as summer faded into fall, that sliver of hope was nowhere near the halls of the Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood, home to the annual Florida Gaming Summit. We begrudgingly accepted 2009 would not be the year Florida took that giant leap into gaming. That 2009 would not be the year "real" poker came to the Sunshine State. That 2009 would not be the year we all got along.

No, 2009 will be the year when nothing at all changes — except that we're all a lot more angry.

Last year was my first Florida Gaming Summit, a one-day series of panels featuring gaming proprietors, experts and analysts trading views on where Florida stood on gaming, and where Florida might be going. I found it informative and interesting. Couple that with the legislative advancements and Seminole Compact stalemate of 2009, and I had expected this year's summit to be even more informative. Even more interesting.

Instead, it was a snoozer.

Perhaps it was because the heavy hitters took their shots at each other four hours apart. Perhaps it was because the big news of the day didn't come out until the day after.

Perhaps it was because we all may have just hoped for something that just really wasn't possible.

James Allen, CEO of Gaming Operations for the Seminole Tribe, got things started as he did last year when he spoke about how much

service mattered in the gaming industry. But this time, a larger elephant lurked in the room. Just less than two months since the tribe agreed to a revised compact with Gov. Charlie Crist that has been widely scorned across the state, Allen made his case for why the deal is fair. That it provides \$150 million a year for educating the state's children. That it offers more for the tribe's competitors, and less for the tribe itself, than the disputed 2007 compact the tribe is still honoring.

But Allen was en route to Budapest, where Seminole Gaming is building another casino, when Virginia McDowell, president of Isle of Capri Casinos, took to the dais for a luncheon address that laid out the parimutuel industry's position. She spoke of needing a reduced tax burden and the same games to level the playing field. And she spoke of how much more money Florida stands to see if it opens the entire state to full gaming.

Together on the same panel, this duo's back-and-forth would alone have been worth the price of admission.

But separated, the debate had the feel of following two presidential candidates speaking on opposite sides of the country, joined together only by sound bytes on CNN.

But the folks who *were* assembled on a panel to discuss the compact also barely advanced the issue. Bloating by long-winded opening remarks and one unnecessary panelist, attendees were denied a chance to question George Skibine, acting chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission. If they had, perhaps we would have learned earlier that morning Skibine had met with Florida House Speaker Larry Cretul. And perhaps we would have learned before the news trickled out the

next morning that Cretul had asked Skibine to intervene in the stalemate between the Legislature and the tribe.

And it's that bit of news that perhaps best answers why many of us left this year's summit wanting much more. It's because that just



James Allen opened the summit.

Somehow, poker barely gets mentioned at summit, again

In a state where poker has surpassed parimutuel events in popularity, and table games and slots are just taking root, it's odd the great American card game gets barely a passing mention in an event called the "Florida Gaming Summit."

Last year, attendees heard passing references to "poker is what drives us" from panelist to panelist, but no substantive debate about the game. This year, poker at least got on the agenda, albeit sharing the spotlight with table games in an early morning session.

But **Sam Minutello**, director of poker operations at Sarasota



Kennel Club, was the only poker room manager invited to speak. And the discussion was heavy on the legal restrictions under which poker rooms have to operate.

"We're on the cusp right now," Minutello said. "We have a good product, but we don't have a great product. What the Legislature can do is take away our limitations and we can put out a great product."

"We're in the great state of Florida. And we're in the No. 1 state for tourism," Minutello said. "People are champing at the bit to come here." — **Scott Long**

wasn't possible. Much like a good script from *The Sopranos*, the loose ends on this issue can't be sewn up into a happy, tidy little package. Certainly not in one day.

"Level-playing field" was the catch phrase this year, as it was last year. This year, of course, the stakes are higher. But it doesn't change the fact the very concept is unattainable. And here's why:

The federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act says states can't tax Indian tribes for gaming unless it extends something of value, usually "exclusivity," to the tribe. In plain English, the state has to create a monopoly of sorts with a tribe to benefit financially from the tribe's gaming. And, well, competitors like parimutuel facilities aren't too keen on battling a monopoly. And who can blame them?

"So why not just let everyone have everything?" you may ask. "Slots. Blackjack. No-limit poker. Let tracks have it all just like the tribe."

That was the crux of **McDowell's** speech. Don't get fixated on losing the \$150 million a year, she said. If all competitors could offer the same games, the state would reap more than that. No doubt she's right, and recent developments are showing it just might be possible.

But it won't "level the playing field."

Picture a street corner with a mom-and-pop coffee shop on one side and a Starbucks on the other. Now imagine the Starbucks, with its big brand name and huge marketing budget, doesn't have to pay taxes, while the mom-and-pop shop has to dole out 35 percent. That's what the state would see if it scorns a deal with the tribe and opens gaming elsewhere in the state, because that same law says the tribe can deal any game legal anywhere in the state.

Not so much of a level playing field, is it?

But it's good enough, says Joseph Coffey, one of the owners of Ocala Poker. He implored the Legislature to let him compete with "one arm tied behind his back." The addition of slots or table games or no-limit poker would boost profits, even at an uneven tax rate.

So for all the talk of a level playing field, it's just not possible. But playing on a bigger field is, and that's what we're looking at now.

The Legislature and the parimutuels, and the tribe and the governor's office, are locked in a game of chicken, but one where neither car is moving. Instead, the drivers are poking their heads out of the window, shaking a fist and screaming, "I'm right! You're wrong!"

In asking Skibine to get involved, Cretul has put his car in drive, pressed on the gas pedal and began hurtling toward the other car. What Skibine decides, if he decides anything at all, will determine which car swerves first.

Say he rules the Seminoles must shut down their blackjack tables. If so, then the tribe likely will be forced to offer the state more money or tighten the "out clauses" in its proposed compact.

But say he rules the Seminoles are within their rights to deal table games. If so, then the Legislature will have rolled the dice and lost. Lawmakers will be forced to accept a compact they do not want, or seriously consider expanding gambling throughout the state with no money from the tribe. It's that latter option that got us into this mess in the first place. The conservative Florida House has been dragged into the gambling debate kicking and screaming. Had it been on board with the Florida Senate, we'd likely have a very different debate right now. Ironically, it is members of the House that are now waking up to the true crux of this issue and they're starting to indicate the next legislative session just might be a good one for the state's gamblers. But we've been teased enough, haven't we?

