

ANTE UP

FLORIDA'S POKER MAGAZINE™

JULY 2009 | anteupmagazine.com



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HAND NICKNAMES

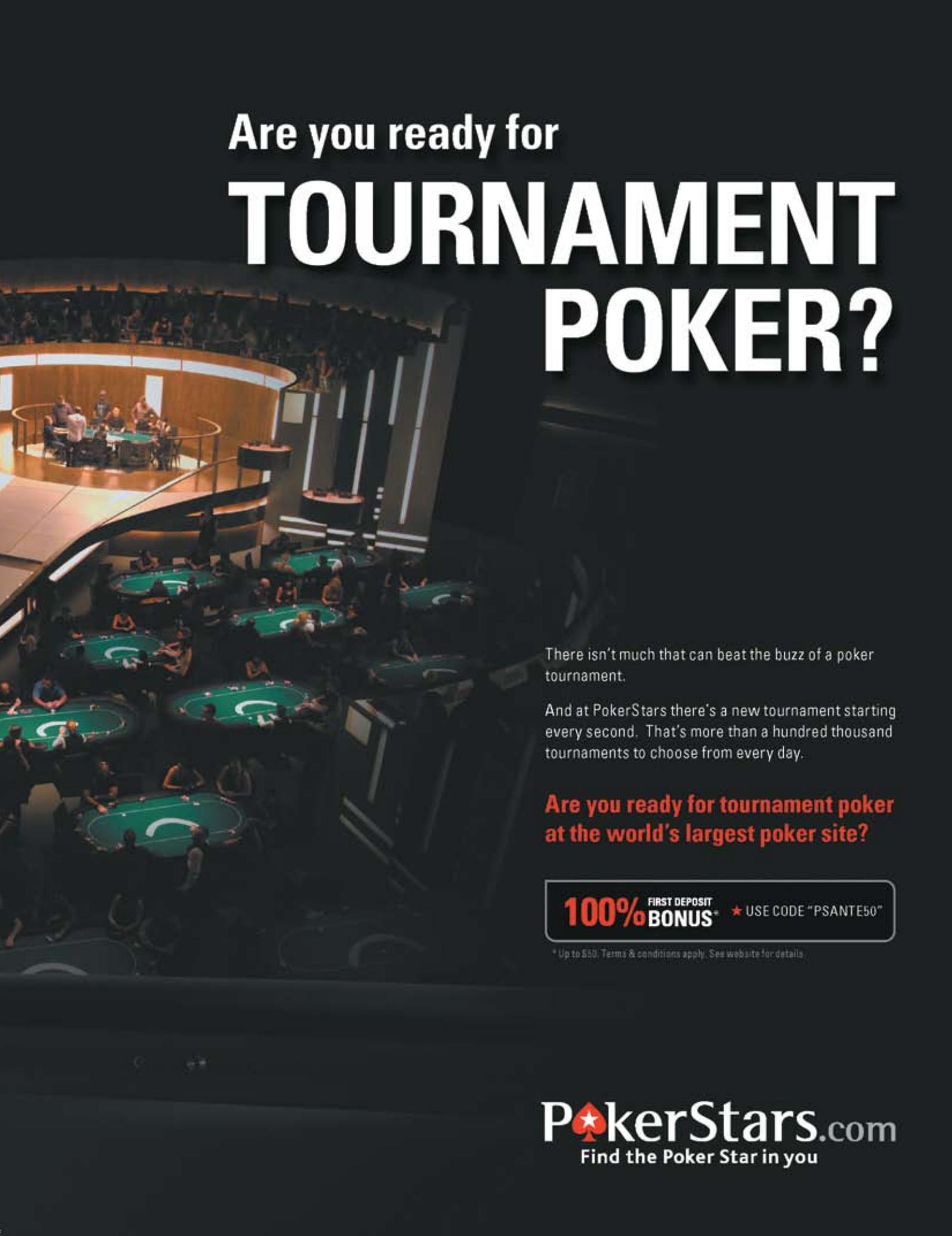


IS THIS CHAD'S YEAR?

Margate's Chad Brown has everything a poker player could ask for . . . except a World Series bracelet.



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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



LET'S PRESERVE YOUR WSOP STORY

As a poker player you've heard a million times the catchphrase that brings distinction to the World Series of Poker: Where else can Average Joe sit with the game's best and compete for a world title?

Ante Up came into existence at the tail end of the 2008 WSOP, so we were resigned to publishing mere results. But this year we'll be in Las Vegas to attend the planet's richest competition and we'll have one goal in mind: to give Floridians the best WSOP coverage possible.

And that's where you come in.

If you attended the 40th WSOP (as a player or as a fan) we want to know about it. Were you at the same table with one of the Phils (Gordon, Laak, Hellmuth, Ivey ... take your pick)? Let us know. Perhaps you cornered Scotty Nguyen and asked to have your picture taken with him. Ship it! Did you cash in the Series? Tell us about it! Were you the bubbleboy? We want to know. Maybe you entered a satellite for pennies on the dollar and then turned that into a big score. Give us the scoop!

Or perhaps you just happened to run across the Mr. Peanut mascot, like Chris did in 2007 at the Rio. Everyone wants a shot of themselves holding the nuts! (We'll pause here for you to get that.)

Seriously, we want to hear your stories and we want to see your photos. Tell us as many details as possible and we'll do our best to publish them all. Just email editor@anteupmagazine.com and we'll do the rest. In

the meantime be sure check our blog on anteupmagazine.com/blog for daily WSOP updates and be sure to read our upcoming issues to see your stories and photographs.

As for this issue, meet Chad Brown. The Margate resident is a very profitable poker player with Hollywood good looks and a gorgeous poker-playing bride to match. (He recently eloped with Hobe Sound's Vanessa Rousso in Florida.) But for the man who seemingly has everything there's one dream that eludes him: WSOP bling.

Brown has come this close to winning a WSOP bracelet on oh-so-many occasions. What does this former-actor-turned-poker-player have to do to get the hardware he seeks? Is this his year? See what he thinks on Page 32

And if May's WSOP circuit event at Harrah's New Orleans is any indication of how Floridians will do in Las Vegas you can look forward to a record-setting Series from our rounders. Five times (out of 20 events) Floridians took home the WSOPC gold ring, and Miami's Robert Campbell led the way with a first, second and third-place finish in three tournaments (Page 20).

Davie's Jason Mercier already has won his first WSOP bracelet, so we hope you follow his lead. Good luck, everyone, and we'll see you at the tables!

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long
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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 Florida poker.

BACK ISSUES

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Beautifully played.



Sept. 3 - Sept. 14



DATE	EVENT	TIME	TOURNAMENT	BUY-IN
Sept. 3	Thu.	6PM	Satellites and Nightly Event Begin	
Sept. 4	Fri.	1	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em (deep stack)	\$300 + \$40
Sept. 5	Sat.	2 Day 1	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$500 + \$50
Sept. 6	Sun.	2 Day 2	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em (optional Day 1 Re-entry)	\$500 + \$50
Sept. 6	Sun.	3	2PM LIPS Ladies Event	\$300 + \$40
Sept. 7	Mon.	4	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em (deep stack)	\$300 + \$40
Sept. 7	Mon.	5	4PM Limit Hold 'Em	\$300 + \$40
Sept. 8	Tue.	6	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em (deep stack)	\$300 + \$40
Sept. 8	Tue.	7	4PM Limit Omaha Hi-Lo	\$300 + \$40
Sept. 9	Wed.	8	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em (deep stack)	\$300 + \$40
Sept. 9	Wed.	9	4PM Seven Card Stud/Stud 8 mixed event	\$300 + \$40
Sept. 10	Thu.	10	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em (deep stack)	\$300 + \$40
Sept. 10	Thu.	11	4PM Pot Limit Omaha/Rebuy	\$500 + \$50
Sept. 11	Fri.	12	12PM No-Limit Hold 'Em	\$500 + \$50
Sept. 11	Fri.	13	2PM A-5 Lowball/2-7 Lowball/Badugi Draw	\$1,000 + \$70
Sept. 11	Fri.		4PM Mega Satellite (1 Day)	\$500 + \$40
Sept. 11	Fri.		8PM Mega Satellite (1 Day)	\$500 + \$40
Sept. 12	Sat.		10AM Last Chance Mega Satellite Turbo	\$500 + \$40
Sept. 12	Sat.	14	2PM No-Limit Hold 'Em Championship	\$5,000 + \$150
Sept. 13	Sun.		12PM Day 2 of Championship Event	
Sept. 13	Sun.		4PM Mega Satellite	\$500 + \$40
Sept. 14	Mon.	15	2PM No-Limit Hold 'Em Turbo (1 Day)	\$270 + \$30
Sept. 14	Mon.		4PM Championship Event Final Table	

Event 14 winner receives a seat into the WPT event at Beau Rivage, January 2010.

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NEWS

World Series fest

Everything from a qualifier in Jacksonville (pg. 18) and a circuit event in New Orleans (pg. 20) to the actual World Series of Poker in Las Vegas (pg. 22) made the news this month as Davie's Jason Mercier edged out Largo's Steven Burkholder for his first bracelet.



Time to vote

Think your poker room is the best? Maybe the structure at one room is better than another. Perhaps the food tastes better in your room? Let your voice be heard with our inaugural Ante Up Florida's Choice Awards. **39**

• Plus, the Ante Up Poker Tour kicked off June 6. **23**

PROFILE



Meet . . . Jena Delk

There's so much more to the Merritt Island resident than her poker success. Learn how the local pro deals with raising a family and traveling the country to play poker, all while suffering from permanent nerve damage. **14**

STRATEGY

Pot control

Pro player Lee Childs says you need to control the size of the pot when you're in position and have a marginal hand. Keep the pot small with decent hands and only play big pots with big hands. **40**

• Also, ex-FBI guy (and nonverbal behavior expert) Joe Navarro says one tell may not be enough to determine a player's true position in a hand. **41**

COVER STORY



Chad's lack of bling is the thing

Mr. Brown, the pro who calls Margate home, is at the World Series right now trying to be ousted from the "Best Poker Players without a Bracelet" club. **32**

LIFESTYLE

Being flexible

Wesley Chapel's Chris Dombrowski shows us the best laid plans are the plans you never make. See as he tries to squeeze in watching his beloved Celtics during his busy schedule. **43**

ROAD TRIP

Get your motor runnin'

Last month we took you around the state as a baseball fan. This month it's all about the fast cars and loose poker games. Florida is full of events that cater to the racing (and poker) fan. **28-29**

ON THE BUTTON



Call her Hot Chips

Love her or hate her, Tiffany Michelle's got game. Last year's WSOP vixen talks about her year in the poker spotlight. **52**

PERSPECTIVE

Dealer issues spawn tons of controversy

This month *Ante Up* was bombarded with letters regarding Florida dealers, some good, some bad. We chose the best and printed them. **46-47**

TOP FIVE

Poker hand nicknames!

Do you know the pet names for these starting hands? The publishers of *Ante Up* discuss their favorites. What are yours? **38**





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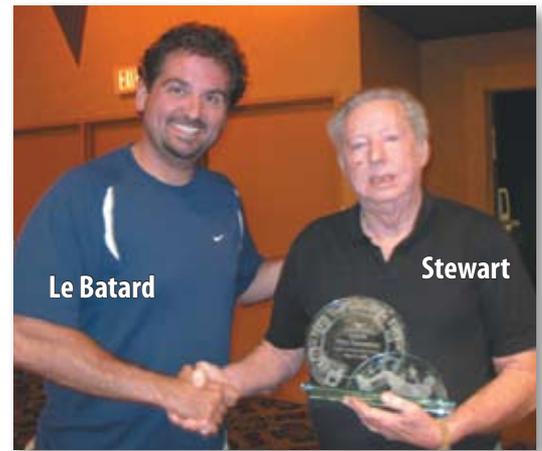


Dania Jai-Alai

Dania Jai-Alai's poker room plans a \$40K guarantee (its largest ever) for July 11. And the tournament also will be an Ante Up Poker Tour event. Look for the ad on page 21.

Earl Stewart was declared the winner of the Dan Le Batard Celebrity tournament held May 27 at Dania Jai-Alai. The Wednesday night \$50 multi-table hold'em event drew 196 players.

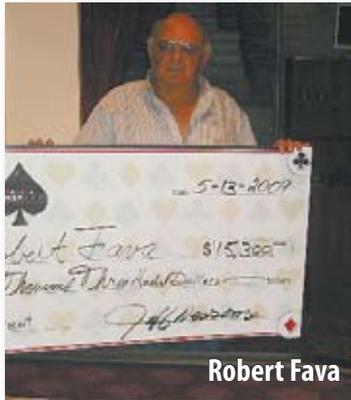
When the final 10 players reached the last table, they all agreed to "chop" the prize pool with each player receiving \$690. Stewart was the chip-leader so he and took home the trophy.



Le Batard

Stewart

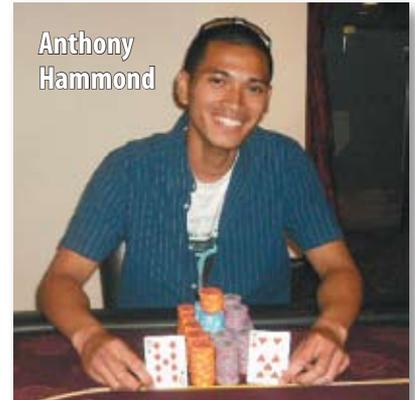
Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood



Robert Fava



T. J. Shulman



Anthony Hammond

Here are your May winners from the Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood Main Event tournament series at the Paradise Poker Room. T.J. Shulman of Duluth, Ga. won the \$1,100 Heavyweight Division, which had 82 entries, and pocketed \$27,880. The \$550 Cruiserweight Division, which had 90 entries, went to Robert Fava of Homestead, who won \$15,300. Anthony Hammond of Coventry, R.I., won the \$350 Middleweight Division (112 entries), good for \$11,090.



Isle Casino at Pompano Park

Thomas Gennaro of Miami Beach, far left, won a little more than \$118,000 from the Mega Bad Beat Jackpot after his straight flush, holding the A♦♦, was second-best to Jeffrey Finlayson of Pompano Beach.

Finlayson held the 6♦♦ and took home nearly \$60K. The other eight players at the table each got \$7,434.

The total jackpot was worth more than \$237,000.

All In Free Poker

It was a historical night for the All In Free Poker series as Amy Devoe became the league's second woman to win its final.

With more than 220 starters playing over two sessions at the Isle Casino, Devoe bested them all on May 19 to win \$2,000 in buy-ins to the Isle's Florida State Poker Championship, including a \$900 buy-in to the \$150,000 guaranteed main event. She also received a \$2,000 used poker table from a WPT Boot Camp.

Devoe defeated Greg Danver heads-up with

the blinds at 40,000-80,000 and a 4,000 ante. Danver won two entries to the state championship series. Ben Vassallo finished third and won a \$330 entry.

Robert Oulton, who was chipleader after Day 1, finished fourth and won a satellite entry to the FSPC \$900 main event, as did Nancy Thomas, Frank Greentree, Jean Fluery, Deb Vashon, Marc Hansen and Stacey Rosso, who rounded out the top 10. Rosso now has three final tables to her credit in AIFP finals.



Amy Devoe

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PRINCESS PARTNERS PROMISE ‘OLD VEGAS’ IS BACK

By Christopher Cosenza

“I’ve never run a poker room in my life.”

These are not the words you’d expect to hear from someone who just took over poker operations aboard the Palm Beach Princess. But that doesn’t make the statement any less true. Lou Patierno, who celebrates his 75th birthday this month, continues describing his poker resume: “I’ve never been a floor manager and I’ve never dealt a hand of poker. But I’ve played in hundreds of casinos and played a zillion tournaments. And I also have an Internet (poker instruction) Web site (proplaylive.com) and I know a lot of the pros out in Vegas.”

Patierno and his partner, Joe Rolle, are independent contractors who literally saved the ship’s poker room. The boat changed owners about six months ago and they considered closing the poker room. But after talks with Patierno and Rolle, the new owners decided to let these guys give it a go.

So how does knowing a lot of Vegas pros make Patierno qualified to run a poker room? Well, it doesn’t. But he is the poker player’s best friend. He’s the host and he believes in Old Vegas.

“I understand the business from a poker player’s point of view,” he said. “I won’t wait for them to ask me for a sandwich ... I go around the room and offer freebies and make friends. I’m grateful for their business. I grew up in Old Vegas. ... Their attitude was, you came there with \$500 and you went home broke. They could take it and charge you for the hotels, they could charge you for the drinks, charge you in the casino and you went home broke. Or they give you everything for free and you lose all \$500 in the casino. Then you go home broke but say, ‘Man, I had a good time.’ ... Anybody who comes to our poker room I’ll take care of them. Next time they can get on for free and maybe even bring a friend and I’ll comp the friend.”

But what about poker operations and the day-to-day stuff? That’s where Rolle comes in. The Bahamas native began his gaming career as a teenager with Princess Casino, working his way up the ladder. Rolle eventually made it to the States and has worked as a manager with Sun Cruz, Mardi Gras and Dania Jai-Alai. He also was instrumental in opening Hard Rock Hollywood’s poker room, and now he operates the Pinnacle Gaming Institute, a casino and poker dealer school in Davie.

OK, so combined these guys make a powerful tandem, but has anyone heard of independent contractors in poker?

“The poker room is now a concession, meaning I don’t work for the ship,” said Patierno, a New Jersey native. “We just pay them a fee and we run the poker room any way we want. Basically we call the shots, decide the tournaments, payouts, etc. We just pay them a fee. Our poker players will be treated the same way our casino people are, meaning, they’ll get comps, free drinks while they’re playing. They



Lou Patierno

Joe Rolle

get a gourmet meal going out and they get breakfast on the way home. So that’s our big plus.”

Think of it as those photographers on cruise lines. They want to take your picture to commemorate this special moment for you, and if you buy a photo the ship gets a cut of your sale.

“We bring on our own staff,” Patierno said. “We have our own tournaments; we have our own chips; we have our own bank and we have our own window where we cash the chips. But the chips are the same as the rest of the casino, so people from the casino can come up and spend them how they see fit.”



If you’re wondering what happened to Bob Bush, the English mate who ran the poker room before, he’s still there. He just runs the casino operation now. And yes, the World Poker Tour satellites are safe, too. Patierno said they’ll remain a huge draw for the Princess ... and his partnership.

“For most casinos, the poker rooms are not big moneymakers for the amount of time and effort and space they take up,” Patierno said. “But poker players bring other people with them, their wives and girlfriends, who play the other games while they play poker.”

“Poker, if you don’t concentrate on it, doesn’t work. It’s our only business. We’re entrepreneurs; we know the poker business, and as a result we concentrate on the poker end of it only. ... We have a vested interest.”



Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai & Poker

Poker room manager Lesley Mims deemed Ft. Pierce’s World Series of Poker Main Event satellite on May 23 such a success she planned another one for early June.

“We had a great turnout,” she said. “It was standing room only.”

To be exact, 239 players showed up, and two \$10,000 seats plus travel money were awarded to the winners: Norman Wells and Eric Hock.

Hock had won a seat in another qualifier so he gave this seat to his brother, Vincent Hock.



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An occasional interview with a local player

Merritt Island's Jena Delk (pronounced Gee-nuh) is a member of the Ante Up Nation and has banked more than \$100,000 on the tournament trail, including just missing a World Poker Tour final table and winning the ladies event at the Harrah's New Orleans World Series of Poker circuit stop last year. She traveled to New Orleans in May to defend that title but unfortunately fell short. What is fortunate, however, is she took some time to talk to *Ante Up* while she was there.

