

ANTE UP

YOUR POKER MAGAZINE™

FEBRUARY 2010 | anteupmagazine.com



FLORIDA

GIMBEL WINS PCA, \$2.2M

KENTUCKY

LORD OF THE RINGS

VIRGINIA

WSOPC DOMINATION

WEST VIRGINIA

MOUNTAINEER'S WINTER OPEN

LOUISIANA

TRISH MARKS

SINGLE MOM DEFENDS
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- General buy-in info
- Tournament entries

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- Basic Etiquette
- Acting in turn
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*We reserve the right to cancel this tournament prior to the start of the first event.

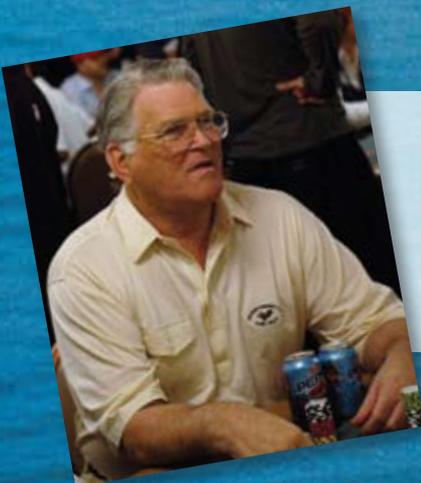




ANTE UP PO

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Cruisers can enter ONE of the Ante Up Poker Tour satellites for FREE!

THURSDAY

5 p.m.: Open-bar welcome aboard cocktail party!
7:30 p.m.-3:30 a.m.: Room open for cash games/SNGs
1:15 a.m.: \$30 Blue Shark Optics turbo tournament
(Pair of Blue Shark Optics added to the prize pool!)

FRIDAY

9 a.m.-3:30 a.m.: Room open for cash games/SNGs
9 a.m.: Free entry satellite for Ante Up Poker Tour event
11 a.m.: \$199 T.J. Cloutier instructional camp
Get great tips from a World Series legend!
Registration limited to 50 players.
Book your seat when you book your cruise!
7:30 p.m.: \$100 T.J. Cloutier Team Tournament
(One camp attendee will be chosen to be T.J.'s teammate!)
1:15 a.m.: \$30 The Poker Depot turbo tournament
(Ante Up merchandise added to the prize pool!)

SATURDAY

Enjoy beautiful Cozumel!
7:30 p.m.-3:30 a.m.: Room open for cash games/SNGs
1:15 a.m.: \$30 Desjgn turbo tournament
(Decks of Desjgn playing cards added to the prize pool!)

SUNDAY

9 a.m.-3:30 a.m.: Room open for cash games/SNGs
9 a.m.: Free entry satellite for Ante Up Poker Tour event
1 p.m.: \$350 DeepStacks University Ante Up Poker Tour event
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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



HELLO, SOUTH, HERE WE COME!

When Dr. Jonas Salk discovered the vaccination for polio he didn't just keep it for himself, right? Where would we be today if, say, the Wright Brothers didn't reveal their flying secrets? These are great moments in history from which the American public benefited greatly.

This is why *Ante Up Magazine* is expanding. ... OK, so it's not on the same level of importance as a cure for a deadly disease or taking to the skies for the first time, but why not let other poker players enjoy the experience of seeing themselves (and their friends and poker rooms) in a magazine? Shouldn't there be a publication for other states that delivers local news and promotions from their casinos and cardrooms as well?

Our Florida readers may have noticed a subtle change on our January cover. *Ante Up, Florida's Poker Magazine*, evolved into *Ante Up, YOUR Poker Magazine*. Never has one little word meant so much. With that change we've broadened our reach from Florida to the entire southeastern United States. For our new readers in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, we would like to welcome you to the Ante Up Nation.

This move accomplishes many things all at once. Our Florida readers and advertisers will enjoy the same amount of local news and dedication while experiencing a much larger footprint and reaping the benefits of a bigger audience and broader news scope.

And our new readers will learn more about their terrific poker rooms and events while also being introduced to the fantastic Florida poker scene. Combined, we hope to give you everything you're looking for in a poker magazine, from coverage of your hometown

tournaments and promotions, to strategy, thought-provoking columns and up-to-date information about your surrounding poker destinations.

It took us 18 months to build our Florida poker magazine into a reliable, news-packed periodical, and we're dedicated to making YOUR Poker Magazine just as important. The issues may seem to be heavily weighed by Florida news and ads at first, but that's only because we had nearly two years to cultivate those relationships and business partners.

Now we hope to do the same with you and your poker friends. We'd like to invite poker room managers across The South to embrace our publication just like our great Florida managers have, and we will diligently work with them to give you the best comprehensive coverage possible. And we'd like your help, too. If you know of any poker happenings, free poker leagues, tournaments or results, please let us know. You can email us at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

And what better way to kick off our first expanded edition than with a cover story about a Louisiana woman who defended her Bayou Poker Challenge Ladies Championship title at Harrah's New Orleans? Trish Marks, who hails from Covington, La., and is a member of the High Heels Poker Tour, won the event for the second straight year despite the increased field and buy-in. You can read about Marks and the rest of the BPC coverage on Pages 40-45.

We hope our new Southern readers enjoy *Ante Up* as much as our loyal Florida readers, and thank you for letting us into your poker lives.

We'll see you at the tables.

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

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.

FORUM

Crave some immediate feedback? Log on to anteupmagazine.com/forum to talk poker.

BACK ISSUES

If you missed a copy of Ante Up, you can go to anteupmagazine.com and download it for free.

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POKERCAST

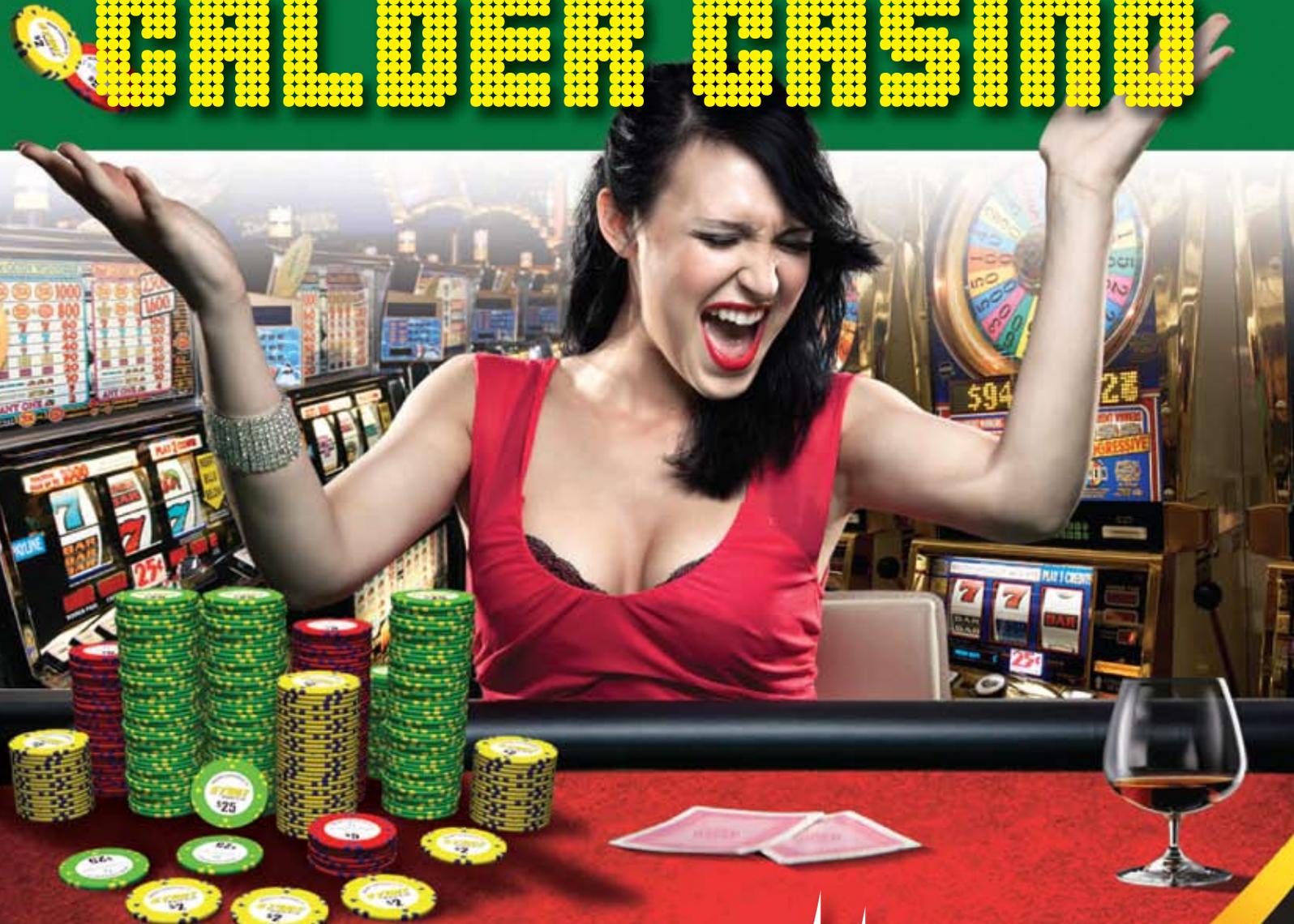
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NEWS



FLORIDA

Seminole Casinos awarded \$365,407 Jan. 3 at Seminole Casino Hollywood in their Mega Bad Beat Jackpot. Roderick Jones' straight flush was beaten by Harvey Langer's higher straight flush. Jones, right, won \$182,705 and Langer got \$109,622. Six players at the table won more than \$10K from the jackpot. Two days later the jackpot was hit again for \$147,359. Complete Florida coverage begins on Page 14.

VIRGINIA

The WSOP circuit event landed in Atlantic City, but it was the invasion of the Virginia players that made the big news as three players from the state captured WSOPC rings. 30.

KENTUCKY

Will Mark Smith get a ring for his thumb? The Georgetown resident known as Pegasus won his record fourth World Series of Poker circuit ring during the stop at Atlantic City. He joins Men "The Master" Nguyen as the only players with four. 32.



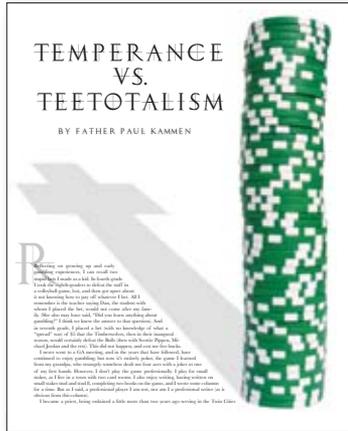
AROUND THE WORLD At 19, Harrison Gimbel of Jupiter, Fla., became the youngest PokerStars Caribbean Adventure Main Event winner. The former University of Alabama student won \$2.2 million. 37

COVER STORY



The defender

Louisiana's Trish Marks returns to the Bayou Poker Challenge and wins the ladies event for a second straight year. This single mom explains why she's had so much success. 40-45



Gambling and religion

Father Paul Kammen, a published poker author, Catholic priest and fan of the Ante Up PokerCast, says you won't go to hell for playing poker, but as with all fun things, don't let it ruin your life. 46-47

ON THE BUTTON

Cards and trucks

Dennis Phillips, the Team PokerStars Pro who finished third in the 2008 World Series of Poker Main Event, chats about life since his monumental run, from throwing out the first pitch at Busch Stadium to becoming friends with Albert Pujols. 68



Also ...

You can hear this entire interview with Dennis on anteupmagazine.com

PERSPECTIVE

Transitions

Making the move from live play to online poker can be difficult, but it's not impossible. 52



Poker politics

Columnist Marc Dunbar says 2010 can be a very productive year for the Southeast. 56

Chop-chop

When did it become so mandatory to chop tournaments once you make the final table? 49



ANTEUP NEWS

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CARDS & BARS TEAM EVENT

DEC. 15, 2009 • TAMPA BAY DOWNS • SILKS POKER ROOM



The Silks Poker Room was looking for something new to do for its tournament players. The local free leagues were looking for a

chance to play in a real poker room. *Ante Up Magazine* was looking for a way to implement its original team tournament concept. Hence, the Cards and Bars team event was born Dec. 15.

In the end a team of Silks Poker Room regulars won the title over a soldout field with alternates.

Mike Chapman won the final match, securing the title for his team that included Danny Lobato, Kim Zobrist and Micky Mazzatta. The entire team won an Ante Up Poker Cruise package (March 25-29) and Chapman claimed the trophy sponsored by Tampa Bay Downs.

The \$30 buy-in (per person) event was open to all teams, but was marketed heavily to bars and bar leagues, who brought out a number of teams. Treasure Chest Poker had two teams reach the final four. Other leagues who sponsored teams included Nutz Poker League, Players Choice Poker Tour and Club Poker League.

The Poker Players Alliance also fielded a team, led by new Florida director Martin Shapiro.

Swag bounties were put on the heads of Team Ante Up members, which included publishers Chris Cosenza and Scott Long and columnists Dr. Frank Toscano and John Lanier. Cosenza made it to the heads-up round of 16, while Long was the first player eliminated from the tournament.

And now Tampa Bay Downs is making the Ante Up Team Tournament a monthly event, hosting it the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Buy-in is \$60 per player (\$240 per team) for 2,000 units. An optional \$10 dealer add-on gets players 2,000 more units. The event is capped at 20 teams.

Teams consist of four players, with each player assigned to a different shootout table. The top two players from each shootout move on to a 16-player heads-up bracket. The winners of the first heads-up round are guaranteed money for their entire team, and more than one team member can cash.



Mike Chapman shows his winning cards as Danny Lobato, Micky Mazzatta and Kim Zobrist will join him on the Ante Up cruise.



The team event was sold out and alternates were added later.



Team PPA was on hand.

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FLORIDA MILLION COMING

MILLION-DOLLAR PRIZE POOL OFFERED IN 6-POKER-ROOM TOURNAMENT

Six Florida poker rooms have teamed to host a multiday tournament that will feature the largest poker prize pool in Florida history: a guaranteed \$500,000 that could reach \$1,000,000.

“The Florida Million” tournament allows players to begin play in any of the six participating rooms during March, with the top remaining players from each finishing the tournament at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg on April 10-11. The ground-breaking format is unlike anything ever attempted in Florida.



“This is taking Florida tournaments to a new level,” said Derby Lane’s Jeff Gamber, director of poker operations. “Derby Lane is proud to be a part of this unprecedented event with the support of some of the best cardrooms. This will be a marquee event for local players to be proud to participate in.”

Mardi Gras Casino in Hallandale Beach, Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room, Naples-Ft. Myers Greyhound Track in Bonita Springs, Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach and Orange Park Kennel Club in the Jacksonville area are the other rooms participating.

“We are excited for the opportunity to work with the other great cardrooms in the state, all the while providing the great players of Florida an opportunity to show their skills and compete for the largest prize pool in Florida history,” said Noah Carbone, director of poker operations at Palm Beach Kennel Club.

Each room will offer multiple “Day Ones” of the \$500+\$50 buy-in tournament. Each Day One must have at least 80 players, but no more than 150. Play will continue until the top 10 percent of the field remains, and those players will advance to the championship in April with their existing stacks. Players who do not make the top 10 percent are permitted to enter additional Day Ones until they qualify.

“Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room is pleased to be a part of this exciting event,” director of poker operations Mark Hayes



Derby Lane will host the Florida Million final April 10-11.

said. “This unique format allows players multiple opportunities to play for the richest tournament prize in Florida.”

Players start with 15,000 units and levels are 40 minutes, and the tournament is conducted under TDA rules. Day One events will be held throughout March. View the updated schedule at fmillion.com. The Web site also will keep an up-to-date tally of entrants, prize pool and average chip stack.

“Jacksonville Greyhound Racing and Poker is excited to be working with some of the best poker rooms on the Florida Million Poker Tournament,” said Josh Zuckerman, director of poker operations for Orange Park Kennel Club and Jacksonville Greyhound Racing and Poker. “The Florida Million Poker Tournament will be a platform that showcases some of the East Coast’s greatest tournament poker players playing for the largest prize pool to date and the most unique format.”

The Florida Million plans two events a year, with the championship round rotating among the six participating rooms.

DERBY LANE

Ante Up’s Scott Long speaks to the class about joining a poker game in progress.



Poker 101 course a hit, more planned this month

On Jan. 6, the folks at Derby Lane and Ante Up Publishing teamed to present Poker 101, a beginner’s course about the ins and outs of playing in a public cardroom for the first time.

About 50 students eager to learn showed up at the St. Petersburg poker room for some instruction, strategy and refreshments.

“A student who used to play poker five years ago said this was a perfect refresher course for him,” Ante Up’s Chris Cosenza said. “If someone who used to play poker says our course was exactly what he needed then I know we’re doing it right.”

The next event will be at Derby Lane on Feb. 18, with a Ladies Only class on Feb. 25. And remember, it’s totally free. For more details please see the ad on Page 6.



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POMPAÑO PARK

TAMPA BAY DOWNS



The High Heels Poker Tour returned to the Silks Poker Room on Dec. 6 and Alice Horton took first place, winning \$1,225 and a beautiful trophy.

Results

1. Alice Horton, Palm Harbor	\$1,225
2. Dawn Fletcher, Bradenton	\$730
3. Jean Miccio, St. Petersburg	\$560
4. Bonnie Savajian, Holiday	\$285

PLAYERS CHOICE POKER TOUR



Eric Custred and Rutven Laclair, pictured on the left, chopped the October monthly, which drew 132 players at Imperial Swan Hotel in Lakeland. Each received \$350. Here are the rest of the top 10: Robbie Lang, \$75; Steve Anderson, \$50; Maverick Sokolowski, \$50; Billy Norris, \$25; Dave Warner, \$25; Cyrus Klein Sr., \$25; Vern Tattum, \$25 and Beverly Nist, \$25.

- Scott Servinghaus, right, won the dealers tournament at Bedrock Café in Lakeland, taking home \$250 and bragging rights. Tom Cork finished second for \$150 and Brad Shaw was third (\$100).

NUTZ POKER LEAGUE



League owner Rick Danford, left, congratulates Billy Daisey, who won the first Nutz Poker League tournament, dubbed the Kickoff Extravaganza at Buffalo Wild Wings in Oldsmar in November. *Ante Up's* Scott Long was on hand as a "celebrity" bounty, which went to Vinny Presti.

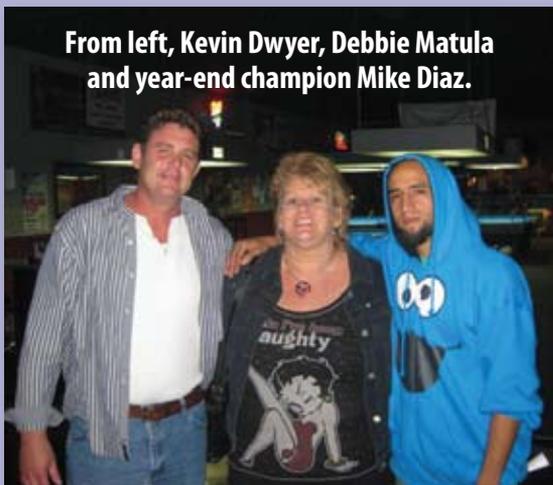
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK



Big checks and big smiles can mean only one thing: Bad Beat Jackpot! Club 52 had two bad beats hit inside two months. Above, Thomas Williams, left, won \$55,747 with Jesse Porter (\$27,873). On the left is John N. (\$54,478) and Reggie B. (\$23,374) posing with their checks.

TREASURE CHEST POKER

From left, Kevin Dwyer, Debbie Matula and year-end champion Mike Diaz.



Mike Diaz took a huge chip lead into the final table and never gave it up as he won the year-end event at Stokers Tampa on Dec. 5.

Instead of taking the \$1,500 seat at the World Series, Diaz chose to use that money for local buy-ins at Tampa area cardrooms. One of Diaz's victims was *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza, whose A-Q fell to Diaz's A-8 when an 8 dropped on the turn.

Debbie Matula finished second (winning a flatscreen TV) and Kevin Dwyer was third, taking home a wooden dart cabinet.

The next WSOP seat event will be in June.

- Tiffany R., at right, battled it out at Wings and Things in Sarasota against 70 competitors and won the monthly tournament on Dec. 12.

She won a trip to Las Vegas, which she said she hopes to take during March Madness.



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February Events:

FEBRUARY 13TH - WSOP™ Satellite Event - 1 p.m.
at St. Johns Greyhound Park - \$150 buy-in

FEBRUARY 21TH - WSOP™ Satellite Event - 1 p.m.
at Orange Park Kennel Club - \$150 buy-in

DAILY - Mini Jaxpot - \$1,000



March Events:

MARCH 7TH - WSOP™ Satellite Event - 1 p.m. at St. Johns Greyhound Park - \$150 buy-in

MARCH 21ST - WSOP™ Satellite Event - 1 p.m. at Orange Park Kennel Club - \$150 buy-in

DAILY - Mini Jaxpot - \$1,000

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CENTRAL FLORIDA NEWS

OCALA POKER & JAI-ALAI

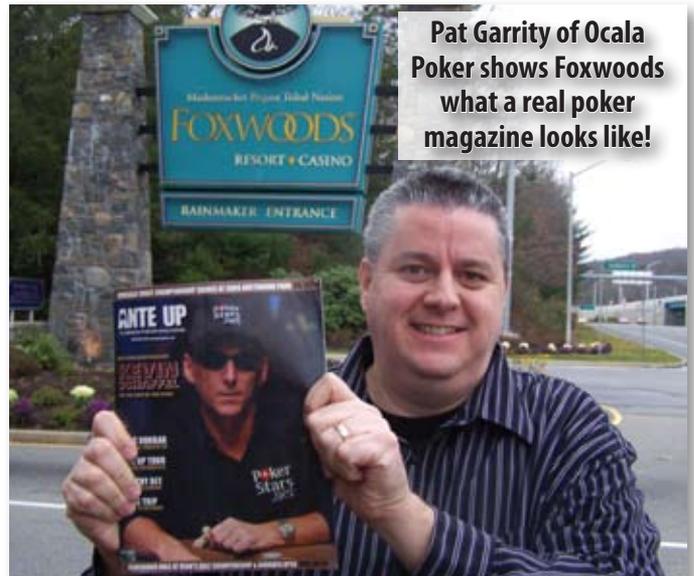
Bruce Strube won a WSOP Main Event seat on Dec. 27.