The real losers in this stalemate are the state's poker players. Everyone involved agrees there should be no limits on buy-ins or bets. That rooms should be open at least 18 hours a day. Yet, all of these other issues are keeping that from happening. Again, if you're open to being teased again, look for some movement on poker by July.

Poker players, no doubt, are worried much less about a level playing field. We just want to get off the artificial turf.



ROUNDERS MAY BE BIGGEST LOSERS IN 'TALLAHASSEE DRAW'

By Marc Dunbar

To me, there's nothing worse than sitting at a poker table and watching a player grind the mental gears on a bet or fold decision. "Play already! So the rest of us can get on with our game!" is probably a common phrase that goes through players' minds as they watch a guy stew over his decision.

Well, welcome to the game of "Tallahassee Draw." While the elected officials evaluate their options on the Seminole gaming compact, Tallahassee remains at gridlock, and poker players across the state are stuck mumbling to themselves waiting for the next play.

Senate Bill 788, which unlocks extended operating hours and true no-limit action for poker players all over Florida, remains in limbo. Until a compact is signed and approved by the Florida Legislature, the bill remains on hold because the Legislature placed an effective date on the poker law changes to coincide with the ratification of a new gaming compact with the Seminole Tribe. As you probably know all too well, this translates to no compact and no changes to the poker action at your local cardroom.

Speaker of the House Larry Cretul (R - Ocala) and his gaming chairman Bill Galvano (R - Bradenton) are really the two driving the bus at this point. The Senate is politely deferring to the more conservative House of Representatives, acknowledging the political reality that the House has a historically more difficult time passing gambling legislation.

The parimutuel industry is very eager to get a special session to separate the poker changes from the compact negotiations. All news reports indicate the desperation on behalf of the parimutuels is warranted. Race horse breeders are leaving the state in droves, Orlando Jai-Alai has announced it's closing, at least one parimutuel casino is setting historic lows for revenue, and the most recent parimutuel cardroom to open is struggling to compete with the Seminole Tribe property, which is fewer than 10 miles away.

The Speaker and his chairman have been meeting with the federal government in the hopes of reaching some accord with the Seminole Tribe. The Seminoles haven't been all that eager to reach out to the Legislature, insisting instead on relying on the terms of a compact that's been overturned in court, invalidated on its own terms and rejected by the Legislature as the basis for their continuation of their casino expansions.

Now the Seminole Tribe is still honoring the terms of the compact in the hopes of forging a new compact with the State, which will legalize their activity. The Legislature has taken the position that until the tribe ceases the illegal gambling it will not be able to engage in good-faith negotiations to reach a new compact.

How did we get here? Here is a quick legal overview: Federal law

authorizes three levels of gaming for recognized tribes on their reservations: Class I — traditional tribal games, Class II — raffles and bingo, and Class III — everything else from parimutuel wagering to full casino action. To engage in Class III, a tribe must have a compact signed by the state, approved by the feds, and published in the Federal Register. Federal law is very clear... no compact, no Class III gambling. One additional item is also legally clear... a state cannot get a piece of the Class III casino action without a compact that gives some semblance of a gambling monopoly to the tribe. The governor and the tribe went through this process a couple of years ago and actually had the first compact published in the Federal Register. Unfortunately, the Legislature and the Florida Supreme Court pointed out the governor didn't have the authority to enter into the compact. To make matters worse for the tribe, the compact included a clause that voided the document automatically. So, poof the first compact evaporated. With the compact went legality of the Seminoles casino expansions and the revenue that the state wants.

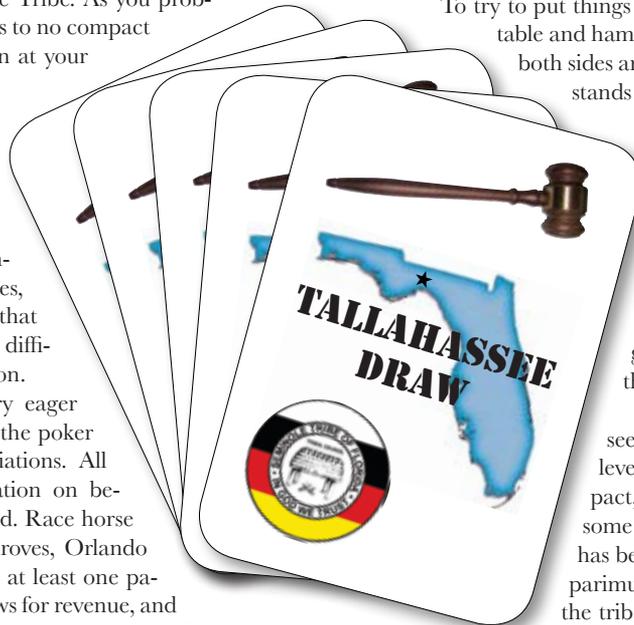
To try to put things back together instead of sitting around a table and hammering out the terms of a new document, both sides are running a tough bluff. If the Legislature stands pat and does not accept a compact from the Seminole Tribe, the Seminoles will lose their table games and the state will lose any piece of the Seminoles' casino action. If the Legislature accepts some type of compact from the tribe, some parimutuels in the state will be on the losing end of whatever deal is worked out because of the federal requirement to give some level of gambling monopoly to the tribe.

As is the case in all games of Tallahassee Draw, someone has to lose; it really is a level of degrees. Give the Seminoles a compact, the state gets some money but sacrifices some portion of the parimutuel industry that has been here since the 1930s. Take care of the parimutuels and the state will lose millions from the tribe in direct payments and likely lose some significant economic development, which will no doubt follow the tribe's creation of casino destination resorts. The worst-case scenario is if the legislators make no decision as Senate Bill 788 will evaporate and Florida will receive none of the benefits from the well-crafted legislation.

I have told my legislator friends who are at the epicenter of these negotiations this is why you sought that fancy title, to be able to make the tough decisions.

Unfortunately, the rest of us are observers waiting for them to make their next move. As we wait, true poker around the state is waiting, too. Here's hoping Florida's poker players don't wind up being the true losers.

— 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.



To try and put things back together instead of sitting around a table and hammering out the terms of a new document, both sides are running a tough bluff.