There's an ongoing debate among female poker players about whether women should play in ladies-only events. What do you make of the debate? Well, I understand the reason for the debate, but I wish it wasn't there because I am one of those ladies who would not be playing poker today had it not been for the ladies event three years ago that I played. My husband played and I was learning to play the game. He came (to New Orleans) to play several events three years ago, and he put me in the ladies event, which I'm sure a lot of the guys do for their ladies. And I had a good time, but I also had a bad beat. (laughs) So immediately when I was out of that tournament they were calling for the mega-satellite and I walked over to him and I said, "Give me a thousand dollars!" (laughs) And I won my seat, so I played a \$10,000 event for my third tournament. (laughs)

Despite the success of players such as Jennifer Harman, Annie Duke and Vanessa Rousso, and great organizations such as the High Heels Poker Tour, women still make up such a small percentage of poker players. What's it going to take to get more women into the game? I'm hoping that Annie Duke being on the *Celebrity Apprentice* is going to help a little bit; it sure got people to talk and make them think there's a strong woman playing. ... I think it's just gonna take really a lady winning the main event. That would work, or a new final-table lady would be great this year. I think that'd be the way to do it.

You're on the Poker Players International team with fellow Ante-Upper Lee Childs. What is PPI and what's it done for you? PPI is basically an agency, so I have an agent. But the agents are also representing lots of big names in the poker world. So they are negotiating with companies that maybe wouldn't want to talk to the Jena Delks of the world, but certainly this roster of players. They're negotiating team contracts as well as individual contracts. I have this really nice business card that really makes me look important at events. (laughs) You know, maybe a photographer's snapping

a picture and I can just give him my information. It kinda gives me a little edge up that way for sure. And then I get to wear (Full Tilt Poker's) logo at events and that always generates photography information, which is what I want. But the most important thing for me is I feel like I'm on the edge of a really big win, so having an agent in place with a phone number to have somebody just take over any negotiations is gonna help me make sure I get fair-market value for whatever I am worth. That's what is very comforting to me, to know that I have that.

You suffer from permanent nerve damage that can affect your poker play. How much of a challenge has that been for you? Actually it's a very huge issue. It keeps me from coming out as much as I would like. I have to plan my days so I'm able to play. If I'm playing, all my energy is pretty much devoted to that, and then I rest. Like, I'm not able to drive. So I have to have a driver to go places, and that makes things a challenge. But also, if my condition is flaring up I might get the shakes and so that affects the game in itself; they think I have a big hand! (laughs). But the biggest thing

is I can't sit for long periods of time. So if you're sitting next to me at the poker table you're going to see me stand, you're going to see me contorting myself into weird positions so that I'm not sitting all the way down. Sometimes the other players get annoyed by that. They'll call the floor over and say, "She has to sit down to play," and stuff like this. But I have an honest disability so sometimes we get into little arguments. (laughs) But it works out. I even had one tournament where I had to lay on the floor between hands. Whatever it takes. (laughs)

How do you decide what events to attend? I do have a little different criteria than the average poker player because I travel alone. And with my health, safety is a big issue, and then how I get there. I have to have a nonstop flight, the location has to be close to the airport. ... and then I do look at the structure as well. ... I've kinda learned to adapt to the poker lifestyle, but I'm not the usual one. I don't go out and party; I don't go to restaurants; I tend to get food to go and come back to my room and tend to myself so I can be ready to play. But the best is shopping (laughs) and spas! And I do treat myself to those things definitely. I'm doing my best to stimulate the economy that way. (laughs)



Jena Delk played recently in the WSOP qualifier at Daytona Beach Kennel Club.

You're featured in the documentary *Heart Felt*, which is due to be released in July. What's the movie about? I met them last year at the World Series of Poker. ... What they're doing is trying to focus on the number of female players competing in the tournament, and then more about the psychology and the motivation, the characteristics of the demographic of us playing tournaments. They're focused on the player, not the play, so it's going to be a little different; it's going to be more storytelling I think. And their goal is just to share the heart, mind and soul of the female player.

When you're home on Merritt Island you drive over to play at Daytona Beach Kennel Club. What do you think the possible new laws in Florida will mean for the state's poker players? Well, I know just being here in New Orleans, hearing people talk about it that don't live in Florida, they're talking about moving there. ... I think it's going to bring us a boom that we maybe aren't expecting. And I certainly hope it will bring one of the series (WPT, WSOP, etc.) to maybe one of our big casinos in the state. That would be just amazing for tourism and it would really help our economy. We need that.

Your husband, Michael, plays, as well. Are you competitive with each other? Like any married couples we fight about poker. (laughs) We are competitive together; we don't share a bankroll. We might borrow from each other on our bankrolls, and then we actually literally pay it back. We don't split; we don't share each other's action at the table and we do inform the table that we are married. Sometimes the dealer will say "They'll be fighting each other harder than they'll be fighting any of you!" (laughs) We definitely like bragging rights. At a Mother's Day tournament I came in first and he came in second and he asked me to chop. And I said no effing way! (laughs)

Photo courtesy of Daytona Beach Kennel Club



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8/26	H.O.R.S.E.	1pm	\$100	5,000	N/A
8/27	NL Hold'em Rebuy	1pm	\$30/\$10 Rebuys	1,000	\$10,000
8/28	NL Hold'em	1pm	\$200	10,000	\$20,000
8/29	NL Hold'em	1pm	\$500	20,000	\$50,000

August 1st - 28th Satellites for the main event (\$60 buy-in).

Main event may be a two day event.

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Southeast Hold'em



Here are the top 10 winners from the Orlando bimonthly in which \$1,500 worth of Daytona Beach Kennel Club tournament buy-ins were awarded. Pictured above are Chris Grieb and Jason Francis as they went heads-up for the title: **1.** Chris Grieb, **2.** Jason Francis, **3.** Rob Reynolds, **4.** Patrick Amarose, **5.** Richard Haugh, **6.** Bill Mutter, **7.** Dave St. Pierre, **8.** Crystal Kubis, **9.** Barbara Bowling and **10.** Al Sumner.



<< At May's semi-annual tournament Alex Monroe won a trip to the WSOP (June 27 event) plus accommodations. Top 30 players received prizes. Here is the list of the top 10 and prizes won.

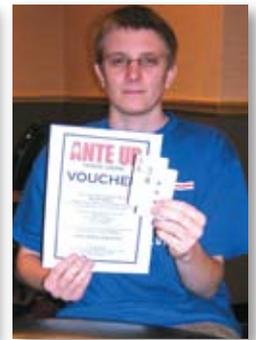
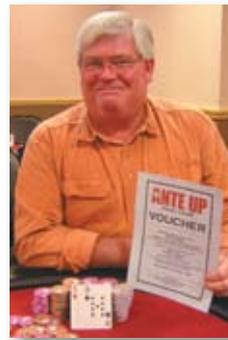
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Alex Monroe | WSOP entry |
| 2. Joe | Cruise for two |
| 3. Jim Mika | PlayStation 3 |
| 4. Cliff Taylor | Laptop |
| 5. Mike McCleary | Wii |
| 6. Colt Sutton | TomTom GPS |
| 7. Pat Amarose | Kodak camera |
| 8. Ronald Page | Canon camera |
| 9. Diane Obremnski | Poker table |
| 10. Paul McAllister | AAA membership |

All in Poker Series



At left, Hugo Torres took down May's monthly invitational and won a two-night stay on Daytona Beach, a gas card, the champion's trophy and a seat to compete for an entry into Event 51 at the WSOP. He beat 65 players. At right, James Moorehouse, a.k.a. Cowboy, won the April event. He beat 70 players to earn the trophy and a Nintendo Wii.

Ocala Poker & Jai-Alai



On June 5, Robert Pack, left, and Sam Soverel won Ante Up cruises during Full Boat Month. It was the culmination of a busy 30 days at Ocala.



The poker room's one-year anniversary party was May 23-24 and Susan B. won \$500. Susan is a dealer at Jacksonville's Orange Park Kennel Club.



Antonio Manserra, above, and Michael Baize won WSOP Main Event seats May 30.



STATE REPORT

TAMPA BAY: Treasure Chest Poker



Things have gotten a little busy with Treasure Chest Poker lately. Jeremy Conway, above, won this year's final Battle of the Bars event, representing Strokers, which is where the trophy will reside until next year.

Marc Weintraub, left, may not have won the final, but his Battle of the Bars victory for Danny's came during the largest one in its short existence. More than 60 people lined up to pick teams.

Finally, **Bob Northrop** won the monthly and a trip to Las

Vegas. He beat a field of 110 players and it was the last monthly event before the yearly (where three WSOP seats are awarded) so his victory couldn't have come at a better time.



PANHANDLE: Pleasure Island Poker



With 95 players qualifying in April, Frank "Gator" Crowder had a huge task in front of him on May 8 at the Fantasy Lounge in Ft. Walton Beach.

Dressed in his Gators orange, Crowder made the final table as a short stack.

But in the end he took on the chipleader heads-up and won a trip to Biloxi, Miss. where he will play in a tournament at the casino of his choice.

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July Events

St. Johns Greyhound Park

Friday, July 17th - Ante Up Poker Tour Event

Saturday, July 25th - Super Stack Main Event

Orange Park Kennel Club

Saturday, July 19th - Ante Up Poker Tour Event

Sunday, July 26th - Super Stack Main Event

August Events

St. Johns Greyhound Park

Saturday, August 29th - Super Stack Main Event

Orange Park Kennel Club

Sunday, August 30th - Super Stack Main Event

Bad Beat, High Hand, Royal Flush Giveaways and Daily Tournaments



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WSOP MAIN EVENT QUALIFIER



MAY 31 • ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB • JACKSONVILLE



Dominik Puccil and Eli Gomec pose with all the chips after they won their WSOP seats.

FLOPPED STRAIGHT LEADS TO VICTORY

Gomec's king-high straight ultimately locks up WSOP Main Event seats for him and Puccil.

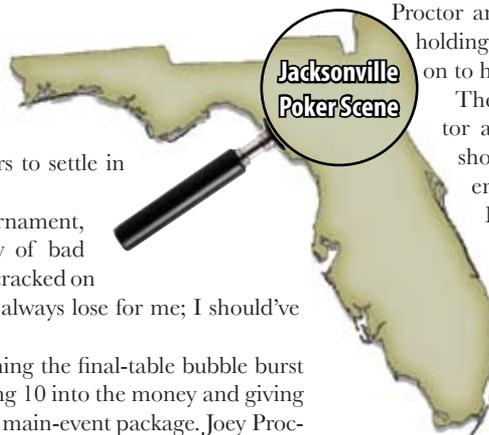
By Steve Washick

The action started slowly during the first few levels of the sold-out \$150 qualifier at Orange Park Kennel Club as the 10,000 chips and 30-minute blind levels allowed players to settle in and feel out each other.

However, as with every poker tournament, the cards eventually provided plenty of bad beats. After having his pocket queens cracked on the river, Cliff Chang said, "Queens always lose for me; I should've pushed pre flop."

With 11 of the 250 players remaining the final-table bubble burst during Level 15, sending the remaining 10 into the money and giving them a 1-in-5 shot at winning a \$12K main-event package. Joey Proctor and Eli Gomec were the dominating big stacks at the final table (Proctor held a slight lead over Gomec).

The action was fast and eliminations came quickly as the table dwindled to the final three: Proctor, Gomec and Dominik Puccil.



Proctor and Gomec were almost equal in chips with Proctor holding a very slight lead. Puccil was the short-stack holding on to his tournament life.

The tournament's defining hand occurred between Proctor and Gomec. With a rainbow flop of Q-J-9 Gomec shoved all-in, and after a couple of minutes of deliberation Proctor reluctantly called. Gomec flipped over K-10 for the top straight and Proctor revealed a queen for top pair. The turn and river were blanks for Proctor and, after the stacks were counted, Proctor was left with just a single 10K chip. The tournament ended on the next hand when Gomec's Q-10 eliminated Proctor and Gomec and Puccil won their seats to the main event.

ST. JOHNS WSOP QUALIFIER: On May 17 St. Johns held its final WSOP Main Event qualifier and that, too, was a sellout as 250 players competed for two seats. In the end, Bart Wahl from Lake Placid and "Chip" Scouronski from Hardeeville, S.C. earned their trips to Vegas.



The final table.

Final results

1. Eli Gomec	Dominican Republic	\$12,000
2. Dominik (Tony) Puccil	Jacksonville	\$12,000
3. Joey Proctor	Jacksonville	\$3,315
4. Don Rogers	Hardeeville, S.C.	\$1,870
5. Barry Price	Jacksonville Beach	\$1,190
6. Joy Pozek	St. Simon's Island, Ga.	\$795
7. Brandon Bascelli	Jacksonville	\$467
8. Richard Grant	Jacksonville	\$340
9. B. L.	Orange Park	\$298
10. Bruce Talcott	St. Augustine	\$255

WHEN WILL HIGHER LIMITS COME?

By Scott Long

Since the Florida Legislative passed Senate Bill 788, which removes most restrictions on poker in the state, *Ante Up* has received a steady stream of phone calls and e-mails from people wanting to know when the new limits will take effect.

The short answer: It's impossible to say. Unlike most bills that take effect on July 1, this one is different because everything included in it is dependent on a new Seminole Compact being approved. So here's a timeline of the steps involved, followed by some discussion on how long it might take:

STEPS

1. Gov. Charlie Crist signs SB 788.
2. Gov. Crist and the Seminole Tribe draft a new compact.
3. Florida Legislature and Seminole Tribe Council approve the new compact.
4. Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs approves the new compact, and it's printed in the Federal Register.

TIMELINE

Based on conversations with *Ante Up* sources, the best-case scenario would have the new limits taking effect late this year. But there are a number of factors that might test that optimism. Here's what's involved in the steps above:

1. Crist supported the wide-ranging original Senate bill, so he's expected to sign the bill soon.

2. The bill dictates that a new compact be completed by Aug. 31. The question is whether the Seminole Tribe will accept the terms in the bill, which aren't as generous as the compact the tribe is operating under right now. Specifically, losing blackjack at Seminole Casino Immokalee, where the game is currently being dealt after millions of dollars in renovations, is a loss. However, Seminole lobbyists were consulted on the final days of negotiations, and the Tribe has thanked legislators for their willingness to work on the compact.

Best guess: Aug. 31.

3. The Florida Legislature is in session every March-April, so unless a special session is called, the new compact will have to wait until March. But since the Aug. 31 date was written into the bill, one can assume lawmakers are open to calling a special session when a new compact is reached. The last special session convened about 2.5 weeks after it was called for. However, if the compact strays from the parameters in the bill, it will open new debate, so approval isn't a done deal.

Best guess: Oct. 1 — and if the Legislature rejects the compact, then we're back to Square 1.

4. It took roughly two months under the current compact for the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs to approve it and for it to be published in the Federal Register.

Best guess: Dec. 1, assuming Legislature approves the compact.

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WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT



MAY 8-21 • HARRAH'S • NEW ORLEANS

FLORIDA DOMINATES BEHIND CAMPBELL

There's just something about playing in Bayou Country that brings out the best in Florida's poker players. Not too long ago the 2009 Southern Championship at the Beau Rivage in Mississippi highlighted some of the Sunshine State's finest players. But that was nothing compared to their performances in this year's World Series of Poker circuit event at Harrah's New Orleans in May.

Of the 20 WSOPC events at New Orleans, a.k.a. the 2009 Bayou Poker Challenge, Floridians won five. And the person deemed unofficial "Best All-Around Player" of the Bayou series was Robert Campbell. The Miami pro won Event No. 2 (Omaha/8), plus he finished second in Event 16 (PLO with re-buys) and third in Event 8 (PLO).

During his victory, Campbell defeated 80 players, including fellow Floridian Vitarioro "Victor" Iemolo when it got heads-up. Iemolo, a 44-year-old poker player originally from New York, lives in Sarasota and it was his third cash in a major tournament.

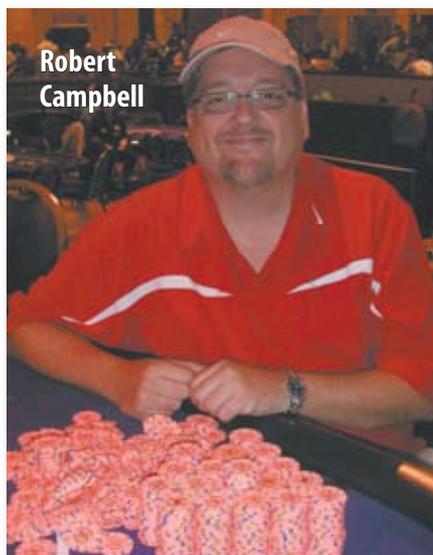
"It feels great," Campbell said of winning the title. "It's a good warm-up for the World Series. It makes me feel proud to exhibit my skills in a public forum."

Campbell, a.k.a. RBC, is a long-time veteran of tournament poker and plans to play in about 10 events while at the WSOP. His first cash came in 1993, but since then he has around 30 cashes, including twice at the WSOP (both in O/8B) and victories at The Orleans in Las Vegas and the California State Poker Championships in Los Angeles. He has more than \$100K in career tournament winnings. For his WSOPC victory RBC pocketed \$8,485 and was presented with a gold ring from the \$340 event.

Finishing behind Campbell for "best player" accolades would have to be his friend, George Guzman of Ft. Lauderdale. Guzman, a 49-year-old pro who concentrates mostly on cash games, won the \$550 PLO tournament that had 78 players. For Guzman, a former electrical engineer, it not only was his first major victory but it was only the second time he entered a pot-limit Omaha tournament.

"It was a tough field for me," Guzman said. "I was on a heater. That was just my second Omaha Hi tournament."

The victory, good for \$12,921 and a gold ring, wasn't Guzman's only highlight in New Orleans. He finished sixth (\$2,881) in the \$500 mixed event (half PLO, half PLO/8) that saw 99 runners, and he cashed in a NLHE tournament (22nd).



Robert Campbell



George Guzman

• **John Lallo**, a.k.a. the Melon, is a 45-year-old restaurant owner from Ft. Myers, and now he also owns a WSOPC gold ring. Lallo, originally from Ohio, won the \$300 NLHE tournament that attracted a strong field of 263 players. He defeated Alex Wood in heads-up play to earn his first major victory and \$18,560. It was his third time cashing in a major and second in-the-money finish at a WSOPC event.

• **Michael Riamon**, a 37-year-old poker pro from Bradenton, won the \$500 six-handed NLHE event. Raimon, who owns a chain of Athlete's Foot stores and originally hails from Massachusetts, bested 171 players to win \$24,192 and the gold ring.

It was the fastest final table of any event played, finishing in 1 hour, 45 minutes. The win was Raimon's first major, though he has cashed twice at the WSOP in Las Vegas. He's a regular at Seminole Hard Rock in Tampa.

• **Robert "The Thorn" Rosengarten** of Aventura wrapped up the gold rings for the Sunshine State when he won Event 13, a \$1,000 NLHE tournament that attracted 262 starters.

The 33-year-old Southwest Airlines flight attendant began the final table as one of the shortest stacks. But Rosengarten went on a rush to take it down, winning the final hand with pocket kings. This was Rosengarten's first major victory, winning \$61,629.

Tampa's Manny Minaya, who has numer-

ous accolades on his tournament resumé, finished third. He has 12 WSOPC cashes and more than \$900,000 in career winnings.

Alan Ramkhalawan, a pharmacist from Clearwater, took ninth (\$6,354). He made the final table at the WSOPC in Atlantic City (fifth place) and cashed six times at the WSOP in Las Vegas last year.

• Unofficially you could say Floridians won six events if you count Brian Belle, who won Event 6 (\$300 NLHE). He resides in Daphne, Ala., but he's originally from Pensacola.