William Brewington won a WPT/Southern Poker Championship seat on Jan. 2.



Pat Garrity of Ocala Poker shows Foxwoods what a real poker magazine looks like!





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GULFSTREAM PARK



Assistant manager Michael May, right, congratulates Challenge winner Errol Rosen.

ROSEN TAKES SECOND MERCEDES CHALLENGE

Gulfstream Park's poker room concluded its second annual Mercedes-Benz Challenge on Dec. 6.

Errol Rosen was the last man standing in the 50-player freeroll event, claiming first place and a 2009 Mercedes C-Class.

Rosen selected the cash option on the vehicle and earned \$27,500 for his outstanding play.

Albert Eskenazi finished second and pocketed \$2,500.

Third-place finisher Tyrone Gordon received \$1,500, followed by Donald Penning (\$1,000) and Stanley Kent (\$500).

Peggy Penning, a familiar face to the South Florida tournament circuit, was the top female finisher.

Gulfstream Park began its Tournament Challenge Series in September 2008, with the first Mercedes-Benz Challenge.

Players are awarded points for play in daily multitable and sit-n-go tournaments. At the end of the challenge, the top 50 point-earners are invited to participate in a freeroll finale to determine the grand prize winner.

Here are the final results:

1. Errol Rosen	6. Henry Fermin
2. Albert Eskenazi	7. Brian Fitzgerald
3. Tyrone Gordon	8. Josh Garcia
4. Donald Penning	9. Claudio Benedetti
5. Stanley Kent	10. Charlegmane Benjamin

DANIA JAI-ALAI



Le Batard event goes to Cheney

More than 225 players flocked to the poker room for the Le Batard 790 The Ticket tournament, which ended in a 13-player chop. As the overwhelming chip-leader, Robert Cheney, left, of Plantation took home \$928 and the winner's trophy.

BAD BEAT: Mike Babin, a Dania Beach resident, had his quad fours beaten by Emilio Mendillo's four jacks on Dec. 16 for the \$16,921 stud bad-beat jackpot. Babin received \$8,465 while Mendillo took home \$5,076 for having the winning hand. The other players at the table each received \$3,380. Babin is pictured on the far right and Mendillo is in the red shirt.

NO LIMIT PUB POKER TOUR



Brenden Coleman defeated Kathy Reich of Boynton Beach when action got to heads-up to take the



monthly tournament Dec. 20 at Panama Hatties/Rum Bar in Palm Beach Gardens.

Brenden, who lives in Jupiter and was representing J.J. Muggs Stadium Grill, has won two major No

Limit Pub Poker Tour events, making him only the third player in league history to accomplish that feat.

Reich represented Brickhouse Billiards in Boynton Beach.

Coleman received a four-day cruise on the Carnival *Imagination* and a buy-in for the poker tournament on board.

Here are the final results:

Name	Hometown
1. Brenden Coleman	Jupiter
2. Kathy Reich	Boynton Beach
3. Pavel Z.	West Palm Beach
4. Russell Greene	Palm Beach Gardens
5. Chris Widmann	Palm Beach Gardens
6. Grace Delotto	Jupiter
7. Chuck Glover	Boca Raton
8. Jillian Brady	Jupiter
9. Charlie Glover	Boca Raton

MARDI GRAS CASINO



Wil Herrera, left, congratulates Earl Bernard of Miramar, who won a Harley-Davidson XL833C motorcycle in a New Year's Eve drawing in the Big Easy Poker Room.





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When this series kicked off there was a guaranteed \$325K up for grabs, but when it was all over nearly \$475K was paid and almost 2,000 entrants participated. Poker pro Stuart Paterson of Boca Raton grabbed the largest share of the prize pool when he captured the \$1,100 main event, good for \$67K.

MAIN EVENT: STUART PATERSON



EVENT 1: FRANK ROMERO



EVENT 2: LEON KUNKEL



EVENT 3: KELVIN MCCLENDON



EVENT 6: RON LUSTINGMAN



EVENT 7: FARELL ROUTH



EVENT 8: DENNIS GRANT



EVENT 11: ONEIL MCCALLA



NO.	DATE	ENTRIES	WINNER/HOMETOWN	1ST PLACE	PRIZE POOL
1.	12/11	288	Frank Romero/Miami	\$9,361	\$34,560
2.	12/12	154	Leon Kunkel/Hialeah	\$14,322	\$46,200
3.	12/13	156	Kelvin McClendon/Hollywood	\$5,804	\$18,720
4.	12/13	146	N/A	\$2,760	\$8,760
5.	12/14	128	Robert Moody/Long Branch	\$2,670	\$7,680
6.	12/14	151	Ronald Lustingman/Golden Bch.	\$11,700	\$37,750
7.	12/15	191	Farell Routh/Gray City, Tenn.	\$6,648	\$22,920
8.	12/16	186	Dennis Grant/Miramar	\$3,325	\$11,160
9.	12/18	241	Stuart Paterson/Boca Raton	\$66,990	\$241,000
10.	12/20	187	Kenny Despuzeau/Sunrise	\$3,344	\$11,220
11.	12/21	111	Oneil McCalla/Miramar	\$11,550	\$35,000

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Mike May

Tom Nasuti

This inaugural tournament series attracted more than 1,000 players during the week for a combined prize pool of nearly \$185K. Jupiter's Tom Nasuti won back-to-back tournaments (Events 2 and 3) and West Palm Beach's Mike May also won twice, so it's no surprise they tied for "Player of the Series" honors.



Alex Gladunov



Antonio Pinzari

DATE	EVENT	WINNER	PRIZE	ENTRANTS	PRIZE POOL
Jan. 2	\$10K guarantee NLHE	Tracy Steele	\$2,350	253	\$20,240
Jan. 4	6-handed NLHE	Tom Nasuti	\$1,660	107	\$8,560
Jan. 5	NLHE Shootout	Tom Nasuti	\$1,270	63	\$5,040
Jan. 6	\$10K NLHE rebuy	John Haug	\$3,230	150	\$14,360
Jan. 7	H.O.R.S.E.	Mike May	\$1,565	70	\$5,600
Jan. 8	\$20K guarantee NLHE	Bob Zelinka	\$2,575	225	\$37,575
Jan. 9	\$50K guarantee NLHE	Mike May	\$9,398	204	\$91,800



Tracy Steele

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Wed 7 PM: \$65 NL Hold'em Multi Table
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Thu 7 PM: \$65 No Limit Hold'em MTT
Fri 7 PM: \$65 No Limit Hold'em MTT
Sat Noon: \$225 Deep Stack MTT*

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PLEASURE ISLAND POKER



On Dec. 5, Thomas Dickerson faced the toughest field to date as the annual championship at Scullys on the Bayou in Fort Walton Beach brought in the best players over the past year.

In the end he played the 9♦-10♦ perfectly to edge out former champion Scott Lee in heads-up competition.

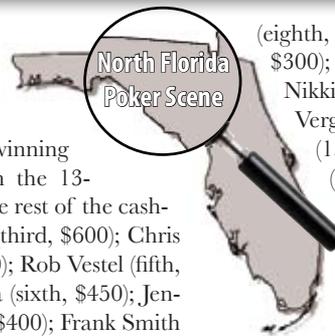
Dickerson received a championship bracelet, card protector and trophy along with his sponsored tournament seat at a Biloxi, Miss., tournament.

JACKSONVILLE POKER ASSOCIATION



Zeke Anderson, left, and winner Jason Fender show their final hands.

Jason Fender outlasted 61 players to win \$2,400 in gift cards as Zeke Anderson finished second, winning \$1,200 on Dec. 19 in the 13-week final. Here are the rest of the cashers: Maurice Johnson (third, \$600); Chris Stimpson (fourth, \$550); Rob Vestel (fifth, \$500); Natalie Valdivia (sixth, \$450); Jennifer Tucker (seventh, \$400); Frank Smith



(eighth, \$350); Jesse Farrell (ninth, \$300); Steve Stephens (10th, \$250); Nikki Lewis (11th, \$200); Nardy Vergel (12th, \$150); Mike Brickley (13th, \$100); Garrett Strahl (14th, \$100); David Johnson (15th, \$100); David Blum (16th, \$100); Robert Poggio (17th, \$50); Brian Booker (18th, \$50) and Karcem Tate (19th, \$50).

TOURNAMENTS TOURNAMENTS TOURNAMENTS

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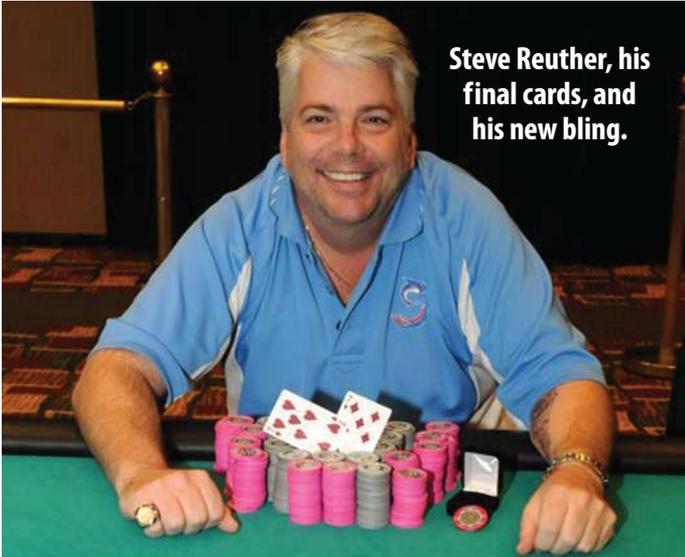
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FLORIDA NEWS

Around the nation



Steve Reuther, his final cards, and his new bling.

SARASOTA'S REUTHER WINS WSOPC RING

Steven Reuther of Sarasota is familiar with tournaments with quick blind structures; after all, he does live in Florida.

That's why he was the perfect candidate to take down the 11th tournament of World Series of Poker circuit event at Harrah's Atlantic City.

The \$230 buy-in event, which attracted 485 entrants, was a one-day turbo with 8,000 starting chips and 25-minute blinds.

At 3 a.m. Reuther and Mike Huckedy played the final hand. After some preflop raising the flop came 5♦-A♦-K♠.

Reuther fired 200K and Huckedy moved all-in. Reuther stood up and said, "If you have a king or an ace, you're brilliant."

After a few minutes in the tank, Reuther said, "I call," and turned over 7♥-7♦. Huckedy revealed 8♦-J♦ for the flush draw.

While it was an outstanding call on Reuther's part, he wasn't far ahead of Huckedy, who had 13 outs with flush and overpair draws.

The turn came 9♠ and the river was an A♠ to give Reuther the win. Huckedy earned \$11,291 while Reuther took home \$20,182 and the WSOPC circuit ring.

WSOPC: ATLANTIC CITY DEC. 4-20

EVENT 1 • \$340 NLHE • 1,056 players
22. Omar Diaz, Coconut Creek, \$1,536
74. Ronald Pugliese, Palm Harbor, \$722

EVENT 2 • \$560 NLHE • 621 players
5. Maurice Hawkins, Ft. Laud., \$21,083
50. Joe Danise, Ft. Laud., \$1,205

EVENT 3 • \$340 NLHE • 567 players
13. Brett Borgersen, W. Palm Beach, \$1,155
28. Nectalier Gonzalez, Davie, \$907

EVENT 4 • \$230 NLHE • 567 players
65. Daniel Deagenio, Punta Gorda, \$459

EVENT 5 • \$560 NLHE • 385 players
3. Michael Beasley, Hollywood, \$18,673
18. Henry Cardillo, Bradenton, \$1,861

EVENT 6 • \$230 NLHE • 777 players
18. Mark Rose, Orlando, \$904
21. Ray Palmer, Hillsboro Beach, \$829
55. Robert Mascarelli, Spring Hill, \$528

EVENT 8 • \$1,080 NLHE • 354 players
14. Albert Tiseo, Port Charlotte, \$3,605
22. Amelio Amato, Sarasota, \$2,747

EVENT 9 • \$230 Ladies • 169 players
5. Brenda Lyons, Orlando, \$3,443

EVENT 11 • \$230 NLHE • 485 players
1. Steve Reuther, Sarasota, \$20,182
6. Jahson Spence, Orlando, \$5,645
19. Anne Amato, Sarasota, \$612
20. Rodriguez Tranys, Orlando, \$612
24. Robert Piekart, Naples, \$612
27. Jeffrey Finlayson, Boca Raton, \$612

EVENT 13 • \$230 NLHE • 521 players
20. Matt Anderson, Winter Springs, \$606
25. Victor Burns, Lehigh Acres, \$606
30. Michael Falanga, Fort Myers, \$556

EVENT 14 • \$340 NLHE • 269 players
7. Sean Bailey, St. Augustine, \$3,914
26. Tim Morgan, Pompano Beach, \$822

EVENT 15 • \$2K NLHE • 112 players
2. Manny Minaya, Tampa, \$30,419
8. Robert Kalteux, Seminole, \$8,691
14. Anthony Velasquez, Miami, \$4,563

EVENT 16 • \$340 NLHE • 296 players
7. Rohan Singh, Kissimmee, \$4,307

BORGATA \$200K GUARANTEE
\$350 NLHE • Dec. 11-15 • 875 players
4. Konrad Szydelko, Hudson, \$17,718
13. William Beasley, Hollywood, \$2,494
39. Glen Cressman, Boca Raton, \$840
43. Sheldon Gross, Hillsboro Beach, \$840

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WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT



DEC. 4-20, 2009 • HARRAH'S CASINO • ATLANTIC CITY



Dante Magtoto



Lee Childs

VIRGINIANS GRAB 3 TITLES

Ante Up strategy columnist Lee Childs has won his first World Series of Poker Circuit ring, leading two other Virginians in the winner's circle. (Be sure to read his column on Page 50).

Childs of Alexandria won Event 12 (\$1,600 no-limit hold'em) at Harrah's Atlantic City on Dec. 18, taking down \$63,733 and the prized gold ring. He went into heads-up with a 10-1 chip lead over Josh Brikis of Pittsburgh.

"I've been playing online and have been having some pretty good success," said Childs, who first gained notoriety for his seventh-place finish in the 2007 WSOP Main Event. "I've won a Sunday major and am sponsored by Lock Poker, where I play a lot online."

Childs, who writes a monthly strategy column for *Ante Up Magazine* and also provides analysis for the weekly Hand of the Week segment on the *Ante Up PokerCast*, runs his own poker training company, acumen-poker.net, and serves as aWPT Boot Camp instructor.

"A lot of poker players have big egos and think they know it all when there is always more to learn," Childs said. "I'm always trying to learn and I actually learn so much from teaching at the boot camps."

In the series' opening event, a \$340 tournament that drew more than 1,000 players,



Dan Angell

Dante Magtoto of Alexandria defeated fellow Virginian Massoud Nikjouian of Woodbridge heads-up to earn the gold ring and \$61,459. Nikjouian won \$32,205.

Magtoto, who also once played professional pool, described his ascent from playing micro-stakes online to winning his first major tournament.

"I always thought I was a decent player," he said. "I did a lot of reading about poker and played online until I was constantly winning."

After playing his first live game, Magtoto discovered his knack for reading players and eventually stopped playing online, preferring to play at live tables.

"Unfortunately, I haven't had the bankroll to play at the level I want, but this win

will help change that."

A couple of days after Childs' win, Dan Angell, a 22-year old kitchen manager from Charlottesville, defeated 268 players to win Event 14, a \$340 NLHE tournament.

After doing well in cash games in Atlantic City, his father, Wayne, saw Dan's potential and decided to back his son's first major tournament entry.

"This is indescribable," Angell said. "Coming into this tournament, I wanted to just see how good I was and play against some outside competition."

No event listed means no Virginian cashed.

EVENT 1 • \$340 NLHE • 1,056 players

1. Dante Magtoto, Alexandria, \$61,459
2. Massoud Nikjouian, Woodbridge \$32,205
14. Russell Ramsey, Manassas, \$2,766
24. Jack Walton, Arlington, \$1,536
27. Jerome Holman, Danville, \$1,536
45. Albert Winchester, \$891
54. Michael Boscarello, Culpepper, \$799
57. Dereje Fekadu, Alexandria, \$768
73. Jerry Hufton, Virginia Beach, \$722
82. Phillip Rowley, Springfield, \$707
93. Ronald Frank, Radford, \$691

EVENT 2 • \$560 NLHE • 621 players

7. Kambiz Behbani, Fairfax, \$15,059
27. Temperance Hatter, Charlottesville, \$1,807
32. Yacob Gebramariam, Alexandria, \$1,506
42. Norman Booker, Norfolk, \$1,355
61. Joshua Lynch, Alexandria, \$1,054

EVENT 3 • \$340 NLHE • 567 players

5. Steven Wendpetren, Herndon, \$11,550
9. Timothy Crawford, Virginia Beach, \$4,950
19. Robert Brooks, Dale City, \$990
26. Sudhish Suryawansi, Manassas, \$990
30. Philip Sparta, Fairfax, \$907
33. Jerry Hufton, Virginia Beach, \$907
48. Arthur Maddalena, Reston, \$742

EVENT 4 • \$230 NLHE • 567 players

2. Gary Wright, Annandale, \$15,953
6. Anthony Fung, Fairfax, \$8,696
14. Rayshawn Hamilton, Richmond, \$1,265
17. Jose Gonzalez, Woodbridge, \$1,107
55. Batkhan Bagarsaikhan, Arlington, \$474
60. John Regan, Leesburg, \$474
68. Menan Saydam, Arlington, \$459

EVENT 6 • \$230 NLHE

10. Michael Miale, Arlington, \$1,507
42. Heung Yoon, Woodbridge, \$678
64. Levi Cannady Jr., Herndon, \$452

EVENT 7 • \$340 NLHE • 525 players

8. Esteban Rodriguez, Burke, \$6,111
10. Thomas Simancik, South Riding, \$1,528
18. Hao Le, Aldie, \$993
28. James Doucet, Gainesville, \$840
40. William Lebleu, Richmond, \$764
48. David Soble, Alexandria, \$687

EVENT 8 • \$1,080 NLHE • 354 players

26. Kambiz Behbahani, Fairfax Station, \$2,747

EVENT 9 • \$230 NLHE Ladies • 169 players

10. Lisa Edwards, Manassas, \$1,107
15. Patricia Killian, Glen Allen, \$1,033
17. Bonnie Gasser, Richmond, \$885

EVENT 11 • \$230 NLHE • 485 players

3. James Tankersley, Roanoke, \$9,409
43. Thomas Zirble, Stephens City, \$517

EVENT 12 • \$1,600 NLHE • 186 players

1. Lee Childs, Alexandria, \$63,733
10. Jeffrey Baxter, McLean, \$6,089

EVENT 13 • \$230 NLHE • 521 players

24. Matthew Lucas, Vienna, \$606

EVENT 14 • \$340 NLHE • 269 players

1. Dan Angell, Charlottesville, \$18,004
18. Justin Foxworth, Woodbridge, \$900
25. Thomas Draghi, Arlington, \$822
27. Mark Bohn, Vienna, \$822

EVENT 15 • \$2,000 NLHE • 112 players

18. Yacob Gebramariani, Alexandria, \$3,911

EVENT 16 • \$340 NLHE • 296 players

21. David Willmes, Woodbridge, \$904
23. Fatah Tarzi, Arlington, \$904

BORGATA \$200K GUARANTEE: Massoud Nikjouian of Woodbridge, who finished second in a WSOPC event in the same month, captured the Borgata \$200K Guaranteed Triple Play, a \$350 no-limit hold'em event Dec. 11-15, 2009. He bested 874 players to capture \$63,656.

In 19th place, Ziya Rahim of Leesburg earned \$1,181.

Jeffrey Migliaccio (also of Woodbridge) was 50th, winning \$735, followed by Linhkhoune Virath of Nokesville (69th, \$578); Sudhish Suryawansi of Manassas (72nd, \$578); Frank Ficadenti of Springfield (79th, \$525) and Virginia Beach's Robert Gray (80th, \$525).

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KENTUCKY'S SMITH WINS HISTORIC 4TH RING

Considering thoroughbred racer Mark "Pegasus" Smith "never even heard of Texas Hold'em" five years ago, it makes his record accomplishment all the more amazing. Smith tied Men "The Master" Nguyen's record with fourth World Series of Poker circuit championships when he won Event 3 at Harrah's in Atlantic City on Dec. 8, earning \$34,649.

For Smith, a resident of Georgetown, Ky., the circuit events have been nothing short of free-for-all as he has made five final tables at four different circuits in the past year. The 57-year-old public utility owner and thoroughbred racer only began playing poker in 2004.

"A buddy of mine invited me to a home game," he said. "I went over there and had a nice time, though they beat my brains out. But I went back and the more I went, the better I got."

On the final hand, both players went all-in after a flop of 8♥-4♣-3♠. Smith's 8♣-2♠ was dominated by Shaun Gonzalez's 8♣-J♦. But a deuce on the river sent Smith into the WSOP record books.