Insight and analysis on poker in the Sunshine State

SOUTH FLORIDA COMPETITION HEATING UP

It has 29 tables, 31 televisions ... and every poker eye in South Florida cast upon it.

Welcome, Studz Poker Club at Calder Casino & Race Course. It's the new kid on the block in the 94-mile stretch of I-95 clogged with car after car and a dozen other poker rooms.

Choose your favorite poker cliché: "Up the ante." "The price of poker has gone up." Whatever you want to say, the South Florida competitive threat level has moved from orange to red.

If you're a poker room exec, you have to envy Christopher Trabue a little. Calder's director of poker operations is living the dream of creating a room from the ground up. Calder tried poker in the past, but opening in concert with the Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood proved too high a hurdle to clear. The dormancy afforded the room, and Trabue, formerly of the Isle Casino, the opportunity to monitor what works, and what doesn't, in the competition.

Trabue assembled his staff with that in mind, bringing in some folks from the uber successful Isle

while drawing others from gaming locales around the country who might be able to offer a fresh perspective. And he was particularly deliberate in hiring his dealers. Nearly 400 auditioned; many more applied.

"We wanted to make sure we had the good personality, the good attitude," Trabue said. "No chips on their shoulder."

Next step? Listen to those dealers.

"At our auditions, we told them, 'Come to us with any promotion that you've ever seen, no matter what it is and let's see what we can do,'" Trabue said. "They are the front-end, and if we're not going to listen to them, then we're just killing ourselves."

Trabue is coy about what those promotions might be: "We don't want to let the cat out of the bag ..." Smart. No need to tip your hand, not in this pressure-cooker of a climate. But he doesn't hide the fact he's bidding to be the house with the biggest tournaments.

"We're going on the higher end with tournaments," he said. "A lot of the market is going to the low-end tournaments, so we're going to go with the high-end."

Among those is a \$550 buy-in at 11 a.m. Saturdays, a \$350 buy-in at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and a \$100 buy-in at 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. The latter is marketed to the area's dealers, and takes advantage of the room's dual permits that allow it to stay open 24 hours on weekends.

Tournaments are the new battleground, particularly in South Florida. Palm Beach Kennel Club has hired Joe Conti of *Poker Talk America* fame with an eye toward improving its tournament experience. Isle Casino and Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood show success after success with their big events, and both are working on new formats to keep interest high.

Dania Jai-Alai has waded into the high-guarantee arena with mixed results, and Gulfstream Park is working the loyalty route with regular giveaways (Mercedes-Benz, Rolex, Harley-Davidson) to its frequent tournament players.

Mardi Gras, which opened its new first-floor renovated poker room Nov. 13, is eager to get back into the tournament game. Seminole Coconut Creek just did, and don't be surprised if Seminole Hollywood Classic soon does the same.

But keeping up with Joneses in South Florida is harder than just running a good tournament. The bar has been set so high it costs big bucks just to get into the game.

It starts with the Genesis-Bravo System, a six-figure investment that pays for itself with powerful computer tracking of everything going on in the room, from wait lists, to dealer efficiency to player comps. If you want to beat the big boys, you have to have it, because all of the big boys already do. Trabue is excited for the day soon when the system will morph into his Oasis system, which will speed comp redemption. Hungry? Just flag down a shift boss, who can hand you a comp instantly.

And it includes the little touches, the ones you don't recognize unless they're not there. Chairs so comfy that folks joke about taking them home; the famed Twin Spires logo on felts, cards and players club cards; tables positioned so the tightest spaces are 3 feet and most are 6 feet; a waiting lounge with TVs and cocktail service; massages from Casino Massage Services.

Renovations on the adjacent bar and concessions area will be complete soon, and slot machines are due to start clanging in time for the Super Bowl, effectively extending the room's honeymoon period to four months.

Trabue and his room are off to a good start, with no intention on resting on those laurels. Because the competition would never let one do that.

Just a couple of miles away, director of poker operations Wil Herrera has overseen the moving of his Mardi Gras poker room to a renovated space on the first floor. Poker players now have a dedicated entrance on the north side that feeds into the brush stand and players club booth. Herrera has designated a "no-limit" area in the room, which features plenty of TVs, a bar that stretches the length of the room and, in a first for a Florida parimutuel, non-walled-off access to the slot floor and video poker.

South of Calder, Flagler Dog Track just opened its Magic City Casino slot floor to rave reviews. The well-designed flashy space will be the home of its poker room when it moves on to Phase II of its slots buildout.

And on the horizon look for Hialeah Park to open a poker room, too. The flamingo-famous horse track has been reborn as a home to quarterhorses and its owners have repeatedly said cards are in its future.

So just as poker room execs may envy Trabue for being able to start from scratch, no doubt that envy stops when they consider the immense challenge of walking into such a mature poker market. The eyes focused on it will be interested to see whether Calder merely cannibalizes existing players from nearby properties, or whether its offerings and west-side location succeed in drawing more players into the South Florida poker economy.

Ante Up wishes Calder well, for if it thrives, it means what we think to be true really is: Florida poker overall has plenty of room to grow.

— Email Scott Long at scott@anteupmagazine.com.



SCOTT LONG

STUDZ
POKER CLUB

LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way.

BAD RUN OR BAD PLAYER? BE HONEST, THEN ADJUST

“I’m the most unlucky person who ever played poker!” “Every time I’m in a race, the other person wins. I don’t care if I have the overcards or the pair. I just lose races all the time!” “I just can’t beat these idiots! They have no clue what they’re doing and every time they have a draw, they get there. It’s ridiculous how bad I run!”

Have you ever uttered any of those statements? If so, then take a strong look in the mirror and this statement: “I’m not as good a poker player as my ego tells me. Other people know more than me and are simply better. I don’t win because I haven’t learned as much or practiced as much as they have. I’ll quit whining now, read some books, get some coaching and work on my game.”

Let’s say you’re an avid player and hold your own in some regular games or tournaments. You usually win or at least break even, but for some reason, you feel you’re just running really badly. Sometimes this lasts a day or two, but sometimes it lasts for weeks or months. If you’re an online player this can be really damaging to your ego and certainly your bankroll as you play twice as many hands.