• Anthony Bertuccio of Coral Springs was runner-up in Event 14, a \$300 PLO/8 tournament that attracted 114 entries. The \$5,307 was the first live cash for the 22-year-old student. Behind Bertuccio in fifth place was Cape Coral's Mitchell Smith, who won \$2,073.

• Though Richard Kirsch of Ft. Lauderdale (10th, \$17,971) and Miami's Andy "Ice" Slater (16th, \$13,982) cashed in the main event, no Floridians made the final table. Kirsch also cashed in the 375-player \$500 NLHE Event No. 17, finishing seventh for \$6,820.

• As for the ladies, Merritt Island's Jena Delk didn't defend her title (you can read her profile on Page 14), but Sue Tolson of Ft. Lauderdale managed to squeak into the money (fourth, \$4,283).

The \$300 ladies-only tournament was presented in coordination with the High Heels Poker Tour, which supports women in poker and is owned by Ft. Lauderdale's Lauren Failia, an *Ante Up* columnist.



STATE REPORT – SOUTHWEST FLORIDA POKER SCENE

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track



With the World Series of Poker right around the corner the Naples-Fort Myers poker room continued to send as many players to Las Vegas as possible, holding a main event satellite on May 16. There were 86 entries in the \$550 tournament and, ultimately, Ryan Paluf, who was vacationing from Ohio, seasoned tournament regular Lou Cheffy, and brothers James and Joseph Naso each earned a main event seat plus \$500 for expenses.

Seated in the picture from left are Lou Cheffy, dealer Charles Buford and Joseph Naso. Standing from left: tournament director Joseph Ruiz, Ryan Paluf and James Naso.

Seminole Casino Immokalee



The bad-beat jackpots keep getting hit at the Seminole Casino in Immokalee, this time to the tune of \$114,000 on May 19.

Brian Hart's king-high straight flush beat Aaron Anderson's smaller straight flush. Hart walked away with \$56K and Anderson won \$28K. Seven players at the table each received \$4K and 10 players got a \$100 room share.

Pictured are Nick, Joe, Brian, Diana the dealer, Aaron, Maihael, Josh, David and Mark.

Also it's "Cruisin' In July" month as the highest hand every Thursday (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) and Sunday (11 p.m.-3 a.m.) during July wins a cruise package for two aboard the Ante Up Poker Cruise on Aug. 20-24. For more details on the cruise go to anteupmagazine.com/cruise.

7-11 Hold'em (July 11th)

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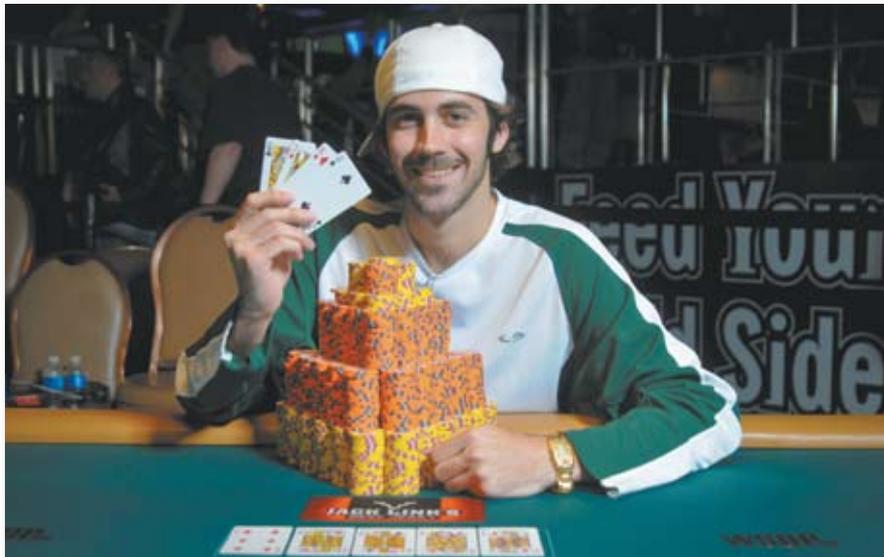
WORLD SERIES OF POKER

MAY 26-JULY 15 • RIO HOTEL • LAS VEGAS



Just like last year, *Ante Up* will provide all of Florida's cashers from every event at this year's World Series. Be sure to check back each month for updated results and totals. Through the first six events Floridians had 46 cashes for \$904,791, including four final tables and one bracelet.

MERCIER OUTDUELS BURKHOLDER FOR BRACELET



There is no poker player hotter than Davie's Jason Mercier. In the past 14 months he's won two EPTs, an FTOPS and now he's the proud owner of a WSOP bracelet.

Mercier defeated Steven Burkholder of Largo, who was profiled in *Ante Up's* May issue, in Event No. 5, a \$1,500 pot-limit Omaha event that drew 809 players. The WSOP believes it is the largest live PLO tournament in history.

"Winning always feels good," Mercier told the WSOP after his victory. "Especially after last year. I played in 22 events. I went deep in just one of them. I finished 13th and that made me sick. I cashed three times and all three times I had busted out with the worst (starting) hand in marginal spots. I was really upset with how I played last year. Now, it feels great to win a gold bracelet, especially so early in the Series."

Mercier, a 22-year-old pro and former teacher, has \$3,069,194 in career winnings.

"Every time I enter a poker tournament I think I can win it," Mercier said. "Of course you have to win some key pots."

He offered advice for players who switch between 6-handed and 9-handed games.

"I tend to play too many hands in early position ... because I am used to playing in six-handed games online," Mercier told the WSOP. "But nine-handed games are very different. Today, I folded some hands in early

position that I normally would have played. That got me into less bad spots. I was able to play position more and take down a lot of pots that I might (not have won otherwise)."

Mercier won when his $Q\clubsuit-J\heartsuit-8\clubsuit-2\heartsuit$ turned a full house to beat Burkholder's $A\heartsuit-A\clubsuit-J\clubsuit-7\heartsuit$ on a board of $6\clubsuit-J\heartsuit-J\clubsuit-Q\heartsuit-K\heartsuit$.

Burkholder is a 22-year-old college student who earned his poker chops playing at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg.

EVENT NO. 1: Three Floridians cashed in the Casino Employees no-limit hold'em \$500 tournament that drew 866 entries.

EVENT NO. 2: Noah Schwartz of Bay Harbor notched Florida's first final table, finishing eighth in the \$40,000 NLHE event that drew 201 entries.

EVENT NO. 3: Henry Hull of St. Augustine (18th) led six Floridian cashers in the \$1,500 O/8B event that drew 918 entries.

EVENT NO. 4: Luis Santoni of Pembroke Pines was the first from the Sunshine State to cash twice this year, leading 24 others in the \$1,000 "stimulus special" NLHE event that drew 6,012, making it the largest non-Main Event poker tournament in history.

EVENT NO. 6: Ivan Schertzer, a lawyer from Miami Shores, made the final table of the \$10,000 World Championship Seven-Card Stud event that drew 142 entries. The champion, Freddie Ellis of Brooklyn, N.Y. is originally from Miami.

EVENT #1 (CASINO EMPLOYEES NLHE)

Buy-in: \$500 • Entries: 866

- 41. Cai Zhen, Melbourne, \$1,745
- 47. Ming Day, Miami, \$1,512
- 76. Guy Jankowski, Wellington, \$974

EVENT #2 (NLHE)

Buy-in: \$40,000 • Entries: 201

- 8. Noah Schwartz, Bay Harbor, \$246,834
- 27. Vanessa Rouso, Hobe Sound, \$71,858

EVENT #3 (OMAHA/8)

Buy-in: \$1,500 • Entries: 918

- 18. Henry Hull, St. Augustine, \$9,899
- 24. Alexander Michaels, Hollywood, \$7,869
- 42. Luis Santoni, Pembroke Pines, \$5,651
- 45. John Racener, Tampa, \$5,651
- 80. Luis Deguzman, West Palm Beach, \$3,720
- 86. Mark Robinson, Miami, \$2,781

EVENT #4 (STIMULUS SPECIAL NLHE)

Buy-in: \$1,000 • Entries: 6,012

- 116. Jahson Spence, Orlando, \$3,571
- 118. James Farley, Sanderson, \$3,571
- 154. Jason McCarty, Coconut Creek, \$3,571
- 158. Angel Navarro, Miami Beach, \$3,571
- 167. Steven Karp, Dania, \$3,246
- 201. Luis Santoni, Pembroke Pines, \$3,246
- 205. Benjamin Zetina, West Palm Beach, \$3,246
- 231. Jonny Toth, Bradenton, \$2,921
- 241. Wayne Philpot, Sanford, \$2,921
- 312. George Bronstein, Lutz, \$2,651
- 331. John Warchelak, Palm Beach Gardens, \$2,651
- 340. Richard Rice, Ft. Lauderdale, \$2,651
- 351. Leif Force, Tallahassee, \$2,651
- 365. Isaac Galazan, Sunny Isle Beach, \$2,434
- 402. Donald Marchi, Ponte Vedra Beach, \$2,434
- 403. Srinivasa Yarlagadda, Sarasota, \$2,434
- 474. Edmund O'Brien, Tampa, \$2,218
- 482. James English, Tamarac, \$2,056
- 483. Duane "Rem" Remington, Jacksonville, \$2,056
- 571. Cinda Goodale, Ft. Lauderdale, \$1,893
- 576. Alexander Sverdllov, Hollywood, \$1,893
- 606. Sadany Hevia, Miami, \$1,893

EVENT #5 (POT-LIMIT OMAHA)

Buy-in: \$1,500 • Entries: 809

- 1. Jason Mercier, Davie, \$237,462
- 2. Steven Burkholder, Largo, \$146,748
- 24. Cory Ward, Titusville, \$7,012
- 40. Chad Miker, Champions Gate, \$4,947
- 47. Jeffrey Chapman, Wesley Chapel, \$4,284
- 49. Craig Fishman, Heathrow, \$4,284
- 55. Stewart Newman, Weston, \$3,765
- 61. Julian Rodriguez, Miami, \$3,765
- 67. Robert Mizrachi, Sunny Isles Beach, \$3,246
- 76. Robert Campbell, Miami, \$2,760

EVENT #6 (SEVEN-CARD STUD)

Buy-in: \$10,000 • Entries: 142

- 6. Ivan Schertzer, Miami Shores, \$64,297



AUPT HAS IMPRESSIVE START

June 6 was no ordinary day for Florida poker. The Ante Up Poker Tour kicked off at Seminole Casino Immokalee and immediately there was a near triple-up!

What do we mean by that?

The \$225 Saturday night tournament, which usually gets about 18 players, drew 42 this time around as people sought Ante Up Player of the Year points. The person with the most points on May 31, 2010 will win the Ante Up bracelet and land on the cover of *Ante Up*.

Fred Garcia won the event and \$3,780. He was followed by Paul Chin (\$2,520), Allan Beraquit (\$1,260) and Muktar Hossain (\$840).

Ante Up co-publisher Scott Long bowed out in 15th place as Hunter Armstrong earned the 100-point bounty for eliminating Long.

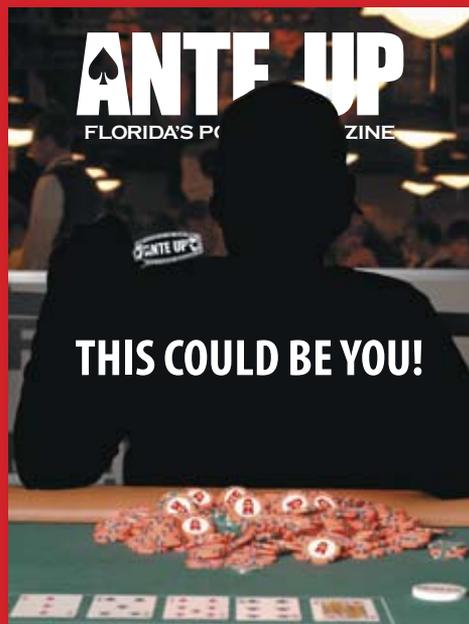
Be sure to check-in next month to see complete standings, photos and results from around the state.



Here are the top four players from the first Ante Up Poker Tour event, from left: Fred Garcia, Allan Beraquit, dealer Hugh Myers, Muktar Hossain and Paul Chin. Seminole Immokalee hosted the tourney and its next AUPT event will be July 4 at 4 p.m. (\$225)

Race for the Bracelet

- June 19: Isle Casino, 2:30 p.m., \$900
 - June 20: Derby Lane, 2 p.m., \$100
 - June 20: Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai, 3 p.m., \$150
 - June 20: Gulfstream Park, 6:30 p.m., \$150
 - June 21: Tampa Bay Downs, 1 p.m., \$350
 - June 25: Mardi Gras Gaming, 6:30 p.m., \$100
 - June 27: Palm Beach Kennel Club, 1 p.m., \$200
 - June 27: Sarasota Kennel Club, 7 p.m., \$100
 - July 4: Seminole Casino Immokalee, 4 p.m. \$225
 - July 6: Isle Casino, 1:30 p.m., \$440
 - July 11: Dania Jai-Alai, 12:30 p.m., \$250
 - July 12: Palm Beach Princess, 10 a.m. \$100
 - July 17: Orange Park Kennel Club, 7 p.m. \$100
 - July 18: Gulfstream Park, 6:30 p.m., \$150
 - July 18: Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai, 3 p.m., \$150
 - July 19: St. Johns Greyhound Park, 4 p.m., \$100
 - July 19: Tampa Bay Downs, 1 p.m., \$350
 - July 25: Palm Beach Kennel Club, 1 p.m., \$200
 - July 25: Sarasota Kennel Club, 7 p.m., \$100
 - July 25: Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai, 2 p.m., \$120
 - July 30: Mardi Gras Gaming, 6:30 p.m., \$100
- July date for Ebro TBA.



NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

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



MERCIER IS STILL 'MERCILESS'

"Cross him and die."

That's likely the feeling many had after playing against Jason Mercier during the most recent Full Tilt Online Poker Series.



Mercier, the Davie resident who plays under the name treysfull21, took down FTOPS Event 23, a \$109 pot-limit Omaha tournament that had 1,031 players. He earned \$86K for the victory, but he totaled \$100K for the day because he finished 13th in FTOPS 22 for \$14K earlier. Mercier also played in a smaller \$150 event the day before and placed third, winning \$9,100.

Mercier is no stranger to *Ante Up* readers. You read of his June 3 WSOP victory a couple of pages back, and his exploits have been chronicled here all year, including a cover story in December. He won the EPT's High Roller in London for nearly \$1 million in October, and during a stop in Barcelona he finished sixth for \$324,000. His biggest win (monetarily) was the EPT San Remo main event for \$1.3 million in April 2008. Recently he also won a

AIPS on PokerStars

Event 6 is Stud/8 with a \$5.50 buy-in on July 15. But there's a freeroll into the event on July 1. For more details go to anteupmagazine.com/aips. To sharpen your stud/8 game try these sites:

- pokerstars.com/poker/games/stud/high-low/
- studstrategy.com/7cardstudstrategy8b.htm
- lowlimitstud.com/main/StartingHands.htm

Wynn Classic undercard event for \$116K in Las Vegas.

Mercier isn't the only hot Florida player. Joining him at the final table of the FTOPS \$109 rebuy was Stuart Paterson of Boca Raton. He sits 86th on the PocketFives.com Online Poker Rankings. In May he finished second on the PokerStars \$150,000 guarantee and won nearly \$27K. He also won Stars' \$70,000 guarantee for an \$18,791 payday. In April he had 30 online cashes alone.

Other Floridians successful in May included:

- Tallahassee's Corey Burbick "Comandr_cool" won Stars' \$109 with rebuys \$70,000 guarantee for \$38,418.
- Largo's Steven Burkholder, who was runner-up in Mercier's WSOP win, finished fourth in FTOPS Event 14 for \$20,400.
- St. Pete's Thayer Rasmussen finished second in Stars' Nightly Hundred Grand, good for \$16,038.

ANTE UP POKERCAST PRESENTED BY POKERSTARS



Ante Up, the longest running poker show on the Internet, is still cranking out the best PokerCast on the planet. Tune in Fridays at anteupmagazine.com or subscribe on iTunes for free.



Yotl Ramirez of Main Event Charity Games, left, and "Chicago" Joe Giertuga flank *Ante Up* publisher Scott Long, who holds the trophy for the "Scott Long Classic" held in Chicago. Long later presented the trophy to the winner, Rich Sill of Chicago.

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

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

Event #6	Event #8	Event #10
July 15 Stud/8 \$5.50	Sept. 9 Omaha/8 \$5.50	Nov. 11 NLHE Heads-Up \$5.50
Event #7	Event #9	Event #11
Aug. 12 NLHE Rebuy \$1.10	Oct. 7 Razz \$5.50	Dec. 9 Badugi \$5.50

FLORIDA FELT

Insight and analysis on poker in the Sunshine State

THE DEFINITION OF A FLORIDA POKER PLAYER

Who is the Florida poker player?
I'm not easily stumped,
but when the new
Miami Herald gam-
bling writer Mike
Vasquez asked me



SCOTT LONG

this question, I was silenced.

I eventually spit out some bland
blah blah blah about how Florida's poker
players are your neighbors — doctors and
lawyers, teachers and mechanics. That's not
a bad answer, especially as we collectively try
to convince non-players that rounders aren't a
bunch of degenerate, back-alley lowlifes.

But it's not particularly insightful either, is it?

I've gone back to that question often, but I'm no closer to a better
answer.

We know Florida is really three states in one — the conservative
north, the liberal south and the hybrid middle. But we all toiled together
in the days of \$10 pots and \$2 bets, right?

We know horse tracks draw a different player than dog tracks, which
draw a different player than jai-alai frontons, which draw a different
player than Indian casinos. But we all believe in poker's great equality
(that anyone can play against anyone, anywhere, any time), don't we?

And we know that many of Florida's great young players toil in



relative anonymity online, while many of Florida's
great older players press their fingers on the felt, not
a mouse. But that's not any different from any other
state, is it?

So where does that leave us? Any closer to an
answer? Likely not, but I'll take a stab nonethe-
less — and ask you for your opinion while I'm
at it.

I think the "Florida poker player" is a
friendly one, who seeks a respectful game
in a respectful place.

I think the "Florida poker player" is a
frustrated one, who desperately seeks
higher limits and more options that
players in other states have enjoyed for
many years.

And I think the "Florida poker play-
er" is a competitive one, who will con-
tinue to make himself or herself known

around the poker world, from New Orleans to the World Series of
Poker.

And I guess that makes the "Florida poker player" one I'd want to
have in my game. Shuffle up and deal!

— E-mail your thoughts to scott@anteupmagazine.com or post them on
anteupmagazine.com/forum.

THE NEW BIG EASY POKER ROOM!

THE HOME OF SPREAD LIMIT AND NO LIMIT KILL GAMES IN SOUTH FLORIDA!

- ♣ Nobody does it better than the Big Easy where we give away **\$50,000 EVERY MONTH** with our **NEW HIGH HAND GIVEAWAY** seven days a week!!
- ♦ No Limit players, your High Hand of the Hour Prize is **DOUBLE** everyday! (not to exceed \$500)
- ♠ For our night owls, you win **\$50 FOR FOUR ACES** or better! 2AM to 8AM, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK!!!
- ♥ Join us for our **NEW DEEP STACK TOURNAMENTS** every week including our Limit/No Limit Hold'em, Omaha, and Stud! Tickets available at: www.ptseats.com
- ♣ Not sure how to play? Just ask one of our friendly professional staff!
- ♦ So join us **24 HOURS A DAY** for great Poker action at The Big Easy Poker Room at Mardi Gras Gaming & Casino, Where It's Always Fat Tuesday!



