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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



ANTE UP

PUBLISHING LLC

anteupmagazine.com

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

PUBLISHERS

Christopher Cosenza
Scott Long

CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Stephen Bloomfield
Lee Childs
Marc Dunbar
Lauren Failla
Jay Houston
John Lanier
Don Baruch
Dr. Frank Toscano

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WSOP, SOUTHERN STYLE



Will this be you? We hope so!

It's that time of year again.

Hope springs eternal for thousands of poker players who will converge upon Sin City in search of immortality and wealth. From now until the middle of July, the Rio in Las Vegas is the center of the rounder universe as the World Series of Poker launches its 41st installment.

This year *Ante Up* is even more excited than in years past because we might actually have a player bring home the hardware. The past two years have been a teaser as we had a couple of Florida residents — one former (Chino Rhee, 2008) one current (Kevin Schaffel, 2009) — in the November Nine. Both players fell short, obviously, but we are rejuvenated this year as our odds have increased tremendously with our southern expansion. We have 12 states that can give us a world champion. Not since Tennessee's Chris Moneymaker in 2003 has the Southeastern United States enjoyed having a WSOP Main Event winner among us. (Yes, Greg Raymer lives in North Carolina now, but when he won in 2005 he had a Connecticut residence).

We're confident this is our year to finally put a homegrown talent on our cover as they grin ear to ear with a sparkling new gold bracelet weighing down their wrist and a mountain of cash hiding most of their body from the camera lens.

But that doesn't mean we're putting any pressure on you, Hoyt. No worries, Vanessa, if you don't take it down. Capt. Tom? No sweat, you won't be busted down to lieutenant; it's only a tournament. Just know we're pulling for all of you, and so is the rest of our little corner of the country.

We're honored reigning WSOP champ Joe Cada found some time to discuss with us his past year as the ambassador to poker and his outlook on this year's Series.

Also in this issue, the winner of the first Florida Million says he laughed when someone broached the idea of an 18-player chop while he was chieftain in the historic event. We also attended the Southern Gaming Summit in Biloxi, Miss., and have a special report on its proceedings. While we were there we decided to resurrect our Road Trip series and review the poker rooms of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We met some great personalities and found a lot of character in these venues. And be sure to stay glued to *Ante Up* in coming months as we'll continue our Road Trip features with the remaining poker rooms in Mississippi, Louisiana, West Virginia and the rest of The South.

We'll see you at the tables.

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

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NEWS

ON THE BUTTON



With the start of the World Series of Poker just days away, we thought it would be a good idea to check in with reigning world champ Joe Cada and ask him how things are going for the 22-year-old. Plus we ask him the all-important question: Would you like to see soccer played with two balls? **68**

COVER STORY



CHARLIE MILLION

Charlie Miller of Palmetto, Fla., becomes the first winner of the Florida Million.

By Christopher Costello

It's a record. It's the only one to describe the inaugural Florida Million Poker Tournament that attracted 2,400 entries.

• Never has six Florida poker rooms (Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, Mark Green Casino in Hollywood Beach, Davos Beach Resort Club and Palm Beach, Nighthawk, Moss Greenback Track in Bonita Springs, Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach and Orange Park Kennel Club in the Jacksonville area) come together with one event going on.

• Never has poker rooms held they in one state with three and 11 remaining in one room for the grand prize.

• Never has a Florida poker event had a million-dollar prize pool.

• Never has there been such a poker tournament in the Sunshine State.

And you've been a winner? Charlie Miller of Palmetto.

Florida Million Top 10

This reflects the "official" payout before taxes and cash.

1. Charlie Miller, \$1,127,000
2. Christopher Costello, \$779,000
3. Dan Tranter, \$726,000
4. Chad Barrett, \$78,000
5. Michael Smith, \$62,000
6. Christopher Costello, \$60,000
7. Richard Grant, \$55,000
8. Christopher Costello, \$50,000
9. Chris Gorman, \$55,000
10. Eddie Green, \$15,000

A chat with the champ



Joe Cada (Chris Costello had a chance to speak with Charlie Miller, the inaugural Florida Million champ, and find out if he was a good enough player to win the \$1.1 million. He thought so on the cover and winning the tournament. Did you play any more after that?)

When did you start playing poker? Like most guys I started playing poker in my late teens. I actually didn't get serious about the game and try to improve my play until around 2008.

When do you play regularly? Most of the time I'm playing midweek on-line. I've also played a couple of live cash games at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, Fla., and One-Stop Poker in Sarasota, Fla. I go to relax and have fun.

How did you qualify for the Florida Million? I was my way through a satellite tournament in Derby Lane. I think the buy-in was \$75 and was the first time I played.

What did you think of the way the event was run? I thought for a tournament event the tournament was run really well. I'm not sure how the other guys it was handled but I think Derby Lane did a great job running the tournament. I do think all the rooms need to do that and draw the tournament structure and provide the players with longer bank rolls and they just need the bank roll. I remember that during the tournament, they had that 100,000 and had been at least 100,000 level at the final table. Obviously, your pocket has been huge. I think that was at the same time I think that you can take a \$200,000 into a four-or-five-hour tournament. Hopefully all of the tournament directors will find a way to increase the play at the later stages of the tournament and not have to play the same pot over and over.

How many chips did you have remaining? On Day 2 I had 277,000 with blinds set at \$100/\$200 and a \$60 ante. I had 503,000 with blinds at \$100/\$200 and a \$30 ante. I had a small stack entering the final day. Obviously, I got a big hand.

You had a chip lead pretty much the entire time. How difficult was it to play with a big stack? It was a little bit difficult. I think the big stack is the reason you play. Most players do not want to play a pot against you and do pretty well to control the action on the table. Having said that, you obviously don't want to get careless and give off a large chip stack. I've pointed off a lot of hands. I think that's the reason I think the big stack is the reason you play. Most players do not want to play a pot against you and do pretty well to control the action on the table. Having said that, you obviously don't want to get careless and give off a large chip stack. I've pointed off a lot of hands. I think that's the reason I think the big stack is the reason you play.

Let me see the story of the 10-player chip discussion. Why did it happen and who was responsible for the deal? I think it was a combination of things. I think that's the reason you play. Most players do not want to play a pot against you and do pretty well to control the action on the table. Having said that, you obviously don't want to get careless and give off a large chip stack. I've pointed off a lot of hands. I think that's the reason I think the big stack is the reason you play.

Officially you were \$17K, but unofficially you had more. How did you manage that? I think that's the reason you play. Most players do not want to play a pot against you and do pretty well to control the action on the table. Having said that, you obviously don't want to get careless and give off a large chip stack. I've pointed off a lot of hands. I think that's the reason I think the big stack is the reason you play.