So, what can you do? It happens to most of us at some point, and having just gone through about a month and a half of “running bad” recently I was making those negative statements as well, getting extremely angry about bad beats, unavoidable coolers and not winning.

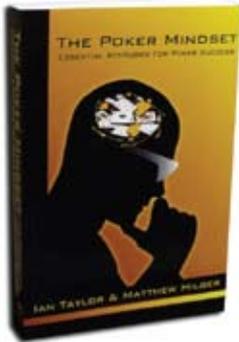
First off, accept the realities of poker. I recommend the Matthew Hilger-Ian Taylor book *The Poker Mindset* to my students. They do a great job of preparing you for the realities of short-term luck vs. long-term skill and many other aspects. If you believe in the realities of the game, you’ll accept the natural swings and variance. However, there still are times when the game seems unfair. Hands just aren’t holding up and you keep getting unlucky. The question is whether that’s true or whether that’s your perception.

You need to be objective when evaluating your game. No one wants to admit their not playing as well as they can or that they’re not as good as they think they are. Review hands; it can be very beneficial to discuss them with a coach or poker friends. Also, you can use hand re-players or software such as PokerTracker to review your hands with detailed reports of percentage. If you’ve played enough hands, you’ll see your hands will follow the right percentages; it’s a mathematical certainty.

If you strive to make the right decisions throughout life and expect good things to happen, they will. It’s the same in poker. If you focus on every hand and try to make the best decisions possible, then you’ll have an edge on most players. If you don’t play optimally at any point, you bring more luck into the equation and subject yourself to getting unlucky more often.



LEE CHILDS



Take a long look in the mirror; maybe you’re not as good as you think you are.



Also, take a close look at your game selection. Are you playing regularly with better players or worse? If you’re picking games and tournaments where you have an edge and you’re making good decisions, your results will reflect that. If you don’t know or can’t figure this out, you need to talk to friends or a coach to get a true assessment of your skills and what games would be good for you.

What do we do if we think we’re playing well and are picking the right games but still are running bad? Take a little break. Do something productive. I looked at how I was playing and I found I made less than optimal decisions at critical tournament points. I realized that a lot of times I did this out of frustration. Next, I forced myself to play less, and then I read some sections of my favorite poker books to reinforce solid fundamentals. I went online and literally searched “How to deal with running bad in poker” and found forum threads and articles with suggestions.

Maybe go to the gym, eat better, drink more water (and less alcohol or soda), spend time with your family, read non-poker-related books or go to the movies. Whatever it is, it should be something that makes you feel better and happier.

Simply decide to win. I say “simply,” but if you really do it, it’s quite an undertaking. When you decide to win, you expect to win all of the time. You understand the realities of poker and you understand the variance, but you make all of your decisions at the table as best as you can and you expect good results.

You learn from your good plays and your mistakes and you dedicate yourself to winning all of the time. Focus more on the good plays and the times you get lucky, rather than focusing on your beats. I don’t allow my students to tell me bad-beat stories. I only want to see hands where they made a good play on someone, where they had a big hand hold up, or where they got lucky. Focusing on the positive will just reinforce your positive thinking about poker and life in general.

Decide to Win!

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

Tune in to the Ante Up PokerCast on Fridays at anteupmagazine.com/podcast to hear Lee Childs analyze listeners’ play during our Hand of the Week segment. Send your hands to podcast@anteupmagazine.com.



A HEALTHY BET

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

HOW TO IRON OUT THE WRINKLES IN YOUR POKER GAME

Peter Eastgate, the 2008 World Series of Poker Main Event champion, has a tell I can fix. I didn't notice it during last year's November Nine broadcast, but ESPN edits those shows so much that facial expressions might not even occur in the same hour as the hand you're watching. Instead, it was a few months later on *High Stakes Poker* when I first noticed it.



Internet whiz Tom "Durrri" Dwan had rags, but that didn't stop him from betting enough chips to buy a Mercedes-Benz. Don't you just hate the way he does that? I know I do. Anyway, Eastgate had trips but he began to agonize that maybe, just maybe, this time Dwan held a monster. That's when it happened.

Usually Eastgate's 22-year-old forehead is as smooth as butter, but as he struggled with the idea of giving up this juicy pot, his brow furrowed. His eyebrows moved downward and closer together and two deep vertical creases appeared between them in the area called the glabella. He clearly was very uncomfortable. He had a good hand, a very good hand, but you could see he had lost confidence. Dwan saw it, too. Even if Eastgate called, Dwan knew he could take it away on the next street. Eastgate eventually laid it down, but the hand was lost with the furrow, not the fold.

I saw him do it again twice at this year's WSOP. Similar situations: good hand for Peter, big bet from an opponent, loss of confidence, furrow, fold. Normally I'd keep this kind of valuable poker strategy information to myself but I doubt Eastgate is going to be furrowing his brow at my home game any time soon. The key is this tell can be fixed with a little chemistry.

Some of you may know that, like Superman, I have two identities. At night, I don my super-powered E.R. white jacket and stamp out disease in one of our nation's healthcare safety-nets. If you get drunk and beat up, I can hold your hand and say, "There, there." If your dog ate your Vicodin, I can call a vet. (Sorry, sir, no refills.) And if you get swine flu, I'll tell you to heat up some soup.

But during the day, I assume my secret identity. I become a mild-mannered medical spa doctor who makes beautiful women just a tiny bit more beautiful. My alter ego purchases Botox by the truckload just to keep up with demand. I know Botox well and I know it can help Eastgate's forehead.

Botox is an interesting molecule. It's made when bacteria grow in improperly canned foods. It blocks the part of muscle fibers that recognize messages coming from nerves. If the message is blocked, the

muscle doesn't contract. Wrinkles disappear; furrows go away; Eastgate looks relaxed; Dwan backs down; Eastgate wins a car. His furrows are pretty deep so he'll probably need a lot of Botox, maybe 35 or 40 units which, by the way, costs less than what he would have tipped the dealer if he had won that pot.

The late John Bonetti, a three-time bracelet winner, also had a tell that Botox could have fixed. Watch reruns of the WSOP and you'll see his bushy eyebrows shoot up to the ceiling whenever he had great hole cards. Forty or 50 units in the forehead and those eyebrows would have stayed put.