The only other Kentucky player to cash in A.C. was Versailles' Benjamin Klier, who finished 25th in Event 8, good for \$2,747.

North Carolina

EVENT 1: 25. Brad Rodrigues, Raleigh, \$1,536; 39. John Curcuru, Charlotte, \$891; 51. Darren Critcher, Cary, \$799; 75. James Maloch, Apex, \$722. **EVENT 3:** 37. Michael Brooks, Greensboro, \$825. **EVENT 4:** 36. Joshua Plummer, Salisbury, \$632. **EVENT 5:** 22. Michael Ricci, Charlotte, \$1,494. **EVENT 6:** 32. John Feore Jr., Raleigh, \$574. **EVENT 7:** 6. Edward Sullivan, Durham, \$9,167; 19. Frank Modlin, Jamesville, \$917; 21. Donald Mercer, Sneads Ferry, \$917; 29. Albert Miller, Ahoskie, \$840; 38. Ian Holt, Raleigh, \$764; 39. Michael Kohn, Jamestown, \$764; 44. Quentin Battle, Raleigh, \$764. **EVENT 9, LADIES:** 9. Kathy Kennedy, Efland, \$1,475. **EVENT 11:** 12. Justin Filipowski, Rolesville, \$941; 26. Buckley Andrews, Raleigh, \$612.

South Carolina

EVENT 2: 8. Joe Pitillo, Greenville, \$10,541. **EVENT 5:** 15. David Ebedenbaugh, Prosperity, \$13,071. **EVENT 6:** 36. Eric Slack, Greer, \$754. **EVENT 7:** 43. Charles Tidmarsh, Greenville, \$764. **EVENT 13:** 36. Qui Ho, North Charleston, \$556.

Tennessee

EVENT 4: 31. Ross Rehrig, Franklin, \$632 (also was 72nd in Event 6 for \$452); 51. Jefferson Morrill, Franklin, \$514. **EVENT 5:** 19. Jeff Morrill, Franklin, \$1,494.



Mark Smith just needs a circuit ring for his thumb now!

EVENT 8: 12. Wilbur Futhey, Crossville, \$3,949. **EVENT 11:** 29. Salah Levy, Cookeville, \$565. **EVENT 12:** 12. Allie Prescott, Memphis, \$6,089. Atlantic City has been good to Prescott this year as he also won a \$2,500 pot-limit Omaha title at the United States Poker Championships at the Taj Mahal in November, picking up \$36K.

West Virginia

EVENT 6: 14. Christopher Tipper, Vienna, \$1,131.

GEORGIA



Gil Nowell

Atlanta Poker Club

Gil Nowell recently beat 127 players to become the APC's Fall Grand Champion. Nowell gets a seat in a \$550 WPT or WSOP circuit event in Tunica, Miss., plus a custom silver card protector.

League co-owner Jason Spry said Nowell has come a long way since starting with APC in Season 3. He's been playing poker for about six years and, like many players, says he is a "product of the Moneymaker Effect."

The Grand Championship consists of players who qualified by being in the top 50 in points for the season, top 10 at any venue, won a season venue championship or won a monthly points event.

Now Nowell gets to take his \$550 seat with the big boys in Tunica, Miss.

"I have played a couple of times in a

casino," he said. "Mostly just small buy-in tournaments and a couple of satellites. I know 100 percent that the Atlanta Poker Club has helped me be more comfortable playing for real."

Two cashers at WSOPC in A.C.

Given the distance, it's no surprise Georgia players didn't have a great presence at the World Series of Poker circuit event at Harrah's in Atlantic City. But there were two performances of note.

- In Event 13, a \$230 no-limit-hold'em event that attracted 521 players, Garrett Utt of Atlanta finished runner-up to earn \$11,169. Ashira Lavine, who credited *Ante Up* columnist Joe Navarro for her success, won the event.

- Tracey Taylor was 47th in Event 3. The Smyrna resident pocketed \$742 from an event that drew 567 starters.

AROUND THE SOUTH

KENTUCKY



Kentucky Blue Poker Crew

Brandon Alexander won a trip to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to play for a \$10,000 seat to the World Series of Poker Main Event. He defeated 110 players in the November monthly qualifier at Friends and Co. in Lexington. He will compete against 11 other KBPC winners for the seat. For more information on this poker league go to KentuckyBluePokerCrew.com.

WEST VIRGINIA

Winter Poker Open returns to Mountaineer

The Mountaineer River Poker Room at Mountaineer Casino in Chester is bringing back its Winter Poker Open, which runs Feb. 15-21. There will be 10 events, including an \$1,100 main event that features 40K chips and hour-long blinds.



"We tried this event last year and were quite successful," said Christine Stacy, director of tournaments and special events.

Schedule of events

Event	Date	Time	Buy-in/Entry	Chips/Add on	Blinds
1. NLHE	Feb. 15	7p	\$50+\$10	10K+2K for \$5	20 mins.
2. NLHE	Feb. 16	12:15p	\$50+\$10	10K+2K for \$5	20 mins.
3. Omaha/8	Feb. 16	7:30p	\$100+\$20	8K+2K for \$5	20 mins.
4. NLHE	Feb.17	12:15p	\$100+\$20	10K+2K for \$5	20 mins.
5. NLHE	Feb. 17	7:30p	\$125+\$20	10K+2K for \$5	20 mins.
6. NLHE	Feb. 18	2p	\$500+\$40	10K+5K for \$10	30 mins.
7. M.E. sat.	Feb. 19	12:15p	\$110+\$20	10K+2K for \$5	20 mins.
8. M.E. sat.	Feb. 19	7:30p	\$110+\$20	10K+2K for \$5	20 mins.
9. Main Event	Feb. 20	11a	\$1,000 + \$80	30K+10K for \$20	60 mins.
Main Event Day 2 begins at 11a.					
10. NLHE	Feb. 21	2p.	\$250+\$25	10K+2K for \$5	20 mins.

The poker room is trackside and you can visit mountaineerpoker.com or call 304-387-8458 for more information.

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SOUTH CAROLINA

Rev. Andrew Trapp said he wanted to use the PokerStars.net Million Dollar Challenge to help his church's building fund, and boy did he ever. The Catholic priest won his match against Daniel Negreanu on national TV (Fox) to earn \$100,000, which he promptly donated, making headlines across the country.

He also finished second in the final, which would have earned him \$1 million for his church. The cheddar went to former New York City policeman Mike Kosowski, who was trapped and injured by the collapse of the World Trade Center in 2001. Kosowski is retired on disability.

Trapp's church fund requires \$5.5 million to build a new structure, but stands at around \$4 million. Trapp had to get permission from his bishop to pursue the million dollars and to try to show the American public that priests are normal people.

ARKANSAS

Darryl of Hot Springs (pictured in the center) won Oaklawn Park's Winter Poker Classic. On the left is Jack, also of Hot Springs, who finished second, and Brian of Arkadelphia, who finished third.



Oaklawn opened its seven-table PokerPro poker room, which is separate from the other electronic gambling games in the parlor, in early January.



NEXT MONTH IN ANTE UP!



Mississippi: Beau Rivage

Look for complete coverage of the Southern Poker Championship at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Miss., in *Ante Up's* March issue.

West Virginia: Wheeling Island

The Darwin Moon Poker Challenge ran in January with the 2009 World Series of Poker Main Event runner-up hosting four no-limit hold'em events.

Points were awarded to the top 20 finishers of each event and the leading point-winner got a chance to take on Moon heads-up with \$2,000 on the line. Coverage will be in our March issue.





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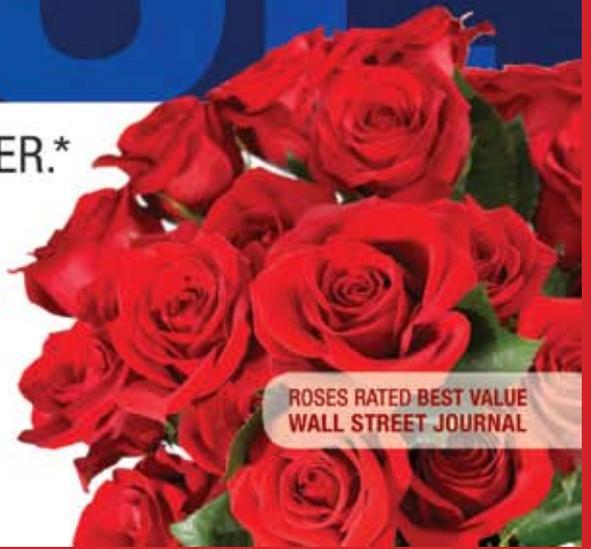
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ROSES RATED BEST VALUE
WALL STREET JOURNAL

JOHN LANIER • A look at Southern online players and beyond



THE SOUTH IS RISING

Since *Ante Up*, *YOUR Poker Magazine* has expanded its overall coverage to include every state south of the Mason-Dixie line (and one north of it), my online column will track the activities of players from Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, Alabama, North and South Carolina, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

This region of the United States has logged a lot of Internet poker play because of the lack of land-based casinos in most of these states.

Here are the No. 1 players, by state, for the end of 2009, according to pocketfives.com.

- ALABAMA:** Shannon "shannonsoor" Shoor
- ARKANSAS:** Scott "stpauli111" Hall
- FLORIDA:** Thayer "Thay3r" Rasmussen
- GEORGIA:** Mer "peachymer" Brit
- KENTUCKY:** Bryan "Squirrely1" Sapp
- LOUISIANA:** Smith "nevertilt22" Collins
- MISSISSIPPI:** Willy "1hitwonderer"
- N. CAROLINA:** Anthony "holdplz" Spinella
- S. CAROLINA:** Jeremy "daisyxoxo" Fitzpatrick
- TENNESSEE:** Jeremiah "Believer82" Vinsant
- VIRGINIA:** Bjorn "kleath" Kleathersson
- WEST VIRGINIA:** Chris "herdgolf86" Tipper

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Play in any of the daily freerolls until Feb. 12 for your shot at advancing to one of the weekly finals.

Make it through there and you'll be playing for a seat in the grand final, where you can win the Las Vegas trip. The prize package includes flights from any major U.S. airport, five-nights accommodation, a day with Cada, \$1,000 spending money and a seat at a live PokerStars event.

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 RETURNS FOR SEASON V

The fifth season of the Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (AIPS) is poised to be the best yet, with a record 25 events!

Ante Up's monthly online series, proudly hosted on PokerStars, lets Ante Up fans from around the world test their poker skills against each other in a wide variety of poker disciplines.

Each month features two events — one on a Wednesday night and one on a Saturday afternoon — with buy-ins of just \$5.50. In addition to the regular prize pool, event winners earn a custom plastic banana trophy, their

photo in *Ante Up Magazine* and points toward Ante Up's Online Player of the Year race, the winner of which gets a special championship trophy and a featured interview on the *Ante Up PokerCast*.



New this year is a "Tournament of Champions" main event, open only to the winners of the 24 events. The 8-Game Mixed event features a \$500 winner-take-all prize from PokerStars.

Finally, PokerStars awards 10 free seats in a freeroll one week before each event. Password for all events is **anteup2010**.

What is AIPS?

The Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (a.k.a. AIPS) is our PokerCast's fan tournament series on PokerStars.com. Square off against the Ante Up Nation, including *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!



AIPS V SCHEDULE

Buy-ins for events are \$5.50



FEB. 10, 9 p.m.: Stud
FEB. 27, Noon: NLHE
MARCH 10, 9 p.m.: NLHE
MARCH 27, Noon: PLO
APRIL 7, 9 p.m.: Badugi
APRIL 24, Noon: NLHE 6-Max
MAY 12, 9 p.m.: NLHE
MAY 29, Noon: Razz
JUNE 9, 9 p.m.: Limit Hold'em

JUNE 26, Noon: NLHE
JULY 14, 9 p.m.: Rebuy NLHE
JULY 31, Noon: 2-7 Triple Draw
AUG. 11, 9 p.m.: Stud/8
AUG. 28, Noon: NLHE
SEPT. 8, 9 p.m.: NLHE
SEPT. 25, Noon: PLO/8
OCT. 13, 9 p.m.: PL 5-Card Draw
OCT. 30, Noon: NLHE

NOV. 10, 9 p.m.: NLHE
NOV. 27, Noon: HORSE
DEC. 8, 9 p.m.: HOSE
DEC. 18, Noon: NL Heads-Up
JAN. 12, 9 p.m.: NLHE
JAN. 29, Noon: 8-Game Mixed
TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
FEB. 5, Noon: 8-Game Mixed
Only banana winners can play.

anteupmagazine.com/where-to-play/aips/

FLORIDA'S GIMBEL, 19, WINS PCA, \$2.2 MILLION



Harrison Gimbel shows the pocket 10s that won him all the booty.

When Harrison Gimbel of Jupiter, Fla., captured the 2009 Florida State Championship at the Isle Casino at Pompano Park, you had a feeling big things were on the horizon for this up-and-comer.

But could he ever imagine becoming the youngest PokerStars.net Caribbean Adventure champion in history? The 19-year-old swept through a field of more than 1,500 players on Jan. 11 to win the main event title and \$2.2 million.

Gimbel, a.k.a. gibler321 online, was one of the bigger stacks at the final table after an early double-up. Fellow Floridian Benjamin Zamani of Boca Raton tried to double through Gimbel with his A♥-10♦ vs. Gimbel's 8♣-8♥, but an 8♠ in the window sealed Zamani's fate, and he pocketed \$1 million for finishing fourth.



Gimbel, a former Alabama student, eventually went heads-up for the title with Ty Reiman, who held a 28 million to 17 million chip advantage. The match took 45 hands, with the key hand involving two pocket pairs.

After some pre-flop raising Gimbel, holding 10♥-10♣, called Reiman's all-in on a flop of 10♦-6♦-2♥. Reiman showed 8♦-8♣ and actually turned a set, but the river was a blank and Gimbel was the champ.

That left Gimbel as champion with every chip stacked in front of him.

In one of the undercard events, Jordan Brown of the Jacksonville area finished seventh in the \$1,100 tournament. Brown, who plays regularly at St. Johns Greyhound Park and Orange Park, won \$12,200.





Hi! I'm Angie!
I have been unanimously voted your "Go to Girl" for Club 52. We had some great suggestions in January so we have decided to give away another \$100 for the best suggestion in February. Email me your suggestion to angie@mgpark.com. I will pick the best one at the end of the month, and if it's yours, you will receive \$100!



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Gimbel and Zamani photos courtesy of PokerStars; Neil Stoddart; Brown photo from Josh Zuckerman

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BACK **2** BACK ON THE BAYOU

Trish Marks of Covington, La., defends her Ladies Championship in the Bayou Poker Challenge at Harrah's New Orleans. ... But there's more to her than just tearing up the felt in Louisiana.

BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA

As a young girl, Trish Marks grew up with nine siblings in her New Orleans home. Is it any wonder she's so comfortable at a poker table? Only back then, instead of poker chips, she was trying to get more jambalaya from the No. 3 seat at the dinner table.

Today, Marks still lives in Louisiana (she moved to the Northshore in Covington about 25 years ago) and she has no plans to leave.

"I love south Louisiana and the culture," she said. "I plan on calling it home for a long time."

That's good news for Louisiana poker, but bad news for Louisiana poker players. Marks has a remarkable track record in tournament poker. Through five live events she's notched three final tables and two victories. Those wins came courtesy of the Bayou Poker Challenge at Harrah's New Orleans, capturing the ladies event in 2008 and again in 2009. With so much success it would seem Marks should be more surprised when she *doesn't* win a tournament.

"I don't think that I am really surprised," said Marks, who mixes it up at the \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em cash tables occasionally. "I play because I enjoy it. I just continue to play, and winning is just a bonus. It's great to see some of the same players."

Once you learn her schedule, you wonder how she managed to play any tournaments at all.

"I enjoy spending time with my family and friends," said the single mother of two. "I am one of 10 children so I always have something going on with my family. I love to host parties and help friends with decorating. I play on a mixed league baseball team on the Northshore. I play third base and have no plans of giving it up any time soon."

And when she's not knocking down grounders at the hot corner or trouncing her family in Jenga tournaments, she's busy working as an accomplished seamstress and decorator in the custom drapery department at JCPenney in New Orleans.

This explains why she hadn't played a hand of poker in three months before entering December's \$340 ladies tournament, which was a High Heels Poker Tour event.

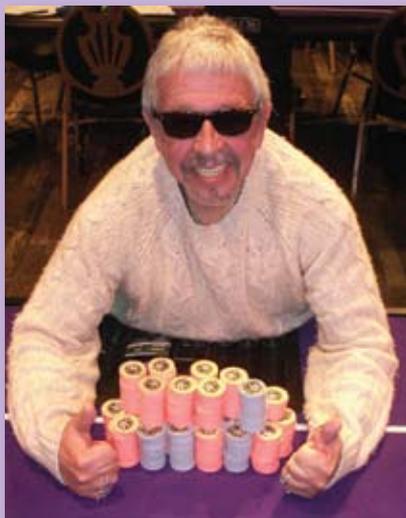
"Being a single mom, and having a full-time job and a large family, keeps me pretty busy," said Marks, who learned how to play poker nearly 20 years ago with some friends during a snowstorm in Big Sky Montana. "(Capturing the tournament) was really fun, especially to win in my home city and have lots of people I know from the poker room watching me."

At the final table, with her friends around her, the action reached four-handed, and that's when the key moment in the tournament



Continued on Page 45

EVENT 1: \$230 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM



Prats captures opening event

Santiago Prats, the 59-year-old Mexico City native and Mandeville, La., resident emerged from poker obscurity to win the first event of the Bayou Poker Challenge on Dec. 9.

Prats, a regular at the Harrah's New Orleans poker room cash games, overcame a field of 212 players and collected an official payout of \$9,973.

Late in the tournament, the top three finishers (Prats, Shane Lewis and Justin Jones) agreed to a deal, with Prats taking the top prize.

The tournament was played over two days and took about 12 hours to play down to the final table, where Prats had about an average-sized stack. It took him about three hours to earn his first major tournament victory.

ENTRIES: 212 • **PRIZE POOL:** \$41,120

1. Santiago Prats, Mandeville, La., \$9,973
2. Shane Lewis, Baton Rouge, \$6,169
3. Justin "JJ" Jones, Rockdale, Texas, \$3,907
4. Sid Webb, Baton Rouge, \$3,187
5. John Sutton, Destin, Fla., \$2,570
6. Mario Estrada, Laredo, Texas, \$2,056
7. Jesus Cabrera, Atlanta, \$1,645
8. Bruce Little, Metairie, La., \$1,336
9. Kenny Milam, La Place, La., \$1,028
10. Blake Barousse, Lafayette, La., \$719
11. Lester Bourque, Port Barre, La., \$719
12. "Monkey" Souther, Biloxi, Miss., \$719
13. Steven Irwin, Gonzales, Texas, \$617
14. David Volion, Lafitte, La., \$617
15. Joseph Erwin, New Orleans, \$617
16. Douglas Gambel, New Orleans, \$514
17. Do Shin Choung, Baton Rouge, \$514
18. James Eubank, Texas, \$514
19. William Flippen, Madisonville, La., \$422
20. Timothy Martin, Los Angeles, \$422
21. Jesse Goirl, New Orleans, \$422
22. Khol Nguyen, New Orleans, \$422
23. Craig Gullung, Marrero, La., \$422
24. Kathleen Taaffe, River Ridge, La., \$422
25. Louis Irby, Florence, La., \$422
26. Michael Parks, New Orleans, \$422
27. Joshua Meleroy, Mississippi, \$422

EVENT 2: \$340 SIX-HANDED NLHE



6-handed suits Jafari just fine

Ali Jafari, a 26-year-old real estate investor from Houston, had knocked on the door of victory many times before, only this time victory answered.

Jafari, who plays poker seriously for part-time income, has had numerous tournament cashes in the past, but this marked his first official victory in a major tournament.

Jafari officially was paid \$11,274, though, like the players in the first tournament, he agreed to a deal when the final table became three-handed.

The tournament's top 12 finishers (final two tables) each collected prize money.

One of those who cashed was William "Monkey" Souther of Biloxi, Miss., who finished eighth to capture his second cash in as many events at the Bayou Poker Challenge, the only player to do that.

As for Jafari, this was his 15th time cashing in a major tournament and marked his seventh final-table appearance. His impressive finishes in 2009 included cashes at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas and the WSOP circuit event at Harrah's New Orleans.

Lip Nguyen, from Baton Rouge by way of Vietnam, was runner-up, though he had the chip lead at one point at the final table.

ENTRIES: 123 • **PRIZE POOL:** \$35,788

1. Ali Jafari, Houston, \$11,274
2. Lip Nguyen, Baton Rouge, \$6,979
3. Thomas "Bo" Gray, New Orleans, \$4,474
4. Jess Brooks, Pasadena, Texas, \$3,042
5. John Cofflin, Ft. Pierce, Fla., \$2,058
6. Michael Hallen, Houston, \$1,521
7. Shake It Bust, New Orleans, \$1,163
8. William "Monkey" Souther, Biloxi, Miss., \$1,163
9. Daniel Pierre, Marrero, La., \$1,073
10. Zdenek Cicala, Destin, Fla., \$1,073
11. Christopher Dupuy, Baton Rouge, \$984
12. Ryan Carey, Summerset, Mass., \$984

EVENT 3: \$340 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM



Dill edges local legends

Jay Dill, a 43-year-old chemical operator from Donaldsonville, La., helps America keep its lawns green with his products, but now he's the one who is enjoying a different kind of green.

Dill bested nearly 200 players to take down the third event at Harrah's New Orleans, pocketing a little more than \$15K.

Like the first two winners of the series, this marked Dill's first major tournament victory. In fact, it was his first "official" cash in a tournament.