MISSISSIPPI



The Beau Rivage's Spring Break Classic culminated with Mississippi's Tyler Smith taking down its \$2,500 main event, good for about \$111K. **Results, 28-29**

- IP's WSOP satellite event, **31**

LOUISIANA

The Isle Casino at Lake Charles hosted its inaugural Louisiana State Poker Championships and drew more than 630 players. **24**



KENTUCKY

Poker brat Phil Hellmuth and pro Chris "Jesus" Ferguson were on hand for the Derby Poker Championship charity event in Louisville. **22**

FLORIDA

With July 1 looming, poker players, managers and the state met to discuss the ushering in of true no-limit poker. **10**

WEST VIRGINIA

John Alfera captured the Mountaineer River Deep Stack Classic, taking home more than \$17K. **26**

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A pair of World Series of Poker circuit events were kind to our southern players as we took down two titles on different ends of the country. **32**

After months of qualifying from six cardrooms around the state, the Florida Million finally came to an end at Derby Lane. Charlie Miller won the title, but not before a few interesting stories were told along the way. **36-38**

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We review the seven poker rooms along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. **40-44**

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- Why do you play poker? Jay Houston has some insight. **57**

SPECIAL REPORT

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NEW LIMITS, REGULATIONS EXPLAINED

Meetings between Florida poker players, managers and state's Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering allow interested parties to discuss new guidelines, which ultimately alleviates many concerns.

By Scott Long

Poker players anxious about the coming of true no-limit poker in Florida on July 1 now have a road map as to how the state's Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering will proceed on regulation.

The Division held two information sessions May 11 at the Isle Casino in Pompano Park, Fla., — the first was an open session for players to ask questions and discuss concerns, while the second was for poker room managers and executives to ask questions about how implementation of Senate Bill 622 will be handled.

Senate Bill 622, signed by Gov. Charlie Crist in April, removes bet and buy-in restrictions on Florida poker rooms and extends operating hours. But with all new legislation, the Division, in consultation with poker rooms, further interprets the law through “rule-making” sessions. Since an official rule-making session is unlikely before July 1, the meetings were a way for the Division to communicate how it will regulate until rule-making is completed.

The Division told room managers it will issue a memo clearly stating what is approved to begin on July 1 and what will need to wait for rule-making.

And while much of what was discussed on May 11 remains fluid, and can change before July 1, a few things are set in stone:

NO LIMITS: “The statute is clear, no limits,” Division director Milton Champion said, easing concerns of players and room managers that the state may impose some buy-in or bet restrictions. However, officials stressed individual rooms are permitted to set buy-in limits. Every manager *Ante Up* has talked with has said there will be a spread of minimum and maximum buy-ins on almost all of their games.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Rooms will be permitted to remain open 18 hours a day on weekdays and 24 hours on weekends, as the new law states. Pending further review, the guidance the Division gave managers on this was the weekend starts at 12:01 a.m. Friday night/Saturday morning, and ends at 12:01 a.m. Sunday night/Monday morning. Also, “holidays” means official Florida state holidays. Rooms are permitted to split their operating hours on a specific day, too, if they wish. Again, rooms are permitted to set operating hours within these guidelines. The few rooms that *Ante Up* has talked with plan to remain open the maximum amount of time, since maintaining a room when demand is low (for example, air conditioning and security) won't make sense, though most plan to be open liberally on weekends.

NO CASH ON TABLES: Many high-limit games in other poker jurisdictions allow players to play with cash, usually \$100 bills. However, Senate Bill 622 didn't change previous state law, which is clear that poker may only be played using chips. So you won't see players with stacks of bills on Florida poker tables. And because it's clearly stated that way in law, it's not something that can be overturned in the rule-making process.

RAKE: The Division never has, and won't now, have authority to set

rake limits on rooms. Every room can set rake at its discretion.

The Division, short of announcing an official policy, also announced clearer direction on two other issues that players and managers have been anxious about:

PERMITTED GAMES: The Division has used the 1974 edition of *Hoyle's Rules of Games* as the benchmark for what poker games could be dealt in the state. No more. The Division will solicit suggestions from poker room managers on what games they'd like to offer in their rooms. After verifying the suggested games are not prohibited “house-banked” games, such as blackjack, the Division will post a list of “pre-approved” games on its Web site at myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/dpw. Any room in the state will be permitted to deal any game on the pre-approved list without having to seek specific approval or updating their internal controls — the documents that govern the mechanics of running their rooms — with the state.

The list of pre-approved games will be permitted without restriction on the betting style, so all of them can be dealt in a fixed-, spread-, no- or pot-limit format. The Division stopped short of saying whether alterations to game formats, such as kill games or straddles, will be permitted on July 1, but appears to be headed toward a separate section on the Web site for those types of issues that will again provide blanket approval for rooms to use them.

TOURNAMENT CHOPS: Within the past month, the Division told rooms chopping of tournaments is no longer allowed, and then amended it to say chops among the final table of players would be permitted if the rooms specifically addressed it in their internal controls. Now, the Division is saying fuller-scale chops will be permitted again, so long as rooms revise their internal controls to specifically include them. Rooms can amend their internal controls to allow for chopping of blinds in cash games, which has been a recent issue, too.

No timetable was set on many other issues raised by players and managers at the meeting, though the Division expressed a willingness to consider most every suggestion, including:

- Amending rules on the use of temporary tournament tables, likely a necessity to hold a large-scale tournament, such as the WPT, NAPT or WSOP.
- Allowing cash deposit boxes for players.
- Allowing dealers to play in the rooms where they work.
- Allowing rooms to hire proposition players.

In addition, it remains unclear what level of regulation the Division will have in regards to the Seminole Tribe's six poker rooms. Deputy Secretary of Business Regulation Scott Ross said he'll seek a meeting with the tribe very soon to discuss it, and he hopes the meeting will result in a “memo of understanding” that will clarify the issue.

In the end, the sessions showed a willingness on the Division's part to get ongoing feedback from players and managers.

— Email Scott Long at scott@anteupmagazine.com



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Aug 26 - Sep 7



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

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

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ISLE CASINO



Roxanne Putnam won the HHPT title March 14.

Final results

1. Roxanne Putnam, Royal Palm, Fla., \$2,171
2. Lois Rovit, Boynton Beach, Fla., \$1,254
3. Sue Tolson, Planatation, Fla., \$942
4. Aisha Erakbas, Hallandale Beach, Fla., \$649
5. Dee Panchal, Deerfield Beach, Fla., \$468
6. Shawn Fanshier, Hollywood, Fla., \$356
7. Karen Paul, Ontario, \$100
8. Phyllis Jerrerson, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., \$100
9. Kelly Elliott, Lake Worth, Fla., \$100
10. Koreen Ford, Boynton Beach, Fla., \$100

SMOKIN' ACES TOUR Charity event offers WSOP Main Event seat

The winner of the June 13 Foundation Fighting Blindness Poker Tournament will win a \$11,000 World Series of Poker Main Event package.