Now I'm not suggesting Botox is the answer for poker tells, far from it. Behavioral experts will tell you hands and feet and shoulders broadcast many more tells than foreheads. But you should be aware that Botox certainly can be used to hide furrowing, wrinkling, crinkling and even frowning.

Be especially wary of those sly ladies who secretly use Botox to look a little younger but nevertheless enjoy the benefits of hiding some facial expressions at the tables. I won't name any names, but take a real close look at any of the lovely female poker pros who are older than 40. Do they have clear, smooth foreheads, classically arched eyebrows, curiously absent crow's feet? Some of them just don't seem to age much from year to year. They look well-rested, even perky. Could it be good genes? Or is it skillful use of chemistry? I know which side of that bet my money is on. My "secret-identity self" can sniff out Botox from across the poker table.

That's not to say all enhanced foreheads look good at the table. To see a really bad Botox job, check out the shockingly dreadful 2003 poker movie *Shade*. Skip all the painful pot-splashing and string bets and fast-forward to the showdown when Sly Stallone and Melanie Griffith appear. Sly's glabella never moves. That's okay, but check out his "Spock" brows, a result of too much Botox in the wrong place. Probably done by the same doc who did Melanie's lips.

So, if you want to look a little younger, a little more refreshed or if you would just like to soften your pensive frown, erase your crow's feet or smooth your forehead, Botox works pretty well. Seek out a doc who's a real Botox pro. But if you really want to hide your excitement over flopping the nuts, pay close attention to what your hands, feet and torso are doing.

And, Peter, if you really can't control that furrow, I can fix it. Give me a call.

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

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SHE'S HAD HER FILL OF PHILS

I know I'm not the best poker player in the world, not even on my best day would I put myself in the top 10 percent. However, I know I'm a good poker player; my record speaks for itself. The majority of bad beats, even terrible beats, I can let it go and move on. But there are a few that'll never leave me.

I was nearing the money in a seven-card stud tournament and in the running for Best All-Around Player of this particular series. There were two young men running over the table. I knew I would have to face one or both of them to survive the table and make it to the money. Sure enough I picked up split aces. I raised and they both called. By the turn the pot was so big a small dog couldn't jump over it. I was now heads-up and made a third ace. I liked my hand! My last bet put me all-in, and the young man hesitantly called. We turned over our cards and I saw no pair! Just a gut shot straight. He made the straight, and it turned out to be a one-outer.

BUT that wasn't the bad beat. He went on to win the tournament. It was at that time everyone learned he was only 17 years old! He couldn't collect the money and it was divided among the in-the-money players. His name was Phil. That was a memorable beat!

The first open field (not ladies only) World Series of Poker event I played was the \$1,500 seven-card stud tournament in 1999. Since I won both of my bracelets (1996 and '97) in stud, I thought I was a hot-shot stud player. I was wrong. With the luck of the draw, I began the tournament at Phil Hellmuth's table. From the first hand I played against him, I knew darn well he could outplay me. I don't even remember how many times he made me lay my hand down, or beat me at a showdown. Four hours later, I limped away from that table feeling like he could read my mind! Another Phil nightmare.

The last Phil I have problems playing against is Phil Ivey. He has knocked me out of two major tournaments, the most memorable was the WSOP main event in 2003. I had a great first day. We started with 10,000 chips in those days and by the middle of Day 2 I had more than 60K. Ivey came to my table with about twice that amount. He sat two seats to my right, which put him with the button every time I was in the big blind. And every time I had the big blind or the small blind and no one had entered the pot when the action got to him, he raised.

After about an hour of this I picked up an offsuit A-K. Again, no one had entered the pot and again he raised. "How do I play this?" I wondered. I knew he couldn't have a hand every time he raised, and I believed he raised many times with junk. I decided to call his raise and if I hit the flop I would check-raise him. The flop came 3♠-8♠-K♦. Bingo! I checked and he bet about 70 percent of the pot size. Without hesitation I raised. The turn was the K♠. Trips for me and I had the A♠ for a backup draw! I check-raised him again, this time, all-in. He hesitated for only a second and then called. I had visions of doubling up! However, it wasn't to be. He originally had raised me with 4♠-9♠. He made his crummy flush on the turn. The man is a gambler or he made a deal with the devil. The hand bothered me so much I asked several pros if I had misplayed it. The vote was split, three thought that because it was Ivey, I should have pushed all-in pre-flop. He never would've called. And three thought I had played it right and could've ended up with a nice double up.

So now you know why the "Phils" are a pain in my patootie.

— Susie Isaacs is the most published female author on the subject of poker and she has a new novel *White Knight, Black Nights*. Visit www.susieisaacsbooks.com for details.



SUSIE ISAACS

HEAD GAMES

DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

THE GOAL IS TO SET GOALS FOR YOURSELF

Why do you play poker? To have a little fun, as a diversion, as a challenge, to grind out some extra money, as a semipro, as a full-time pro, or some combination there of.

When I recently asked a group of poker players this question each could answer it, easily.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

The follow up question — What are your goals? — was met with quizzical looks.

For the most part, those who play poker meet their immediate goals: win some money, win today's tournament, make my grind. But most players don't have an articulate set of goals.

As Yogi Berra once said, "If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else."

Goals are important in all aspects of life and are essential to achieving peak performance in

poker play.

Poker players of all levels should be setting specific goals. This includes the novice, the occasional player, the recreational player, the serious non-professional player, the semipro, the professional and the elite professional. Of course the goals will be different, and as one moves up the chain goal-setting becomes more important.

The novice and occasional player will readily give up their game if they don't have fun or don't sometimes win. It's hard to have fun at this game without winning.

The avid player has some commitment to the game. This player reads books and magazines, possibly has a study group, watches training videos and not only enjoys the game but wants to make a profit. The serious non-professional has taken things a step further by tracking play, traveling to play and really focusing on the game. The professional is trying to make a living and move to an elite status.

Each of these players has different goals. Each will be able to perform at their peak by doing some simple goal-setting.

Goal-setting, done correctly, is a no-fail exercise. Self-determined goals can (and should) be modified when new information is gathered. How many times have you heard poker is a game of gathering data and adjusting? Goal-setting is the same. The more information we get the more we can adjust and modify our goals.

Sometimes we make mistakes and make our goals dependent on factors outside of ourselves. Things you can't control, as long as you keep your goal self-determined, can be modified as you move along.