It took Dill nearly six hours at the final table to earn the victory and it was no easy feat as there were two former WSOP bracelet-winners in his way: Louisiana poker legends Joe Petro (sixth) and Buddy Bonnacaze (fourth).

Petro, 79, is a Louisiana poker star who played in the famed Cajun Cup, which was one of the poker circuit's most interesting stops when it was held as a quasi-legal underground attraction during the 1980s.

Bonnacaze, 67, has two WSOP PLO bracelets, winning them in 1992 and '93.

ENTRIES: 198 • **PRIZE POOL:** \$57,609

1. Jay Dill, Donaldsonville, La., \$15,268
2. Bruce Little, Metairie, La., \$9,218
3. Gabe Costner, Long Beach, Miss., \$5,905
4. Buddy Bonnacaze, Baton Rouge, \$4,609
5. Peng "Jay" Zheng, New Orleans, \$3,601
6. Joe Petro, Lafayette, La., \$2,880
7. Todd Etzel, Bryan, Texas, \$2,304
8. Jay Chung, Atlanta, \$1,872
9. Chris Dupuy, Baton Rouge, \$1,584
10. Christopher Carderas, \$1,296
11. Ismael Cabrera, \$1,296
12. Paul Folkins, \$1,296
13. Juan Lopez, \$1,152
14. Stephen Buttieri, \$1,152
15. Nancy Decuers, \$1,152
16. Jaime Melgared, \$708
17. Mark Garner, \$708
18. J. Sevnsom, \$708

EVENT 4: \$550 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM

**Catt makes quick work of field**

Michael Catt, a 38-year-old attorney from Orange, Texas, needed only about three hours at the final table to earn his first major victory, continuing the trend of first-time winners.

This event was Catt's third cash in a live event, after successful showings in recent years at poker tournaments in Mississippi.

Perhaps the most impressive fact of the victory was Catt started the final table with the shortest chip count. But Catt was patient and won several key hands along the way.

His share of the prize money amounted to \$22,234 and he was presented with a gold ring, which is given to the larger buy-in event winners this year.

John Dolan, a 24-year-old part-time player from Bonita Springs, Fla. was the first eliminated, finishing ninth, but he would later redeem himself with a victory in Event 10. He was all-in three times before succumbing to a horrible beat. Dolan was dealt pocket aces and lost to a straight when an ace fell on the river.

ENTRIES: 174 • **PRIZE POOL:** \$83,897

1. Michael Catt, Orange, Texas, \$22,234
2. Gabriel Tender, New Orleans, \$13,424
3. Chris Chevalier, Shreveport, La., \$8,600
4. Barron Whipple, Houma, La., \$6,712
5. John "The Troll" Tollefsen, Houston, \$5,244
6. Chris Walding, Huntsville, Texas, \$4,195
7. Rusty Bodin, New Orleans, \$3,356
8. David Henslee, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., \$2,726
9. John Dolan, Bonita Springs, Fla., \$2,307
10. Thomas Ballow, \$1,887
11. Mark Gallagher, \$1,887
12. Jacob Seale, \$1,887
13. William Jarrett, \$1,678
14. Alexander Draytraczenko, \$1,678
15. Andrew Daniels, \$1,678
16. Dustin Wertz, \$1,468
17. Jess Brooks, \$1,468
18. Steve Fernandez, \$1,468

EVENT 5: \$340 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM

**Baton Rouge pro dominates**

"Tripp" Donaldson of Baton Rouge bested a modest field of 102 entries, which was considerably less than most of the events at this point in the tournament. And there was a good reason for the dropoff: The event was running at the same time as the Saints home game.

This marked "Tripp" Donaldson's first major tournament victory for the cash-game pro. According to Donaldson he came close to winning a few smaller tournaments.

It took only about three hours to finish the final table as Donaldson dominated play from start to finish. He made a deal with Texas' Todd Etzel, who made an impressive late charge when they got heads-up. Etzel nearly overcame an 8-to-1 chip lead before they cut a deal. Donaldson's cut of the prize pool officially amounted to \$7,865.

Donaldson is a 49-year-old former glass and metal fabricator. He's originally from Florida and enjoys hunting and fishing when he is not sitting in a poker game.

ENTRIES: 102 • **PRIZE POOL:** \$29,673

1. Tripp Donaldson, Baton Rouge, \$7,865
2. Todd Etzel, Bryan, Texas, \$4,749
3. Bobby Moon, Elberton, Ga., \$3,042
4. Chris Cardenas, Dripping Springs, Texas, \$2,374
5. Angelo Vozzella, Austin, Texas, \$1,855
6. Michael Sampognaro, West Monroe, La., \$1,484
7. Ivan Milicevic, Mandeville, La., \$1,187
8. Vince Frederick, The Woodlands, Texas, \$964
9. Bobby Barbier, Tuscaloosa, Ala., \$816
10. Ted Garner, Seffner, Fla., \$667
11. Cuong Tran, Metairie, La., \$667
12. Kris Hawkins, Austin, Texas, \$667
13. Frank Aldandinar, Baton Rouge, La. \$593
14. Chris Scott, Metairie, La., \$593
15. Sung Lee, Atlanta, \$593
16. Kip Scarone, Plaquemine, La., \$519
17. Donna Cole, Sour Lake, Texas, \$519
18. Michael Stegall, Schreiver, La., \$259
18. Bink Cao, Marrero, La., \$259

EVENT 6: \$340 POT-LIMIT OMAHA

**Gebhardt wins in a chop**

Michael Gebhardt, a 28-year-old college student, earned his first major live tournament victory, though he has had plenty of success at the tables.

Genhardt has cashed several times in live tournaments and online, including the Caesars Classic in Las Vegas and World Series circuit events at Harrah's Rincon and Caesars Palace. He also final-tabled a million-dollar event online last year.

It took Gebhardt five hours to get the final table down to four-handed before they agreed to a deal. His share of the prize money officially amounted to \$6,145.

Gebhardt is pursuing an MBA degree at the University of Denver, but admits he's unsure what he'll do after graduation. He financed his education largely by playing poker, mostly online and supported himself for four years as a pro before becoming a full-time student.

"I really love New Orleans," Gebhardt said. "Since this tournament came during my school break, I decided to come here and play."

Former WSOP bracelet-winner "Captain" Tom Franklin and Walter Chambers, the main event champion of the inaugural WSOP circuit event at Harrah's New Orleans in 2005, made the final table. Franklin, a well-known poker pro from Gulfport, Miss., finished fourth while Chambers grabbed seventh.

ENTRIES: 66 • **PRIZE POOL:** \$19,204

1. Michael Gebhardt, Boulder, Colo., \$6,145
2. Mark Gallagher, Houston, \$3,841
3. Larry Satterwhite, Houston, \$2,448
4. "Captain" Tom Franklin, Gulfport, Miss., \$1,728
5. Morton L. Davis, \$1,392
6. Pete Donnelly, Austin, Texas, \$1,152
7. Walter Chambers, Baton Rouge, \$960
8. Mendel Lee, New Orleans, \$816
9. Jeff Bennett, Metairie, La., \$720

EVENT 7: \$340 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM



Silvas remains hot with win

December turned out to be quite a month for Mike Silvas. He won a tournament for the first time early in the month, then he graduated with his MBA degree from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. Finally, on Dec. 16 he won his biggest poker prize, pocketing \$11,104 for first place at the BPC.

When he looks back upon this day, it won't be the prize money or the title he'll remember. What was most memorable was the way Silvas, 24, accomplished his victory. It took more than nine hours at the final table, and at one point when play was at four-handed, Silvas was a distant fourth in chips.

Heads-up play between Silvas and Houston's Ruven Rivera lasted more than three hours, an eternity given the 40-minute levels and structures. Heads-up needed more than 100 hands to finally declare a winner as Silvas' A-5 held up to drag the final pot of the night, with ace-high.

The final table saw two women there as Donna Cole of Texas was fourth and Debbie Lee of Atlanta finished third.

ENTRIES: 144 • **PRIZE POOL:** \$41,897

1. Mike Silvas, Youngsville, La., \$11,104
2. Ruven Rivera, Houston, \$6,704
3. Debbie Lee, Atlanta, \$4,295
4. Donna Cole, Sour Lake, Texas, \$3,352
5. D.K. Flanagan, 9 Mile Point, La., \$2,619
6. David Lee, New Orleans, \$2,065
7. Pascal "Frenchy" Boutineau, Houston, \$1,676
8. Chris Chevalier, Shreveport, La., \$1,361
9. Rusty Bodin, New Orleans, \$1,152
10. Gabe Costner, Long Beach, Miss., \$942
11. Clay Hubble, Kenner, La., \$942
12. David Smith, New Iberia, La., \$942
13. Lucas O'Connor, Bay St. Louis, Miss., \$838
14. Vince Nola, Baton Rouge, \$838
15. Amir Esfandiary, Houston, \$838
16. Jessica Hanna, Beaumont, Texas, \$733
17. Gregory Dereyna, Marrero, La., \$733
18. Christian Mascagni, Louisville, \$733

EVENT 8: \$340 PLO W/REBUYS



No teasing in Scott's victory

Fred Scott's day's began at a local strip club in the French Quarter in New Orleans. Apparently he woke up, stumbled into the famous French Quarter, downed a few brews while enjoying some of the local culture, and then arrived at Harrah's New Orleans just in time to take his seat at the final table.

Scott, 36, then proceeded to demolish the competition en route to a five-figure payout, as well as earning his first major poker tournament victory.

The tournament may have only attracted 37 players, but the prize pool was pumped up considerably with a whopping 164 rebuys, which inflated the prize pool to \$26,674.

Despite the final table being five-handed, the match still took five hours.

The heads-up match lasted more than three hours, a testament to the ferocious tenacity of the runner-up, Jared Ingles. He duelled back and forth against Scott, exchanging the chip lead a number of times before finally succumbing to a missed draw on the final hand.

"Pot-limit Omaha is a board game," Scott said after his victory. "While there are occasionally some bluffing opportunities, the bottom line is, if you miss your hand on the flop, get out."

Scott also complimented Ingles: "(He) is a really tough player," he said. "We battled for a while, and he leaned on me a few times. He got the chip lead against me. But I was glad to get it back so I could lean on him. It was a tough match."

ENTRIES: 37 (164 RE-BUYS) • **PRIZE POOL:** \$26,674

1. Fred Scott III, Fairbanks, Ark., \$10,670
2. Jared Ingles, Baton Rouge, \$6,668
3. Andrew Becker, Chalmette, La., \$4,268
4. James "JJ" Rone, Houston, \$2,934
5. Daniel Holmes, Lafayette, La., \$2,134

EVENT 9: \$340 H.O.R.S.E.



Big victory, small turnout

A.B. Suthoff, a retired former oil company executive, edged 31 players to take the H.O.R.S.E. title.

Suthoff is a 60-year-old former manager with Chevron Oil and lives in St. Rose, La.

The two-day tournament generated just \$9,312 in prize pool, sparking some to debate the life of the H.O.R.S.E. event at the Bayou Poker Challenge. In the most successful BPC in four years of existence the H.O.R.S.E. event continues to struggle attracting players.

Many H.O.R.S.E. tournaments held elsewhere also have experienced declining attendance, which can be explained for at least two reasons.

First, H.O.R.S.E. centers largely on stud-related games.

And second, the prestige of H.O.R.S.E. has declined in the last year or so, as ESPN removed the game from its usual WSOP broadcast lineup (one reason given was poor ratings in 2008). The game also was removed from the WSOP-Europe lineup in favor of the more popular pot-limit Omaha.

H.O.R.S.E. is an acronym for Hold'em, Omaha/8, Razz, Stud and Eight-or-better stud.

After three players were eliminated on the second day of play and the prize money was finally reached, Houston poker pro Gene Timberlake became the fifth-place finisher. Afterward, the remaining four survivors agreed to chop the pool. Suthoff's share was \$3,724.

ENTRIES: 32 • **PRIZE POOL:** \$9,312

1. A.B. Suthoff, St. Rose, La., \$3,724
2. Ian Crozier, Gretna, La., \$2,328
3. Richie Miller, San Francisco, \$1,489
4. Jake "The Snake" Williams, Glenwood, IL, \$1,024
5. Gene Timberlake, Houston, \$744



ENTRIES: 124 • PRIZE POOL: \$124K

1. John Dolan, Bonita Springs, Fla., \$31,874
2. Bill Dehart, New Orleans, \$19,244
3. Walter Chambers, Baton Rouge, \$12,328
4. Tyler Smith, Smithdale, Miss., \$9,622
5. Barron Whipple, Houma, La., \$7,517
6. Pascal Boutineau, Houston, \$6,014
7. Kai Landry, Biloxi, Miss., \$4,811
8. Timothy Miles, New Orleans, \$3,909
9. Kent Buckingham, Midland, Texas, \$3,307
10. Kenny Milam, La Place, La., \$2,706
11. William McLaren, Greenville, S.C., \$2,706
12. Peng Zheng, New Orleans, \$2,706
13. Joe Petro, Lafayette, La., \$2,405
14. David Diaz, Memphis, \$2,405
15. Blake Barousse, Lafayette, La., \$2,405
16. Henry Gill, Baton Rouge, \$2,104
17. Jacob Bazeley, Cincinnati, \$2,104
18. Will Souther, Biloxi, Miss., \$2,104

EVENT 10: \$1,070 NLHE

Dolan wins another major

The event attracted a strong field of 124 entries, and John Dolan of Bonita Springs, Fla., emerged victorious.

The win was Dolan's second major in live tournaments as he won an event at the Gulf Coast Championship in September.

In 2009 he collected nearly \$100,000, including the \$31,874 he won in this event, which took about six hours to complete once it got to the final table.

Dolan is a 23-year-old full-time player who attended Florida State University for two years. He has been playing poker consistently for the past three years.

This was Dolan's biggest cash of his career, also receiving a stylish gold ring, similar to the coveted jewelry awarded to most WSOP circuit winners.

The top 18 finishers (the final two tables) collected prize money, and among those Joe Petro, his second cash in the series.

Barron Whipple became the only player make three final tables at the 2009 BPC, and the table included four ex-WSOP circuit gold ring winners.

CHAMPIONSHIP (EVENT 11): \$3,120 NLHE



Chainsaw rips through field to win Bayou's main event

Sometimes, dealing with Allen Kessler can be a bit like juggling a whirling chainsaw.

In recent years, he's developed a reputation on the tournament circuit as one of the game's most prickly personalities. He's demanding. He's opinionated. And, he can certainly be razor sharp.

And, as Kessler's most recent tournament victory in the Bayou Poker Challenge championship shows, he can also shear down plenty of other players who believe they can whack him at the table.

Kessler, a.k.a. "Chainsaw," won the Bayou Poker Challenge Main Event, which attracted a highly competitive field of 80 players.

The three-day championship generated a prize pool totaling \$221,798, the biggest payout of this winter series.

Kessler is a full-time player in his mid 40s, who lives in Las Vegas, though he originally is from Philadelphia.

With this victory, his seventh major, Kessler has amassed nearly \$1.5 million in tournament winnings as he pocketed \$70,976.

He has a gold ring from the 2007 WSOP circuit event at Caesars Las Vegas, and for this BPC victory Kessler was awarded a seat into the 2010 WSOP Main Event in Las Vegas, plus \$1,000 for expenses.

Defending champ Justin "Lockdowntex" Allen made the final table but fell short, finishing sixth.

Kessler lost his chip lead a few hours into play, and was actually all-in for his tournament life at least twice. But he won enough key hands at critical moments to regain his chip lead until a deal was made when it got four-handed.

ENTRIES: 80 • PRIZE POOL: \$221,798

1. Allen Kessler, Las Vegas, \$70,976
2. Ed Corrado, Naples, Fla., \$44,360
3. Moutray McLaren, Greenville, S.C., \$28,279
4. Jim McBride, Slidell, La., \$19,262
5. Michael Schneider, Covington, Ga., \$16,080
6. Justin "Lockdowntex" Allen, Dallas, \$13,308
7. Ben Mintz, New Orleans, La., \$11,090
8. Will Souther, Biloxi, Miss., \$9,426
9. Phil Hall, Kemah, Texas, \$8,317



ENTRIES: 45 • PRIZE POOL: \$21,825

1. Bronson Tucker, Round Rock, Texas, \$8,730
2. James Brown, Houston, \$5,456
3. Larry W. Keene, Fitzgerald, Ga., \$3,492
4. Tony Sevnson, Houston, \$2,400
5. John Ducote, Baton Rouge, \$1,746

EVENT 12: \$550 NLHE

Tucker grabs the ring

Bronson Tucker benefited from a smaller field (45 entries), due largely to the \$3,000 buy-in championship event taking place on the same day.

Like so many of the other champions this was Tucker's first tournament victory, for which he won \$8,730.

He said he had two fourth-place finishes, including his first cash coming at the Scotty Nguyen Poker Challenge in Oklahoma.

Tucker is a 32-year-old attorney from Round Rock, Texas, which is near Austin.

Tucker, a native Oklahoman, also received a gold ring. Only the tournament's top five finishers collected prize money.

EVENT 13: \$340 NLHE



ENTRIES: 52 • PRIZE POOL: \$15,128

1. Michael Husar, \$4,842
2. Ronnie Hope, \$3,026
3. Mustapha Tokko, \$1,929
4. Karen Winston, \$1,361
5. Andrew Decell, \$1,097
6. Carl Miller, \$907
7. Ronald Deguzman, \$756
8. Jessica Itanne, \$643
9. Chris Foucheaux, \$567

EVENT 15: \$340 SENIORS NLHE



Maybe it's because this was the final event in a long series, but when the Senior Bayou Championship dwindled down from 49 players to eight, they decided to chop the \$14,259 prize pool, despite the tournament only paying five spots. Here are the eight cashers: Carl Miller, A.B. Suthoff (who won the H.O.R.S.E. event in the series), Ian Crozier, Rick Mathews, Edward Champagne, Ada Lang, James Wilson and Theodore Etter.

LADIES BAYOU POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

NUMBER OF ENTRIES: 41

NET PRIZE POOL: \$11,928

FIRST PLACE PRIZE: \$4,772

PLACES PAID: 5

FINAL RESULTS

1. Trish Marks, Covington, La., \$4,772
2. Daphne Taylor, Richmond, Texas, \$2,982
3. Lisa Smith, Houston, \$1,908
4. Lindsey Breaud, Walker, Va., \$1,312
5. Marie Jackson, Willis, Texas, \$954

Continued from Page 40

arose for Marks.

"I was second in chips by about 50K," she said, "and the chipleader raised me 40K preflop. I called with A♦-J♦."

The flop was A-4-9.

"She pushes all-in and I call," Marks said. "She turned over kings in the hole! The turn was a 9 and the river was a jack! At that point I was the overwhelming chipleader by about 800K. I pretty much knew at that point I could take the title. I had three players left all with under 100K."

It was only a matter of time before she eliminated the other players to collect \$4,772 and gold-and-diamond pendant for her first-place prize. Marks, who bested 113 players in 2008 and 40 in 2009, is the first player to win two Bayou Poker Challenge events in its four-year history.

Daphne Taylor from Richmond, Texas, was runner-up. Last year, Taylor was the first woman in the six-year history of the World Series of Poker Circuit at Harrah's New Orleans to win an open event.

So why is Marks having so much success with so little tournament experience?

Ladies champion prefers live play to online



Given her hectic schedule and family life, you'd think Trish Marks would relish a chance to get in a few hands online at home. ... Nope.

"I enjoy playing and the interaction with other players," said Marks, whose pet hand is 9-10 and her favorite player is Phil Ivey. "There's no interaction (online). When I get home from work I can find too many other things to do besides sit in front of the computer. (She loves to monogram.)"

"I play when I have the time, and participate in activities with my children when needed. I do try to set aside time for myself, and sometimes that is the time to play."

Marks has two children, Cristina, 25, and Michael, 13. Cristina lives in Manhattan, where she's following her dream of working in the fashion industry as an account coordinator for a French company that sells high-end skin care and hair care.

"I'm so proud of her," Marks said. "I enjoy visiting her and spending time in New York. Life there is so different than our lives in the New Orleans area. I do plan to make it to Atlantic City to play one of these days."

Her son loves basketball, football and baseball. He's an avid Louisiana State fan and loves the Saints and Hornets.

And does she want her children to play poker?

"I encourage my children to play and engage in activities that they enjoy," she said. "If they enjoy playing poker, of course when Michael is old enough, I will encourage them to learn and develop their skills."

"I pay attention and understand how to play the game," she said. "I play the cards and try to understand the skill of the other players. I find it hard to play the player when you are in a tournament; you may change tables every hour or so until you make it to the final table."

Most professionals will tell you hold'em is about playing the people, not the cards. But for Marks, the opposite has worked just fine for her, even when the cards run cold.

"I just keep playing my best. You have to realize that every hand is not going to be the best, but that is where skill comes into play. I never wear glasses or hats or cover my eyes. I look right at the other players with a look that I dare them to call!"

TEMPERANCE VS. TEETOTALISM

BY FATHER PAUL KAMMEN



R

Reflecting on growing up and early gambling experiences, I can recall two stupid bets I made as a kid. In fourth grade I took the eighth-graders to defeat the staff in a volleyball game, lost, and then got upset about it not knowing how to pay off whatever I bet. All I remember is the teacher saying Dan, the student with whom I placed the bet, would not come after my family. (She also may have said, “Did you learn anything about gambling?” I think we know the answer to that question). And in seventh grade, I placed a bet (with no knowledge of what a “spread” was) of \$5 that the Timberwolves, then in their inaugural season, would certainly defeat the Bulls (then with Scottie Pippen, Michael Jordan and the rest). This did not happen, and cost me five bucks.