The \$365 suggested donation charity tournament at S Bar Miami in Miami, Fla., will also award Visa gift cards to places 2-4 and iPod Touches to places 5-8. All players will also be entered in a raffle for a cruise package and a \$50 bar tab for each table.

Players start with 10,000 units and 30-minute levels with an optional \$100 rebuy. The tournament begins at noon.

Players can register for this event at smokinacespokertour.com.

MAGIC CITY CASINO



On April 3 Leonides Lopez Martinez hit the Big Slick royal flush progressive jackpot for \$195,423. He's a long-time player at Magic City and was in a \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em cash game when he won. The total broke the room's state record for a royal flush jackpot, which it set in January (\$194,803).

JACKSONVILLE POKER ASSOCIATION

Results from the JPA's finals on March 20.

1. Frank Smith, \$2,400
2. Donna Maddox, \$1,200
3. Cam Shaw, \$600
4. Johnny Parks, \$550
5. Didi DiPirro, \$500
6. Tony Gee, \$450
7. Marcus Morris, \$400
8. Joe Manasco, \$350
9. David Adams, \$300
10. Robert Poggio, \$250
11. Gary Neff, \$200
12. Lori Williams, \$150
13. Michael Brown, \$100
14. Thaddeus Mayers, \$100
15. Phyllis St. John, \$100
16. Zeke Anderson, \$100
17. Curt Simerly, \$100
18. Calvin Tucker, \$100
19. Natalie Valdivia, \$100
20. Travis Bowen, \$100



Frank Smith shows his winning hand with runner-up Donna Maddox.

BIG STACKS POKER LEAGUE



Jennifer Himmelwright, posing here with league owner Brian Esparza, won the fourth annual Ocoee Rotary Texas Hold'em Charity Tournament.

Proceeds went to establishing four \$1,000 scholarships to area students.



• **Marino Thomas** defeated Paul Williams in the bi-monthly event at Colonial Lanes to win a \$500 poker-room sponsorship. Williams won a \$200 sponsorship. He was followed by Donnie Shepard (\$125), Dave Trawick (\$100) and Ben Eastwood (\$75).

ALL IN POKER SERIES



Angie Khoury won the monthly tournament April 17 in Orlando, beating more than 80 players for the trophy, a Daytona Beach stay and an entry to the Odds on You tournament at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club. She has been playing in the league for a little more than a year, making it out a few times per week.

All final-table players earned entry into the "Compete for a Seat" event to be held June 6, where the winner earns a seat to a WSOP event.

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THE NUTZ POKER LEAGUE



Ken Chapman made it all the way from a business trip in Grenada to play in the monthly final at Buffalo Wild Wings in March, and it was worth the effort.

Chapman turned away an impressive field to take down a custom bracelet and his choice of vacation getaways.

TAMPA BAY DOWNS



Winners of the April Ante Up Team Tournament at Tampa Bay Downs were, from left, Daniel Alvarez, Ralph Franco, Stan Eleff and Andre Pangelou. It was the second straight month Franco won the tournament for his team.

Franco defeated *Ante Up's* Scott Long 2-0 in the final heads-up round for the title. Team Ante Up was the first in the event's short history to advance all four of its players to the heads-up bracket.

Below, from left, they are Long, Barb Aucoin, Healthy Bet columnist Dr. Frank Toscano and Rich Aucoin.



OCALA POKER & JAI-ALAI



Players pose with the "winning" and "losing" cards after they hit the \$78,196 bad-beat jackpot at the Ocala poker room.

The "Winner" had quad eights beaten by the straight flush of the "Loser," who held the 10♣-9♣ and made a straight flush.

The "Winner" pocketed \$39,098 while the "Loser" took home \$19,549. The remaining players at the table each received \$3,910.

HIGH HEELS POKER TOUR



Robin McCarty

The ladies have been busy lately with numerous events around the Sunshine State. Here are the results from the recent World Series of Poker satellite at Tampa Bay Downs, where the top three won \$1K seats to the ladies event at the WSOP.

- 1. Robin McCarty, Coconut Creek, Fla. \$1K
- 2. Lee Ann Pusatera, Palm Harbor, Fla. \$1K
- 3. Andrea Bauerm, Palm Harbor, Fla. \$1K
- 4. Rebecca Furlong, Palm Harbor, Fla. \$336
- 5. Debbie Pullen, Tampa, Fla. \$224

Ashira Lavine, a World Series of Poker circuit champ, can add High Heels Poker Tour winner to her resume. Lavine bested the all-ladies field at Orange Park (Fla.) Kennel Club to pocket \$1,865.

Here are the cashers:

- 1. Ashira Lavine, Rockville, Md. \$1,856
- 2. Diem Phan, Jacksonville, Fla. \$1,031
- 3. Ashley Wright, Jacksonville, Fla. \$701
- 4. Kim Simpson, Orange Park, Fla. \$537





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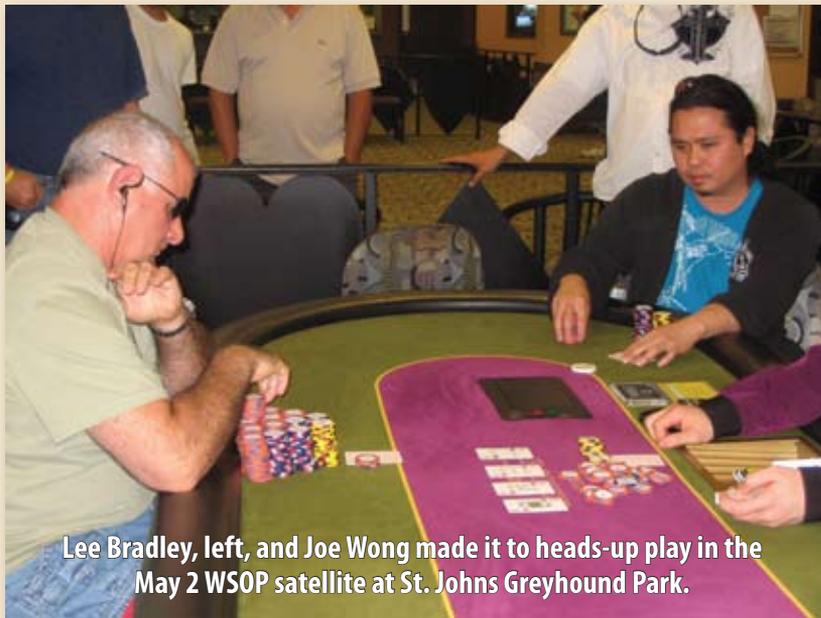
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PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK

Wayne White of Pensacola, Fla., bested 79 players to capture the \$20K guarantee on April 24. The prize pool for this \$340 NLHE event was \$24K. Here are the results:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Wayne White, Pensacola, Fla., \$8,280 | 5. Rick Roberts, Orange Beach, Ala., \$1,680 |
| 2. James Hassel, Pensacola, Fla., \$5,280 | 6. B.A. Winfree, Destin, Fla., \$1,440 |
| 3. Mark Whitney, Pensacola, Fla., \$3,000 | 7. Chris Williams, Pensacola, Fla., \$1,260 |
| 4. N/A, \$1,980 | 8. Josh Lewis, Jacksonville, Fla., \$1,080 |

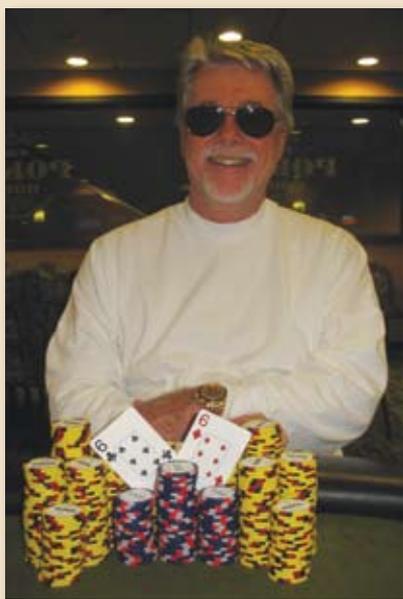
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK



Lee Bradley, left, and Joe Wong made it to heads-up play in the May 2 WSOP satellite at St. Johns Greyhound Park.

When it rains it pours at St. Johns Greyhound Park. Lee Bradley and Joe Wong already won World Series of Poker Main Event seats via satellites in Jacksonville when they squared off heads-up as the final two players in the May 2 WSOP satellite. They worked out a chop for first place as Wong won his seat a few months ago at St. Johns and Bradley won his ticket recently at Orange Park Kennel Club.

Here are the “official” final results from the May 2 event: 1. Lee Bradley, WSOP seat plus \$2,000; 2. Joe Wong, \$1,715; 3. Genti G., \$950; 4. George Fallis, \$405; 5. Al Franco, \$225



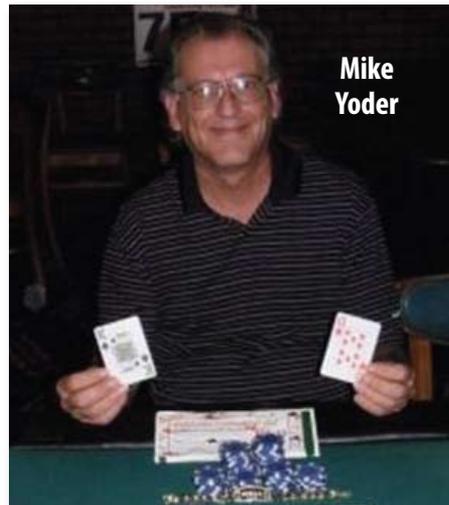
Tournament director Ant Furnier says the \$225 Mega Stack three-day event, which features two starting days, is generating a lot of excitement at St. Johns.

The most recent one had a field of 177 players and a prize pool of \$35,400. The tournament paid 18 spots, but here are the top-five winners, as William Eggerton, left, won and Armando Cisnero, right, took second.



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1. William Eggerton III | \$11,690 |
| 2. Armando Cisnero | \$7,080 |
| 3. Adel Barin | \$4,250 |
| 4. Kerry Goldberg | \$2,475 |
| 5. Robert Boyer | \$1,770 |

PLEASURE ISLAND POKER



Mike Yoder

Mike Yoder was feeling generous in the Relay 4 Life charity tournament at the Ft. Walton Beach Bowling Center on April 18.

He busted early, but bought in again, after all it was for a good cause, and he was the first to rebuy. Three hours later he had the title and a prize package that included a seat into a tournament at the Pensacola Greyhound Track's poker room.

Yoder defeated Jack Chaemcheun in heads-up action for the title.

• The day before (April 17) Chaemcheun had finished second as well, losing to big stack John “JJ” Simmons in the monthly event at Scully's on the Bayou in Ft. Walton Beach.



But both players were awarded entries into events at the PGT poker room after beating more than 70 players.

• Loria Walters scored her fifth PIP win, this time in a charity event benefiting the Emerald Coast Foundation. She took home a seat in a PGT poker room event.

Former champion Thomas Dickerson went all-in with 10♠-5♣ and Walters insta-called with Q♠-8♥ and won with a queen-high flush.



Loria Walters

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TREASURE CHEST POKER

Things continue to be busy for the Treasure Chest Poker players. Here are April's winners:

- Carlos Pacheco took down the Tampa Bay monthly tournament, besting more than 120 players at Murphy's in Tampa to win a \$500 gift card.

Pacheco was followed by Doug Hunichen, Mike Milne, Frank March, Carl Feathers, Shannon Clayton, Bobby Ferrie, Jeremy Conway, Jennifer McCoy and Mike Bixler.

- Jaime Pestredo won the Ocala monthly event when his pocket threes held up. He earned a \$65 tournament buy-in at Ocala Poker



Bill Cable



Carlos Pacheco



Jaime Pestredo



Mike Baal



Rick McCormick

and Jai-Alai. Pestredo defeated Andrew Thompson, Jason Marrs and Ken Bryant at the final table.

- Bill Cable won the Stokers monthly and a \$100 casino buy-in.
- Rick McCormick won the Murphy's monthly and a pair of \$50 buy-ins at One-Eyed Jacks in in Sarasota.
- Mike Baal took down the Battle of the Bars.



SEMINOLE CASINOS

Seminole Casino Hollywood hit the Mega Bad Beat Jackpot for a third time, this one for \$208,052. Jean Zamor of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., (at right) won \$104,264 on April 26 with a losing hand of four jacks. The winning hand, held by Guillermo Nunez-Sotomayor of Hollywood, Fla., was a queen-high straight flush, netting him \$62,558. The remaining seven players at the table each received \$5,958.

On April 9, Adewale Adeyemi

from Pembroke Pines won \$86,730 when his quad 10s lost to 19-year-old Kyle Carino of Cooper City, who held a jack-high straight flush. Carino won \$52,038.