As long as one tries to narrow the goals to something measurable and accomplishable, one can account for the outside variance. When a goal is self-determined it can be modified by new information. You planned on playing four times a week and family and business issues took priority; modify and revise your goal — and all of your goals — up and down the line.

Setting goals is a powerful method of enhancing performance and has a consistent and powerful impact on behavior.

Many peak performers follow the S.M.A.R.T. method:

SPECIFIC: Goals cannot be vague; they have to be specific. Instead of "I will become a winning poker player" use "I will play in three tournaments a week and read one book a month, because if I play more and more consistently and study I will improve my game."

MEASURABLE: You have to know when you reach a goal. Instead of

saying "I am playing well and am going to move up to the next stake" try "When I double my current poker bankroll from X to Y, I will move from the \$2-\$2 game to the \$2-\$5 game."

ACTION-ORIENTED, ATTAINABLE: Goals cannot be passive. Your goal, and how you state it, should be action-oriented. A goal also has to have a good chance of being attained.

REALISTIC, RELEVANT: You can't set a goal of "not being sucked out on." But you can set a goal of getting your money in with the best hand. Goals have to also become realistic and relevant to what you are trying to accomplish.

TIMELY: There is always a time factor. Can the goal be accomplished in the time allotted and does the timing make sense?

SMART: Goal-setting allows greater achievement and eventually peak performance.

A well-stated goal can't be dependent on external variables. "I will flop only sets, straights and flushes" is an absurd goal. "When I flop a set, a straight or a flush I will maximize my return," is a much better stated goal.

Goals should be difficult, yet realistic, and have to become real to you, not just pie in the sky. You can make goals real by writing them down or telling someone else. I worked with a person who kept a picture of the World Series of Poker on his bathroom mirror. His goal was to play in a WSOP satellite and finish in the money. He looked at this picture every day, he told his poker buddies, he didn't hide it and he committed the necessary stake and time to improve so that he accomplished it.

Your goals should have intermediate-term objectives and short-term objectives and each should fit within each other. Your short-term goal, the one for this week, should be a step toward reaching your intermediate-term goal; the one you set for six months from now and fit your long term, the one-year goal.

Each short-term goal should be a steppingstone to the intermediate-term goal and toward the long-term goals. Each intermediate-term goal should be a steppingstone to the long-term goal. Once a short-term goal is reached a new one has to be formulated. This is a constant process, lasting until you reach your dream goal.

Dream goals are long term and way out there. But even with dream goals every shorter-term goal has to fit in. Write down your dream goal, now. Every goal works backward. You should start with a goal that's realistic and accomplishable a year from now, figure out where you have to be in six months, look to see if your three-month objective will get you there and ask yourself, "What did I do today to meet the next objective?"

Remember, each of these short-term goals is a step to next larger goal. The great thing about goals being self-determined is they can be modified. Modification is not failure.

In my opinion you set your long-term goal at least a year out, if not further, and work back. Let's assume you set a decent goal that can be accomplished in a year. Where do you have to be in nine months, six months, three months, one month, this week, today?

If you really want to keep your head in the game, the question to ask yourself daily is: "What have I done today to make my weekly, monthly, six-month, one-year goal or my dream goal?"

— 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 him at editor@anteupmagazine.com

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

FREE INFORMATION IS OUT THERE FOR YOU



JOE NAVARRO

I play a lot of online poker, but rarely get a chance to play live. How can I focus my skill at reading tells while away from the table?

— ZORAG, VIA ANTE UP FORUM

You ask a very good question that a lot of people wonder about. There are two things you can do.

One is watch a lot of poker videos and look for tells that I have talked about in *Read 'em and Reap* or in *What Every Body is Saying*. Let the books serve as a guide to you as to what to look for. Make a list of things to look for in the face, hands, chest, eyes and so

forth and then see if you can spot them. But have something to guide you. Mike Caro's *Book of Poker Tells*, also is excellent and proven.

Secondly, go to a casino and watch a table or two for a couple of hours and see, for free, what tells you can pick up. I was just in Vegas and spent two hours at the Bellagio and two hours at Ceasars studying the table and you know what, at each I picked up new tells. Observation and decoding of tells is a skill, you have to work at it, and it is perishable.

— 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 and he'll answer your questions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

PPA'S VISIT TO TALLAHASSEE 'VERY PRODUCTIVE'

I have just returned from my first visit to Tallahassee, and I am pleased to report I had a very productive and successful visit to your state capital. Along with our Florida lobbyist, Gus Corbella, we met with leaders of the House, Senate and governor's office to ensure your voice and concerns are being heard loud and clear in the halls of Florida power.

My visit focused on educating legislators and staff on our issues and promoting our core mission: making sure all poker players are provided a safe and regulated playing environment, and ensuring your choice of playing location, both live and online, is not limited. As the Florida legislative session nears next spring, we are awaiting the results of a legislatively mandated study that may make recommendations as to how online poker could potentially be regulated by Florida. We remain committed that, if regulation is to take place in Florida, it must ensure competition and not monopolies. Rest assured, the Poker Players Alliance will have a seat at the table during legislative discussions and negotiations, protecting your rights as a player.

I was pleased as we walked the halls of the Capitol and visited with members to hear from them about the emails and letters they have received from our Florida PPA members. You are making a difference, and I encourage you to please remain informed via our updates and our Web site (www.theppa.org) as to how you can continue to contact your state legislators and make your concerns known to them. I also hope you will continue to encourage your poker playing friends to join the PPA. Your active and informed participation is critical to our overall success.

From discussions with the senate president to the house speaker to the governor's office and legislative committee leadership, the PPA has established a strong and powerful presence in Tallahassee. I'll admit, the weather in Tallahassee was very hot. Likewise, I expect our issues to also continue to heat up as the legislative season begins. I will continue to keep you updated on our efforts in your state in the months to come.

Thank you for your participation and support.

John Pappas
Executive director, Poker Players Alliance



VERBAL IS BINDING

Got something to say? Email us at letters@anteupmagazine.com and be sure to give us your name and hometown and we'll print it.

'Ante Up PokerCast' pays off for everyone

I just ordered a year of your magazine. Your power tips on your *Ante Up PokerCast* for a rebuy event came in handy recently as I placed fourth in the Full Tilt afternoon \$1 rebuy. Fourth place paid \$958. I have listened to your show for years and since you helped me out, the least I could do is help you out a little bit. Thank you.