I never went to a GA meeting, and in the years that have followed, have continued to enjoy gambling; but now it’s entirely poker, the game I learned from my grandpa, who strangely somehow dealt me four aces with a joker as one of my first hands. However, I don’t play the game professionally. I play for small stakes, as I live in a town with two card rooms. I also enjoy writing, having written on small stakes stud and stud/8, completing two books on the game, and I wrote some columns for a time. But as I said, a professional player I am not, nor am I a professional writer (as is obvious from this column).

I became a priest, being ordained a little more than two years ago serving in the Twin Cities



after six years at seminary following my stint at the University of Minnesota. I had hoped not to share with anyone in the parish that I had written about poker; but sure enough, when my archbishop introduced me to the parish, he promptly informed them I had written a book on poker. He didn't mind at all, and I think he found it humorous. I consider poker an enjoyable hobby, along with bowling, photography and jogging. It's a hobby with a goal of making money, of course, but I also enjoy the stories and the competition and find it a great way to unwind. Which leads me to the point of the column: What is the morality of playing poker and gambling, and does it constitute sin?

I strongly say no. It's true some sects of Christianity have taken hard stances against gambling and alcohol; but the Catholic church does not state these are absolutes to be avoided. Certain things are moral absolutes in Catholic morality, such as taking innocent life and no premarital sex. These things we determine from scripture and tradition, the teachings of the saints and church authorities who interpret scripture. There's no prohibition of gambling or alcohol use in the Bible.

So then, does this mean you should find a case of Milwaukee's Best and cash in the savings account for a night of fun at the local casino? Not quite. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it best: *Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement. Unfair wagers and cheating at*

games constitute grave matter, unless the damage inflicted is so slight that the one who suffers it cannot reasonably consider it significant. The point is gambling is risky; one does not have to do it at all, and many don't. Gambling also can be a dangerous slippery slope for people. So what is the bottom line on gambling? It comes down to embracing temperance.

Temperance is a Christian virtue which moderates pleasures. Teetotalism is an absolute avoidance of things; hence it is more proper to call Prohibition of the '20s not the result of temperance movements, but of teetotalism. Temperance causes us to use restraint. Thus, I think the best course of action is for a gambler (or for our readers, a poker player) to ask themselves the hard questions: Is poker too much in my life? Am I playing above my bankroll? Am I making excuses to not be with my wife or husband or children tonight just so I can play in this tournament? Am I cheating at the game? Am I using money that I need for bills or tuition? Am I using money that needs to go to my spouse or

family? Am I sneaking out of work to play, or hiding my play from my spouse? Indeed, the catechism is quite right when it points out how the passion for gambling can become an enslavement.

Poker needs to be enjoyable. Ideally, you can have some fun and augment your income. Perhaps you lose more often than you win; if it's your money and you're not causing yourself harm by using money you need, but would spend the same on dinner and a movie, I don't think it's a big deal. Obviously there's short-term variance in the game.

But for many, losing is a way of life. How many people populate tables constantly chasing time and time again, win a pot here and there, but essentially play slots with cards and not sound poker? The moment it becomes money you need, or money your family needs, you need to get away from the table or the mouse. With this, there are also the things money can't buy, such as the moments with our families. Poker night with the guys or an hour before bed online is one thing, but if night after night is spent at the table and you have a family, you really are missing

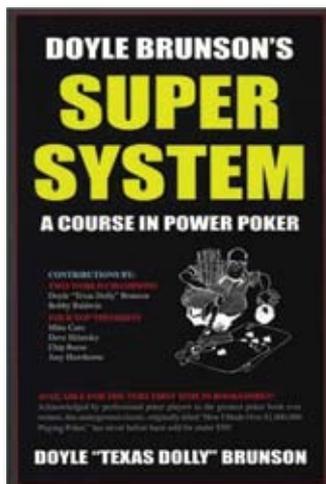
out on a lot. Yes, there are those who do this for a living, but even those who do so need to find time for their families. The game of poker will always be there; our families won't.

The bottom line is poker can be enjoyable. You like it otherwise you wouldn't be reading this magazine. And yet for some reason, there are those who see it as a sinful activity, or question its morality. It, much like alcohol, has the *potential* to become sinful; but it also is something that can be enjoyable when done in moderation. My advice? Budget accordingly and be open about it with a spouse. Make

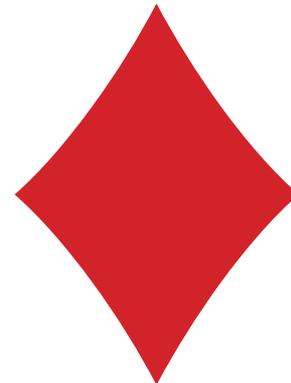
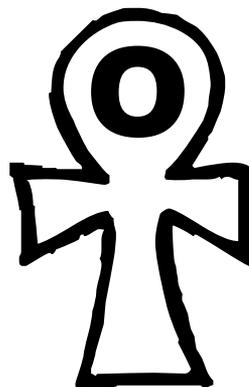
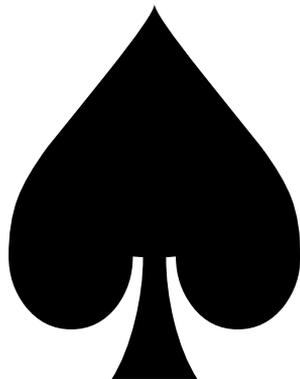
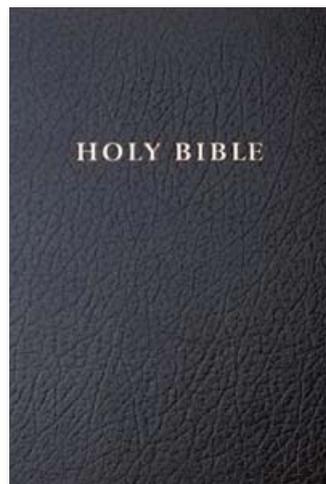
sure it never gets out of control, and if people start saying things such as, "Hey, seems like you're never around anymore," or "You seem to be getting stressed out about your poker game, is everything OK?" then hear them out. Don't be afraid to ask friends and family for help.

Poker is a great game, and I've enjoyed it ever since I got those five aces "dealt" to me. I find it a great way to unwind, to perhaps have a story, and hopefully win a few bucks. It most likely always will be a part of my life. But my primary vocation is to serve God and the people of my parish. I also make priorities for my family and friends. No matter what your religion, we can all agree the people in our lives matter most, which is why we serve humanity by volunteering and giving to charity. These are the things that really matter, and I hope you keep them as the top priority in your life.

If, like me, you think poker is awesome then keep it up. But remember, so much more important than a game of cards is what we do away from the table. The key is to keep our priorities right. ♠



V.





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

- 1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach 6,100
- 2. Luis Cristobal, Coral Gables, 2,675
- 3. Jay Roden, Estero 2,600
- 4. Ken Basilio, Ft. Lauderdale 2,575
- 5. Tomas Singson, Orange Park 2,500
- 6. Mitchell Abrahams, Miami 2,325
- 7. Raj Vohra, Lake Worth 2,150
- 8. Robert Beyra, Hollywood 2,000
- 9. Glen Blumberg, Alachua 1,800
- 10. Carleen Heath, Belleview 1,700
- 10. Ronnie Browne, Gainesville 1,700
- 10. Eddie Rosenberg, Miami Beach 1,700
- 10. Matt Ridley, Jupiter 1,700
- 14. Peter Nadeau, Gainesville 1,625
- 15. Alberto Dominguez, Hollywood 1,500
- 15. Steve Mitchell, St. Augustine 1,500
- 17. Manny Leone, West Palm Beach 1,425
- 18. Brian Capobianco, Tampa 1,400
- 19. Scott Long, Safety Harbor 1,350
- 20. Raymond Witt, Lake City 1,300
- 20. Glenn Fullone (St. Petersburg) 1,300
- 22. Luis Deguzman, West Palm Beach 1,250
- 22. Eugene Link, Cocoa Beach 1,250
- 24. Omar Diaz, Coconut Creek 1,200
- 24. Larry Powell, Palm Beach Gardens 1,200

Upcoming events

- Jan. 30: Hard Rock Hollywood, 11a, \$1,100
 - Jan. 30: Sarasota Kennel Club, 6:30, \$100
 - Jan. 31: Derby Lane, 1p, \$100 (10K chips)
 - Jan. 31: St. Johns Greyhound Park, 4p, \$100
 - Feb. 6: Dania Jai-Alai, 12:30p, \$150
 - Feb. 6: Seminole Immokalee, 4p, \$225 (\$1K added)
 - Feb. 7: Ebro Greyhound Park, 2p, \$100
 - Feb. 13: Calder Race Course, 11a, \$100
 - Feb. 13: Naples-Ft. Myers, noon, \$225
 - Feb. 13: Palm Beach K.C., 1p, \$350 (\$25K guar.)
 - Feb. 13: Melbourne Greyhound, 2p, \$200
 - Feb. 15: Isle Casino, 2p, \$350 (\$30K guar.)
 - Feb. 19: Orange Park K.C., 7:30p \$100
 - Feb. 20: Hard Rock Tampa, 10a, \$100
 - Feb. 20: Pensacola Grey, 1:30p, \$120 (\$5K guar.)
 - Feb. 20: Gulfstream Park, 6:30p, \$150
 - Feb. 20: Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai & Poker, 3p, \$150
 - Feb. 21: Tampa Bay Downs, 1p, \$350
 - Feb. 25: Mardi Gras, 6:30p, \$100
 - Feb. 27: Hard Rock Hollywood, 11a, \$1,100
 - Feb. 27: Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai, 2p, \$100
 - Feb. 27: Sarasota Kennel Club, 6:30p, \$100
 - Feb. 28: Derby Lane, 1p, \$100
 - Feb. 28: Miami Jai-Alai, 2p, \$165
- Updated schedule at anteupmagazine.com

DECEMBER RESULTS



Raj Vohra won the main event at Hard Rock Hollywood.

CALDER RACE COURSE

- DEC. 13**
- 1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach
 - 2. Eddie Rosenberg, Miami Beach
 - 3.-10. Declined points

DANIA JAI-ALAI

- DEC. 5**
- 1. Scott Anderson, Hollywood
 - 2. Carlos Colatta, Pembroke Pines
 - 3. Jerry Carr, Hollywood
 - 4. Louis Chavez, Dania Beach
 - 5. Jay Nygen, Miami
 - 6.-10. Declined points

FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER

- DEC. 19**
- 1. Fouad Farah, Port St. Lucie
 - 2. Don Gause, Port St. Lucie
 - 3. Neil Peithman, Melbourne
 - 4. Eligene Castaneda, Port St. Lucie
 - 5. Robert Murphy, Port St. Lucie
 - 6. Kelvin Hair, Ft. Pierce
 - 7. Tracy Steele, West Palm Beach
 - 8. Rick Soupherlena, Lindell, Texas
 - 9. Jeff Slade, Sebastian
 - 10. Raymond Bishop, Ft. Pierce

GULFSTREAM PARK

- DEC. 12**
- 1. Eddie Rosenberg, Miami Beach
 - 2. Lana Rosenberg, Miami Beach
 - 3. Greg Monaldi, Davie
 - 4. Oscar Pilpel, Sunny Isles Beach
 - 5. Jay Roden, Estero
 - 6. Ronnie Bensimon, Aventura
 - 7. Steve Parker, Aventura
 - 8. Jim Russel, Miami
 - 9. Eddie Nelson, Miami Gardens
 - 10. Alex Delarosa, Miami Beach

ISLE CASINO

- DEC. 26**
- 1. Daniel Garon, Sunny Isles
 - 2. Maan Thakur, Coconut Creek
 - 3. Tim Morgan, Pompano Beach
 - 4. Richard Rice, Ft. Lauderdale
 - 5. Javier Sarache
 - 6. Thomas Johnson
 - 7.-10. Declined points



MARDI GRAS CASINO

- DEC. 17**
- 1. Carlos Dorca, Doral
 - 2. Annette Drummond, Miramar
 - 3. Omar Recuero, Hollywood
 - 4. Alex Sverdlov, Hollywood
 - 5. Mitchell Abrahams, Miami
 - 6. Amil Sharma, Sunny Isles Beach
 - 7. Josef Shertzler, Hallandale Beach
 - 8. Declined points
 - 9. Offer Kohavi, Hallandale Beach
 - 10. Declined points

OCALA POKER & JAI-ALAI

- DEC. 19**
- 1. Reza Entezari, Gainesville
 - 2. Matt McGinnis
 - 3. Charles Driggers, Eustis
 - 4. Nikita Patalinghry, Gainesville
 - 5. Declined points
 - 6. Tulasi Mebery
 - 7. Claude Ellison, Newberry
 - 8. Bryan Frechette, Beverly Hills
 - 9. Derek Kerrs, Ocala
 - 10. Ken Thompson, Long Grove, Iowa

ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB

- DEC. 18**
- 1. Wayne Castelberry, Jacksonville
 - 2. Matthew Layton, Jacksonville
 - 3. Jason Benedict, Jacksonville
 - 4. Declined points
 - 5. James Nighbert, Hillaud
 - 6. Declined points
 - 7. Tim Lowery, Benton, Ark.
 - 8. Dan Williamson, Raleigh, N.C.
 - 9. Rob Anderson, Orange Park
 - 10. George Rezas, Iran

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB

- DEC. 26**
- 1. Shirley Mika, Jupiter
 - 2. Dominick Papa, West Palm Beach
 - 3. Matthew Millward, Kansas City
 - 4. John Isolo, Las Vegas
 - 5. Justin House, Delray Beach
 - 6. Yiny Deandrea, Wellington
 - 7. Scott Drummond, Boynton Beach
 - 8. Stewart Teske, Jupiter
 - 9. Manny Leone, West Palm Beach
 - 10. John Marshall, West Palm Beach



Shirley Mika won at PBKC for \$2,200.



Ocala Poker's final table.

SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB

- DEC. 26**
- 1. Josh Rose
 - 2. Clay Ashbrook
 - 3. Pat Nichols
 - 4. Liz Provan
 - 5. Jeff Harris
 - 6. Mike Skoyec
 - 7. Darren McMullen
 - 8. Du Hyun
 - 9. Declined points
 - 10. Michael Shaw

SEMINOLE H.R. HOLLYWOOD

- DEC. 26**
- 1. Raj Vohra, Lake Worth
 - 2. Charles Phelan, Jupiter
 - 3. James Ladeira, Dania
 - 4. Steven Karp, Dania
 - 5. James Kaplan, Boca Raton
 - 6. Karon Barrett, Miramar
 - 7. Fred Goldberg, Hollywood
 - 8. Alex Jerman, Miami
 - 9. Alcides Gomez, Miami
 - 10. Mohamad Masoud, Homestead

SEMINOLE IMMOKALEE

- DEC. 5**
- 1. Nick Maddas, Tennessee
 - 2. Scott Ostrander, New Providence
 - 3. Vince Pezzano, Naples
 - 4. Grady Yeager, Cape Coral
 - 5. Jesus Seguna, Naples
 - 6. Jason Rodriguez, Ft. Myers
 - 7. Dave Shorty, Estero
 - 8.-10. Declined points

ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK

- DEC. 13**
- 1. Jeff Little
 - 2. Mike Metcalp, Jacksonville
 - 3. Becky Dery, St. Augustine
 - 4. Declined points
 - 5. George Rezas, Iran
 - 6. Mike Depasquale, St. Augustine
 - 7. Declined points
 - 8. Aaron Rodgers
 - 9. Declined points
 - 10. Herb Gartner, Jacksonville

TAMPA BAY DOWNS

- DEC. 20**
- 1. Sean Hampson
 - 2. James Nenadic
 - 3. Paul Stanechewski
 - 4. Ricardo Rodrigue, Tampa
 - 5. Christy Pham
 - 6. Steve Born, New Port Richey
 - 7. Diane Gagne
 - 8. Michael Nikitas
 - 9. Jim Larsen
 - 10. John Cladakis

For our new readers, don't worry, the AUPT will expand throughout The South on June 1.

IF YOU DON'T CHOP, YOU MIGHT BE A STAR

It was just my luck. I had signed up for a sit-and-go and found myself surrounded by five of the sharpest players in the room. But one by one I sent them to the rail until we were heads-up and in the money.

"Chop?" my remaining opponent asked, though it was more of a declaration than a question.

Now, normally I'd shoot back a quick "yes," collect my winnings, tip the dealer and go on my merry way. But on this day, I was feeling something. I had a little bit of a high from beating the best of the best and, well, I just wanted to see whether I could finish it off.

"I'm sorry," I said. "Let's play it out."

And we did. And I won.

No doubt, there are reasons for chopping tournaments. But on this day, I began to wonder: Has the nearly automatic chopping in tournaments robbed many of us of the thrill of winning outright and, perhaps more important, the experience and skill of playing heads-up poker?

Hang on to that thought for a bit. Because even if it is valid, we can't escape the realities of poker.



SCOTT LONG

We chop to keep life moving

Time is money. And those 20-minute heads-up matches in SNGs add up. Play three or four of them out in a day, and that's one less SNG you can play in, and cash in. You don't want to cost yourself dollars playing for nickels. And sometimes you can't put a price on time. As Father Paul Kammen says on Pages 46-47 of this issue, you must not let poker keep you from life's greater responsibilities. So if chopping a multitable lets you get home to tuck your kids into bed, or lets you catch a late-night movie with your spouse, what price can you put on that?

We chop to cut down on variance

Poker is a game for those who can look long-term. But it's also a game for those who can comprehend the correct decisions in the short-term.

"I'm the type of guy who doesn't walk past \$1,000 on the street thinking that I'll find \$2,000 on the next street," Joe Conti, tournament director at the Palm Beach Kennel Club, said when I asked him about it on Antonio Pinzari's *Poker Wars Live* radio show. "But when it gets to the point where you have to gamble, and you're really not playing poker, in that situation I really don't have a problem with it."

In other words, when the blinds get ridiculously high, you're playing bingo, not poker. And your skill as a poker player should tell you the best decision is to chop and take what you've earned.

Now, obviously, we'd prefer no tournament ever gets to the point that it becomes a game of a chance. But again, reality dictates practicality. Many players (sadly) just don't have the stomach for a tournament that takes more than four hours. In other cases, tournament directors just don't have a choice because of operating hours, etc.

But if that's not the case, be wary of what you're giving up if you chop ... or make a deal where everyone gets a little bit and plays it out for the rest.

"When you play in a smaller tournament, (chopping) gives everyone a certain comfort level." Pinzari said. "And if I'm the best player

at the table, I don't want to give anyone a comfort level."

We chop to avoid intimidation

We've all seen the strong-armed tactics habitual choppers use to get their way. Constant verbal abuse and belittling, designed solely to shame people into giving up a chance at more riches. Sometimes it's a practical request, but more times than not it's just bullying, plain and simple.

It's hard to blame someone for giving in to such abuse. We play poker to have fun, right? But we also play poker for another very important reason.

"I came to win the tournament," Pinzari said. "That's what makes you a better player."

And that's what brings me back to the impetus for this column.

I want to win.

Call me greedy. Call me arrogant. Call me whatever you want, but why play poker if you don't play to win?

As Pinzari points out, it's not just about winning on that one particular day. Consistently chopping robs you of the practice and experience necessary to be a winner every day, namely, heads-up play.

No matter the size of the field, only two players get a chance to play heads-up in any tournament. Heads-up play has a very specific skill set. And because few players ever get to play heads-up, those who have played heads-up have a decisive advantage over those who haven't. Why would you want to squander the rare opportunities you get to hone the skills required to earn the really big pay days?

Still not convinced? Here's a take on this that I'm sure you haven't thought about.

"From a marketing standpoint, you lose the excitement and opportunity of showcasing a true winner, who may have eliminated several hundred players in skillful competition," said Jim Jenkins, marketing director for Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room, which recently held a week-long tournament series that saw a chop in its main event. "Historically, any tournament competition is based on yielding a single champion."

That's right. When you're sitting at the table debating your cut of a chop, there just might be a marketing professional sitting in an office in that same casino ready to make you a star if you don't chop.

Chop or don't chop? It's up to you. It really is.

But if it's all the same to you, I want to be a star. And I think you should want to be one, too.

— Email Scott Long at
scott@anteupmagazine.com.



THE SECOND NUTS IS STILL JUST THE SECOND NUTS

The object of poker is to make correct decisions. I've always stressed working on your game and practicing online so that when it comes time to battle on the felt, you're comfortable and prepared for whatever you may face. Take your time, think about the information you've gathered and then make the best decision possible. There's no time in a tournament more critical for this than at a final table. Most don't get a whole lot of practice making final-table decisions. We get lots of early and middle-stage practice, and even get to the late stages once in a while. But making final tables is rare.



LEE CHILDS

I recently found myself as chipleader going into the final table of a World Series of Poker circuit event at Harrah's Atlantic City. This was my second real shot at a circuit ring and I was determined to bring it home. Most of my competitors were very strong players, but I was extremely focused and

knew if I stayed patient and picked the right spots, I would have a good chance to win.

I'd like to discuss one hand where you might think I was lucky, but that wasn't the case. My opponent didn't take the time to think about the hand and what his best course of action should have been.

With three players left I led with about 1.8 million chips. Steve Geonnotti was second (1.4 million) and Josh Brikis was third (about 380K). The blinds were 10K-20K with a 3K ante and I was in the big blind. Josh opened for 45K, Steve called and I called with 5♦-4♦. I was presented with a very nice flop of 2♣-4♠-4♥ and Steve led out for 100K. The first thing I think of in this spot is, "What is the best way to get the money in the pot?" This is a thought you must have any time you flop a big hand. Sometimes you want to raise to build the pot and sometimes you should just call to keep opponents in the hand. Since we were three-handed, I felt the best thing to do was call and hope one or both might have an overpair. Based on my experience playing with Steve, I felt it was most likely he had an overpair, 2-2 or he held the 4♣. In the unlikely event he did have the 4♣, I was most likely outkicked, so it's also best to just call to control the size of the pot. Josh folded.