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WWW.PLAYMARDIGRAS.COM

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Dania Jai-Alai

Phone: (954) 927-2841
www.dania-jai-alai.com
Tournaments: \$25 with \$5 bounty daily at 12:30, plus M&W at 6:30; \$50 with \$250 player bounty Thurs. at 6:30; \$100 w/9K chips & 30-minute blinds Fri. at 6:30; \$55 every Sat., 6:30 and Sun., 8.
SNGs: \$30 or \$50 between 2-5 p.m.
High hands: \$50 hourly 1-8 p.m.; royal flush \$500.
Special event: July 11 (12:30 p.m.), \$40K guarantee Ante Up Poker Tour, \$250 (\$30 SNG satellites to this event will be July 10, plus \$55 satellites on Tuesdays at 6:30).
Promotions: Progressive bad-beat jackpots in stud, Omaha/8 and hold'em. Noon-12:30 p.m., \$5 bonus with first buy-in of \$20 or more; free drinks to cash game players all day, plus free choice of sandwich from 1-3 p.m.; coffee and sweets served at 3 p.m. to all players; Happy Hour 5-7 p.m.

Daytona Beach Kennel Club

Phone: (386) 252-6484
daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom
Tournaments: Daily, including Wed. Ladies Day (\$25) at 1 p.m.; Sat. deep-stack (\$225) at 2 and Pot-Limit Omaha/8 (\$65) at 6:30.
SNGs: \$40-\$220.
High hands: M-Su every two hours; high hands win \$50-\$100; royal flushes in cash games \$250-\$500, all payouts depend on game and limits. Any royal in tournaments pays \$1,750.
Bad beat: Quad fives.

Derby Lane

Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7
www.derbylanepoker.com
Tournaments: Daily, (1, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Su-Th and 2, 6 and 8 p.m. F-Sa), and pays the bubble with 60-plus players and two bubbles with 100-plus.
High hands: Royals (hold'em, stud).
Special event: June 20 (2 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour/Monster Deep Stack, 10K chips.
Promotions: Diamonds are Forever — Players getting a diamond straight flush Su-Th win a share of \$2,500;
Aces Cracked — Every day in the first two hours get aces cracked and win a rack of chips.

Ebro Greyhound Park

Phone: (850) 535-4048
www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com
Tournaments: Big Stack Sundays, (\$150, 2 p.m.); World Series Wednesdays (\$30 w/\$20 rebuy, 7)
High hands: Royal flush jackpots and two high hands per day.
Bad beat: Quad deuces.

Flagler Greyhound Track

Phone: (305) 649-3000
flaglerdogs.com
Tournaments: Sun. 2 p.m. Winner Take All, 50-player limit (\$25); Mon., 7 (\$75).
SNGs: \$65-\$800.
Special event: June 28, 2 p.m. \$100.
High hands: \$200 all day; non-heart royals win \$1K, heart royal progressive (\$38K at press time).
Other: \$500 progressive hot table (visit Web site for details).

Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai and Poker Room

Phone: (772) 464-7500
www.jaialai.net/poker.php
Tournaments: Mon. 7 p.m. (\$75); Wed. bounty 6:30 (\$100); Sat. 1:30 (\$100); Sun., 4 (\$55). Deep stack is third Saturday every month, 3 p.m. (\$150).
SNGs: Thursday-Saturday (\$65-\$110)
Special events: July 18 (3 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$150.
High hands: Every two hours Monday and Tuesday (call for payouts).
Bad beat: Aces full of queens (hold'em, \$67K at press time), quads (stud) and quad jacks (Omaha).
Other: Free coffee & doughnuts 11:30-1 p.m. M-Th.

Gulfstream Park

Phone: (954) 457-6336
www.gulfstream.com/casino/poker
Tournaments: Daily at 6:30 p.m. (\$60-\$150), plus bounties M-W-F and Sat. Special, (\$150, 8K units).
SNGs: \$60-\$120 (10 players, pays three spots).
Special event: June 20 (6:30 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$150; July 18 (6:30), AUPT, \$150.
Promotions: Play in nightly qualifiers and earn points until Sept. 6, when top 50 point-earners will play for a 2009 "Fat Boy" Harley-Davidson Cruiser. See ad for details.

Hamilton Jai-Alai

Phone: (800) 941-4841
hamiltondownsjaijai.com
Tournaments: Super Bounty Sunday (every other Sun.) 1, \$35, high hand of tournament gets \$100; Double Prize Pool Sunday (every other Sun.), 1, \$20, limited to 100 players and prize pool is matched with jackpot money; Fri. 7, \$65 (w/ rebuys); Sat. bounty, \$100.
High hands: \$100 at 5 and 10 p.m. W-Th; F-S-Su wins \$500. Progressive spade royal wins a minimum of \$1K jackpot, mini-royal wins 10 percent of main.
Bad beat: Aces full of kings (\$10K).
Promotions: "Splash the Pot Mondays" \$50 added to a random pot every hour; "First to Hit" runs weekdays until 7 p.m., paying \$100 to the first player to make a straight flush each day, plus \$50 to the first four players to make quads and \$25 to the first six to make a flush.

Isle Casino at Pompano Park

Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123, x5124
www.theislepompanopark.com
Tournaments: \$60-\$550.
SNGs: (\$60-\$225).
Special event: July 6 (1:30 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$440.
High hand and bad-beat jackpots: Call for details.

Jefferson County Kennel Club

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

Mardi Gras Gaming

Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167
www.playmardigras.com
Tournaments: Mon.-Sat., \$35, 11:30 a.m.; Sun.-Thurs., \$45, 7 p.m.; daily \$35, 2 a.m.; Sundays, \$145, 11:30 a.m. (includes buffet).
SNGs: \$55-\$110.
Special event: July 30, Ante Up Poker Tour, 6:30, \$100.
High hands: Royal flushes win \$599; any steel wheel in Omaha/8 wins \$200; straight flushes pay \$100, quad aces pays \$50 and any quads pay \$25, but all payouts double in NLHE.
Bad beat: Aces full of jacks (HE), quad jacks (O/8) and aces full of kings (stud).
Promotions: All quads payouts are doubled in limit games only.

Melbourne Greyhound Park

Phone: (321) 259-9800
www.melbournegreyhoundpark.com
Tournaments: \$65-\$880.
SNGs, bad beats and promotions: Call for details.

Miami Jai-Alai

Phone: (305) 633-6400
www.miamijaijai.net
Tournaments: Saturdays, 3 p.m., \$20 w/rebuys, 1,500 chips, 15-minute levels. (Extra 1K chips for \$5 dealer token, unlimited \$20 rebuys in first four levels for 2K chips, \$20 add-on gets 3K chips); Sundays, 1:30, \$45 (\$10 bounties).
Special event: June 24, 1:30, \$150 (8K chips).
High hands: \$100 every hour (win three a day and get an extra \$500); Four aces or a straight flush (with two cards in the pocket) wins \$100.

Micosukee Resort

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

Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track

Phone: (239) 992-2411
www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com
Tournaments: Sun. bounty 2 p.m. (\$125); Mon. 7 (\$65); Tue. 7 (\$45); Wed., 7 (\$65); Thurs. noon and 7 (\$65) and Fri. 7 (\$65). Deep stack events third Sat. every month, 2 p.m.
SNGs: Six-player (\$125-\$550)
High hands: From noon to wins \$300, plus Fri. & Sat. from 7- 11:30 p.m. win \$1K; diamond royal flush pays \$10,000, other suits pay \$5K.
Promotions: In July \$500 paid to high hand every three hours (3 p.m., 6, 9 and 11:30).

Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai

Phone: (352) 591-2345
www.ocalapoker.com
Tournaments: Daily (\$65-\$240).
SNGs: (\$45-\$80).
Special events: July 25 (2 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$120.
Bad beat: Any quads.
Promotions: Call for details.

Orange Park Kennel Club

Phone: (904) 646-0002
www.jaxpokerroom.com
Tournaments: Daily, except Tuesday (\$30-\$65).
Special events: July 17 (7 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100; July 26, Super Stack Summer Series Main Event, \$350 (See ad for full details).
High hands: Royals \$250 (but spades pay \$500).
Promotions: Super High Hand, M-W-Th, noon-3, hourly high hand wins \$100 and other players at winning table get \$25.
Bad beat: Call for details.



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

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

Palm Beach Kennel Club

Phone: (561) 683-2222
www.pbkennelclub.com

Tournaments: \$65-\$200; bounty tournaments on Tuesdays at noon.

Special events: June 27 (1 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$200; July 25 (1) AUPT, \$200; Palm Beach Poker Classic, Aug. 24-29 (see ad for details).
SNGs, high hands and bad beats: Call for details.

Palm Beach Princess

Phone: (561) 818-5771
www.palmbeachprincess.com

Special events: July 12 (10 a.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100; July 19 WPT satellite (see ad for details).

Promotions: Call for offers.

Sarasota Kennel Club

Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054
www.skcpoker.com

Tournaments: \$35-\$100, including \$40 Friday Night Madness, 8K chips; Titanic Turbo (20K chips, 10-minute blinds, \$80 buy-in); Saturday \$330, 3:30 p.m., 9K chips, 45-minute blinds.
SNGs: \$35-\$300.

Special events: June 27, Ante Up Poker Tour (7 p.m.), \$100; July 25, AUPT (7 p.m.), \$100.

High hands: Progressive jackpots; quads (hold'em), quad 10s (stud) and straight flushes (Omaha) or better.

Bad beat: Call for details.

Promotions: Rack Attacks and Rays Days. Every time the Rays score someone in the room wins \$50 and if the Rays win someone wins \$150.

Seminole Casino Brighton

Phone: (866) 222-7466
www.seminolecasinobrighton.com

Tournaments: Sundays, 6:30 p.m. \$40 no juice with one optional \$40 add-on; Mon. & Wed., 6:30, \$20 with optional \$20 add-on; Tue. & Thurs., 6:30, \$40 w/rebuys in first hour.
SNGs: \$42-\$250.

Promotions: Fridays offer double punches on reward cards, plus aces cracked between 4-7 p.m. wins \$100; double punches given to the first player to buy-in to a live game on Saturdays; Seniors 55 or older receive \$55 for a \$40 buy-in to a live game. If they're dealt 5-5 in the hole, they win a gift. They also may buy a hot dog and drink for \$.50. Any four aces wins \$50, straight flushes win \$100 and any quads win a gift.

Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

Phone: (866) 222-7466
seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com

SNGs: \$55, \$85, \$135.

Bad beat: Aces over jacks.

Promotions: Call for current offers.

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

Phone: (866) 502-7529
seminolehardrockhollywood.com

Tournaments: \$100-\$1,100.

SNGs: \$140-\$1,050.

Special event: Independence Day Tournament, 11 a.m., \$50K guarantee; \$575, plus one optional rebuy.
High hands: Hourly from 8 a.m.-2 a.m. obtain \$120 plus a free entry into a specified evening tournament (\$75 value).

Bad beat: Sun.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-midnight, if quad eights or better are beaten in hold'em then \$30K will be added to jackpot. If the bonus is still up for grabs, \$10K will be added every week until there's a winner.

Promotions: Aces cracked begins daily at 7 a.m. The first 20 aces cracked will receive \$50 plus an entry into a satellite tournament (\$50 value). Starting at midnight, the first 20 aces cracked will receive a \$100 entry into an 11 a.m. Tuesday or Wednesday satellite tournament.

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa

Phone: (866) 502-7529
www.seminolehardrocktampa.com

Tournaments: \$100-\$550.

SNGs: \$125-\$1,075.

Bad beat: Quads or better.

Promotions: Four of a Kind Bonus Days — cash-game players from July 5-31 (except on Saturdays) may win \$400 if they're dealt quads in the value of the bonus card drawn for the day.

Seminole Casino Hollywood Classic

Phone: (866) 222-7466
seminolehollywoodcasino.com

SNGs: \$25-\$50.

High hands: Sat.-Sun., every hour from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. top-two hands get \$100; every Wednesday from 9 a.m. till noon every high hand for that hour gets \$100; royals Mon.-Thurs. using both hole cards win \$500.

Promotions: Mon.-Thurs., starting at 2 p.m. and then again at 6, first 10 players to get aces cracked win \$100; Fridays (1-midnight), every hour a table will be picked at random and its next pot will be splashed with \$100.

Seminole Casino Immokalee

Phone: (866) 222-7466
www.theseminolecasino.com

Tournaments: Wed., 7 p.m. (\$35); Thurs., 7, (\$50); Fri., 7 (\$50+\$5+\$5 dealer token); Sat., 1, Knockout (\$60); Sun., 7, \$115, 10K chips, 20-minute levels.

Special event: July 4 (4 p.m.), Ante Up Poker Tour, \$225.

High hands: Quad aces win \$100, straight flush wins \$200; progressive royal jackpots.

Bad beat: Aces full of jacks (hold'em), Aces full of kings (stud).

Promotions: \$10K freeroll, first Monday of the month. Players qualify with aces cracked or flush beaten 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. After 2 p.m. a full house beaten.

St. Johns Greyhound Park

Phone: (904) 646-0002
www.jaxpokerroom.com

Tournaments: \$30-\$200, including shootouts, bounties and deep stacks.

Special events: July 19, (4 p.m.) Ante Up Poker Tour, \$100; July 25, Super Stack Summer Series Main Event, \$350 (See ad for details).

High hands: Royals \$250 (but spades pay \$500).

Promotions: Super High Hand, M-W-Th, noon-3, hourly high hand wins \$100 and other players at winning table get \$25.

Bad beat: Call for details.

SunCruz — Port Canaveral

Phone: (321) 799-3511
www.suncruzcasino.com

Tournaments: \$115.

SNGs: \$40-\$60.

Promotions: Call for details.

Tampa Bay Downs

Phone: (813) 298-1798
www.tampabaydowns.com

Tournaments: \$20-\$540.

SNGs: \$60-\$535.

High hands: Standard and progressive jackpots are available and may change from week to week. See site for details. Also, bonus payouts for any quads or better in July.

Special events: June 21, WSOP qualifier and Ante Up Poker Tour, 1 p.m., \$350; July 19, AUPT (1 p.m.), \$350.

Promotions: Rays dueling rack attacks for all televised games. Players can rack up to \$500 and win tickets to Rays games every inning the Rays score. The tickets for the games are given away in the room two days before the home game. Also, between 8-9 p.m. and 9-10 p.m. the first player each hour to win a hand with aces full wins a pair of front-row press-level seats. They're not included with the rack attacks, which are done for every televised Rays game; Double or Nothing SNGs: Tournament is over when it reaches five players in a 10-handed game or three players in a 6-handed game. Each player starts with 2,000 units; Happy Hour giveaways 5-8 p.m. daily. (See ad for more promotions.)

Tampa Greyhound Track

Phone: (813) 932-4313
www.luckycards.com

Tournaments: \$45-\$200.

SNGs: \$65-\$500.

High hands: Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200)

and royal flushes

(\$599). Plus

high hand

wins \$100

on Sundays

from noon-3

and 8-11 p.m.;

spade royal progressive

jackpot.

Other: Aces

cracked wins

\$100, noon

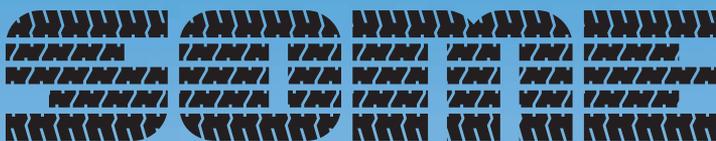
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* Schedules and events are subject to change; SNG = single-table tournaments; all tournaments are no-limit hold'em unless noted.

Take us on your trip!

E-mail your unique poker road trip to editor@anteupmagazine.com, and if we use it, we'll run your photo and give you some great Ante Up swag! Each trip must be themed (golf courses! biker bars! amusement parks! fishing holes! you name it!), and include as much of the state as possible.



We have some great convertible weather here in the Sunshine State, and that's why Floridians love their cars. *Ante Up* publisher Scott Long created the *St. Petersburg Times'* Drive page and has owned an eclectic collection of cars, from his first — a '76 Triumph TR-7 — to his current, a 2002 Toyota MR2 Spyder with "ANTE UP1" on the plate. Here are his directions for a high-power July road trip:

About Road Trip

With 30 poker rooms and dozens of free poker leagues all across Florida, you don't need a reason to make a road trip. But in case you do, each month we'll give you a unique road map to Florida fun and poker.

Gainesville Raceway

GAINESVILLE

Pedal: The NHRA Gatornationals are in March, but a number of amateur drag racing events. July 12 is Day: Admission is just \$5 (free for children 12 and y
Poker: Ocala Poker & Jai-Alai just celebrated its first so head over and see why the room will be around more anniversaries.

Tampa Bay Automobile Museum

PINELLAS PARK

Pedal: Just a few miles from the headquarters of *duPont Registry*, one of the finest automotive magazines on the market, you'll find a museum of exotic cars. The facility hosts the world's oldest of the French 1970 Fardier de Cugnot, the self-propelled vehicle.

Poker: You don't want to miss Derby Lane's \$2.5 million into building a new poker room months ago. You'll get three or four tournaments to choose from.

Edison & Ford

FT. MYERS

Pedal: Henry Ford's first automobile is on display next to Thomas Edison's first home and both homes and automobiles, including Model T's.
Poker: You're a shark at the Greyhound Track, which has some of the best stack event every





Coke Zero 400

DAYTONA BEACH

Pedal: No automobile road trip in Florida is complete without a visit to the Mecca of auto racing — Daytona International Speedway. While February's Daytona 500 gets the big press, you can catch NASCAR's big boys running three wide in this hot summer race on the Fourth of July.

Poker: Daytona Beach Kennel Club has moved from the parking lot of the speedway to a now-one-year-old \$30 million building just a few blocks away. Sign yourself onto the wait list with your players card.



Beeline Auto Auction

ORLANDO

Pedal: Our state hosts some of the most eagerly anticipated auto auctions every year, but at Florida's only public auto auction, you can bid on a new ride that you can actually afford. Auctions are every Saturday at 11 a.m.

Poker: Give your new chariot a hearty test drive and steer yourself toward the Atlantic Ocean and Melbourne Greyhound Park, where you can play some cards in John "OB" Neibler's Club 52 room.

SCCA Drivers School and Vintage Race

SEBRING



Pedal: If you're a member of the popular Sports Car Club of America, hone your skills behind the wheel at Sebring International Raceway and stick around to watch vintage racers circle the track.

Poker: Enjoy the unspoiled Florida countryside! About an hour drive away is Seminole Casino Brighton, where you can enjoy a perfect tournament in Dottie Wilson's room.

Ocean's Eleven Car Show

HOLLYWOOD

Pedal: You can check out great classic cars at shows somewhere in Florida every weekend. Flacarshows.com tells you when and where. On July 11, get a glimpse of pre-1978 vehicles for free at Ocean's Eleven Restaurant. Giveaways and music are on tap, too.

Poker: Deal yourself in at the sports-themed Paradise Poker Room, part of the Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood mega-entertainment complex. They're holding a \$50K guarantee Independence Day Tournament at 11 a.m. for \$575.

July features Family Fun (younger). Anniversary, for many

um

arters of mobile maga- n bustling with only replica e world's first

e, which put om just a few aments a day

ard Winter Estates

d used to winter at a magnificent man- nas Edison's estate. Today, you can tour see plenty of original Ford automo- model T's owned by Edison. hort drive to Naples-Fort Myers and Cindy Fra's friendly poker room, terrific tournaments, including a deep- third Saturday of the month at 2 p.m.



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find in Las Vegas. And while you're gaming, the complimentary drinks are on the house.

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The service and atmosphere onboard Palm Beach Princess Casino is first class all the way. So whether you are an experienced player, or just looking for an enjoyable day or evening adventure, take a cruise onboard Palm Beach Princess Casino and enjoy Las Vegas right here off the Port of Palm Beach.