Finally, Chris Chitwood from Cape Coral, Fla. won \$62,460 at Hard Rock Tampa on May 4 when his queen-high straight flush was beaten by Lynda Wallace of Tampa's royal. She took home \$37,476. That makes nine Megs hit since December.



IMAGE COURTESY OF OASIS OF THE SEAS

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GREYHOUND
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NORTH AMERICAN POKER TOUR



Donning the exact shirt he wore when he won the 2008 EPT San Remo Main Event, Jason Mercier of Davie, Fla., won the PokerStars NAPT Mohegan Sun \$25,000 High Roller Bounty Shootout.

Mercier, 23, battled heads-up opponent Sam Stein for the better part of 3.5 hours on April 13 before essentially eliminating him holding pocket threes.

"Pocket threes were really lucky for me when I was 17 or 18 and that's why I made my (on-line) name "treysfull," said Mercier, who won \$475,000, including bounties and seat at the next \$25K shootout.

DANIA JAI-ALAI

Earl Stewart of Hollywood, Fla., won the 50-inch plasma TV for the "Second Chance" tournament giveaway in April.

• There will be a \$250 charity tournament on June 26 for "Planting the Seed" with plenty of celebrities on hand. Winner will receive a WSOP seat. See ad below for more details.



MALKA BACK IN ACTION



For 17 years Dan Malka has helped mold Florida poker, starting with training the personnel of the Seminole's poker room in Tampa, and then spending the past 12 years as fleetwide director of poker operations for the SunCruz ships, first in Hollywood then in Port Canaveral. Malka, a frequent contributor to *Ante Up*, has a new job aboard another gambling ship in South Carolina.

Robert Weisberg, an ex-owner of the SunCruz ship that sailed from the Little River port, formed Aquasino and has returned to the area with another vessel. He hired Malka, who says this is the nicest poker room he's ever seen on a ship, which launched May 14. It has eight tables (with room for 12), a lounge and a sportsbook.

Malka was the force behind the World Offshore Poker Championship, Florida's first televised poker event, so expect more great things from him in South Carolina.

Win WSOP Seat in \$250 Charity Tourney

1st Annual "Planting the Seed" Tournament
Hosted by Gardener's Kids

Lots of Celebrities and Famous Athletes

Qualifiers: Sat 5/29, Sun 6/6, Sat 6/12, Sat 6/19

10% of playing field each round qualify

Final Round: Sat, June 26



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POMPANO PARK





DERBY POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

APRIL 29, 2010 • PALACE THEATRE • LOUISVILLE, KY.

One of the great things about poker's popularity these days is its ability to raise money for great causes. The Poker Players Alliance sponsored the Derby Poker Championship charity tournament, which drew nearly 110 players and raised nearly \$40K for Blessings in a Backpack and the HC Foundation. Kentucky PPA director Rich Muny won the grand prize (a WSOP main-event seat) as some of poker's elite pros and celebrities came out in support of this great tournament and cause.

Poker pro Phil Hellmuth, who is as well-known for his emcee abilities as he is for his Poker Brat persona, has fun with the crowd during the tournament.



Chris "Jesus" Ferguson, left, was on-hand for the event.



Rich Muny, Kentucky's PPA director who won the event, sits next to poker professional Beth Shak at the final table.



PPA members, including executive director John Pappas and director of grassroots and external affairs Drew Lesofski, showed incredible support for this charity event.



The final table gets under way.

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LOUISIANA STATE POKER CHAMPIONSHIPS

APRIL 19-25, 2010 • ISLE OF CAPRI • LAKE CHARLES, LA.

MAIN EVENT CHAMPION



JON WALKER

Event #2 • \$120 NLHE

Entries: 167 • Prize pool: \$16,700

1. William Sims, \$4,509
2. Trung Pham, \$2,672
3. Kevin Bicol, \$1,670
4. Lawrence Tilitzki, \$1,252.50
5. Elhindi Albarazi, \$1,002
6. Kenneth Milam, \$835
7. David Ellender, \$668
8. Stanley Henderson, \$501
9. Robert Hulsej, \$501
10. Douglas Grassmuck, \$417
11. Vu Oanh, \$334
12. Mitchell Bono, \$334
13. Billy Gifford, \$334
14. Charles Garland, \$334
15. Michael Callis, \$250.50
16. Timothy Boyfor, \$250.50
17. Ronald Bryant, \$250.50
18. Kenneth Yates, \$250.50
19. Clive Heyn, \$167
20. Connie Tilitzki, \$167

Event #3 • \$225 NLHE

Entries: 113 • Prize pool: \$22,600

1. Wesley Smith, \$6,780
2. Larry Bailey, \$4,068
3. Adam Williams, \$2,712
4. Kevin Bicol, \$1,921
5. Carl Certa, \$1,469
6. Jamin Gore, \$1,243
7. Juan Tejada, \$1,017
8. Joseph Vitable, \$791
9. Gerry Trahan, \$678
10. Gary Thibodeaux, \$565
11. John Dunn, \$452
12. Douglas Freiss, \$452
13. Gregory Benoit, \$452

Event #4 • \$335 PLO

Entries: 103 • Prize pool: \$30,900

1. Brent Troclair, \$9,270
2. Cesar Villagran, \$5,562

3. Jonathan Brown, \$3,708
4. Todd McKellar, \$2,626.50
5. Michael Catt, \$2,008.50
6. Agim Halili, \$1,699.50
7. Ty Mullins, \$1,390.50
8. Lawrence Lazar, \$1,081.50
9. Joseph Vitable, \$927
10. Ross White, \$772.50
11. Arnold Johnson, \$618
12. Santos Martinez, \$618
13. Mike Dinh, \$618

Event #5 • \$335 NLHE

Entries: 121 • Prize pool: \$36,300

1. Joe McMurtrey, \$10,890
2. Todd LeBlanc, \$6,534
3. Gregory Brice, \$4,356
4. Jason Brice, \$3,085.50
5. Denise Blanton, \$2,359.50
6. Darrell Thompson, \$1,996.50
7. Danny Garza, \$1,633.50
8. James Doolittle, \$1,270.50
9. Russell Wright, \$1,089
10. Juan Salinas, \$907.50
11. David Altemus, \$726
12. Mark Baker, \$726
13. Samuel Kennedy, \$726

Main Event • \$1,060 NLHE

Entries: 129 • Prize pool: \$129,000

1. Jon Walker, \$38,700
2. Hamilton McGowan, \$23,220
3. Gregory Diaz, \$15,480
4. Jerome Moon, \$10,965
5. James Hornbeck, \$8,385
6. Thomas Helo, \$7,095
7. Gregory Benoit, \$5,805
8. Forrest Vlahogorge, \$4,515
9. Chad Pelton, \$3,870
10. Richard Barkew, \$3,225
11. David Altemus, \$2,580
12. Bao Dang, \$2,580
13. Stephen Shugart, \$2,580

Kudos to poker room manager Matthew Dodd and his staff for giving the Pelican State a championship series to call its own. The inaugural effort drew more than 630 players, generating a prize pool of \$235,500.