The turn was the 4♣! Steve checked and I figured I probably wasn't going to get much more out of the hand, but to ensure I had a chance, I checked, hoping he would improve on the river or take a stab to win it. The river was a 9♥ and Steve led out for 100K again. I thought he

must have an overpair such as fives through eights or 9-9 to lead again. I didn't think he would've fired into both of us on the flop and lead this river with less. I took my time, then raised to 400K. To my surprise Steve announced all-in! I quickly called and took down a massive pot that gave me a massive lead going into heads-up play. And what did Steve hold? Pocket nines ... the second nuts!

Steve's line of play was just fine for almost the entire hand. He bet with what's likely the best hand on the flop, checked for pot control on the turn and led the river with the second nuts. However, once I raised the river, he didn't take the time to think about what I might've held. What could I possibly have had to take the line I took in the hand? I would be foolish to raise him on the river with 2-2 or any overpair, and it doesn't make sense for me to randomly have a naked nine when I called on the flop. Though there are three fours on the board, it's almost certain I must have a four in my hand to make the raise.

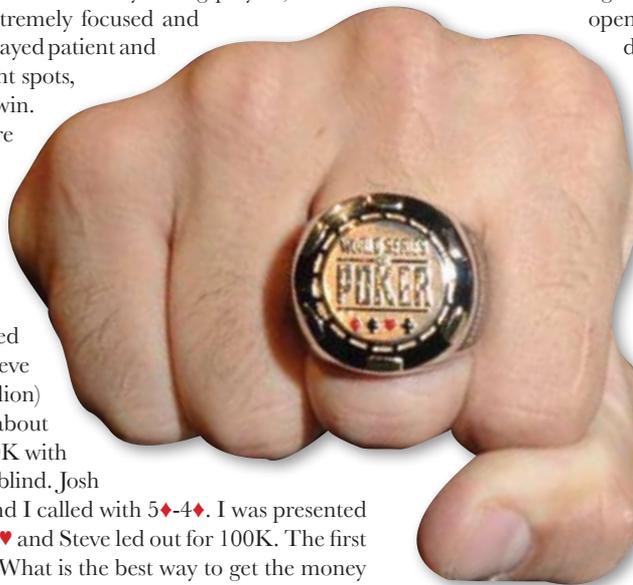
There's no logical reason for me to make a play on him and re-open the betting. Why? If I don't have a four, how do I know HE doesn't have a four? If I had any other holding I *thought* was the best hand but wasn't sure, then I would have to just call. Granted it would be an extremely hard fold with 9-9 in this spot, but even if he just called, he would've had about 900K left, plenty to play with at that blind level.

The main thing he didn't think about was there was just no value in his shove. I could only call if I had a four in my hand and would be forced to fold all other holdings. Josh and I battled a bit heads-up and I emerged victorious, earning my first WSOPC ring!

When you pay to enter a tournament, you owe it to yourself to take the time to really think through the betting story on each hand. If you face bets and raises when you think you hold the best hand, take the extra time to replay the hand and be sure to really keep your opponent's image in

mind. You have to accumulate chips to win, and you want to maximize value at every opportunity, but if you're facing bets and raises when you have a strong hand, you must think about what you could accomplish if you put more chips in the pot. If weaker hands will have to fold and only stronger hands can call you, your best course of action is to just call, even if you do hold the second nuts.

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.



CHILDS	FLOP	TURN	RIVER	GEONNOTTI

A HEALTHY BET

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

QUIT SMOKING, SPEND MORE TIME IN POKER ROOM

When you “set mine,” you try to see a flop cheaply with a medium or small pair. If you hit your set, you then try to get maximum value from your disguised monster. In a recent game, a mid-position player raised and I was in the small blind with 6-6. If I called, maybe the big blind would come along, too, maybe not. I knew the odds of flopping a set were about

8-to-1 against. That’s about a 12 percent chance of success, which isn’t great. Clearly there’s not enough in the pot right now to justify a call. Are my implied odds large enough to make this play worthwhile? What critical piece of information have I left out? More on this hand later.

I’m going to make a serious confession: I used to smoke. I haven’t used tobacco products in many years, but I know deep within the center of my brain that if I lit up today, I’d enjoy it.

When I started smoking in the late ’60s, no one talked about the dangers. Heck, doctors, professional golfers, even Santa Claus smoked. My father smoked. Even JFK smoked! In my high school, the smoking area behind the gym was where parties were planned, where the cheerleaders hung out, where the major social interaction of our school took place. And if you didn’t light up while you were out there, you stood out like a geek at a football game.

It took me years to decide to quit and years more to succeed. I truly understand first-hand the allure, the psychological pleasures and the biochemical cravings of nicotine addiction. I understand the crackle of the cellophane as you open a new pack, the click-whoosh of a hefty Zippo and the little surge of calm enjoyment that comes when the nicotine receptors in the brain’s pleasure-center release tiny packets of dopamine.

I understand it, but I also hate it. I hate that smokers use the streets as their ashtray. I hate that my grandfather died from lung cancer, that my father could hardly breathe during his last years on earth, that my stepfather-in-law is getting radiation treatments on his tongue. I also hate the smell. I hate it on the clothes of an asthmatic child who rode to the E.R. in a car with a smoker, or in the hair of a cougher who can’t understand why his bronchitis won’t go away. Or on my fellow players who rush outside for a quick smoke during every break.

I really don’t make any value judgments about smokers. I under-

stand no one ever quits without the will to do so and the success rate of quitting is not an issue of will power alone. It’s an issue of biochemistry, of overcoming a constant barrage of psychological and biochemical messages that reinforce the feeling that lighting up is comfortable; it relieves stress; it’s pleasurable. Smoking may be the most difficult addiction of all to conquer.

The success rate of trying to quit without some sort of medication is pretty abysmal, in some studies as bad as 8 percent. Nicotine replacement (patches and gum) help a little. Zyban, which calms the nerves and reduces the cravings, is a little better but still not great.

Chantix by Pfizer blocks and, at the same time, stimulates nicotine receptors. That means the pleasure-producing effects of nicotine are blocked (that puff doesn’t feel quite as good), yet Chantix also stimulates the receptors a little so that a small amount of dopamine is still released. For some, that small amount is just enough to reduce the nicotine cravings that cause so many to fail.

Time now for full disclosure: I’ve owned a small amount of Pfizer stock for decades. They never have sent me on a junket, bought me dinner or even given me a coffee cup with their logo on it. The stock has dropped like a rock. I wish I never had bought it.

Chantix is not magic. There are side effects such as nausea and sleep disturbance, and some big risks including suicidal thoughts. So if you’re considering trying it, you should discuss the risks in detail with your doctor. The success rate using Chantix is about 22-44 percent depending upon the study, which is better than trying on your own or using gum, patches or Zyban. If those numbers seem low, consider the payoff. If you’ve tried to quit before and failed, it just might be the trick to help you succeed.

Now back to the poker hand. You can’t estimate implied pot odds without knowing how much you might win and the stack sizes. The stacks at my table were too short to justify a 12 percent chance of flopping another six. The implied pot odds were low, so I folded.

With Chantix, your chances of success are at least double what my chance was of hitting my set. And the implied pot odds are enormous: decreased risk of cancer, stroke and heart disease, and more money in your pocket to play poker. Plus you’ll smell better at the table. It’s a bet you should consider very seriously.

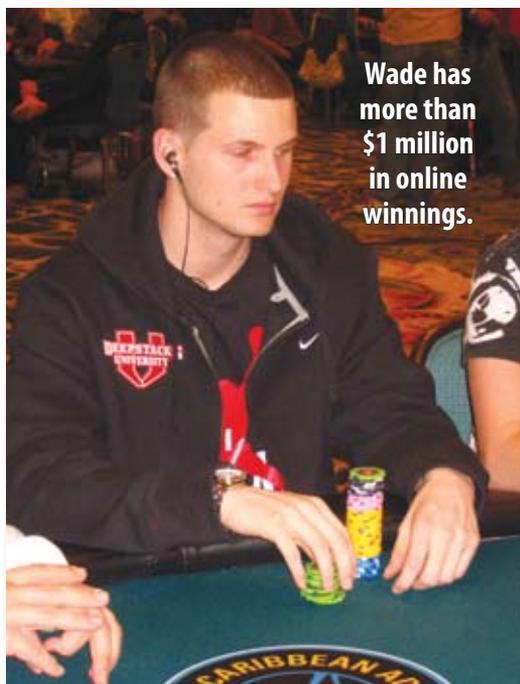
— An avid poker player, Frank Toscano, M.D. is a board-certified emergency physician with more than 28 years of front-line experience. He’s medical director for Red Bamboo Medi Spa in Clearwater, Fla. Email your poker-health questions to ftoscano@redbamboomedispa.com



FRANK TOSCANO M.D.

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Wade has more than \$1 million in online winnings.

UNDERSTANDING TRANSITION TO ONLINE PLAY IS HALF THE BATTLE

By Tristan "Cre8tive" Wade

Poker is a complicated game; we all know this. There are a million things that can be interpreted with every hand, including stack sizes, table position, player history, blind structure and tournament payouts. However, the one thing that makes poker even more complex is making the transition from live tournament poker to online tournament poker. The game may seem the same, but what takes place within these two worlds is strikingly different.

As many players may know, live tournament poker is a slower game. There's usually more analysis and strategy that goes into live tournament play. With the dynamic of an actual person sitting across from you at the table, reading, hand-ranging and managing table image become vitally crucial.

Also, the style of play between live and online poker players is different. It's hard for some players to adjust to the speed and types of moves made online. For example, the frequency a player three- or four-bets or squeezes is higher online than live. However, if one can adapt and understand how the game changes then profitability and consistency will follow.

Here are a few tips to consider if you're considering making the transition from live to online tournament play:

KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT: The online world is more aggressive. Players three-bet and four-bet pre flop with much higher frequency. The tournament structures tend to creep up quickly as well. These are just some factors that dictate how much pressure is applied against you in certain spots. You must be able to adjust your shoving ranges and calling ranges in all aspects of a tournament. Since everyone is playing more aggressively, you have to step up your aggression as well. Certain edges you could pass on in a live tournament you simply can't avoid in an online tournament. Don't be scared to make mistakes while you get comfortable playing online. As long as you learn from your mistakes you will be successful.

LEARN THE HAND RANGES: If a person plays enough online poker they'll be able to determine and understand hand ranges for specific players easier. There is no one correct way to play poker, but there are definitely spots in tournament poker where most would agree one play is optimal.

For example, I'm deep in a tournament and there's a regular high-stakes tournament player on the button with 10 big blinds. I more or less know what range of hands he'll be moving all-in with and therefore can play my hand accordingly. This knowledge comes from playing countless hours of online poker and studying opponents and their tendencies. If you don't become familiar with situations like this in an online environment, you won't be able to succeed on the virtual felt. Once you put in enough time you'll be able to recognize the patterns and hands players have at different stages in a tournament. If you know what range of hands someone is likely to turn over then you've gained an edge on that opponent.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: I really can't stress this enough. If you put in enough time playing online you'll quickly become a better player. You're able to play so many more hands in a smaller amount of time. It's not possible to play 10 tournaments a day in a brick-and-mortar casino, but you can online. In poker it's easier to slow down rather than speed up. After you increase your knowledge and experience from playing online it's easier to apply it in a live setting. It's often said it takes 10,000 hours to master something. I might not have reached that many hours playing poker yet, but I know I can attain it a lot faster playing online vs. playing live.

These are just some things to consider if you're ready to step into the virtual poker world, but remember this: Play more hands, study the game and be honest with yourself. Don't be scared of the Internet. After all, it's only poker.

— Tristan "Cre8tive" Wade is a professional poker player with more than \$1 million in online tournament winnings. He's a member of Team DeepStacks, the No. 1 team of poker instructors in the world. You can find him and other Team DeepStacks pros at DeepStacks.com. Email him at editor@anteupmagazine.com.



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POKER & PERSONALITY

Poker is a complex competition we try to simplify to achieve peak performance; one of probabilities and people, of luck and skill, of mathematics, game theory and psychology. It is a process of continual decision-making based on incomplete information.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

My next couple of columns will focus on personality types of poker players, starting with different takes on types we've read and talked about. I recently researched the scientific literature and found only one study that looked at poker personality and poker play. At the same time a tremendous amount has been published on probability and game theory. This means much of what is discussed as poker psychology is simply people's observations.

Starting with Level 1 thinking and expanding it to be useful to you in achieving peak performance we're going to take the classic styles of poker play and get deeper into how to really use them. I want to provide you with a different way of looking at the basic or one-dimensional typing that has been done in poker: tight vs. loose or passive vs. aggressive playing.

I say this is simplistic because it is a way to typecast players without a basis on actual personality. In psychology we call this face validity, which means something is described as it looks. It is a good quick-rule, but we know poker is a complex and multi-dimensional endeavor.

Before you can judge a player more thoroughly, though, you need a basic understanding of personality theory. People are defined by personality, which is anything that helps us predict what a given person will do in a given situation. It's the consistent set behaviors, thoughts, feelings and perceptions that are based on internal and external factors and define the person. Personality doesn't just influence our response set; it defines our responses by causing us to act in certain ways in certain circumstances. Personality affects your game and your opponent's personality affects how they play as well as how you play them.

Psychologists and other students of human behavior have been trying to figure out personality since the beginning of time. So you might legitimately ask how you're going to be able to apply this at the poker table without an advanced degree in psychology. Well, you don't have to know it all, just enough to help achieve peak performance.

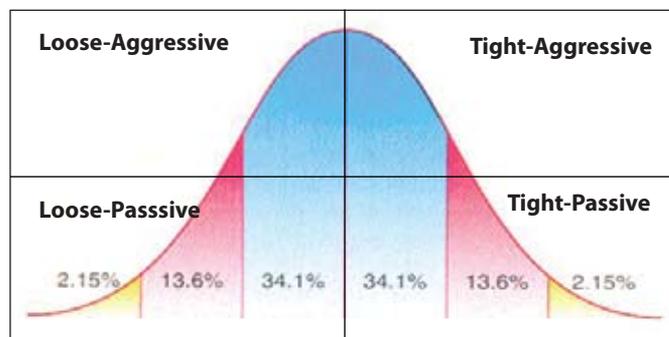
My goal is not to make you a behavior analyst but to help your poker game by understanding your personality and how it affects your play and how your opponent's personality can be read and used for your benefit.

Any personality can win in poker.

Poker personality leads to what we call table image, which is useful if your opponents are paying attention. Table image is more useful in cash games than in multitable tournaments. In a big tournament you can spend two blind structures establishing a table image and then get moved to another group.

Phil Hellmuth wrote about animal analogies in regard to poker personalities. In psychology we talk about continuums and normal curves. We believe all events and behaviors fit under the normal curve and that all personality is dynamic, not static. A rock can become a maniac when on tilt and a maniac can become a rock after losing his stake. A weak player can become strong after winning a couple of hands and a strong player weak after getting rivered too many times.

We also believe all behaviors and people fit under the normal curve. Here I've taken the four classic styles of poker play and show how they would fit under the normal curve. The aggressive-passive continuum defines how a person plays: bet, raise, reraise; the tight-loose continu-



um defines the range of hands a person plays.

This tells us that about 34 percent of the players are tight-aggressive, about 34 percent are loose/aggressive, about 16 percent are tight-passive rocks and 16 percent loose-passive maniacs. This is pretty much what you can expect to see at the poker table.

But, more important, the continuum and normal curve analogy suggests about 68 percent of the time you should be playing somewhere between tight-aggressive and loose-aggressive and you should only use the outlying styles when the situation calls for it. You should be a rock or maniac about 2 percent of the time and about 13 percent you should loosen or tighten your game. But mostly a consistent player is going to be in the middle 68 percent.

Does this mean you'll always win and not get sucked out on? No. It means if you want a steady way to play poker, you have to adapt your personality to the situation. Learn to be flexible within this particular framework.

There are strengths and weaknesses to each style and pros and cons to changing styles. First, you have a natural style: the one with which you normally feel comfortable. But to achieve peak performance you'll have to learn to move through this flow based upon the situation. So take your basic personality and fit it to the situation and decide what style is the best situational style to play. Sometimes it backfires: My table image is usually tight and aggressive, so in a cash game, if opponents are paying attention and I make a big move, I usually have the nuts and folks fold. If I continue this play I won't get a lot of action and once I realize my opponents have adjusted to my play I have to shift to the looser end of the continuum. This usually works, except when I flop two pair and the villain, who I have typed as a loose-aggressive maniac, flops the nut straight, I bet, he raises and I come over the top because I didn't believe him. Does that invalidate the play? No, it just means the deck hit him and his loose-aggressive image worked. It happens.

Based upon the situation, your comfort zone and your grokking of the table, you have to be able to change your style (See last month's issue at anteupmagazine.com for my column that addressed grokking). Situational poker play calls for you to understand your style and how to change when it suits the situation.

Your style of play may be a product of your overall personality. Low risk-takers may never be able to become competent loose and aggressive players. To be successful, the poker player has to know his personality.

Future columns will look at how to manage these styles and how to read opponents' styles, how to change your style and how, by knowing about this aspect of poker, you can keep your head in the game.

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

ANTE UP

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2010 COULD BE MONUMENTAL IN SOUTHEAST

Welcome to 2010 and what could be the biggest election year in history for poker players in the Southeast. Three states — Florida, Alabama and Georgia — could see dramatic evolutions in their states this election cycle, which would pave the way for a significant regional expansion for poker players and gamblers in our region. Here's an overview of what each state is dealing with and over the next year I'll keep you up to date as to major progress in these states as the November election approaches.



MARC DUNBAR

GEORGIA: Short on cash and ideas for raising revenue in an election year, the Georgia Legislature this month begins considering amending the Georgia Constitution to allow commercial gambling in their state. Georgia, which is a lottery jurisdiction, is looking at two proposals.

The first would add a downtown casino in Underground Atlanta that likely would be run by a large casino company bringing full-fledged casino gambling and, of course, no-limit poker action to the Peach State.

The second proposal is as a slower incremental step in that direction. A coalition of horsemen and entrepreneurs are pushing the idea of a three- or four-site thoroughbred racing circuit that would be anchored on the South Carolina border but include possibly a Valdosta location. The theme of the horseracing push is that a viable horse racing circuit could expand Georgia's agriculture base and increase jobs and economic development in the rural areas of the state while raising money to help with the state's budget issues.

Those following the horse racing industry know that for this proposal to achieve its goals casino gambling, including slot machines and table games, will be needed. Georgia will debate legislation during the spring, and if it passes, the voters will decide the issue in November.

ALABAMA: A full-blown gambling battle is going on in Yellowhammer State. Creative businessmen and local governments have morphed Alabama's bingo laws into the basis for full-casino expansion. Projects such as the \$80 million Country Crossing in Southern Alabama have opened, offering themselves as destination casino alternatives with amenities such as slot machines, RV parks, concert amphitheatres and destination hotels.

Gov. Robert Riley is doing his best to hold back what is a dramatic transformation of the state and its policy toward commercial gambling. His statewide gambling task force has staged midnight SWAT team raids of these venues and is battling in courts all over the state. Local judges defending economic development in their communities are issuing injunctive orders against the governor, and the state's elected Supreme Court has weighed in with its orders, which have provided little certainty as to how this battle will end.

Voters will have their hand in deciding as Alabama will elect a new governor in November. Each major candidate appears to have a favorable position on Alabama's gambling future with a statewide push for full commercial casinos a real possibility in the next four years. I expect

the momentum will grow if the courts allow this state in the short term to continue to experience how destination casinos can become a real job creator and revenue producer for state and local governments.

FLORIDA: And now a look at the Sunshine State and its \$64,000 question. Will this finally be the year that Florida gets it right? The Legislature this month took its first step in the right direction with the gaming committee of the Florida House of Representatives passing a proposal to "de-couple" the provisions of last year's bill, which favored parimutuel facilities from those related to the Seminole Tribe's gambling compact.

This committee, led by Rep. Bill Galvano (R - Bradenton) has taken the lead by rejecting the compact presented by Gov. Charlie Crist and the Seminoles last year. In addition, it's moving forward with putting in place the poker room expansions and business parity items for the South Florida parimutuel casinos.

This spring the House is expected to consider a host of other potential policy shifts, including the creation of a statewide gambling agency, destination commercial casinos and slot machines at every poker room in the state. The Senate is moving a little more cautiously, waiting for the Florida House to formulate its position on these issues before it begins to fashion its proposals.

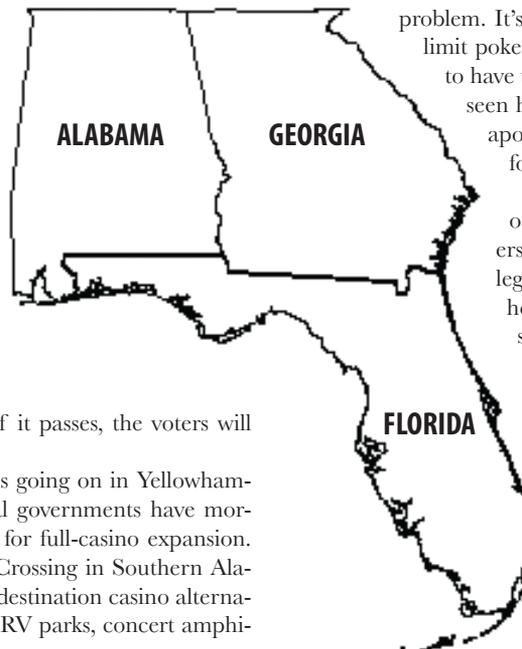
Unfortunately for the Legislature, Seminoles supporter Crist will have the final say on any measure, which could present a problem. It's possible the Legislature could authorize no-limit poker and a host of other gambling changes only to have the governor veto the measure. Crist, who has seen his popularity plummet in polls, has been unapologetic in his support of the Seminoles' quest for a monopoly on gambling in Florida.