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The World Poker Tour is the most prestigious series of poker tournaments in the world, and you can be a part of the excitement aboard Palm Beach Princess Casino, the only official poker room satellite venue for WPT in Florida!

We will hold 4 "One Day" satellite events on the 10:30 Day & 6:30 Evening Cruises:

- Sunday, July 19, 2009
- Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009
- Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009
- Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009

LUCKY WINNERS

Winners will receive: A seat at the WPT event, value \$10,000, and \$1000 spending money. Total value courtesy of Palm Beach Princess Casino. *Cash prizes will also be awarded based on entries!



Satellite details: Buy in \$330, no re-buys, 4500 starting chips. 30 minute blinds. First blind level \$25-\$50. Day cruise will reduce field to final two tables, final two tables will conclude the event on the evening cruise.

For complete details on securing a seat at one of these great WPT satellite events, call our **Poker Hotline at 561-818-5771.**

All prizes are subject to entry level of event. Prizes are conditioned on 40 entries minimum. Should the tournament not receive a minimum of 40 entries, prize shall be awarded in cash only. Management reserves the right to change or cancel promotion without notice at any time. Must be 18 to enter. Ships registry Panama.

SLOTS From Penny Progressives to \$5 machines, you will find many of your favorite machines. Video Poker, Sizzling 7's, Double Diamond, Terminator, Red White & Blue, Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, and many other games are available.

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ROULETTE Palm Beach Princess Casino is the only casino in South Florida with Roulette. The double zero tables generally range from \$5 to \$25 maximums on the morning cruises and \$10 to \$50 on the evening cruises.

POKER Palm Beach Princess Casino is the only "World Poker Tour" officially sanctioned venue in all of Florida. The monthly tournaments for Poker guests count towards qualification in mainstream high profile televised events.

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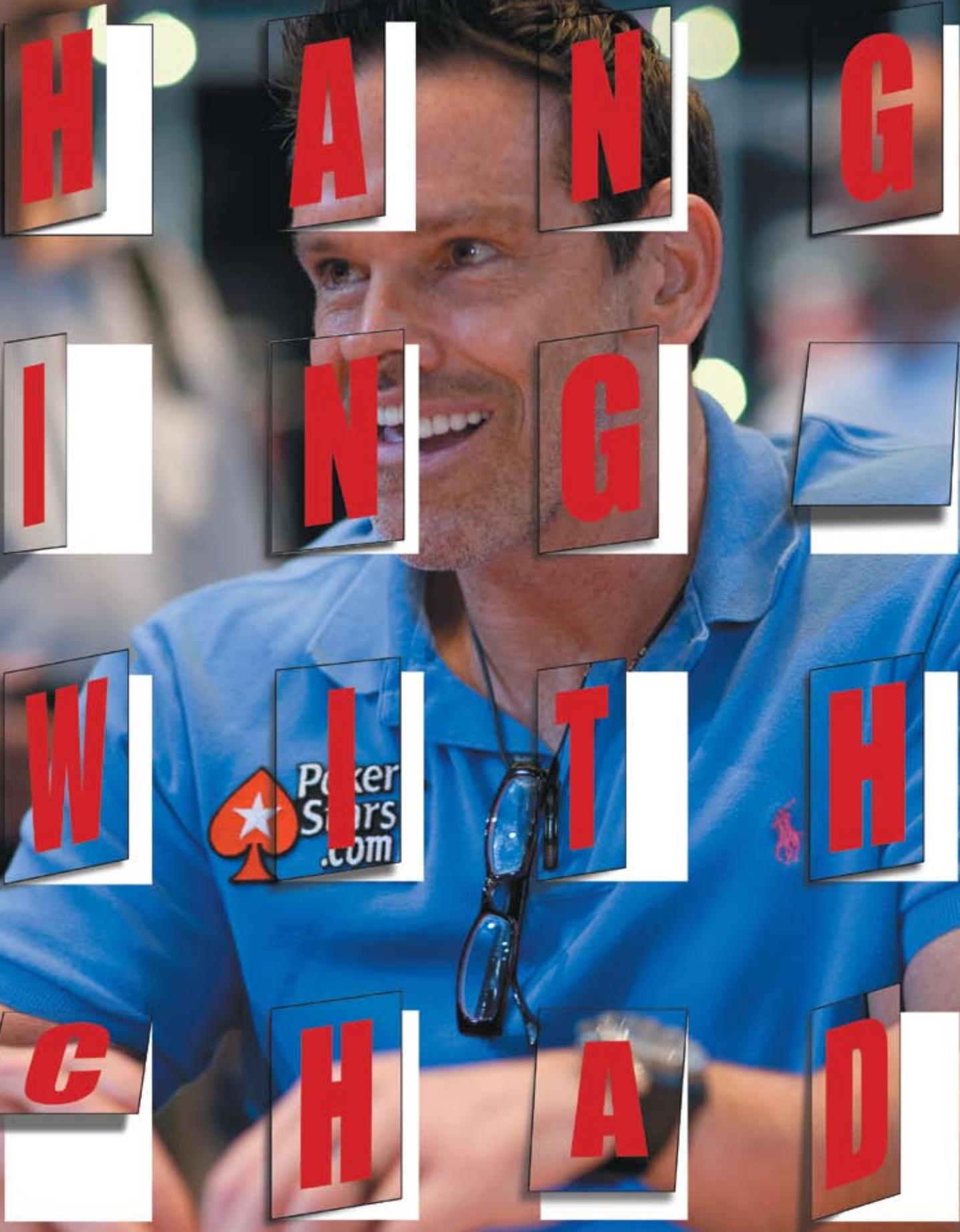
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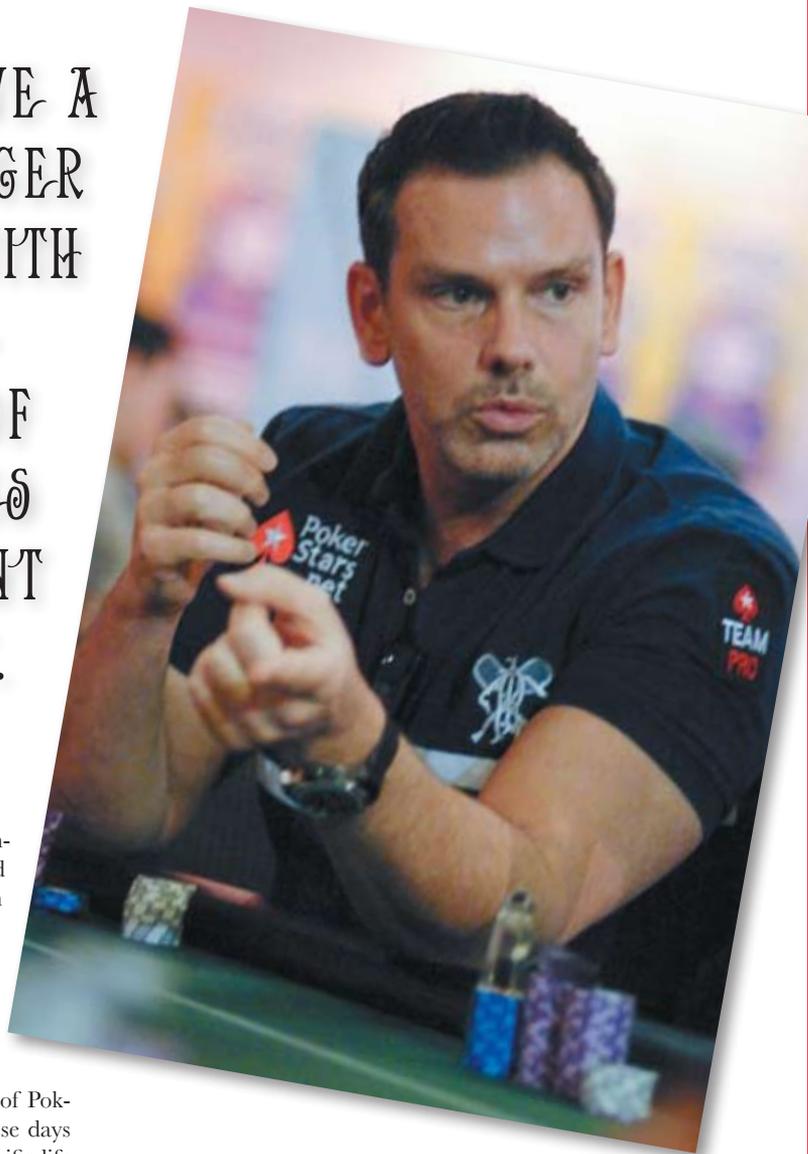
COVER STORY

CHAD BROWN



CHAD BROWN MAY HAVE A NEW RING ON HIS FINGER — HE TIED THE KNOT WITH VANESSA ROUSSO — BUT THE ONE PIECE OF JEWELRY THAT ELUDES THE MARGATE RESIDENT IS A WSOP BRACELET.

By Christopher Cosenza



There's a scene in *Field of Dreams* where Ray Kinsella says to "Moonlight" Graham, "It would kill some men to get that close to their dream and not touch it. They'd consider it a tragedy." Doc Graham replies: "Son, if I'd only gotten to be a doctor for five minutes ... now that would have been a tragedy."

Chad Brown once was like Ray Kinsella, craving the immortality a World Series of Poker bracelet seemingly grants a poker player. But these days Brown is more like Doc Graham, content with a terrific life and accomplishments that others can only dream of having. On paper, the Stepfords would have trouble living up to the life Brown has built for himself. He's a former soap opera heartthrob; he's starred in films; he had a chance to play pro baseball and still plays competitively; he's won millions playing poker; he once hosted a poker TV show; he co-authored a poker book; and he just married one of the most beautiful and incredibly successful young pros on the poker scene. Vanessa Rousso ... perhaps you've heard of her.

Pretty perfect, yet the lack of a WSOP bracelet still lingers. Is it a tragedy after all?

"With all the accomplishments that I have, it was something that was important to me a few years ago," Brown said while driving to the Delray Film Festival to be on-hand for the viewing of *Faded Glory*, a baseball documentary featuring ... yep, you guessed it, Chad Brown and his team. "But it doesn't have the same necessity now after winning (2006) player of the year. Phil Hellmuth actually has a book coming out about his top 20 best players in the world, and I'm one of those players who are in his book."

High praise indeed.

But before pressing on, you have to go back to the beginning to appreciate his story. Brown, who turns 48 in August, was born and raised in the Bronx, where his dad's home game served as the backdrop for his love of 7-card stud. Then as a young twentysomething he found his way into Italian cafes where goombas with names like Vito and Pepe often



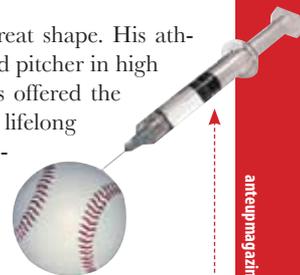
played cards for modest stakes. This was Brown's real introduction to poker.

"I've been playing over 20 years now, but I was making money playing socially in those Italian cafes," said Brown, whose first WSOP cash came in 1993. "I played against pizzeria owners, bakery owners, mafia ... it was an eclectic group of people. Everyone had a business they were involved in, not playing for a living. There were the people who won on a regular basis and those who lost on a regular basis. And, of course, the ones who lost thought they were unlucky."

Poker was a way of making friends and making ends meet in those days, but Brown had so many paths to choose from that poker only came back into play by chance a little later in life. More on that in a bit.

One look at Brown and you know he's in great shape. His athletic build served him well as a star outfielder and pitcher in high school. He was so talented that the hated Mets offered the Bronx standout a minor-league contract (he's a lifelong Yankees fan, obviously). But he had a heart-to-heart talk with a scout and the underlying current of that conversation wasn't something Brown was willing to navigate.

"He said if I gained 50 pounds in a couple of years (he weighed 175 at the time) that I might be able to hit more home runs and be more attractive to major-league teams. I took that as 'Do steroids.' This was more than 20 years ago, and a young guy like myself, I was totally anti-drugs, so I





Continued from previous page

just said ‘I’m definitely not down with that. If that’s what it was going to take I’ll just pursue my acting, which looks like it was very promising.’ The other thing that made me decide on acting was I knew baseball had a lifespan of how long you can play professionally. Whereas an investment in acting is a lifelong investment, as opposed to baseball, which may be only like 10 years.”

Brown trained with some of the best acting and voice coaches in New York, and then he headed to Hollywood, ready for a life of taking orders during the day, making drinks at night and cramming in acting auditions whenever he could. But that’s when poker re-emerged in his life.

“When I moved to L.A. to be an actor I was prepared to get a job as a waiter or a bartender,” he said. “I didn’t know they had casinos out there that were legal for poker, and I said to myself ‘Hey, wow! I was winning money on a regular basis in the Bronx, maybe I can do this and I won’t have to work as a waiter or a bartender.’ Fortunately that was the case.”

He wasn’t a star overnight, however ... on the felt or on the screen. He had some moderate success as an actor, landing a role on the soap opera *Another World*, and Brown said that experience was

nothing but “really hard work.”

“It’s like 14-hour days, go home and you gotta come back the next day and have your script ready. Soap work is really more of a prelude to bigger things. You make a name for yourself and you hope to make it in films or a nighttime TV series. ... I loved acting. I worked in some films in my career. Actually, the first big film I did was with Woody Allen’s ex-wife **Louise Lasser** (of *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman* fame). She was the star of the movie and we filmed it on location in Jacksonville. That was a lot of fun. Film work was something I was looking to be successful in. But, you know, life happened.”

And “life” in this case means poker. Brown says there isn’t much difference between poker and acting.

“There’s a parallel to being a professional poker tournament player and being an actor,” the Margate resident said. “In both of them it’s a numbers game. You have to be good and you have to be able to sustain failure. In poker tournaments you’re only going to succeed — if you’re great — 20 percent of the time. In acting, it’s similar. You’ll go on a whole bunch of auditions and if you get a big role maybe one out of 10 times you’re doing well.”

But you can’t act in “side” plays or “side” TV shows if you don’t land a major role elsewhere. If you don’t have a job you don’t eat. In



Vero Beach's Fortini impresses Brown at Isle

It's not every day a local poker player gets to compete against the best in the world. Chad Brown played in one of the \$900 Battles at the Beach events at the Isle in March and finished fifth for \$10K. He was particularly impressed with the winner, Hayden Fortini, a 19-year-old Florida Atlantic student who would also win the \$900 Heads-Up title that week. Here is Brown's assessment of Fortini and that final-table experience.

"That was a great event," Brown said. "There were a handful of talented poker players in that event. The tournament itself was a pretty soft field. With six players left I took over the chip lead and the player who I had the most respect for (Fortini) was close to me; he was the second chipleader. We had a pretty big lead over the rest of the field and he had position on me.

"He was a very aggressive young player, and because he was aggressive a lot of people when it was his big blind didn't try to steal the blinds. So there were a lot of times it came to me in the small



blind and I would limp and he would raise and I would muck. I was sort of setting him up for when I had a big hand, and that opportunity came when I had two jacks in the small blind and I limped.

He raised and I put in a big reraise, committing myself. He didn't know what to think of it and then he shoved. Of course I called and he had A-K and he won the coinflip.

"But I was still in it. I built my chips back up and then pushed all-in on the button with A-Q. He made the call out of the small blind with A-10. If I won that pot I would have been chip-average and felt like I almost had a lock to at least come in second, but still a good chance to win that event. I faded the flop and turn but he hit the 10 on the river to knock me out. He went on to win the event, which didn't surprise me because he was by far the best player at that table. He's a very talented player and a nice guy, too. On one of the breaks I had dinner with him and I think he'll be making a name for himself on the worldwide poker circuit." — **Christopher Cosenza**

poker, if you fail in tournaments you can always play side cash games to supplement your income. And that's what he did, playing in the California card rooms, all the while honing the skills that would earn him 24 WSOP cashes by 2008 and *Bluff Magazine's* 2006 Player of the Year.

Mr. and Mrs. PokerStars

Sometime during Chad's run to the 2006 Player of the Year title, he and Vanessa crossed paths on the tournament circuit. Their three-year-plus courtship, including an 18-month engagement, didn't have the type of hype and anticipation of Brangelina's nuptials, but it certainly had the poker world wondering when they'd finally tie the knot. During an April *Ante Up* interview Vanessa mentioned the rigors of a poker pro's demanding schedule as the main reason for not setting a date and not having a planned wedding. Chad echoed that sentiment.

"The plan changed throughout," he said. "Originally we were going to have a big wedding and then a small wedding, but because of our schedule, where constantly new dates kept coming up where we had to travel to, it was just too difficult to plan anything out. So it was Vanessa's idea to just elope."

The PokerStars Team Pro got hitched in May by a pastor in a small ceremony in Florida, just before they traveled to Monte Carlo for European Poker Tour events. How did they celebrate their marriage? Well, Vanessa took down the EPT High Roller tournament (besting Ft. Lauderdale's Randy Dorfman heads-up) to pocket a reported \$800K.

"In Monte Carlo when she won the High Roller event I got to watch the (final two days) and she just played great poker," Brown said. "So she deserves all the accolades she gets this year."

The victory came on the heels of her second-place finish at the NBC National Heads-Up Championship (the same position Brown grabbed in 2007 after falling to Paul Wasicka in the final). Plus she just had a *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit spread and was named the latest Go Daddy girl. Is it tough to deal with all the attention your new spouse gets?

"I think it's great," Brown said. "Vanessa's having her best year as a poker player. There's always some good fortune involved when we have a good year, like in 2006. I played well, but obviously I had some fortunate things happen along the way. Vanessa's been playing

very well. I got to watch her play every single match at the heads-up on NBC and she played great poker; with the exception of the match against Huck. He played great and she was really fatigued and she didn't play her best match against him. ... All the matches preceding that she played fantastic; she played perfectly."

If you read it too quickly you may have missed Brown mentioning she was "fatigued," which likely is tied to the hectic schedule. He has said before that he wants to have children someday, but that he only wants to start a family when they can afford the time to spend with them. Is that still the case?

"Step by step," he said. "Since we're both pretty busy, when the iron is hot you gotta take advantage of it. In the meantime, we'll start evaluating what's going in on our professional careers. Maybe like a year from now. But right now ... as PokerStars is growing we're Team Pro members and it's our job to grow with them."

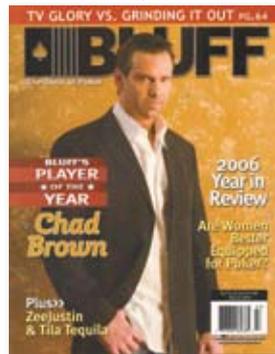
Growing as professional poker players also means spending time with your public, such as when they toured Florida as a way to introduce Vanessa's Big Slick Boot Camp. It's something Brown cherishes since he knows how dealing with the public *might* have been for him had his career path gone differently.

"It's just something that comes with the territory," he said when asked about dealing with guys swooning over Vanessa. "A while back I was asked about my former acting career and if I had any regrets. I feel very fortunate to be in the situation I'm in as a poker player.

If I were successful at acting the way my goal would have been, it would be on the level of like a Tom Cruise where you're making \$20 million a picture.

"But the downside is, in that particular celebrity category, all the paparazzi and stuff. You have no privacy. Although we're celebrities in poker, we still have our private life, which is great. When we go to the World Series or we go to events like the Bay 101 Shooting Stars, all the fans are there and they're looking to take pictures with you and get autographs signed. We enjoy doing it because it's in the setting that we expect it to be, as opposed to being a movie star and you want to go out with your wife to dinner and just have a private, quiet evening. The celebrities are getting harassed and they're not really getting their privacy. But we do get our privacy."