Jon Walker won the \$1K main event for \$38,700 and a sweet bracelet.

Event 1 was a satellite to the \$1K main event and awarded 21 seats.

This month the Isle hosts qualifying for its Heads-Up Championship, which will be July 7-10. The 64-player field will be set through \$115 qualifiers on June 4, 11, 18 and 25 as the top 16 from each event will advance. The main event has a \$5K guarantee for first place.

EVENT 2 CHAMPION



WILLIAM SIMS

EVENT 3 CHAMPION



WESLEY SMITH

EVENT 4 CHAMPION



BRENT TROCLAIR

EVENT 5 CHAMPION



JOE McMURTREY

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LOUISIANA

**Coushatta's 7 Clans
Poker Cup Series**

The annual 7 Clans Poker Cup Series at the Coushatta Casino's poker room in Kinder, La., concluded March

27 with its \$1K no-limit hold'em championship.



Garret Jones, Marty Williams and Doug Freiss each took home a little more than \$26K in the main event, which drew 198 players and generated a \$182K prize pool.

Here are the top 10 finishers from both events.

Event #1 • \$200 NLHE

Entries: 204

Prize pool: \$53,427.60

1. Apinant Leela \$9,281
2. Bonnie Burch \$7,781.42
3. Barney Viator \$7,781.41
4. Jason Velarde \$4,541.35
5. Ryan Walkey \$4,007.07
6. William Dudley \$2,938.52
7. Tommy Shipp \$2,671.38
8. Patrick Ruth \$2,404.24
9. Robert Lewis \$1,869.97
10. Luis Cruz \$1,602.83

Event #2 • \$1K NLHE

Entries: 198

Prize pool: \$182,457

1. Garrett Jones \$26,149.57
1. Marty Williams \$26,149.57
1. Doug Freiss \$26,149.57
4. Jody Boren \$14,340.10
5. Vincent Dallap \$12,653.03
6. Michael Davis \$9,278.89
7. Mark Gallagher \$8,435.35
8. Clinton McCollen \$7,591.82
9. Chad Burns \$5,904.75
10. Don Ripley \$5,061.21

WEST VIRGINIA



**Alfera wins Deep Stack
at Mountaineer River**

John Alfera, left, pocketed a cool \$17,850 after capturing the Mountaineer River poker room's Deep Stack Classic on April 11.

The event, which drew 51 entrants, generated a \$51K prize pool. Second place went to Ryan Horvath (\$12,750), followed by Janine O'Neill in third (\$10,200).



**Ryan
Horvath**



**Janine
O'Neill**

VIRGINIA



Earnest Whistler of Fairfax, Va., won the fifth annual Ante Up for Africa charity tournament and a \$10,000 seat to the WSOP Main Event.

The event attracted world renowned poker pros Annie Duke, Howard Lederer, Andy Bloch, Chris Moneymaker and Victor Ramdin, as well as acclaimed author Jim McManus. U.S. Reps. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.), John Lewis (D-Ga.) and Jim Moran (D-Va.) served on the honorary host committee.

Ante Up for Africa is dedicated to raising money and awareness for Africans in need.

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SPRING BREAK CLASSIC

MARCH 26-APRIL 11, 2010 • BEAU RIVAGE RESORT & CASINO • BILOXI, MISS.

The 18-tournament series at the Beau Rivage culminated with the \$2,500 no-limit hold'em main event, which Tyler Smith of Smithdale, Miss., won. Smith, a WSOP circuit champ, pocketed \$111K. Chris Conrad of Tallahassee, Fla., finished second after winning his seat by virtue of his victory in the series' first event.



MAIN EVENT CHAMPION
TYLER SMITH



EVENT 1 CHAMPION
CHRIS CONRAD



EVENT 2 CHAMPION
MOHAMMAD MOEINI



EVENT 3 CHAMPION
DAVON HAYES



EVENT 4 CHAMPION
JOHN COFLIN



EVENT 5 CHAMPION
RON SARTI



EVENT 6 CHAMPION
TAMIR ILCALASS



EVENT 7 CHAMPION
CAPT. TOM FRANKLIN



EVENT 8 CHAMPION
BABIN PYKE



EVENT 9 CHAMPION
MARCUS CHILDRESS



EVENT 10 CHAMPION
VICKI WACKEEN



EVENT 11 CHAMPION
LEONARD CHABOT



EVENT 12 CHAMPION
DAVID STAEBLER



EVENT 13 CHAMPION
WILLARD NOYES



EVENT 14 CHAMPION
LAWRENCE HIGHFIELD



EVENT 15 CHAMPION
TIMOTHY BULLARD



EVENT 16 CHAMPION
DAVID DIAZ



EVENT 17 CHAMPION
KEELEY HAMILTON

SPRING BREAK CLASSIC

MARCH 26-APRIL 11, 2010 • BEAU RIVAGE RESORT & CASINO • BILOXI, MISS.

Event #1 • \$555 NLHE

- 208 Entries - Prize Pool: \$100,800**
1. Chris Conrad, Tallahassee, FL, \$32,465
 2. Will Barton, Baton Rouge, LA, \$17,905
 3. Shane Delaney, Palm Harbor, FL, \$9,838
 4. George "Kevin" Sellers, Bay Minette, AL, \$7,870
 5. B.J. McBrayer, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$5,903
 6. James Arruebarena, New Orleans, \$4,919
 7. Jeter Brock, Birmingham, AL, \$3,935
 8. Bert Ladner, Biloxi, MS, \$2,951
 9. Barron Whipple, Houma, LA, \$1,968
 10. James Anderson, \$1,377
 11. Franklin Whittington, \$1,377
 12. Johnny Price, \$1,377
 13. Mitch Jones, \$1,181
 14. Michael "Car Wash" Schneider, \$1,181
 15. Ryan Cox, \$1,181
 16. Alaa Abdelrahman, \$984
 17. Colen Beck, \$984
 18. Michael Lesser, \$984