One wonders whether this position, while out of touch with the sentiments of poker players and voters, will continue to hold through the legislative session and into the summer when hopefully a piece of legislation that finally unshackles Florida's poker rooms will be on his desk.

One thing is for certain: This will be the last year of his control of the issue since he's leaving his office to pursue a U.S. Senate seat. He has a very difficult Republican primary against former Speaker of the House Marco Rubio, who poker players remember as the speaker that eased restrictions on the poker rooms giving us no-limit Texas Hold'em, improved tournament rules and the increases in the bet limits. I'm sure Florida's players will be watching carefully and hopefully will let their voices be heard and their votes be counted if the industry is again ignored by the governor.

In all, the Southeast has a lot riding on 2010 and the November elections in these three states. The Southeast could become the fastest growing gambling market in the country and for poker players a very nice place to call home.

— 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.



FREE LEAGUE, FREE ADVICE

BRYAN OULTON • Learning poker etiquette

In a casino for first time? Educate yourself first

By Bryan Oulton

My business partner and I recently taught an instructional course at the Isle Casino at Pompano Park, Fla., on protecting yourself. It was part of their Advanced Poker Series. Also, *Ante Up's* esteemed publishers taught a class at the Derby Lane poker room in St. Petersburg, Fla., on the basics of poker and transitioning your game into a casino setting from home games or bar leagues.

Both courses underlined the heart of the issue: understanding games offered, structures and how to protect yourself as a player. When transitioning into a casino this information is vital for avoiding mistakes.

Our course offered nothing in the way of strategy. Instead, it was designed to give players a different view of poker teaching, the how-to manual of understanding a cardroom and how it affects you.

Many players transition from our league to become full-time casino players. Most of them had never played poker in a casino until they were fortunate enough to make our championship league final at the Isle. Bar leagues are a tremendous way to hone your skills without risking your bankroll. However, at some point, you're going to want to try to win money on a regular basis, not just at a league final.

We feel our league, and others, serve as a minor league to the casinos, a feeder system to teach players before heading into the casinos. All leagues and poker rooms should embrace each other to have the same sort of symbiotic and very successful relationship we have with the Isle Casino's poker room.

This is the kind of teaching you're not going to find in your boot camp or online courses. Check with your local casino and ask if it has an intro class or if they can go over the procedures for their room for you. Immerse yourself in knowledge, on how to play the game and the rules of the house. You won't regret it.

— Bryan co-owns All In Free Poker, a league based in Pompano Beach, Fla.

WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

Tell them why you're shaking things up



I don't play live very often. Between the chilly rooms and being excited that I get to play, I often find myself shaking early in a session. Normally I make a comment about how cold the room is to cover it. Is there a better way to handle this? — J.Z. VIA EMAIL

A lot of times when we're nervous or insecure, blood is withdrawn from our skin and sent to the large muscles of the body. I get the same way right before a speech; I get a little insecure so I feel cold. First recognize this is perfectly normal since you're away from home.

Second, let everyone around you know you're cold. That often masks what's going on as most won't know what to make of it. Walk away from the table and pretend you to make a call or do something physical to warm up. Announce it and people will ignore it.

— 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.



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TAMPA BAY DOWNS



Tampa Bay Downs is making the Ante Up Team Tournament a monthly event, hosting it the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Buy-in is \$60 per player (\$240 per team) for 2000 units. An optional \$10 dealer add-on gets players 2000 more units. The event is capped at 20 teams.

Teams consist of four players, with each player assigned to a different shootout table. The top two players from each shootout move on to a 16-player heads-up bracket. The winners of the first heads-up round are guaranteed money for their entire team.

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DON'T CRACK UNDER PRESSURE!

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



After five years of playing poker in Florida, Mississippi, Las Vegas, Connecticut and occasionally online, Doc 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



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DON'T CRITICIZE WHAT YOU JUST MAY NOT UNDERSTAND

By Karim Baruque

Earlier this NFL season, Patriots coach Bill Belichick made what was called a controversial decision when he tried for the first down on fourth-and-2 with 2:08 left in the game. His team was ahead by six points, but the offense didn't get the first down, turning the ball over to the Colts, who eventually scored to win the game.

The media called the decision "dumb" and most said: "How could such a genius, make such a big, dumb, obvious, ridiculous mistake?" Keep this in mind.

As a dealer and player I spend a lot of time in poker rooms, and I can't count how many times someone has made fun of a play a good player made. They think the play was SO BAD that even a player with basic knowledge would do better. When a play that doesn't fit into their set mental understanding of proper poker, they discard it as a bad play.

At the 2006 Aussie Millions, Jamil Dia eliminated Phil Ivey in a hand most players would view as simply ridiculous. While the blinds were just 1K-2K, Ivey lost a \$327,800 pot with Q♠-7♥ on the J-2-2-A-K four-diamond board. Ivey bluffed every street, out of position, with a hand he shouldn't have been playing in the first place, right? Wrong.

Not wrong on whether the play was bad, but wrong on the way we think. If Ivey is one of the best players in the world, rather than criticize how dumb his play was, we should ask about the thought process that lead him to make those decisions. What does he know that we don't? Yes this particular hand worked against him, too bad; chalk it up to short-term variance. But how many of these plays has he made in his multi-million dollar career that no one ever saw? How many times have plays like this put him in position to win one of his seven WSOP bracelets?

In the 2004 Monte Carlo Millions, down to heads-up play, the following hand occurred: Ivey bet 80K into a 176K pot with Q♥-8♥ and the board was J-J-7 with one heart. His opponent, Paul Jackson, raised to 180K. Ivey decided the best course of action was to re-raise to 320K. This raise surely would define Jackson's hand, and when Jackson re-raised to 470K, it meant he obviously had a real hand and Ivey clearly had made another bad bluff, right?

But Ivey is one of the best players in the world. So how can he keep making these huge blunders? Here's why: Unlike us, Ivey wasn't convinced Jackson had a hand, so he went all-in. Jackson folded (he had 5♠-6♦) and Ivey went on to win the event. Now, do you wish you knew what Ivey knew?

Though everyone "knows" Belichick shouldn't have gone for it on fourth-and-2, maybe he's won three Super Bowls for a reason. Maybe he has the best playoff record of any coach, and is the leader of the most successful football franchise this decade, for a reason. And if you ask him, he might tell you over the past five years they've completed almost 70 percent of their fourth-down attempts. He might tell you his defense had given up 21 points in the last 20 minutes, etc.

So maybe it was a bad call, but maybe it was excellent, and even Belichick is subject to the laws of probability. But his winning percentage isn't just short-term variance, and neither are his Super Bowls. Ivey's bracelets aren't the result of "by-the-book" plays. The guy who always seems to cash out for more than you probably isn't luckier than you. Next time you see one of these guys make a "bad" play, don't jump to conclusions. Analyze the pros and cons and maybe have the courage to ask them or others the reasoning behind the play.

Remember that next time we "know" that play was dumb, we might just not "know" very much at all.

— Karim Baruque is a player-dealer and member of the Ante Up Poker Room staff.

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EVENTS/PROMOTIONS

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Super Bonus Days:
Feb. 15, March 15
\$100 Aces Cracked and High hands every 15 min.



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LOOK FOR GREAT THINGS FROM WOMEN IN 2010

As I sit in my Atlantis Resort room during the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure this week, I've been recalling how poker, every day, is evolving. The days of sitting at a cash table or playing in a tournament with anonymity are long gone. One great move or tournament win (man or woman) catapults you to a world I'm in right now.



LAUREN FAILLA

The PCA is filled with poker pros from around the world who have descended on the beautiful Bahamian paradise. The energy in the tournament room is much different than the Amazon room at the Rio in Las Vegas; the atmosphere is great. The women I've talked with are from Russia, Slovenia, Spain (and the United States, of course) and have traveled thousands of miles to participate in the ladies weekend and the PokerStars High Heels Poker Tour ladies event, which Vanessa Rousso won. It's interesting to see women all over the world have the same feelings about poker. They love it, want to encourage it and highly support it. I know it seems like a girly comment, but it just proves women's poker is growing.

My predictions for 2010 are that women will break through, as pro and amateur women will make significant strides. The women who have paved the way for female players to be more accepted on the felt, will reach some big goals this year. And those who are semipro or amateur will become breakout stars.

You don't have to be a lover of ladies-only events to want to support the growing niche (some think these events are sexist). You just have to be a woman who plays to see the changes. Of course, I want all women who play to support women-only events, but for growth and change to happen there has to be diversity.

In 2010, diversity on the felt (or virtual felt) will continue to occur, and the year will be a good gauge of how the female poker market will evolve. With more events across America and in other countries, women are showing up and playing their game. Stay tuned in the coming months as we highlight some of these breakout women (as I do every so often with the pros). Not only are their lives on the felt becoming significant to the poker world, but who they are every day is the story behind their poker.

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

You don't have to be a lover of ladies-only events to want to support the growing niche.



John "The Razor" Phan



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Jonathan "Jcardshark" Little



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Advanced Pot-Limit Omaha Vol. I

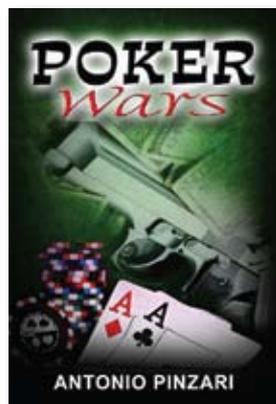
By Jeff Hwang, \$34.95

Pay heed to the “advanced” in this book’s title. Looking for a beginner’s book for pot-limit Omaha? Then skip this title. This is a hardcore strategy book for the most serious Omaha players. It follows the hugely successful first book from Jeff Hwang, who cut his teeth as an advantage gambler on the day cruises out of Ft. Lauderdale before moving on to other successful pursuits. Hwang teaches you the ins and outs of “floating” in Omaha, a powerful move to push your opponents off of stronger hands, regardless of position. You’ll get your money’s worth with 544 pages of advanced concepts just like those.

333 Winning Hold’em Tips

By Ralph E. Wheeler, \$9.95

This is a breezy, but informative, book from Cardoza Publishing that makes a perfect gift for beginners and serves as a great refresher of concepts for those who have been playing poker for a while. The title says it all: 333 quick tips on everything from etiquette for your first time in a poker room (“whether playing a hand or not, you should not discuss the cards until the action is complete”) to tournaments (“always be aware of your opponents’ chip counts in comparison to yours in tournament play”) to playing short-handed (“as the number of players at your table decreases, the value of medium-strength starting hands increases”). It’s well-organized, with the requisite glossary at the end.



Poker Wars

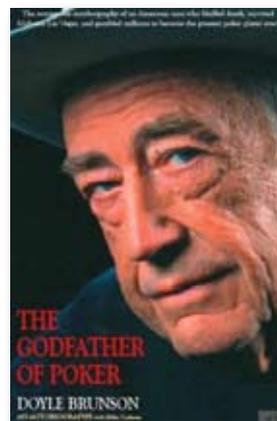
By Antonio Pinzari

Tony Soprano used the concepts shared by Sun Tzu in *The Art of War* to rule his gangster family, and now Antonio Pinzari, an accomplished player you’ll find at the tables in South Florida, has done the same for poker. The 60-page e-book lays out concept after concept in Sun Tzu’s words, followed by translation for the poker world by Pinzari. “Soldiers” are chips. A successful general is one who has a sound strategy. They are concepts simple in the explanation, yet complex in their application. Pinzari coaches former world champ Jerry Yang with these very same concepts. www.pokerwars.info

The Godfather of Poker

By Doyle Brunson, with Mike Cochran, \$26.95

The long-awaited autobiography of the greatest poker player in history finally is here. Doyle Brunson has more stories than the Sears Tower, and some of them are quite shocking. The man known as Texas Dolly gives you an intimate look into his private life, from nearly getting killed at the hands of two thieving thugs at his home in Vegas, to the untimely tragic death of his first daughter Doyla. And of course there are poker stories galore, from his early days in Texas to his current tales from the Vegas felt.



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LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
CALDER RACE COURSE Phone: (305) 625-1311 www.calderracecourse.com/poker	Guarantee of at least \$1K every day except Fridays, including \$5K Mondays (\$150, 7p, \$50 bounties) and \$5K Saturdays (\$100, 11a).	Royals pay \$500 (and double if you flop it) and Mega Bad beat is any quads; mini is aces full of jacks.	AUPT, Feb. 13 (\$100, 11a, \$5K guar., 6K chips). Aces cracked (9a-noon) \$250, but red aces \$500.
DANIA JAI-ALAI Phone: (954) 927-2841 www.dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (\$25-\$150), including Omaha/8 on Thursdays (\$70, 5:30p) and first Sunday of the month, (\$100, 3p). Minis: \$30, \$50, \$100, any time.	High hands pay \$50 hourly 1-8p; royals \$500 (Omaha \$250). Bad beats paid in cash games only.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 6 (\$150, 12:30p). Free drinks for all cash game players.
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (386) 252-6484 www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily, including Wed. Ladies (\$25) at 1 p; Sat. deepstack (\$225, 2p) and PLO/8 (\$65, 7p). SNGs: \$40-\$220.	Check Web site for details on high hands and bad beats, including the NL \$100K Bad Beat Countdown.	World Series of Poker Main Event satellite, Jan. 10, (\$150, 1p, 10K chips, 25-minute blinds).
DERBY LANE Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7 www.derbylanepoker.com	Daily, (1p, 4p and 7p Su-Th and 2p, 6p and 8p F-Sa), including the 535, which is the third Friday of every month (\$535, Feb. 19, 6p).	Royals pay \$250 (\$500 in spades); Fri. & Sat. (2p-2a) \$500 High Hand Forceouts every 30 minutes.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 28 (\$100, 1p). Check ad (Page 6) for Poker 101 course dates and times.
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (850) 234-3943 www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Big Stack Sundays, (\$100, %K chips, 2p); Mon. & Wed., (\$40, 3K chips, 7p); Thurs., (\$20, 3K chips, 7p); Tue. & Sat., (\$10, 3K chips, 7p).	Royal flushes. Also, the bad beat is quad deuces.	AUPT, Feb. 7 (\$100, 2p). Bonus Days (Feb. 1, 13) & Super Bonus Day (Feb. 15). See ad on Page 59.
FLAGLER GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (305) 649-3000 www.flaglerdogs.com	Sundays, low-rake bounty event (\$40, 1p). Monday night is a \$75 NLHE event (7p). SNGs: \$65-\$800	High hands pay \$150 all day; non-heart royals win \$1K, heart progressive (see Web site for details).	\$500 progressive hot table paid at 3p & 9p; Big Slick Royal was \$180K at press time (see Web site).
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (772) 464-7500 www.jaialai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$100, 6:30p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). Deepstack third Sat. every month (\$150, 3p). SNGs: (Thu.-Sat., \$65-\$110)	Bad beats are aces full of queens in hold'em (\$23K at press time), quads in stud and quad jacks in Omaha.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 20 (\$150, 3p). See Web site for list of new promotions.
GULFSTREAM PARK Phone: (954) 457-6336 www.gulfstreampark.com	Daily, (\$60-\$150, 6:30p), including bounties M-W-F, plus the Saturday Special, (\$150, 8K units). SNGs: \$60-\$120 (10 players, pays three spots).	Bad beat: aces full of jacks; Hourly high hands, M-F, 2-10p, starting at \$250 (\$500 4p & 6p); royals are \$500	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 20 (\$150, 6:30p, 8K units); \$50K Cash is King series (See ad, Page 15).
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (800) 941-4841 www.hamiltondownsjaialai.com	Super Bounty Sunday (\$35, \$10 bounties, 100-player cap, 2p); Rake Break Saturday (\$40, no rake, 5p, 2K chips, \$20 add-on gets 2K more)	Clubs royal pays \$1K. Bad beat is aces full of kings and pays \$5K.	First to Hit pays players who are first to hit certain high hands during the day. Details on Web site.
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 www.theislepompnopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$720), including bounty events (T, Th, Sa. & Su., 7p) and \$10K guarantee Tuesdays (\$230, 2p, 13K chips, 30-min. blinds). SNGs: \$60-\$225	\$50K drawings on Sundays (\$20K on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2). Heart royals pay \$599 all month.	AUPT, Feb. 15 (\$350, 2p), \$30K guar. w/\$100 bounties. The Seven-Deuce, Feb. 20-21 (call for details).
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB Phone: (850) 997-2561 www.jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., \$50 (2K chips and 15-minute blinds)	Royal flushes win jackpot.	
MARDI GRAS CASINO Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167 www.playbigeasy poker.com	Deepstack Thursdays, (\$100, 6:30p), players receive 10K chips but can get 5K more for \$40 add-on. SNGs: \$25-\$110.	High hands, \$100 hourly, 9a-2a, \$50 3a-8a, \$500 at noon, 3p, 6p, 9p midnight. Bad beat in all games.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 25 (\$100, 6:30p); royals pay \$599; Harley giveaway Feb. 7, call for details.
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (321) 259-9800 www.mgpark.com	Daily, (\$65-\$120), including Saturday Super Stack (\$120, 2p, 10K chips) and the Sunday 150 (\$65, 1p 2,500 chips). SNGs: All day, buy-ins vary.	Bad beat is only in hold'em and requires aces full of jacks be beaten by quads or better.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 13 (\$200, 10K chips, 2p); Also Wed. is Ladies Night at Club 52.
MIAMI JAI-ALAI Phone: (305) 633-6400 www.miamijai.com	(\$20-\$165), including a \$10K guarantee (Feb. 28, \$165, 2:30p) that features 8K chips and 30-minute blinds. Satellites on Feb. 10 \$24 (\$35, 4p)	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day progressive; see Web site for more information.	AUPT, Feb. 28 (\$165, 2p). Hourly \$100 high hands (win three in a day get extra \$500).
MICCOSUKEE RESORT Phone: (877) 242-6464 www.miccosukee.com	Fridays (\$65, 8p). Super Saturday no-limit hold'em tournament (\$65, 8p) gets you 3K chips.	Spade royal flush pays \$53K as of press time.	
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (239) 992-2411 www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Sun. bounty (\$125, 2p); Mon. (\$65, 7p); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed., (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & 7p); Fri. (\$65, 7p). Deepstack is every other Saturday, (\$225, noon).	Royals pay \$1K in all suits except diamonds, which pays \$5K.	AUPT, Feb. 13 (\$225, noon); \$500 progressive hot table at 4p & 10p (call for details).
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI Phone: (352) 591-2345 www.ocalapoker.com	Daily (\$30-\$500); SNGs: (\$45-\$500). Also, World Poker Tour satellites (Feb. 13, \$150, 2p and Feb. 21, noon, \$150)	See Web site for continuously updated information on high hands and bad beats (quads).	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 27 (\$100, 2p); WSOP Main Event satellite, Feb. 20 (\$150, 2p).
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150), but Mega Stack (Feb. 6, 2p), is \$225, which gets you 10K chips and 30-minute blinds.	Royals \$250 (spades \$500); Bad beats for mini and full. See Web site for details, plus a Super High Hand.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 19 (\$100, 7:30p). WSOP satellite, Feb. 21 (\$150, 1p).
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (561) 683-2222 www.pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120), noon & 6:30p Sun-Thurs.; 1 & 6:30 Fri.-Sat. New weekly guarantees, structures and larger chip stacks. See Web site for details.	Visit Web site or call for information on daily high hands and bad beat payouts and qualifications.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 13 (\$350, 1p, \$25K guarantee). This is deep-stack event known as the Big Dog.
PALM BEACH PRINCESS CASINO Phone: (561) 818-5771 www.palmbeachprincess.com	Wed. (\$30+\$5+\$5 toke, 6:30p); Thurs. (free, \$300 prize pool, 6:30p); Fri. (\$50, 7p); Sat. (\$60, 6:30p). SNGs: \$40, \$60, \$100		Free food-drinks-boarding for qualified players.
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (850) 455-8595 www.pensacolagreyhoundpark.com	Weekly (\$65-\$120). Every Saturday is a \$5,000 guarantee (\$120, 1:30p), including Feb. 20, which will be an Ante Up Poker Tour event.	Hold'em and stud bad beats (any quads) and in Omaha (quad jacks).	Mon.-Fri. 1st 20 full houses or better, \$25. Thurs. & Sun. 7-midnight, \$100-\$300 drawings every 30 mins.