And soon they may be enjoying that privacy full-time in Florida. It's no secret Vanessa's family lives here, as does Chad's mother. Now



Continued from previous page

that they're married there's no need for each of them to have Florida homes, but the Seminole Compact likely will play a role in their next real-estate acquisition.

"Vanessa loves Florida," said Brown, who lived at Lighthouse Point near Pompano Beach for a few years as a child and has lived in the Sunshine State on three separate occasions. "So she asked if (Florida lifts the restrictions on) poker can we make Florida our No. 1 home. I said sure. So Vanessa and I will, at some point in the near future, be permanent residents here."

They're leaning toward the Aventura area and Brown says they'll most certainly frequent area card rooms.



A Series of near misses

"Downtown" didn't always garner the poker respect he does now. During his first televised WSOP final table in 2004 (7-card stud) a near-drunk Men "The Master" Nguyen essentially berated him, and ESPN color man Norman Chad made jokes at his expense. He was called a "stud specialist" and wasn't given much of a chance as the commentators continued to refer to him as "the actor."

"I played great against Ted Forrest for the bracelet (in 2004)," he said. "We played for like 5½ hours heads-up and in all that time there were only two hands going to the river where I was behind (It's at this point Brown remembers with amazing clarity every detail of both hands). That's not taking anything away from Ted; it's just the way it went. That day I should have won with the way the cards went. ... I think I had the better cards and the better strategy where I think he had underestimated me."

Even now, five years later, you can still feel and hear the disappointment in his words. But in 2007 the WSOP was at its most cruel for Brown, who takes everything in stride and prides himself on never going on tilt.

"The last time I had the best shot was two years ago in deuce-to-seven no-limit and I was heads-up against Erik Seidel. Vanessa and couple of my friends were sweating me, and I had him all-in three times to win the bracelet. Two of those times I was a 2-to-1 favorite and the third time we were even money. All you can do is the best you can do. If you do everything you can and it doesn't work out, and you pressed every correct button and it still doesn't work out, that's just the way it is. If I would have screwed up ..." He doesn't finish the sentence, and there's no need to. Brown does everything to the best of his ability and if it's not in the cards then he accepts that.

The Ultimate Poker Host



Most of you may remember Chad Brown as the host of the Ultimate Poker Challenge, a weekly poker show that was forced off the air when online rooms pulled out of America, taking their paid advertising with them. We asked Chad if he missed hosting the show and what made it stand out from the rest.

"I loved doing the UPC. I do miss that. One of the things that was fun about the UPC as opposed to the other shows that have commentators is I got to work with all of the top pros each week because we used a different guest host each week. ... I love Mike Sexton and Vince Van Patten on the WPT, but the one difference about our show is their point of view and critiquing and commentating on the play (on the WPT). Viewers that watch each show pretty much are able to anticipate what their opinions are going to be, where on the UPC we'd have a guest poker pro each week and poker is subjective. Having a Barry Greenstein on one week versus Gus Hansen you're going to get a different perspective on how the hand should be played."

Another year, another shot

Though Brown has successfully shaken the "stud specialist" label from his resumé, his preference is still a mixed event. The WSOP has an eight-game mix that he relishes and would love to take down as his first bracelet.

"Most world-class poker players enjoy that because that's really a game the most-balanced well-rounded poker players use as a barometer," Brown said. "It's not just being a specialist in one game or another; it's being able to play all the games well."

That won't stop him from playing quite a few WSOP tournaments this year, however. When asked how many he might enter his answer was lined with optimism and quiet confidence.

"A lot of the tournaments are three-day events," said Brown, who had five WSOP cashes last year. "Some guys, like Phil Ivey, have prop bets for who's gonna win the most bracelets. Even if they're in an event going into Day 2, they'll buy-in to another event even though they can't really play the event, just in case they get knocked out of their Day 2 event. I won't be doing that because I won't have any prop bets. But it will be predicated on how many Day 2s and Day 3s I make. Hopefully I'll make a lot of Day 2s and Day 3s and I won't get to play as many events, but will be at a lot of final tables."

Two years ago, when he made his monumental run at a bracelet (he cashed for a then-record eight times), he had predicted he would win two bracelets. Obviously he fell short of that goal, but was proud of his record and performance nonetheless. Any predictions this year?

"Nope. I don't have any predictions this year. The way it was a couple of years ago there were pretty much only one-day events

with the final table being the next day. There's a much better structure (now) so it's a different scenario. It's gonna come. If it doesn't come this year, it's gonna come next year, or the year after that." This from the man who once jokingly said the only way to win a bracelet was to bring a gun.

If Brown never wins a bracelet it won't haunt him to his grave. He's happy with his life and his accomplishments, and why shouldn't he be?

"When you're able to do something you love and you're not forced to do it, it doesn't matter what it is," he said. "There are a lot of people out there that have jobs, whether it be a lawyer or a doctor or whatever, that make a good living, but they hate their job. ... I see it in their eyes in the way that they express it when they say 'Oh, Chad, I wish I could do what you're doing.' They almost feel like they are locked in. I know me; it wouldn't matter. If I went to school to be a doctor or a lawyer, just because I went through all that and put all that time in, it wouldn't prevent me from saying, 'Hey, you know what? I don't enjoy this. And this is not what life is about.'

"Whatever your job is, if you're working five days a week, that's a major part of your life. If you're unhappy you gotta do something about it. ... You just have to have the courage to actually go out and be proactive and make that change in your life. And it's not about making the most money; that's how a lot of people fool themselves. ... It's about doing what you really enjoy doing and as long as you make enough money to live in the type of comfort that satisfies you, that's what it's all about. I don't need the biggest house in the world and the best cars or private jets or anything. I just need to do what I really enjoy doing. ... I'm very lucky." ♠



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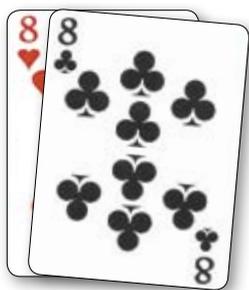
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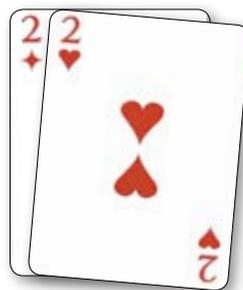
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"SNOWMEN"



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One of the great joys of playing live poker is hearing the colorful character in Seat 6 bark out a clever little nickname when he tables his hand and rakes in a pot. *Ante Up* publishers Chris Cosenza and Scott Long share their "Top 5 Poker Hand Nicknames" this month:

CHRIS' PICKS

1. The Bachelor (J-K offsuit)

No, it doesn't refer to that godawful show on ABC, though it might after last season. Hopefully this won't offend too many of you, but it's pretty obvious how it got its name, once you drop the "suit" as poker players are apt to do when discussing hands. You just know (1) a guy came up with this one and (2) he was playing hold'em at the time. It's just another sign there's just too much down time when playing hold'em cash games. Read our magazine instead!

2. San Francisco Busboy (Q-3)

Of course they could just as easily have called this hand "Waitress" and not ticked off the Rainbow Coalition, but since when have poker players been politically correct? Maybe we can localize it and call it the South Beach Busboy? Kidding, no letters to the editor on this please.



3. Flat Tire (J-4)

When you call out the name of this one people tend to have that deer-in-headlights look until you say: "What's a jack for?" The nickname isn't priceless, but the way they contort their faces is. Some people, such as my dad, call this hand "Before Michael," because *Motown* is J-5 (jacks and fives). But that brings me to my next entry.

4. Big Chick (A-Q)

It's a play on Big Slick (A-K) and my father actually thought he coined this nickname because a few years ago he had come up with it during the family home game one night. I actually had never heard of it until he said it, but alas, it's not meant to be. Our good friend A.J. Benza used it on *High Stakes Poker* once, and even he thought he invented it. Sorry guys, it's been around for a while.



5. Darth Vader (4♠-4♣)

OK, you've uncovered my guilty pleasure. I love *Star Wars*. (But let's be clear, I'm not one of those geeks who gets made fun of on *Conan O'Brien*. I only dressed up as Vader once.) The hand is a play on "May the FOURS be with you," only the Vader hand uses the black suits because they're from the Dark Side.

SCOTT'S PICKS



1. Anna Kournikova (A-K)

So-called because it "looks pretty by rarely wins," and truer words have never been written. This hand is the one that's most consistently overplayed by rounders. It's a drawing hand, folks! But let's be fair to the lovely Miss Kournikova — she doesn't look "pretty." She looks pretty amazing.

2. Assault Rifle (A-K-4-7)

I'm not so much a fan of the gun-rights movement (not convinced you need a semi-automatic rifle to bag an 18-point buck), but anything that gets people playing Omaha is a shot worth taking to me.

3. Walking Sticks (7-7)

Catch me at the poker room bar and I'll be conversing with all my best buds — Johnnie Red, Johnnie Black and, after I win that *Ante Up* Poker Tour event, Johnnie Blue. We members of The Striding Man Society stand tall.

4. Speed Limit (5-5)

Here's a perfect day: ragtop down, shifting gears, Hagar blasting from the Sony. All with the pedal to the metal to my favorite poker room. But when I'm at the table, you'll see me smitten with radar love when dealt this trouble hand.



5. Hooters (3-3)



Every poker player knows the key to a pleasant poker home is to keep the poker spouse happy. And what can I say? I'm one of the lucky lugs who found a gal who craves cold beer and wings that are "delightfully tacky yet unrefined."

NEXT MONTH: Favorite poker villains. Send your list of five to editor@anteupmagazine.com. One lucky reader will win some cool swag for having his or her list printed!



ANTE UP'S INAUGURAL FLORIDA'S CHOICE AWARDS

It's nearly a year since the first issue of *Ante Up* shipped across Florida. ... and what a year it's been. There's no better way to celebrate our first birthday than to shine the spotlight on our 30 rooms and dozens of leagues that go out of their way to make sure Floridians enjoy the great game of poker. Go to anteupmagazine.com and choose the very best in Florida poker with our first "Florida's Choice Awards," which we're affectionately calling "The Antes!"

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The polls are open through July 27 at anteupmagazine.com. Results will be announced Aug. 17 on anteupmagazine.com/forum, and then we'll recap the winners in our September issue of *Ante Up*!

LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way

CONTROL THE POT WHILE IN POSITION

Controlling the size of the pot is essential for success when playing No-limit hold'em. Since you only hit one in every three flops you rarely are going to hit it so hard that you should be willing to play a really big pot by the turn and the river. If you focus on playing pots in position, you'll give yourself the extra advantage of seeing what your opponents do. This way you can decide if you want to build the pot or check behind to keep it more manageable and in line with the strength of your hand.



LEE CHILDS

Let's say you raise with A♠K♣ from the cutoff and both blinds call. The flop is K♥-9♥-6♣ and it's checked to you. You make a continuation bet and the big blind calls. The turn is the 10♠ and he checks to you. A lot of players think a bet is needed to protect against a flush draw. But think about this: What would you do if your opponent check-raised you? I've been in these spots before and it makes me sick to my stomach.

You're way ahead or way behind. If you're ahead, then he probably has, at most, nine outs with one card to come. If you're behind, he probably has a set, straight or two-pair.

Check to keep the pot more in line with your pair and avoid the potential stomach-turning check-raise. You might get your opponent to bluff on the river with a busted draw or value bet a weaker hand since you checked and "showed weakness" on the turn. You can call the river bet, which probably would be about the amount your turn bet would

have been had you not checked. This allows you get to showdown for the same price, but without risking a check-raise by your opponent or a call on the turn and then an even bigger bet on the river.

Once you're involved in a hand with position on your opponents, try to constantly think about these things:

- How big is my hand for this pot? You want to play big pots with big hands and small pots with small hands (one pair on the turn or river is a small hand so try to get to showdown as cheaply as possible).
- What is my reason for betting or checking-behind?
- Can I get to the next street or showdown for the same price as a bet on this street? With smaller hands, this is often going to play a big factor in checking to keep the pots in line with your hand strength.
- Am I in a way-ahead or way-behind situation? This happens so often that once you start thinking about this question in the middle of a hand, you'll realize just how many times you have your opponent crushed or he actually has you in really bad shape.

Pay attention to what's going on; don't feel like you have to ram and jam a pot to take it down now. If you find yourself in one of these spots, look to just check and get further in the hand without building a bigger pot with a marginal hand.

Focus on getting in position, taking control of hands and controlling the size of the pots and I assure you playing poker will become even more fun and much more profitable. Decide to win!

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

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WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

JOE NAVARRO • Ex-FBI guy shares his nonverbal secrets

ONE TELL MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TO HELP YOU

I was playing in the Battles at the Beach at the Isle and noticed this guy turned in his seat away from the table after he made a huge bet on the river. I wasn't in the hand and the other player folded. It was a huge pot and I really wanted to know what he was holding. Was he bluffing?

— KEVIN IN MIAMI



Kevin, I wish I could answer that. Rarely do players give off just one tell. I wish I could have seen his face, counted his heartbeats, looked at his pupils and a few more things such as was he sitting tall or slumped. Rarely it's just one tell. Ventral denial, turning away, is usually reserved for when we dislike someone or what they just said. At the tables it's often used by bluffers to indicate indifference or to make them look like they don't care. I'm afraid in this one I would need more information, but thanks for asking. At least you saw something most people would have missed.

— 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*, which you can find on Amazon.com. Email Joe at editor@anteupmagazine.com and he'll answer your questions.

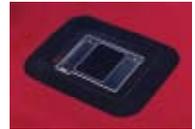


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DR. FRANK TOSCANO • A look at how to stay healthy at the poker table

IMPULSE CONTROL CAN HEIGHTEN WITH CERTAIN DRUGS

I'm half-Sicilian, so it's a pretty safe guess that I might, at times, have some impulse-control issues. Mostly, though, at the poker table, I control my impulses fairly well. My more logical side rightly advises tight play, pot control and caution when the flop is coordinated.



On occasion, however, usually after a few hours of being card dead, I tend to loosen up and act more impulsively. If I can't play premium starting hands I'll just have to play the rags I'm dealt and hope to catch something on the flop. That fails miserably, of course. I mistake second pairs for monsters and I push them when I should fold. My impulse to play some hands, any hands, overwhelms my logic and my carefully built stack shrinks dramatically.

I'm reminded somewhat about that forgettable 1985 movie called *Lost in America* starring Albert Brooks and Julie Hagarty. As a married couple they sell their house, cash out their savings, purchase a motor home and head out to discover America — conservative ad executive turned Easy Rider. On the first night of their adventure, Julie's character sneaks out of their Vegas hotel room and blows their nest egg on the roulette wheel. If you want to see a great movie about gambling, sorry, this isn't it, but the scene when she keeps shouting "22! 22!" at the roulette croupier is a classic picture of lost impulse control.

Thankfully, my impulse-control issues are pretty minor. After \$80 or \$100, I get disgusted with myself and drive home. There are, unfortunately, many people with severe impulse-control issues and for them, gambling can be a serious addiction. That is a broad and deep subject I may try to tackle in some future column. For this month, I want to issue a warning about the possible connection between impulse control and drugs used to control Restless Legs Syndrome.

I'm not talking about the I've-made-the-nuts happy feet described by author and *Ante Up* columnist Joe Navarro. Restless Legs Syndrome is a real disease that seriously interferes with sleep. The legs tingle and burn, especially at night. The unfortunate sufferer feels an uncontrollable desire to move his legs up and down, back and forth under the sheets until his sleeping partner begs him to get out of bed and go play

some Internet poker.

Sadly, the drugs available to treat this difficult condition work only marginally. Several of them, however, Parkinson's medications called Requip (Ropinirole) and Mirapex (Pramipexole), have been associated with some quite bizarre impulse-control issues that are said to have turned conservative Grannies into crazed Julie Hagarty's. Some claim their life's savings were lost and their marriages destroyed because of these drugs. They felt completely out of control as their gambling became compulsive and constant. When they stopped the drugs, they claim, the gambling impulses disappeared.

In all fairness, actual medical studies demonstrating lost impulse control on Requip or Mirapex are a bit sketchy. The best is a 2008 study that found nine out of 1,884 patients taking Mirapex (about three times more likely than the general population) developed a serious impulse-control disorder, usually gambling addiction but sometimes shopping or even sexual addiction (yikes!). Last year a jury (really, what do they know?) awarded \$8.2 million to a man who lost \$260,000 gambling while taking Mirapex. With pot odds like that you could draw to a one-outer. Of course, there is no shortage of lawyers willing to take those odds. Google "Requip gambling" for 75,000 hits.

Seriously, if you're taking one of these drugs, talk to your doctor about the possible complications. If you have impulse-control issues, or if you're taking one of these drugs and you notice an increased desire to gamble, shop or hook up, realize that it's just possible that a drug may be contributing to your problem. And finally, no experimentation, kiddies! Understand there needs to be a lot more research before you can use Requip to turn your tight-passive playing pattern into loose-aggressive.

While we're on the subject of drugs and poker, Ante Up Forum posters have voted overwhelmingly they do NOT believe there should be drug testing at large-event final tables. The stampede to pushers, pharmacists and energy-drink suppliers can be heard across the nation. I have no objection to drug testing. If I ever made a large-event final table, I'd seriously want to know if I were hallucinating.

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

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RPM POKER

Travelin' with Wesley Chapel's Chris Dombrowski

A DIZZYING PACE

I was back home in Wesley Chapel for the end of April and most of May. With the quarterly Full Tilt Online Poker Series taking place in May, my plan was to grind 50-plus hours a week online for the month, and then head to Vegas for the World Series. Of course, that's a lot easier said than done as I got sidetracked pretty quickly and ended up changing my plans.

Shortly after I got home, Terry "Asiandude7" Eischens and Randy "Randers" Haddox visited for a week. They also are sponsored pros on RMPoker, so we spent a lot of the week checking out the games on RPM, and playing a lot of cash games there. The games were amazing as probably more than 75 percent of the players I encountered were just terrible, and some players even occasionally open-shoved their hands after losing big pots. Needless to say, we all had a great week on the tables.

With FTOPS beginning after Randy and Terry left, I decided I'd ease off the cash games and focus more on tourneys, which is my bread and butter. However, the Celtics (my favorite team) were playing the Magic in the second round of the playoffs, and with Orlando only being an hour away, I ended up skipping a lot of FTOPS events to go to the playoff games with my little brother. Unfortunately the Celtics blew the series in seven games.

After the series, I put in a few days of tournament grinding near the end of the FTOPS and played really well. I put together a couple of deep runs (though I wasn't able to close any of them) and some nice scores that weekend. One of them was quite devastating though, as I finished 17th in the Sunday Million after running JJ into QQ for a second-place stack. Poor Asiandude7 had the same fate as I did. He ran JJ into QQ with seven left in one of the FTOPS events less than 10 minutes after I busted.

A couple of friends had told me about the upcoming \$5K tourneys in New Orleans and L.A. They looked like they should have soft fields so I decided to play them and just head to Vegas after busting from the tourney in L.A. The \$5K in New Orleans was on Monday, and by

the time I busted in the Sunday Million it was already 3 a.m., so I got a quick two hours of sleep and caught an early morning flight. That event didn't last very long for me as I quickly lost half my stack and then got all-in with JJ against 2♥3♥ on a T♥-6♥-5♣ flop, only to see another heart fall on the river. Can you tell I'm not a very big fan of pocket jacks these days? So I spent the next few days hanging out with some other online players in New Orleans and playing online.

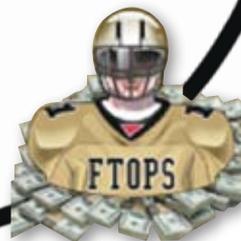
Next came the \$5K at Commerce Casino in L.A. The turnout was pretty good and the structure was awesome. My starting table seemed great with only one younger player at the table, but he was a few seats to my left and was giving me a lot of trouble. I don't think I've ever raise-folded so much in my life, constantly getting three-bet by the younger player and getting put in a lot of tough spots with marginal hands. I was extremely happy with the way I played, though, and only really regret the way I played one hand.