David Epstein
Buffalo, Minn.

Verbal means more than one thing

"Verbal is binding" is familiar to anyone who has played poker. There are two very important conditions that must take place with the verbal bet: The bet must be in turn and it must be understood by all. This is where the dealer comes in.

Players will sometimes make a wager out of turn, for a number of reasons. This often happens when the player in Seat 1 didn't know Seat 10 made a bet or raise. Usually it's because the dealer in the box actually obstructed his view. When stopped in time the action can usually be backed-up with no problem. If an "unclear bet" is made it can create some serious problems on any betting round. I always tell the player in Seat 1 when the action is on him, and how much the bet is: Joe, it's \$60 to call or it's checked to you.

The best advice I can give any dealer is, if the bet is unclear to you, it's probably unclear to others. Stop the next player from acting (as until you're certain the action and amount are correct.

Nick Ciavarella
New York

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THE DOCTOR IS IN!

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



After five years of playing poker in Florida, Mississippi, Las Vegas, Connecticut and occasionally online, Doc has decided to share his skills with Ante Up readers through periodic columns, titled *Head Games*. In addition Doc will be offering support to some of the region's best professionals and amateur players with one-on-one advising sessions and group workshops. Email questions to editor@anteupmagazine.com

LAUREN FAILLA • Founder of High Heels Poker Tour

POKERSTARS LEADS WAY IN RECOGNIZING WOMEN

Many online poker sites offer opportunities to qualify for live tournaments, but I think this may be a first: qualifying for a live ladies-only event that's sponsored by the actual site. PokerStars is running satellite qualifiers through December for an opportunity to play in its inaugural \$1,000 buy-in ladies event during the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure at the Atlantis in January. This event is a great opportunity for the everyday female player to qualify for a \$3,500 package.

PokerStars has taken great initiative to bring about change in the female poker market. The world's largest poker site is dedicating resources all over the world to bring more women to the game. Clearly Stars see this an opportunity to be a pioneer and advocate for women's poker.

Recently, the European Poker Tour, which is owned by Stars, had record-breaking attendance in its ladies event in London. PokerStars also is the first site to sponsor a ladies tour, and I'm happy say it's the High Heels Poker Tour. The HHPT and PokerStars are collaborating to give ladies more recognition and opportunities to get involved in the game.

Stars recognizes that giving back to its players will often "pay it

forward" as was recently seen in the online event to raise money for cancer. After the Borgata Poker Open debacle (when a man won the ladies event two months ago) PokerStars sprung into action. Nicole Rowe, who is fighting cancer, took second in the event, and when Stars heard of the situation it took the initiative to run a special tournament with amazing prizes. Stars dedicated the event to Nicole's fight and other women's battles with cancer.

When companies take the time to realize there are people behind the avatars, it makes you believe we all want to be successful and remembered. I applaud Stars' efforts and encourage more poker businesses to take part in bringing about more change for the love of the game.

Moving forward, the one thing I don't want is people feeling ladies events should only be attached to a charity and that ladies-only events are not serious or important. As a player and business-owner in this market, I can tell you the women who play are very serious about the game, the integrity of the game and growing with the game. It's not about segregating women from men; it's about women sequeing into the mainstream poker market. The women's market will continue to flourish and grow in popularity with companies such as PokerStars advocating for women and the game.

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



LAUREN FAILLA



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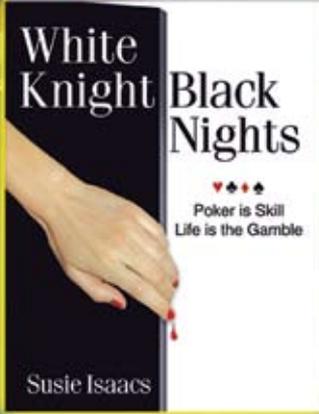
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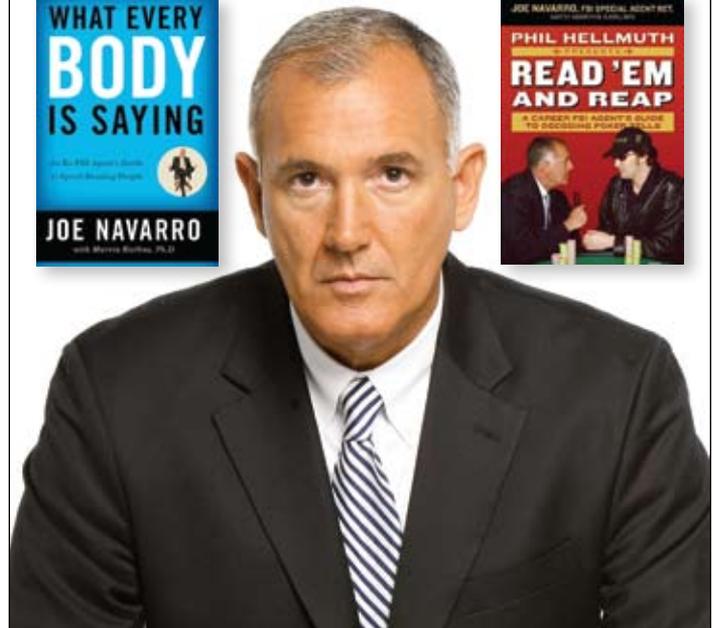
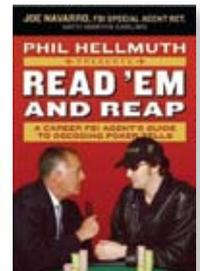
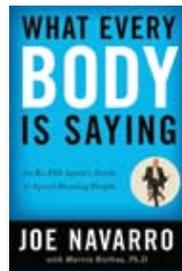
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Q&A

WITH A.J. BENZA

The former straightman for *High Stakes Poker* speaks his mind about why he was fired, and the Brooklyn boy comes out swinging.

How surprised were you that GSN wanted to replace you for the upcoming Season 6? I wasn't terribly surprised because I don't think they were running things properly over the last couple of seasons in taking a long hiatus between Seasons 4-5. ... And I don't know if you know this but "hiatus" in Latin means, "Go f*ck yourself." I don't know if you know that. (laughs) There's a lot of people at the head of that network that are new there, that apparently, according to some deep-throat informers on my blog, don't know what they're doing or how to do it. ... You know, in this day and age of show biz, nothing surprises me, man. There's a lot of people who want to put their fingerprints on the show. ... But if you got the best pizza in Brooklyn for five years running don't go putting pineapple on it.