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

FLORIDA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054 www.skcpoker.com	Daily, plus Fri. (\$100, 1p, 25K chips, 25-minute blinds); Sat. \$12K guar. with min. of 10 spots paid (\$230, 3:30p). SNGs: \$35-\$300.	High hands \$599 Fri. & Sat.; progressive jackpots in all games. Bad beat is quad fours (\$140K).	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 27 (\$100, 6:30p).
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON Phone: (866) 222-7466 ext. 121 www.seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mondays and Wednesdays, (\$20, 6:30p) with an optional add-on. SNGs: \$25, \$65, \$110.	Quad aces (\$50), straight flushes (\$100), royals win min. of \$1K. Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s).	Wed., Cold Cash Drawings 8p & 10p; Thurs., high hand wins \$500 (noon-10p). On the Clock (call for details).
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	Friday bounty (\$150, 7:30p), bounties are \$50 and players start with 8K chips and 20-minute blinds. SNGs: \$55, \$85, \$135.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s).	See Web site for details or call poker room for current offers.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Daily (\$75-\$1,100), including the Big Slick (Feb. 27) & Main Event. (Check site for dates, times). SNGs: \$60-\$1,050.	High hand (10a-midnight) \$50, plus \$100 entry into a specified event. Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s).	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 27 (\$1,100, 11a), 10K chips, 50-minute blinds.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$100-\$550). SNGs: \$125-\$1,075.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s). Royal flushes on weekdays pay all players at table \$50, but \$250 in spades.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 20 (\$100, 10a).
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com	SNGs: \$50-\$100 and are now jackpot eligible.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s).	In-house bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads. Starts at \$2,500, capped at \$10K.
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 7p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p); Sun. (\$115, 7p, 10K chips, 20-minute blinds).	Mega-Bad Beat (quads 10s), plus Immokalee players get \$100 if Mega hits at any Seminole room.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 6 (\$225, 4p, \$1K added and winner receives Ante Up cruise package for two).
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150), plus a \$330 Mega Stack (Feb. 27, 4 p) that gets you 20K chips, 30-minute blinds).	Royals \$250 (spades \$500); Bad beats for mini and full. See site for details, plus a Super High Hand.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 20 (\$125, 2p). WSOP satellite, Feb. 13 (\$150, 2p).
TAMPA BAY DOWNS Phone: (813) 298-1798 www.tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$540), including new Double Mega Stack (20K chips) on Tue. and Thurs. at 12:30p. SNGs: \$60-\$535.	Quads (\$25 & satellite ticket), straight flushes (\$20 & sat. ticket), royals pay \$200 & sat. ticket.	Ante Up Poker Tour, Feb. 21 (\$350, 12:30p); HHPT Battle of Sexes, Feb. 6-7 (\$200, 12:30p).
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (813) 932-4313 www.luckycards.com	Daily (\$45-\$200), at 1p and 6:30p. SNGs: \$65-\$500 on the weekends.	Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$599). Spade royal progressive. Call for more details.	Friday Bounty (\$150, 7:30p, 8K chips, 20-minute blinds). Aces cracked noon-2p pays \$100.

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LOUISIANA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
AMELIA BELLE CASINO Phone: (985) 631-1745 www.ameliabellecasino.com	Schedule pending state approval in mid February. Tournaments will be Saturday-Tuesday, and will generally cost \$60.	Bad beat (aces full of tens beaten by quads) was \$92K at press time.	Call for information. Promotions tied to state approval.
BELLE OF BATON ROUGE Phone: (800) 676-4847 www.belleofbatonrouge.com	No tournaments yet, but \$4-\$8 limit and \$2-\$5 no-limit hold'em cash games.	Bad beat (any quads) was \$122K at press time.	
BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS Phone: (800) 366-7711 www.boomtownneworleans.com	Tue. (11a) freeroll for players with 20 hours of play in the room, otherwise it costs \$10; Wed. (\$35, 7:30) and Thurs. pot-limit Omaha (7:30p, \$50)	Bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha.	Check Web site or call for promotion information.
COUSHATTA CASINO Phone: (800) 584-7263 x7336 www.coushattacasinoresort.com	Daily (\$15-\$220), including Monday Pineapple (\$20, 6:30p) with rebuys and add-ons. Saturday deepstack (\$220, 2p) has 7K chips, 30-min blinds.	Bad beat was \$60K at press time.	Food comps available to players, and straight flush and royals paid. Call for details.
CYPRESS BAYOU CASINO Phone: (800) 284-4386 www.cypressbayou.com	Wed. (\$40, 6:30p); Saturday Super Bounty, (\$60, 3p) with two \$20 rebuys and two \$20 add-ons. Bounties are \$20 and Super Bounties are \$100.	Bad beat: aces full of 10s beaten by quads. Second Friday of month pays \$100 high hands hourly (2-10p).	Aces cracked, first Thursday of the month (noon-10p), pays \$100 to first hand each hour. Poker Points!
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT Phone: (318) 220-5274 www.eldoradoshreveport.com	Daily (\$60-\$225), including Saturdays (\$225, 11a) and Tuesday rebuy event (\$75, rebuys are \$25-\$50 with \$25-\$50 add-ons at first break, 6:30p)	Bad beat is any quads beat (\$100K at press time).	Royal flush progressives pay by suit. \$10K freeroll (Jan. 31, 11a). Call for details and qualifications.
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS Phone: (504) 533-6000 www.harrahsneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a)	Bad beat is any quads (\$60K at press time).	Aces cracked Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call for details.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY Phone: (800) 895-0711 www.horseshoebossiercity.com	Daily (\$100-\$400), including last Saturday of month (\$300, 10:30a) and last Sunday (\$400, 2p).	Bad beat is any quads beat (\$14K at press time). Plus mini-bad beat pays 10% (aces full of 10s).	Numerous promotions that change daily. Call for details.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES Phone: (337) 430-2407 www.lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Fridays (\$60, noon) & Saturdays (\$225, noon). Plus Omaha Sundays. Tue. qualifiers until Feb. 16 for \$25K Mardi Gras Freeroll Feb. 23. Call for details.	Bad beat is \$80K; "Minor Jackpots" pays quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) and royals (\$250), 24/7. Call for details.	Aces cracked, Sun.-Thurs (6p-9p) & Mon.-Fri. (7a-10a), pays \$50. Hourly high hands pay \$50 Mon-Fri. (2-6p).
PARAGON CASINO Phone: (800) 946-1946 x1975 www.paragoncasinoresort.com	Mondays (\$20 w/rebuys, 7p), Thursday bounty event (\$20 with \$15 unlimited rebuys, 7p) and Fridays (\$60 with one \$50 rebuy, 7p)	Loosest bad beat in the state: Aces full of eights. In Omaha straight flush must be beaten.	High hand pays \$50 every half-hour Wednesdays noon-2:30p and 9-11:30p).

ARKANSAS

OAKLAWN RACING & GAMING Phone: (501) 623-4411 www.oaklawn.com	Daily, including SNGs (\$30), on PokerPro tables.	Bad beat paid on all hold'em cash games. Call for details.	\$100 high hands paid every three hours (Sun-Thurs., 11a-1a).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING Phone: (870) 735-3670 www.southlandgreyhound.com	Mon.-Tue.-Wed. & Sat. (\$20, 2p), 3K chips and 15-minute blinds.	Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads (\$153K at press times).	Player Rewards cards offer comps based on play and 10% gift shop discounts. Call for offers.

VIRGINIA

ARABIA TEMPLE NO. 12 Phone: (757) 487-1614 www.takeitdownpl.com	Mon.-Wed.-Thurs.-Fri. (\$25-\$105), including freerolls and SNGs at 6:15p and Olde Town Classic (\$105, 25K chips, 20-min. blinds) on Fri., 7:30p.	Bad beat is \$16K.	WSOP Satellite location, check Web site for details.
THE POKER PALACE Phone: (757) 488-4912 www.thepokerpalace.net	Tuesdays (\$60, 7:30p) and Saturdays (\$65 plus rebuys, 1p; also \$75 plus rebuys, 7p).	Bad-beat qualification depends from aces full of jacks when jackpot reaches \$10K.	Freeroll tournament (Feb. 2, \$15 charity donation, doors open 5p) \$1,500 guarantee, 5K chips.
VICTORY POKER LOUNGE Phone: (757) 472-1203 www.victorypokerlounge.net	Wednesday.-Thursday.-Friday., including SNGS (\$30, \$50 and \$125).	Bad beat is kings full of nines (\$25K at press time).	There is a nightly \$200 high hand.

WEST VIRGINIA

MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM Phone: (304) 387-8458 www.mountaineerpoker.com	Daily at 12:15p and 7:30p (\$40-\$225). Winter Poker Open is Feb. 15-21 and includes \$1,100 main event on Feb. 20 (40K chips, 60-min blinds).	Bad beat is aces full of kings (\$80K at press time).	\$30K Invitation Only freeroll (March 14, 11a), first place wins \$10K guaranteed. Call for details.
TRI-STATE RACETRACK AND GAMING Phone: (800) 224-9683 www.tristateracetrack.com	Generally events are Sun. (2p), Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p) & Wed. 7p and buy-ins vary (\$40-\$125). Big Stack is last Sunday of month (\$560, 10K chips, 2p).	Bad beat totals vary by game, but hold'em (aces full of jacks) was \$86K at press time.	\$400 high hand, \$400 Splash the Pot and \$400 Hit the Hand. Call for details.
WHEELING CASINO Phone: (304) 232-5050 www.wheelingisland.com	Sun-Fri. (\$40, 10a); Sat. (\$150, 3p, 6K chips), plus tournaments every night (\$40-\$65, 7p).	Bad beat was \$58K at press time.	Full House Frenzy Sundays: Each player with a full house gets a ticket entered into a \$400 drawing.

MISSISSIPPI

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
AMERISTAR VICKSBURG Phone: (601) 630-4996 www.ameristar.com/vicksburg	Only on Mondays and Wednesdays, (\$20, 6:30p) with an optional add-on. SNGs: \$25, \$65, \$110.	Mini bad beat (quads over aces full) pays 10% of full bad beat (any quads), \$42k at press time.	Splash the Pot Mondays; Quads pays \$100 on Wednesdays. Call for details.
BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO Phone: (228) 386-7092 www.beaurivage.com	Daily at noon & 6p (\$120-\$340), including Super Stack every Friday (noon) and Monday-Thursday (6p), featuring 10K max. chips, 15-minute blinds.	Royals pay \$200 but spades wins \$500.	Lose \$40-plus pot in \$4-\$8 LHE with pocket aces and win \$100. Call for details on Omaha/8 special.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-8999 www.boomtownbiloxi.com	Mon.-Wed and Sat. (\$45-\$65), plus last Wed. of the month features a bounty event (\$100, 7p).	Bad beat is aces full of kings (More than \$50K at press time). Mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks).	Aces cracked (Tue., Thurs., Fri. & Sun.) pays \$50 (11a-midnight), plus player entered in \$500 drawing.
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT Phone: (662) 357-1136 www.goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$60-\$340). \$10K guarantee first Sun. of the month (\$340, 1p), 10K chips, 30-minute blinds. Third Sat. is \$5K guarantee (\$100, 6p, 8K chips)	Call for current bad beat and royal flush jackpots.	Delta Gold Classic (Feb. 25-March 10). See site for details. High Heels Poker Tour, Feb. 27, \$230, 11a.
HARD ROCK BILOXI Phone: (228) 374-7625 www.hardrockbiloxi.com	Daily at 3p (\$25-\$55). Chip stacks, bonus chip offers and blinds vary. Web site has all details. SNGs: \$75, \$125, \$235, \$550.	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads (\$106K at press time).	Royal flush wins Hard Rock Poker Room jacket; straight flush wins Hard Rock Poker Room hat.
HARLOW'S CASINO Phone: (662) 335-9797 x144 www.harlowcasino.com	Tuesdays, USPT event (\$65, 7:30p); 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month (\$100, 5p); first Friday of month (\$250, 8p).		Call for any promotions.
HARRAH'S TUNICA Phone: (800) 946-4946, x33760 www.harrahstunica.com	Daily at 1p & 6p (\$60-\$105), including Deep-stack Fridays (\$105, 6p) featuring 15K chips and 20-minute blinds.	No jackpots.	World Series of Poker Circuit events run through Feb. 8, with satellites running daily.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS Phone: (866) 758-2591 x4026 www.hollywoodcasinobs.com	Daily (\$30-\$55) including a pineapple tournament on Thursdays (\$45, 6:30p) with 1,500 chips, 20-minute blinds, \$45 rebuy and \$45 add-on.	Bad beat and mini bad beat available. High hands win \$50 Wed. & Thurs. (10a-6p). Call for details.	Aces cracked on Tuesdays (10a-10p) wins \$100 or \$150 progressive up to \$200.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA Phone: (800) 871-0711 x5005 www.hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$70), including Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 gets 500 chips, \$5 dealer token gets 1,500 chips, \$10 rebuys and \$20 add-on for \$10K, 2p)	Hold'em bad beat (quads or better) must be in \$3-\$6 or higher (\$59K) and there's a new Omaha jackpot.	Aces cracked Wednesdays and High Hands Thursdays spin the prize wheel (\$25-\$500).
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA Phone: (662) 357-5608 www.horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$55-\$550), including first Sat. of the month's \$10K first-place guarantee (\$550, 4p) with 12K chips and 30-minute blinds.	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em was at \$83K at press time.	Hourly high hands in hold'em can win \$25-\$500 depending on the hand made. Call for details.
ISLAND VIEW CASINO Phone: (228) 314-2230 www.islandviewcasino.com	Fridays (\$50 with \$25 rebuys, 6:30p)	Straight flush progressive on Fridays (7:30p-8a). Call for details.	Splash the Pot daily (\$25 every 30 minutes, 10a-6p) and \$50 high hands Mon-Thurs., Sun. (7p-mid.).
IP CASINO RESORT SPA Phone: (888) 946-2847 x8554 www.ipbiloxi.com	Daily at noon (\$60, 4K chips) Earn extra chips by playing live action between 8-11a to receive an extra 1K chips for each hour played.	Lucky Player pays \$75 hourly Wed.-Thurs. (10a-4p). Winners are picked randomly.	\$24K Giveaway (\$3K drawings Fri.-Sat. 6p-midnight); aces cracked pays \$100 (Tue.-Wed 4p-midnight).
ISLE OF CAPRI BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-7967 www.biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Daily (\$15-\$50), including bounty rebuy event on Saturdays (\$30, 3p), featuring 3K chips, 20-minute blinds, \$20 rebuys, \$25 add-on and \$20 bounties.	Bad beat available in numerous games, but hold'em (aces full of queens) was \$60K at press time.	Royals win jacket; aces cracked (Wed. 10a-mid.) wins \$50 or wheel spin. High hand (\$80, Mon., 10a-6p)
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA Phone: (800) 456-0711 www.samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$80), including a \$4K guarantee on Saturdays (\$70, 7p). SNGs: \$60-\$120.	Bad beat is any quads (\$20K at press time).	Aces full of kings pays a \$200 high hand, but increases \$200 every day it's not hit.
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO Phone: (866) 775-4773 x3766 www.silverflipper-ms.com	Thursdays (\$75, 7p) feature a bounty event, 2K chips, 15-minute blinds, \$25 bounties. SNGs: \$45, \$65 (2K chips, 10 players).	Bad beat is \$75K in hold'em, \$2K for Omaha. Mini is aces full of deuces (\$550 to loser).	Aces cracked can earn you from \$50-\$150 depending on the day and time. Call for details.
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) Phone: (601) 650-1234 www.pearlriverresort.com	Daily, (\$35-\$85), including a \$2,500 guarantee on Saturdays (\$85, 2p). Events on M-T-W-Th start at 7p; F-S-Su start at 2p.	Bad beat in hold'em (quads, \$21K), Omaha (quad 7s, \$11K) and stud (quads, \$10K).	Call for any promotions.

GEORGIA

DIAMOND CASINO SAVANNAH Phone: (912) 897-3005 www.diamondcasinosavannah.com	Friday (night cruise) and Saturday (afternoon and night cruises), \$110.	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
EMERALD PRINCESS II Phone: (912) 265-3558 www.emeraldprincesscasino.com	Texas Hold'em Saturdays, call for details.	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.

NORTH CAROLINA

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE www.harrahscherokee.com Phone: (828) 497-7777	Tournaments and cash games on PokerPro tables. SNGs: Tuesday and Sunday (\$115).	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
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Q&A

WITH DENNIS PHILLIPS



Dennis Phillips is loving life. In less than two years he's gone from unknown truck driver to world-famous nice guy. Ante Up's Chris Cosenza caught up with him at a charity event in Chicago and talked about life as a truck company owner, his buddy Albert Pujols and, of course, a little poker.

Can you explain what your life has been like since your third-place finish at the WSOP in 2008? It's been about 18 months now and honestly I don't think I've stopped smiling the entire time. It's been a whirlwind. Doing things I never would have dreamt possible, that I can now count as friends such as St. Louis Cardinals slugger) Albert Pujols and a number of others, traveling to places I've never even heard of before. ... Me in Monte Carlo, what's going on here? (laughs) It's crazy, but it's all good. The poker world is such a good group of people. They do so much work with charities, they are so friendly, they will welcome you into the fold as long as you're a good guy. It's pretty awesome.

A lot of truck drivers are in it for the solitude, but now that you're a famous poker player solitude is the last thing you have. How hard was it to go from real obscurity to limelight? It is kinda wild. To come to the event in Chicago, instead of the option of flying, which I've done a tremendous amount of flying last year (more than 200,000 miles), I decided to drive because four hours in a car with nobody else sounded really, really good. (laughs) You're absolutely right. I can't go into a McDonalds now (as) someone (always) recognizes me. But again, for the most part, it's really good. People just want to talk to me for a second. They always have a question. If I hear that ace-king, ace-queen question any more times ... (laughs) but that's just part of it.

Did you buy Broadway Truck Centers in St. Louis, the trucking company that used to employ you? Yeah, I am buying the company down there. These are guys I've known for years and years. The economy of course, with the way that it is, the two owners right now, one of them is 79 and the other one is 80, they wanted to get out of the business, but they

wanted to make sure the business stayed together. They have guys who have worked there for 30-35 years. They were afraid if they sold it that it would kinda get dispersed. We came to terms and my friends are going to have a job and I'm going to have a good business. They know that it's going to stay together so it's kind of a win-win-win situation.

Anyone who knows you knows you're a St. Louis Cardinals fan. (laughs) What was the experience of throwing out the first pitch at Busch Stadium like and how did that come about? Actually some friends of friends. I've made a lot of acquaintances now. I've helped Albert Pujols with his Pujols Family Foundation charity, which is absolutely awesome. ... They gave me a jersey with my name on the back of it, the whole bit. You walk out in the middle of 40,000 people, you don't get a chance to warm up or anything like that. The guy said, "Look, just go out 20 feet and lob it back in if you want," and I said, "Nnnnnuh!" (laughs) This is the only time this is every going to happen. I don't care. I went out there and I tried to pretend like I was 20 and heave it. And of course I split the plate with a ball; it rolled right over it. (laughs) There you go. But it was fun, and now everyone gives me a hard time about it, and I really don't care, it's fine. (laughs)

How's your radio show going? It's going very well. ... You can't hardly name a poker star who hasn't been on. ... It's all working well and we're having a blast on it. (Go to chipleader.com for live or archives.) It's done at the local station there in St. Louis, on 590 The Fan. ... Listen to it, send me some emails, we'll have some fun.

How often do you play charity events and how rewarding has it been? It's been really rewarding. It's one of the best



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National Spotlight on Dennis Phillips

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things I do, I think. I'm actively involved in some aspect with about 20 charities in the St. Louis area and around the country. And I also do individual charity events. ... I pretty much do them whenever I'm available. It's so much fun; it's so rewarding.

Moving on to poker, you made another incredibly deep run in the 2009 World Series of Poker Main Event. Did you have to change your game at all before the Series because people knew who you were from the prior year?

What happens when you go on the tour and you're around there, your game better improve or you're going to get in trouble. And I played with some of the best in the world and my game did improve. I play a much better game now than I did in '08. ... On the first day (of the '09 Series) I had a camera crew follow me around to every table I was at that entire first day. And everybody wanted to be on the camera. It made no difference what I had or what I bet, I guarantee I was getting called. It was a nightmare. (laughs) That first day was nothing but survival. I flopped a set of fives and laid it down.

So how did you turn it to your advantage? Instant analysis at the table. Two things are the reactions I normally get: people who are scared to play with me, or they want to push me out so they can tell everybody about it. Those are the two extremes. You have to instantly be able to recognize those when you sit at a table. I hate it when my table gets busted, I sit down (at a new table) I haven't seen any play at the table and they

deal me something like jacks. And you got a preflop raiser ahead of you. It's like, "What do I do now?" Give me an hour and I'll know how to handle it. But right now it's a problem. (laughs)

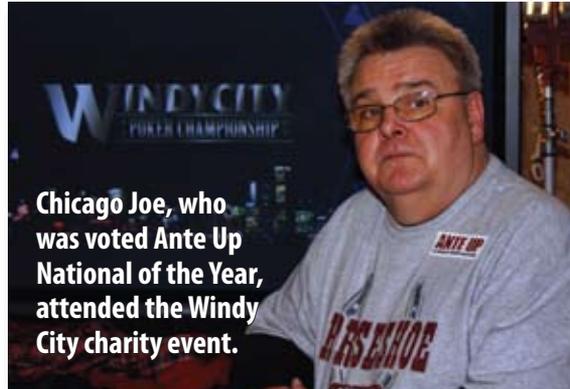
How many people was it you brought out for the November Nine in 2008? Three-hundred forty-six people came out with me.

And what did that cost? (laughs) I've never really told anybody what it cost. But we did hotel rooms, we did all the shirts, all the hats. A lot of people flew out on their own, but a lot of them I did fly out also. We rented McFadden's restaurant there for the weekend so they could go there any time they wanted to eat. I rented shuttle buses that took them around places. We went out and played golf afterwards. We just had a blast, and I wouldn't change anything. I'm telling you it was worth every penny of it.

How's your relationship with PokerStars going? Very well. PokerStars is a quality act. ... They are an extremely ethical and forward-thinking company. I love it and I wouldn't trade them for anything.

Do you like other games besides hold'em? I play a lot of the other games now, and I'm

really getting addicted to some of them. ... Deuce-to-7 triple draw can be SO much fun and it is SO sick (laughs). And then I found out the more I play razz the more strategy there is in razz. It's a lowball game, supposedly real simple right? No it's not! ... There's a skill to playing razz. ... I'm enjoying the variety. Hold'em is my favorite, obviously, but the others are fun to play.



Chicago Joe, who was voted Ante Up National of the Year, attended the Windy City charity event.

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