Event #2 • \$345 NLHE,

- 157 Entries - Prize Pool: \$45,687**
1. Mohammad Moeini, Gulfport, MS, \$15,076
 2. Paul H. Hall, Mobile, AL, \$8,315
 3. Nghia Hong Le, Suwamee, FL, \$4,569
 4. John Sarrica, Altamonte Springs, FL, \$3,655
 5. Jerry Giroir, Lafayette, LA, \$2,741
 6. Jerry Stumbo, Ocean Springs, MS, \$2,284
 7. Joel Watts, Ocean Springs, MS, \$1,827
 8. Aaron Klausman, Birmingham, AL, \$1,371
 9. Ron Sarti, Sarasota, FL, \$914
 10. Jack Clark, \$640
 11. William Cox, \$640
 12. Hoyt Lance, \$640
 13. Brian Hunt, \$548
 14. Rob Zapata, \$548
 15. George Bursavich, \$548
 16. Brian Hatcher, \$457
 17. Peter Mullin, \$457
 18. David McKenna, \$457

Event #3 • \$235 HHPT

- 51 Entries - Prize Pool: \$9,894**
1. Davon Hayes, Marrero, LA, \$3,560
 2. Karen Fielder, Pensacola, FL, \$1,880
 3. Lindsey Spence, Baton Rouge, LA, \$1,187
 4. Donna Jetter, Nashville, \$792
 5. Jennifer Parish, Alma, AK, \$693
 6. Cassandra Williams, Tallahassee, FL, \$594
 7. Joan Reinhardt, Pinellas Park, FL, \$495
 8. Debbra Cooper, Bash, LA, \$396
 9. Sheryl Page, D'Iberville, MS, \$297

Event #4 • \$235 NLHE,

- 185 Entries - Prize Pool: \$35,890**
1. John Coffin, Fort Pierce, FL, \$11,843
 2. Matthew Watkins, Parma, MI, \$6,532
 3. Richard Jentszsch, Norris, TN, \$3,589
 4. John Pearson, Moss Point, MS, \$2,871
 5. Daniel Herrington, Livingston, LA, \$2,153
 6. Marino Thomas, Clermont, FL, \$1,795
 7. Todd Coale, Biloxi, MS, \$1,436
 8. Marcus Petersen, Grand Bay, AL, \$1,077
 9. Rodney Stiebing, Slidell, LA, \$718
 10. Mitch Jones, \$502
 11. Justin Jones, \$502
 12. Kirk Adams, \$502
 13. John Olsen, \$431
 14. B.J. McBrayer, \$431
 15. David Truong, \$431
 16. Roy Baker, \$359
 17. David Bourg, \$359
 18. Clinton Boynes, \$359

Event #5 • \$345 NLHE

- 107 Entries - Prize Pool: \$31,137**
1. Ron Sarti, Sarasota, FL, \$11,210
 2. Chris Branch, Tallahassee, FL, \$5,916
 3. Brian Fontana, Slidell, LA, \$3,736
 4. Mitchell Wallberg, Tallahassee, FL, \$2,491

5. Peter Shashy, Montgomery, AL, \$2,180
6. Glen Ballenger, Winter Springs, FL, \$1,868
7. Seville Hale, Cantonment, FL, \$1,557
8. Max Jones, Tallahassee, FL, \$1,245
9. Michael Le, Houston, \$934

Event #6 • \$235 NLHE

- 149 Entries - Prize Pool: \$28,906**
1. Tami Icalass, Pensacola, FL, \$9,539
 2. Justin Jones, Rockdale, TX, \$5,261
 3. Eric Kaplan, Biloxi, MS, \$2,891
 4. Charles Haynes, Biloxi, MS, \$2,312
 5. Peter Sullivan, Roscoe, TX, \$1,734
 6. Kirk Adams, Tallahassee, FL, \$1,445
 7. John Evans, Granbury, TX, \$1,156
 8. Vincent Dellapi, Spring, TX, \$867
 9. Carroll Domangue, Houma, LA, \$578
 10. Steven Constantino, \$405
 11. Leonard Nicoletta, \$405
 12. Michael Lott, \$405
 13. Scott Alexantos, \$347
 14. Matthew Watkins, \$347
 15. Alexander Kunichoff, \$347
 16. Chad Kropp, \$289
 17. Jerrard Parfait, \$289
 18. Kevin Fielder, \$289

Event #7 • \$345 NLHE

- 119 Entries - Prize Pool: \$34,629**
1. Captain Tom Franklin, Gulfport, MS, \$12,467
 2. Steve Constantino, Port Orange, FL, \$6,580
 3. Dennis Chapman, Gulf Breeze, FL, \$4,155
 4. Greg Inman, Atlanta, \$2,770
 5. Peter Palisi, Madisonville, LA, \$2,424
 6. Brendan Couhig, Baton Rouge, LA, \$2,078
 7. Mahyar Magderi, Duluth, GA, \$1,731
 8. Curtis Terry, New Orleans \$1,385
 9. Cyril Rivera, Houston \$1,039

Event #8 • \$345 NLHE

- 163 Entries - Prize Pool: \$47,433**
1. Babin Pyke, Gonzales, LA, \$15,654
 2. Brian Fontana, Slidell, LA, \$8,633
 3. Gavin Kan, United Kingdom, \$4,743
 4. Justin "Lockdown" Allen, Dallas, \$3,795
 5. Vincent Dellapi, Spring, TX, \$2,846
 6. Edward Seo, Atlanta, \$2,372
 7. Wesley Wesley, Prairieville, LA, \$1,897
 8. Frank O'Brien, Picayune, MS, \$1,423
 9. Christopher Branch, Tallahassee, FL, \$949
 10. Richard Hash, \$664
 11. Vincent Nola, \$664
 12. Eugene Wade, \$664
 13. Ricky Romero, \$569
 14. Dennis Nordman, \$569
 15. Bruce Thomas, \$569
 16. Curtis Terry, \$474
 17. Mark Ryan, \$474
 18. Joey Godfrey, \$474

Event #9 • \$345 NLHE

- 143 Entries - Prize Pool: \$41,613**
1. Marcus Childress, Moss Point, MS, \$13,732
 2. Ky MacPherson, Austin, TX, \$7,574
 3. Darrell Greene, Macon, GA, \$4,161
 4. Dmitriy Shihikov, Houston, \$3,329
 5. Emilio "JR" Torres, Atlanta, \$2,497
 6. Michael Nasserazad, Atlanta, \$2,081
 7. Joey Godfrey, Atlanta, \$1,665
 8. Preston Burge, Atlanta, \$1,248
 9. Lahcen Imkhaou, Orlando, FL, \$832
 10. Johnny Thomas Jr, \$583
 11. Robert Walker, \$583
 12. Leonard Nicoletta, \$583
 13. Paul Odum, \$499
 14. John Olsen, \$499
 15. Markie Gardner, \$499
 16. Bertell Ladner, \$416
 17. Roy Baker, \$416
 18. Michael Nguyen, \$416