I made it through the day with 15 big blinds, which left me really short-stacked going into Day 2, but I felt pretty lucky to still be alive with the spots I was getting into on Day 1. I quickly doubled up the next day by winning a race, but I just couldn't get anything going after that, and ended up busting fairly close to the money when I squeezed with J♣10♣ for about 22 big blinds and ended up running into QQ. It was pretty disappointing to bust short of the money, but I was happy with my performance and was definitely a good warm-up for the World Series.

I stuck around L.A. for an extra day to play Sunday tourneys online and rail a couple of friends who made the final table in the \$5K. The day started out pretty rough, but I was able to salvage it with a runner-up finish in a 4,400-person field \$50 freeze-out for \$21K. I lost a race heads-up, but I wasn't about to complain since my Sunday was looking pretty bleak for a while.

The next day I flew to Vegas to get ready for the WSOP. I'm planning to play a pretty large schedule, with pretty much all NLHE events (except the \$40K), and maybe a few smaller pot-limit Omaha and razz tourneys.

— Chris Dombrowski is a member of the RPM Poker team and lives in Wesley Chapel. Email him at editor@anteupmagazine.com.



An occasional column from a Florida dealer

View from the WSOP box: winning vs. whining

By Barry Chase

My first day dealing at the World Series of Poker last year was fun and easy; they were short on dealers in the regular poker room, and I was directed to deal to the “usuals.” No pros or high limits, just the kind of people that always come into the Rio’s poker room to play at the 10-table room’s \$2-\$4 limit and \$1-\$2 no-limit tables ... just easy, low-stress dealing.

I warmed up at the first few tables that had good attitudes, but then I landed the table with Loud Guy, who was, of course, losing. He got especially animated when he thought I was pushing him the pot by mistake, and another player said “Wait, that guy won!” pointing to the pot’s winner. I continued pushing the pot around the flop toward the winner as I’d intended, and Loud Guy started babbling on about it being no one’s business but the winner to announce who gets the pot if the dealer is making a mistake. I let him know there’s actually a clause in the rules about players being encouraged to assist in such corrections to maintain fairness in the game, and he vehemently argued his point, even asking a supervisor to clear it up. The floor agreed players should assist in such matters, to which Loud Guy responded (after the floor had left) that “she doesn’t know what she’s talking about.” Decorum prevented me from laughing. The rest of the table, however, felt no such limitation.

Even Loud Guy couldn’t thwart my excitement over dealing at the WSOP, albeit in the Rio’s regular room.

Okay, Day 2 and it’s a whole different world. I had the misconception, as a lot of dealers have when they first show up, that dealing those high-limit tables where there’s not a white (\$1) or red (\$5) chip would mean a big payday. Wrong!

Wrong in that big-slap-in-my-greedy-face, kind of wrong.

My first table was the \$25-\$25 pot-limit Omaha table, and the first hand was a \$17,000 pot that slowed me down a bit due to the sheer volume of black (\$100) chips. The *entire* table barked at me about who had won (hear that Loud Guy?) and I pushed the half-the-average-American’s-annual-salary pot to the winner.

Nada for me, not even a dollar.

Obviously I was disappointed, but just kept right on going. What else could I do? Most, but not all, of the other players gave me a dollar a hand, and I had trouble not showing surprise when I got \$2 from someone before I got up. I’d say about a third of the hands winning these large pots offered no tip.

My next table was a \$2-\$5 NLHE game (lowest in the WSOP cash section), and after a few hands gave me a buck or two each. I pushed a \$350 pot to a guy who threw me five bucks for my efforts. I really was as grateful as I sounded. Not only that, this table seemed to actually be having a good time.

Next was a \$10-\$20 NLHE table that seemed to be flowing along well enough. The difference at these higher limits is a timed rake; I collect a \$7 rake from everyone at the start of my down. As it happened this time, one gentleman put in the full rake (\$56 for the eight play-

ers), with the table agreeing that the first winner of a \$112-plus pot would pay him back.

Fine. Except that a Loud Gal at the table (again, losing) starts sounding off when the first few pots aren’t big enough to pay the guy or that new people will sit in and win the bigger pots, etc. When I stop for a moment to reconstruct who was where, what and when, she cried out that I was just staring into space. I then realized that since the table was a timed rake, not a timed pot, they could agree to differences among themselves and I had nothing to do with it (and I told her as much). She griped at me a bit more, and another player said, “He’s right, and he’s doing fine. If you’d leave him alone, we could actually get our hands in!”

I had gotten too involved at the table, and paid a price for it. Loud Gal kept winning small pots and kept commenting about not tipping me as I pushed over her chips.

My final lesson learned from dealing to the high-limit players came from a guy who was sitting next to the dealer’s box. As I counted the well he told me, in the friendliest tones, “Listen, it’s nothing personal, but I don’t tip. I did the math and discovered that I’d have tipped away \$50,000 last year.” I responded something to the effect of being impressed at the number, and while dealing the hands did the math in my head. That means he would’ve won 50,000 hands, assuming he tipped a buck a hand (which seems obvious). So how many hands did he actually play to get that many wins? No wonder he can’t afford a buck or two out of a \$1,500 pot, eh?

A different day showed a sharp contrast to the average disgruntled high-limit players. I got into the box to deal a \$50-\$100 limit mixed game with **Robert Williamson III** next to me. He recognized I was dealing unfamiliar games, and laughed first at a goof I made against him, all the while giving me pointers on dealing the various games. A few days later I thanked him in the hallway at the Rio and he still was the friendly guy he appeared to be at the table. He easily was my favorite player of the 2008 Series. (Annie Duke was a *very* close second, but I’ll save that story for another time.)

What I saw at the WSOP, including the final tables I dealt, was when people stopped having fun they started losing. None of us got into poker because we had to; it was fun. It was a hobby that may have become profitable, and perhaps even turned into a vocation. But we started in a basement, on a dining-room table or over a barracks bunk because it was fun. And it should stay that way.

— Barry deals in Florida and is dealing again at this year’s WSOP.



Just because the game is bigger doesn't mean your tip box will be full.

WOMEN IN POKER

LAUREN FAILLA • Founder of High Heels Poker Tour

WORLD SERIES OF POKER ... OR BUST!

Well, it's that time again: I'm off to the World Series of Poker! Every year thousands of poker players converge on the Rio in Las Vegas for that first moment of walking into the Amazon Room and experiencing that feeling like they've reached "poker heaven." Unless you've experienced it, it's hard to describe the overwhelming feeling that something great is going to happen, and it always does. This is the room where stars are born and current poker stars are humbled. It's where women and men from all over the world get the chance to rub elbows with the best and have their chance at stardom.

Poker for me culminates every year in this spot, where all past bad beats and donkey calls are dress rehearsals for this moment. As a player, all of the tournaments, SNGs, cash games and home games have all been just practice for what I'm about to face. If you're ever going to have the cards, play like an ace and make all the right moves, this is where you hope it happens.

It's at the World Series that sex, age and economic status disappear. Yes, they still have ladies-only and seniors events, but this is when I love to look around the room and see how many women are playing mainstream tournaments and how many more are playing each year. I know in this economic environment that for most families the buy-ins are a stretch, but for those who can't put down a minimum of \$1,000 for an event, there are plenty of ways to "qualify" without taking out a second mortgage.

One of the best ways to accomplish this is by playing satellites. The WSOP has a specific area dedicated to satellites, which range from \$125 to \$1,000, so just one win of a \$125 satellite can enter you into

Last year when I arrived I won a \$125 satellite and bought into the ladies event. I would go on to cash in 63rd place (out of about 1,200 players) and had a payday of almost \$4,000.

an event. Ladies, heed my advice: I have done this for the past four years and it's afforded me multiple opportunities to play in a number of events during the WSOP.

For example, last year when I arrived I won a \$125 satellite and bought into the ladies event. I would go on to cash in 63rd place (out of about 1,200 players) and had a payday of almost \$4,000.

Also, there are many other properties running tournaments at the same time as the WSOP. There are some real bargain tournaments where you can get good value and lots of chips. A little research goes along way so log on to the Internet or pick up a poker magazine to find the best deals.

So, as I finish packing my suitcase, I wish all those ladies who are playing in any events all the luck and please send me an email and let me know how you did. We want to make sure that you get some recognition. Wish me luck!

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

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Some shortcuts are needed, manager says

In response to Chaz Allen's column (*Dealers need to be efficient, but no shortcuts*, June 2009), I'm not a lazy poker dealer, but I do believe dealers need to find shortcuts within the procedures to increase their revenue and the poker room's. One of the shortcuts that's acceptable (and, in fact, that I teach), is to leave the bets out in front of the players, then burn, turn, start the action, bring in the bets (from where the action should begin) and take the rake in one smooth motion.

By leaving the bets in front of the players, you can ensure the action is complete before dealing. If all the bets are in the pot and there's an issue, you can't know if someone didn't call unless you go to the cameras. If the players are faster than the dealer and get their bets in before the dealer gets the previous round into the pot, then the dealer isn't bringing in the bets from where the action begins, or they're simply too slow.

One of the most unprofessional things I observe when playing is a dealer who brings in the bets before dealing a card and immediately takes the rake. If they're taught to bring in the bets, burn and turn, and then rake, they're making too many motions into the pot.

I agree there's a fine line between which shortcuts are acceptable and which aren't, but learning the proper shortcuts is important to the professionalism and profitability of the dealer.

Mike Smith

Director of Poker Operations, Isle Casino at Pompano Park

Being a dealer isn't as easy as you may think

I'm a dealer at a South Florida casino and would like to address the article by Chaz Allen (*Dealers need to be efficient, but no shortcuts*, June 2009) and the letter to the editor by Brian Saslaczchik (*Allen's dealer column is spot*

on, June 2009).

First I'd like to say there are many unprofessional dealers at our casinos. They don't know how to control a table, by that I mean call bets, do sidepots efficiently and quickly. They also don't know the rules of the game. This problem arises when dealers don't receive the proper training in school. Schools in South Florida aren't teaching etiquette along with skill. We, as dealers, need to take pride in our profession, but a part of that is providing a joyful atmosphere. Some of us aren't the greatest, however we can't discredit the ones who are.

Our job is also to keep the integrity of the game. Our customers should have full trust they're receiving the best service available. A part of that is sharing and talking to the customers. Brian wrote "dealers are too friendly with the players." As a seasoned dealer who has worked in numerous rooms in Vegas, Arizona and now South Florida, I have found the reason dealers are so friendly is because most of our revenue is based on regulars. These people are in our casino on a daily basis and become part of our family. So when a newcomer such as Brian shows up at one of our tables he is unfamiliar how our family system may work.

We live and work in the same community as our customers, so it's difficult to be curt with the same person who may bag your groceries. In Vegas, revenue is based on tourists, so there's no familiarity with the person across the table from you. We, as dealers, need to find a comfortable medium where regulars and newcomers are happy with our service. Here is a hint for all dealers: The more you call out the bets the less conversation you'll have.

Jose Santiago
via email



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

Quality dealers just waiting for their chance

As a dealer, I wanted to thank you for writing your article on unprofessional dealers. I can't stand seeing dealers who can't do their jobs, such as sidepots or controlling the game. It seems like some dealers don't care and have conversations with others while on the table instead of doing their jobs. Watch out, because there are plenty of dealers who know what they're doing and would love to do your job, myself included. But, unfortunately, the directors don't pay enough attention. Poker rooms in Florida are nothing like the ones in Nevada (where I'm from). It's a shame there are real dealers begging for an audition (myself included) but can't get one, yet there are so many unprofessional and bad dealers.

Debra Myers
Sunrise

Don't be that player

Don't be the player who blames everyone for their bad play. Yes, 3-4 offsuit are connectors, but that doesn't mean play it every time. It's not the dealer's fault you can't stop putting money in the pot. These are the players who have lost touch with one major point: It's a game. You're supposed to have fun while playing. With that said, to the player who just won't let up: I don't come to your work and complain every time you don't do something perfectly, so don't do it to the dealer. Remember the dealer has a job to do and mistakes happen. Let's keep the game fun for everyone. Be nice to the dealers. If you don't like him or her, don't tip them. They have to be nice to you so please be nice to them.

Chris Maxfield
Dania Jai-Alai tournament director/dealer



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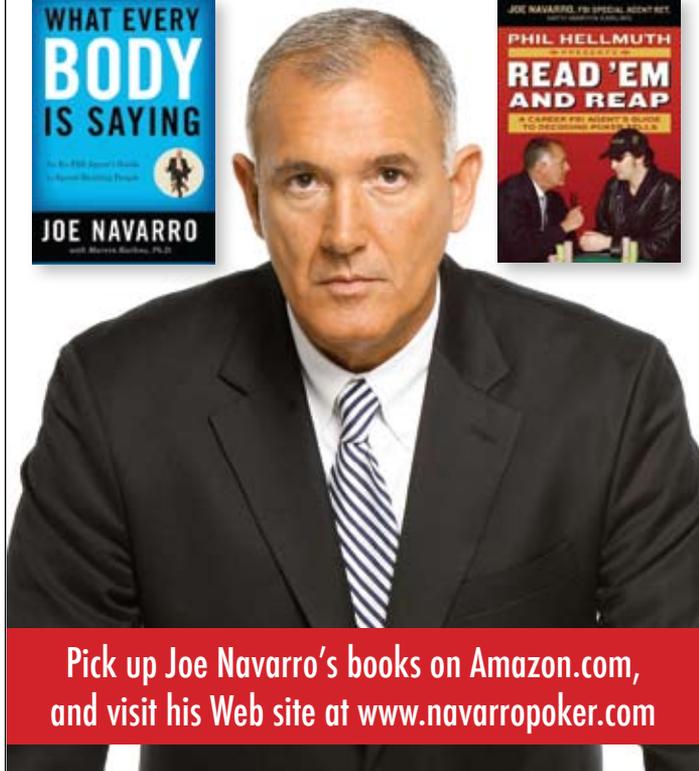
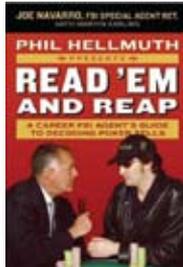
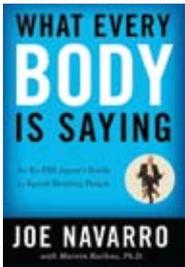
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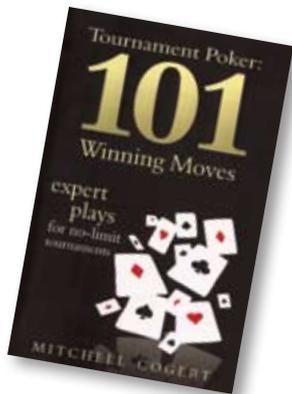
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Tournament Poker: 101 Winning Moves

By Mitchell Cogert

\$19.95

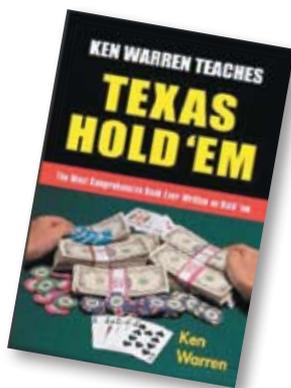
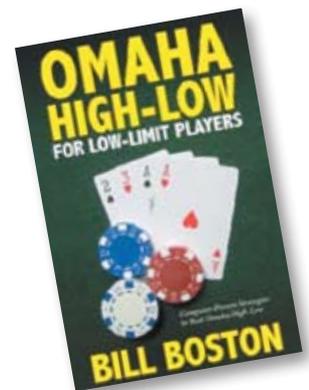
Did you go card dead in your last tournament? We all do. But by using Winning Move No. 35 in this book, you'll learn how to use the "No-Look" blind steal in late position to end what author Mitchell Cogert calls the repetitive stress condition known as "folding." You must steal blinds to win a tournament, Cogert says, and the "No-Look" blind steal is just one of 101 easy-to-understand expert plays for no-limit tournaments. Get a special downloadable e-book of 20 moves at www.APokerExpert.com/AnteUp.html, or buy the book for \$19.95 wherever books are sold.

Omaha Hi-Low For Low-Limit Players

By Bill Boston

\$19.95

Bill Boston draws on conclusions from his other book, *Omaha Hi-Low: Play to Win With The Odds*, and adapts them to low-limit games. Boston ran more than 50 million hand simulations using Wilson Software's Turbo Omaha High-Low Split to establish the skill level of each player in Wilson's 52-player lineup. He then played every hand from every position 100,000 times. Whew. That's some exahustive math. But wait, there's more. Boston then selected a lineup of players typically found at low-limit Omaha/8 games and ran hundreds of thousands simulations against them to give you a rock-hard statistical roadmap to use when deciding whether, and how, to play the 5,278 possible Omaha/8 hands.



Ken Warren Teaches Texas Hold'em 2

By Ken Warren

\$19.85

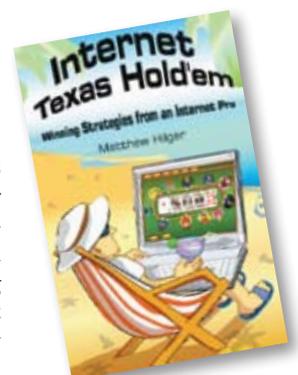
Yet another sequel to a well-received original, this book is for "players who didn't make the final table of the World Series of Poker and the people who don't play in the big games where hundreds of thousands of dollars change hands daily." Sounds like most of us. Ken Warren tailors his book to limit players who normally toil in games with limits of \$2-\$4 up to \$10-\$20. Warren seeks to help you avoid the mistakes that plague most players, devoting seven chapters of the book to detailing common mistakes, culminating with a chapter on the 10 biggest mistakes, and one chapter on ways to profit from other players' mistakes. Warren also answers questions from real folks like us, which adds some personality that is usually lacking in most poker how-tos.

Internet Texas Hold'em

By Matthew Hilger

\$29.95

The original *Internet Texas Hold'em* was a smash hit, spurring great participation on Matthew Hilger's intertexasoldem.com Web site. And Hilger, an accomplished player with 10 World Series of Poker cashes, drew on that participation when he penned this expanded edition. He's added more than 100 pages of material, including more than 250 sample hands to help you dominate full-ring and short-handed limit games. Yes, that's right, limit — which Hilger says pros believe to be the best low-risk money-making opportunity in poker. The 406-page tome includes great chapter summaries that help you review what you just learned, as well as a reading list and the requisite glossary. One tip: Internet limit games usually play tighter than live games, likely because of the number of hands that are dealt each hour.





Shuffle Tech International

Shuffle Tech's new ST-1000 is a must-have for any serious poker game. No longer restricted to casinos, automatic shufflers speed games, ensure fairness and eliminate the tedium of continual hand-shuffling. The cost is just \$499.95, plus \$99.95 for an optional flush mount kit, including a 30-day money-back guarantee and a 1-year warranty. Click to www.shuffletech.com or any leading poker equipment supplier for more information.



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Madison Jewelers has a firm foundation created by more than 20 years of experience in the jewelry industry. It realizes that each jewelry purchase is intertwined with all the wonderful, momentous occasions that make your life special. Each birthday, engagement, wedding, anniversary and new baby is a cherished gift in time. Your memories should be simple ... elegant ... perfect. Madison Jewelers crafts the finest poker bracelets in the world, recently completing designs for the Isle Casino and the Ante Up Poker Tour. But it's much more — from diamonds to watches to buying your gold at terrific prices. **Call Phil Ralph toll-free today at (877)-865-0609 or visit Madison Jewelers on the Web at www.madison-jewelers.com.**



Desjgn

Desjgn Playing Cards is proud to be the official card of *Ante Up Magazine!* Scott Long, well-known co-publisher at *Ante Up*, recently offered this assessment of Desjgn: "From the first time we saw Desjgn's unique cards, we were entranced by the creative designs." At Desjgn, the passion is playing cards and designing them well. From easy-to-see and classy indices to the stunning back and face designs, this passion resonates which each shuffle and deal.