Given GSN's relatively new stance on wanting to increase female viewers, did the thought putting a woman in your chair ever cross your mind?

I don't think GSN even knows anymore about what they want to do with their viewership. The last I heard Kara Scott is gonna be tableside (*Editor's note: Scott was confirmed days after this interview.*), and Gabe (Kaplan) is gonna do the commenting alone. The first rumor was that (Hobe Sound's) Vanessa Rousso would be in the booth with him, which I don't think that would have made things fairly easy for Gabe. I didn't really have a poker opinion, obviously, being the neophyte that I am, but any poker pro in the booth

with another pro is gonna have opinions, and when you pit those opinions against each other vs. the producer outside the glass who's an expert in poker, it can make for a long, long season. I don't think GSN wants to go the girl route.

... I just think they want to shake it up because the chick that runs GSN, Kelly Goode, maybe she wants a female in there. I mean, she gave Carnie Wilson — and God knows she's been a train wreck for a long time — she gave her a show.

... Nothing against Kara Scott, she knows what she's doing, and she's good at what she does. But I continually don't understand people in

this business that I've been in for 15 years. ... Chicks aren't going to tune in to a poker game because Kara Scott is commenting tableside. ... From what I understand, pretty girls like to see train wrecks when it comes to another girl on TV. Pretty girls don't want to see pretty girls. My wife watches reality TV because the girls on the show are train wrecks, not because they're pretty and classy like Kara Scott is, so I don't get that notion at all.

What does your former co-host have to say about this? Gabe keeps things close to the vest. He still has a job. ... He said, "Don't burn the Verrazano Bridge down. They may bring you back for Season 7." I said I'm not trying to burn a bridge. I wrote a blog (benzaneat.blogspot.com) in which people responded in a very honest and true way. I



As Benza rides off into the poker sunset, what better way than behind the wheel of his baby, a 1964 Fleetwood Caddy.



Continued from previous page

didn't know there'd be so much vitriol. ... Gabe wants to work, but it's gonna be weird because I know that Gabe likes the repartee we do in the booth, whether it's the *Godfather* references or just some silly Brooklyn stuff or whatever it is. We have a connection that the public has learned to love, and now it's him alone. ... It won't be as funny because he won't have a straightman to play off of. And what it comes down to at the end of the day is really just a price cut. The producer of the show, Mori Eskandani, who puts the whole shebang together, he took a major haircut financially speaking in terms of this season. I don't get a ton of money, but I get a decent enough amount that GSN could look at it and say "Hey, you know, maybe we get rid of this guy's salary and we just go with Gabe." So I think it just came down to money.

When you tried to appeal to their sense of fatherhood and your responsibilities to your children, what was their reaction to that plea?

I said to those guys "Let's talk man-to-man and father-to-father," and they said absolutely. Without putting my financial situation on the table, I said things aren't well here. ... I said this is my main job; let's talk as fathers. They said, "Great, let's do that." And when you say that to a man you kinda think he's gonna come back and really be honest with you and take things for what they are. But when the news got back to me that they passed, that they weren't going to go with me, it didn't come from them. They called the manager and the manager called me. Very few Hollywood people do it man-to-man. I went to them as a man, but they don't come back to me as a man. They come back to me from the back door so my manager can give me the bad news.

A couple of years ago GSN threatened to pull the plug on HSP, but ultimately it didn't because of the outrage of the fans. You've had a huge outpouring of support on your blog. Is this a case where the fans could save your job again, or has it gone too far?

I don't know. ... Maybe I shouldn't have said they could go f*ck themselves if I still have a chance to get a job. I really don't think so. I think these people think they're so big that a few hundred people who sign a petition or write on a blog, as much sense as those things make in life ... Let's remember, too, a No. 1 show on GSN is not 12 million people. ... it's about 300,000 people. So if 1,000 people or 2,000 peo-

ple have something shitty to say about the move, it's gonna affect their show's ratings, it's gonna affect their advertising, and if PokerStars.net decides we don't need this shit anymore then the show is done. That's the only commercial that supports the show. At this point I don't consider them reconsidering. I don't consider there being a Season 7. ... This is a big Nagasaki bomb. I'm gone, the show's changed radically, and every one of (GSN's) executives will be gone in the next three or four months because no one really cares what happens to this show. It's like leaving a baby at the church steps and driving away.

What are you going to miss most about doing HSP?

We had a lot of fun. ... me, Gabe and Mori, and guy named Phil Smith, who was in the booth with us producing. We had a lot of inside jokes, and after five seasons you get to know each other's families and stories. We'd always have lunch and dinners together. ... And I'm gonna miss guys like Sammy Farha. ... It was a world that I never thought I'd be involved in, and the first season I was petrified I was involved in it 'cause I didn't know much about it. And I got to learn about it.

I love gambling. I can identify with people who love to gamble. Hosting a show like that gave me a little bit of a fix, a gambling fix. Maybe I'll try hookers now. (laughs) No, I'm kidding, that's a joke. I'll miss Gabe because when I heard I was working with Gabe Kaplan, I said you know, in one year I worked with Sylvester Stallone in *Rocky Balboa* and Gabe Kaplan in *High Stakes Poker* and I don't think there were two bigger stars in the '70s as far as movies and television. So this was my childhood coming right back up my spine.

But, mostly, I gotta be honest, I'm gonna miss the money. They did pay me well. For a network that's not known to pay well, I was paid well. ... What this has done to me is wake up the sleeping giant. Always I've been a writer at heart. ... Once I started to make TV money I got lazy with writing, 'cause TV money is easy to make and it's greater. My writing muscle almost died. I'm resuscitating it now. ... It could be the best thing that ever happened to me. I'm not gonna get any thinner, I'm not gonna get any better looking, not gonna grow any more hair. I'm not gonna be Tom Bergerson five years from now. (laughs) My best bet is to sit behind a keyboard ... so this could all be a blessing in disguise, and for that I'd kiss all those people on the lips if that happens that way.



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