Find out more on Desjgn at www.classicplayingcards.com which has recently gone through a nice re-design, featuring an easier catalogue menu and a concise informative PDF for casino representatives to download and peruse.



Wheel-R-Dealer

Wheel-R-Dealer is the "Wheel that Deals" and is the world's first, and only, hand-held electronic "playing card dealer." This exciting new product which debuted at the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas truly captures the imagination of all card players. The Wheel-R-Dealer deals playing cards face down or face up (flop) with precision and accuracy. It's fun and easy to use. It is being promoted at poker tournaments where players and organizers see the advantages. The Wheel-R-Dealer makes it easy to deal and players feel comfortable that only the top card is accessible. Young children's hands aren't big enough to deal and kids find it fun and easy to use. Seniors with arthritis can now deal cards more effectively with the Wheel-R-Dealer. The Wheel-R-Dealer works great with most quality playing cards in poker and bridge sizes, and sponsors can put their logos on them, too! Wheel-R-Dealer, \$19.99, www.wheel-r-dealer.com



THE FUTURE OF TELEVISED POKER: PLO

Most people learn poker from 5-card draw or 7-card stud. Once they grasp “what beats what” and pick up some basic strategy, they look to broaden their horizons by adding wild cards or learning other games such as hold’em and Omaha. Humans generally tend to grow bored with the same ol’ same ol’ (or they just love the action), but you can bet they won’t stick with 5-card draw (unless they’re named Mike Caro).



CHRIS COSENZA

It’s this innate trait that televised poker should embrace. Networks need to experiment, get ahead of the curve, create or discover the “next big thing.” And they need to do it *now*. Poker on TV these days is mostly no-limit hold’em, which makes sense since that’s how the boom started. But hold’em does not equal poker. It’s merely one tiny facet that makes up this great game. ESPN has announced it will not broadcast non-hold’em World Series of Poker tournaments this year; even the \$50K H.O.R.S.E. event will go dark.

Yes, poker’s popularity needs the *World Poker Tour*, *Poker After Dark* and WSOP as cornerstones (though my sources say *PAD* has no plans to tape future episodes). But it’s been six years of no-limit hold’em on television. We’ve grasped “what beats what” and we want to broaden our viewing horizons. We’re ready for our big-boy pants. Most fans that still watch these days are actual poker players, and we’re ready for something different (ESPN be damned!).

Networks have tried to televise live tournaments, but those always proved boring and technically difficult to pull off; plus it was just more NLHE. Why not change the game? During an interview on our *Ante Up PokerCast* we asked Poker PROductions’ Mori Eskandani about the possibility of televising a game other than NLHE.

“Even with pros, they get confused playing Omaha,” he said. “I’ve seen seasoned pros throw half the pot away playing hi-lo split Omaha. How could I possibly envision that, in my lifetime, I could get the viewing public to understand Omaha? Yes, I will have a very small percentage of the people that are interested in the game to watch it, but I can’t expect it to be popular. Texas Hold’em just has all the qualities you need. It’s a simple game to learn, and despite that, it’s a long ways away from people becoming good at the game. ... It is just a business decision. ... I would say the second-best game to (put) on television is 7-card stud.”

That interview was nearly two years ago, and there’s still no stud on TV. His contention was 7-card stud is the same as hold’em but no community cards; everyone gets seven cards. My contention with televised stud is there’s an extra betting round, it’s limit, and there are too many cards to keep track of on the screen. Plus, the worst hand makes the bring-in bet, but on fourth street the best hand bets first. On each street the initial bettor can change, thus further confusing the audience. It was (notice I said *was*) great for hardcore poker fans to watch a novelty stud WSOP episode on ESPN (again, there’s no chance of seeing one this year), but as a steady diet I think it would be doomed.

So, what’s the next big thing in televised poker? Enter the *Aussie Millions Cash Game Invitational*. Imagine my surprise when Barry Tompkins and Bart Hanson announced the game would be played half no-limit hold’em and half *pot-limit Omaha!* Kudos to FSN and the Crown

Casino for *boldly going where no televised cash game has gone before*. Pot-limit Omaha is the most natural progression from no-limit hold’em and makes the transition for viewers very smooth. Plus, by making it just Omaha and not Omaha/8 it loses the complexity that might derail some of the audience.

There are five community cards, the betting rounds are the same and players can bet up to the amount that’s in the pot. The only differences between the games are you get four cards instead of two, you can’t go all-in (unless you have less than what’s in the pot) and you **MUST** play two cards. Other than that the games are the same. But the action is so much juicier.

In the first broadcast on FSN there was an Omaha hand that will go down in televised lore. It was so amazing I have to tell you about it. Patrik Antonius, considered one of the top two or three pot-limit Omaha players in the world, squared off against young Internet pro Andrew Robl, and it was nothing short of remarkable. With \$1,500 in the pot preflop Antonius held 9♥-8♦-6♦-5♦, a paltry hand at best. But he thrives on deception and the ever-changing bluffable board, so he raised to \$3,500. Robl, in the small blind, looked down at A♠-Q♠-Q♦-J♣, a much better proposition. He understandably raised pot (\$11,500), knowing Antonius’ penchant for playing rags. But Antonius insta-called.

With the pot at \$24K the flop came 4♦-A♦-7♠. As the cards lie Antonius was a 73 percent favorite with a flush draw and a nuclear wrap to a straight! But Robl chose to bet \$16K with his aces. Of course Antonius raised pot (\$72K) and Robl, surprisingly, shoved. Even Hanson said it was an easy fold. Antonius called knowing he was a huge favorite and the pot ballooned to \$262K.

OK, so this doesn’t sound that exciting given that *High Stakes Poker* had almost a million-dollar pot between Tom Dwan and Barry Greenstein that same week, but the best was yet to come. As a rule, poker players at that level tend to like to avoid variance. So when they’re playing high-stakes cash games and get it all-in they like to run the cards twice, meaning they would deal the turn and river two times and split the pot in half. But Robl said, “Let’s run it four times,” meaning there would be four turns and rivers and the pot would be split into quarters.

The first turn-river was K♥-2♥ giving Round 1 to Robl. But each card that didn’t help Antonius only increased the odds he’d win the next round. The next turn-river was absolutely brutal for Antonius as the J♦ came on the turn to give him the flush, but the A♣ on the river gave Robl a running full house and another win! Surely Antonius would win the next one, right? The 10♥ and K♠ would disagree as Robl took the third pot. With just a quarter of the pot left Antonius was around an 80 percent favorite to win. The 3♠ came on the final turn to give him his straight, but Robl picked up the nut-flush draw and the 10♠ sealed Antonius’ fate on the river, giving Robl the entire pot as a 27 percent dog (or worse) on four occasions!

Hanson said the chances of that happening were less than 1 percent. It stands as one of the most amazing statistical anomalies ever broadcast in poker history, and we owe it all to FSN and pot-limit Omaha. No-limit hold’em will always be the “Cadillac of Poker” and the straw that stirs the poker ratings’ drink, but we need something else to help our poker viewing grow, and pot-limit Omaha is the way to go. Come on, Mori, give it a try.



IDENTITY THEFT REPORT:

IDENTITY THEFT UP 22%, HITS 5-YEAR HIGH

Leader in I.D. Theft Protection Strikes Back with Free Protection Offer for All

TEMPE, ARIZONA – Identity theft has topped the Federal Trade Commission's list of consumer complaints for the past eight years.

Now, a stunning new survey shows a record 9.9 million Americans were victims of identity theft last year – a shocking 22% increase over the prior year – according to Javelin Strategy & Research. This news mirrors a just-released report from the Federal Trade Commission that cites a 21% increase in identity theft complaints during the same period.

Apparently, individual consumers are not the only ones at risk: a recent review cited by the Wall Street Journal reports that the cost of information breaches to U.S. companies was also on the rise, with the average total per-incident cost in 2008 rising to \$6.65 million*.

These studies send a clear message: in the wake of the global economic crisis, identity theft is a big business. It's up to consumers to take proactive steps to protect themselves.

That's why for a limited time, LifeLock, the industry leader in identity theft protection, is offering 30 days of guaranteed identity theft protection service at no cost.

"All you have to do is call 1-866-771-0788 for an individual membership, or 1-866-771-0789 if you are enrolling more than one member," said Todd Davis, the CEO of LifeLock known for giving out his real Social Security number in advertising to show his confidence in

the service. "It's that simple."

Immediately upon enrollment, all LifeLock members are protected by LifeLock's \$1 Million Total Service Guarantee.

Why should you protect your identity? Consider some of the Javelin survey's specific findings:

According to the survey, more than one in every ten victims knew the person who stole their identity.

It also appears identity thieves are moving dramatically faster than they used to when it comes to actually using stolen information. The Javelin survey revealed incidents of using stolen information within just a week of the theft more than doubled from 33% to 71% over the past three years.

The Javelin survey revealed women are 26% more likely to be victims than men. The survey also named higher income consumers (households with combined incomes of \$75,000 or more) to be at higher risk. Latinos were named the most likely demographic group to become victims of new account theft. Latinos are 47% more likely to become victims, versus 32% of all victims. It's important to point out that no one can stop all identity theft, but what LifeLock doesn't stop, they fix at their expense, up to \$1 million.

To get LifeLock free for 30 days during this special offer, call 1-866-771-0788 for individual memberships, 1-866-771-0789 for multiple enrollments, and use promo code FREEMONTH.



Todd Davis, CEO of identity theft protection company LifeLock, demonstrates his confidence by sharing his Social Security number: 457-55-5462. To protect yourself FREE for 30 days call today and use promotion code FREEMONTH.

HOW TO GET FREE IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION

Call one of the numbers below to protect your family **FREE for 30 days**. Representatives are available 24 hours a day. Hurry – this exclusive offer is limited only to those that call and use the promotion code below.

PLEASE NOTE: If the line is busy, hang up and try the number again.

**SINGLE**TEL: **1-866-771-0788****MULTIPLE**TEL: **1-866-771-0789**PROMO CODE: **FREEMONTH****Kim Barnes**

■ "When I first learned about a company called LifeLock that protects families from identity theft, my husband was skeptical. I signed us up anyway, and forgot about it. A couple of months later, on a family vacation, my husband received a phone call asking if he was applying for a new credit card. Someone was trying to steal his identity. LifeLock had stopped the thief cold."

**Bobby Jo Harris**

■ "I'm a former chief of police of a major city. I knew identity theft was a \$50 billion a year business, and a prime focus of organized crime. But they got me anyway. Even though I was a senior law enforcement official, it took weeks to clear my name. I decided: never again. A reporter recommended LifeLock to me and I tried them out. I've never had a problem since. I highly recommend them to you."

**Earl Laurie**

■ "I had seen a news report about LifeLock. The reporter tried to use the CEO's Social Security number to open new accounts and couldn't. That's when I signed up. Later, I heard from the Navy and the VA that they had lost my private information. Then someone tried to open two credit card accounts under my name. They tried to steal my identity, but LifeLock worked exactly like they said it would."

**Zach Friesen**

■ "My identity was stolen when I was seven, but I didn't find out until ten years later when I was denied a student loan and a job due to poor credit. That's when I discovered I was \$40,000 in debt because someone purchased a houseboat in my name. It took over ten years to clear my name. You can be sure my kids will be protected by LifeLock."

**Aaron Freeman**

■ "Thieves broke into my home and got everything – my passport, birth certificate, Social Security card. They could have ruined me financially. So I put LifeLock to the test. A few days later, I started getting phone calls that the thieves were trying to open new credit accounts. LifeLock's system worked just like they said it would and stopped the thieves cold."

Q&A

WITH TIFFANY MICHELLE

Aside from the November Nine, "Hot Chips" was the biggest story to emerge from the 2008 WSOP. While visiting Daytona Beach Kennel Club she sat with *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza and discussed everything from her nickname and her family to her WSOP fame . . . and infamy.

How'd you get the nickname Hot Chips?

I got that in 2006 when I was hosting for Bluff Radio and everyone thought I needed a nickname. . . . We had a call-in segment where people got to call in and suggest nicknames for me. So one guy was like "You know, *M*A*S*H* had a character **Hot Lips Houlihan**. . . . What if we call her Hot Chips?" Everyone loved it and it just kinda stuck from there.

Your agent calls you poker's sexiest player. How did that happen?

You're supposed to ask other people about me. (laughs) Everyone thinks I have a big ego. The fact that I mentioned on ESPN "Oh it's fun being a cute chick in poker," everyone's like "Oh my God she's so full of herself." So it's kind of a taboo subject if I talk about it. . . . I don't know, I'm young; I'm a fairly attractive person for the kinds that you get in the game of poker. Just by the fact that I'm a chick in a male-dominated field who actually used to do beauty pageants and acting and modeling. So I suppose being compared to your average guy sitting at the table I'm a little more attractive. (laughs)

You began acting at the age of 10. How do your skills as an actor help at the poker table?

We've seen a big movement in the entertainment industry, that they're really drawn to the game of poker. I think just purely all the prep work you have to do when you're getting into character, becoming a certain person in a roll, the observation you have to have, the different mannerisms you take on, you can really see certain actors in roles pick up these different quirks of people. So I think that really helps because you can sit there and when you start tapping your foot, moving your eyes or doing different things with your body, I can pick up a lot of information. I can put myself in your shoes and say, "OK, how's he feeling when he's behaving this way? What does that mean about his hand?" . . . I think the observation really helps. I think also as actors we can give off whatever information we want. I can be strong in a hand; I can be weak in a hand. And a lot of times you have this term called "Hollywooding." But usually you can tell (when they are acting). It's so obvious and people aren't very good about being subtle. I think a lot of actors can Hollywood, but in a way that they can totally get away with, that's totally believable, and you don't even know that we're acting and giving you information.

What was it like playing poker with your brothers and your grandfather?

My family was very much into card games. For some reason from an early age I loved poker. We'd get little Skittles or

M&M's to play with. My mom, when my grandfather would get the poker chips set out, she was like "You guys can

play cards but I don't want you *gambling*." (laughs) It was like this very taboo subject, like *no gambling allowed!* And so we would do it as much as we could. It was fun. It was just something naturally that, you know, the bluffing, and there was a skill to it that I always kinda enjoyed. You know, having two brothers I was always competitive. I loved going up against the boys. There's something very satisfactory to me about beating other guys. They're good competition and I'm a very competitive person so it's very fulfilling.

You admitted to getting teary-eyed at being the last woman standing in last year's main event when you finished 17th out of nearly 7,000 players. How significant was that for you?

It meant so much. Up until 2008 I had been coming to the World Series for like three years, and every year watching my friends do well, watching people final table, and on the sideline I sat there thinking "I could do that." I felt like my game was good enough that I could play with these guys and I could do well. So not only was it this amazing feeling to prove to (myself) like, "Holy cow I could do this!" but to be the last woman standing . . . I had seen all the years past and Maria Ho is a good friend of mine. So I saw what it had done for her the year before, I saw what it meant; I saw where that title took you and how much respect you got for it, not only from the poker community but on a monetary career opportunity value. And so to then sit there and be like, "That's me?" It meant so much, and I think that's what people misunderstood. I wasn't rooting for other people to fail. I was sitting here rooting for my dream to come true and prove to myself that I could do it. So it was just amazing.

Do you find at all that ESPN making such a big deal out of it is sort of sexist?

I feel like there is sexism within poker, but I think any kind of game or field where you have a minority there's going to be more attention given to that minority in the field. And obviously women are a minority playing with the guys. I know Annie Duke feels very strongly about women's-only tournaments. She's like, "You know, we can play with the guys. Why do we keep kind of segregating ourselves?" Yeah, it'll be interesting at the point that we don't have a last-woman-standing be a big thing. But just by the sheer numbers, you know maybe 10 percent of the field was women, so until it becomes more mainstream I think we are going to have that focus because it is a big accomplishment.

Do you support women's events?

I'm on the line with them. Honestly, from a strictly selfish point of view, they're a really good value for me. However, **Annie** is a friend of mine, and she's really strongly expressed her opinion about how, you know, we'd be really pissed off if they had a men's-only tournament. I would be so upset about that. So how can we get away with having women's-only? . . . It's a good value, but at the same time I really feel like



M&M's to play with. My mom, when my grandfather would get the poker chips set out, she was like "You guys can





Continued from previous page

women should get in the game, they should have the confidence to play with the guys. If you want to sit here and talk about equality, which we fight for all of the time, well you're not actually having equality when you have women's-only tournaments because we'd throw a fit if they had men's-only tournaments.

You came under fire at last year's World Series. First there was the whole PokerNews-UltimateBet fiasco. What happened and has it been rectified?

Obviously I had been hosting for PokerNews for several years, but ... I was not sponsored by PokerNews. I had no affiliation with their site besides being a host for them, which was not an exclusive job. So, basically, two poker players (Tony G. and Jeffery Lisandro) backed me in the event, which is a normal thing to do in poker.

One of them happened to be the owner of PokerNews (Tony G.), so via that, he said, "Hey, will you throw on our logo?" So I threw on their logo. We had no exclusivity; we agreed to a certain percentage, and so then what kinda happened was PokerNews lied about a lot of our situations, about our details and the going-ons. So then (UltimateBet) wanted to give me a logo to wear at the World Series, which I think people forget, UB is a gaming site and PokerNews is a journalistic site. There was no competition there. ... Basically I was backed by two poker players, they tried to make it a bigger deal by saying PokerNews sponsored (me), they put (me) in all of these events, (I) was exclusive with (them), which wasn't the case. ... As I got a little more valuable in the tournament they tried to get a little more control. Nothing's really happened since. Haven't tried to amicably part ways and say sorry about the misunderstanding. They blasted me a lot in the media, which is unfortunate because they have such a huge forum and I'm just one person. I made Tony and Jeff Lisandro a lot of money; you



know there was really no real "thank you" for that. (laughs) We're a few hundred thousand dollars richer. And since then I have gone on to a Star Player deal with UltimateBet.

Also, your table etiquette wasn't exactly embraced by the public or the players. How hard was it dealing with that in the aftermath and how much of it was selective editing?

I was so surprised. I was excited to finally see the footage. I had no clue what they were going to put in there. I was still on this high from doing this awesome thing, coming in 17th place and my dreams coming true, and then suddenly getting this backlash of people being like "You're disgusting! You're an evil person! You're a disgrace to poker! You're a disgrace to women! You're a slob!" I could not believe the negativity that followed. ... People don't realize it's heavily edited. There are certain facial expressions that I had, that those faces didn't happen in that moment to that guy's response. There were so many conversations that they clipped out certain quotes and they didn't get the entirety of it. Like when Craig Marquis and I were going back and forth and he said, "Oh, you're so good!" and I was like, "Yeah, I know, that's why I'm here right now." You missed an entire conversation where he was like seriously riding me and giving me a hard time. So finally I just had to be like, "Listen, buddy, back off." ... So it was unfortunate. I was totally shocked at how everyone took it. ...

how the simplest little things I did and said were magnified. ... I walk into poker rooms all the time and guys eat their frickin' dinners at the poker table and nobody has ever mentioned that. I was eating some french fries, which is like a little finger food, and wiping my hands off, which they don't show. So I just learned they're going to edit it however they want, and as a woman anything I do is going to be magnified, and you know, life goes on.

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