Event #10 • \$125 NLHE

- 142 Entries - Prize Pool: \$14,200**
1. Vicki Wackeen, Stuart, FL, \$4,687
 2. Ray Philbeck, Kings Mountain, NC, \$2,584
 3. Shane Delaney, Palm Harbor, FL, \$1,420
 4. Amanda Hurst, Springfield, IL, \$1,136
 5. Timothy Hill, Dallas, TX, \$852
 6. David Long, Gulfport, MS, \$710
 7. Peng Zheng, New Orleans, LA, \$568
 8. George Cohan, Daytona, FL, \$426
 9. Robert Vangorp, Atlanta, \$284
 10. James Rosser, \$199
 11. Michael Duba, \$199
 12. Richard King, \$199
 13. Casey Jones, \$170
 14. Michael Ory, \$170
 15. Elizabeth Matthews, \$170
 16. David Rebholz, \$142
 17. Rachel Boudreaux, \$142
 18. Bart Stewart, \$142

Event #11 • \$60 NLHE w/rebuy*

- 43 Entries - Prize Pool: \$1,935**
1. Leonard Chabot, Fernandina Beach, FL, \$870
 2. Jefferey Drop, Semmes, AL, \$484,
 3. Vicki Mott, Biloxi, MS, \$290,
 4. James Key, Chattanooga, TN, \$194,
 5. Ronnie Braddy, Thomaston, GA, \$97

Event #12 • \$235 NLHE

- 107 Entries - Prize Pool: \$20,758**
1. David Staebler, Biloxi, MS, \$7,473
 2. Paul Odum, Canton, GA, \$3,944
 3. Gary Bremer, Oak Creek, WI, \$2,491
 4. Marc Wolpert, Marietta, GA, \$1,661
 5. Rodney Stiebing, Slidell, LA, \$1,453
 6. David Truong, Westwego, LA, \$1,245
 7. Cynthia Clark, Springhill, TN, \$1,038
 8. Clayton Trosk, Loganville, GA, \$830
 9. Zackary Lawmaster, Tulsa, OK, \$623

Event #13 • \$230 Stud/8

- 24 Entries - Prize Pool: \$4,656**
1. Willard Noyes, Thompson, PA, \$2,095
 2. Michael Gisondi, Hawthorne, FL, \$1,164
 3. Paul Hay, Pensacola, FL, \$698
 4. Timothy Burt, Grenada, MS, \$466
 5. Daniel Lovegren, Elk Grove, CA, \$233

Event #14 • \$345 NLHE

- 98 Entries - Prize Pool: \$28,518**
1. Lawrence Highfield, Stockbridge, GA, \$10,267
 2. Captain Tom Franklin, Gulfport, MS, \$5,418
 3. David Babin, Montz, LA, \$3,422
 4. Destry Everhart, Prattville, AL, \$2,281
 5. Bert Ladner, Biloxi, MS, \$1,996
 6. Ronnie Braddy, Thomaston, GA, \$1,711
 7. Garland Thomas, Birmingham, AL, \$1,426
 8. Rajeshkumar Dhanak, Lilburn, GA, \$1,141
 9. Louis Patterson, Mobile, AL, \$856

Event #15 • \$235 NLHE

- 133 Entries - Prize Pool: \$25,802**
1. Timothy Bullard, Houston, TX, \$8,515
 2. Sisouckith Southone, Biloxi, MS, \$4,696
 3. Andrew Moon, Vidalia, LA, \$2,580
 4. Michael Sbrocco, Longwood, FL, \$2,064
 5. Clayton Trask, Atlanta, \$1,548
 6. John "Troll" Tollefsen, Houston, \$1,290
 7. Leonard Nicoletta, Gulfport, MS, \$1,032
 8. Michael McDade, Brandon, FL, \$774
 9. Christopher Carstens, New Orleans, \$516
 10. Norman Contreras, \$361
 11. Jim Hartley, \$361
 12. Michael Gilbert, \$361
 13. Raymond Jordan, \$310
 14. Matthew Watkins, \$310
 15. Mike Raimon, \$310
 16. Natasha Barbour, \$258
 17. Roger Ledford, \$258
 18. James Hatfield, \$258

Event #16 • \$345 NLHE

- 121 Entries - Prize Pool: \$35,211**
1. David Diaz, Memphis, \$12,676
 2. Michael McDade, D'Iberville, MS, \$6,690
 3. Alex Vasilevsky, Columbus, GA, \$4,225
 4. Brett Tetty, Gray, GA, \$2,817
 5. Gary Rosenfeld, Sanford, FL, \$2,465
 6. Robert Cochran, Texarkana, TX, \$2,113
 7. Richard Paltr, Atlanta, \$1,761
 8. Ed Schoening, Richmond, TX, \$1,408
 9. Leonard Nicoletta, Gulfport, MS, \$1,056

Event #17 • \$235 NLHE

- 172 Entries - Prize Pool: \$33,368**
1. Keeley Hamilton, Smiths Station, AL, \$11,013
 2. Olawale Osunsanya, Dothan, AL, \$6,073
 3. Garland Thomas, Birmingham, AL, \$3,337
 4. Howard Kaplan, Jefferson, LA, \$2,669
 5. Todd Coale, Biloxi, MS, \$2,002
 6. Nelson Bryan, Eufaula, AL, \$1,668
 7. Adam Skaggs, Gulfport, MS, \$1,335
 8. Robert Cochran, Texarkana, TX, \$1,001
 9. Steven White, Austin, TX, \$667
 10. Ron Romano, \$467
 11. Michael Boyd, \$467
 12. Charles Haynes, \$467
 13. Henry Gill, \$400
 14. Max Jones, \$400
 15. Daniel Doucet, \$400
 16. Chip Ervin, \$334
 17. Todd Skinner, \$334
 18. Dawn Marsala, \$334

Main Event • \$2,500 NLHE

- 147 Entries - Prize Pool: \$336,625**
1. Tyler Smith, Smithdale, MS, \$111,083
 2. Christopher Conrad, Tallahassee, FL, \$61,266
 3. Michael Benton, Lafayette, LA, \$33,663
 4. Pyke Babin, Gonzalez, LA, \$26,930
 5. Rusty Mooror, Crestview, FL, \$20,198
 6. Razzavi G., Atlanta, \$16,831
 7. Richard Hill, Valdosta, GA, \$13,465
 8. Matthew Leecy, Ottawa, KS, \$10,099
 9. Ben Mintz, New Orleans, \$6,733
 10. Natasha Barbour, Tampa, FL, \$4,713
 11. Bryne Wilson, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$4,713
 12. Kenneth Eunice, Columbus, GA, \$4,713
 13. Steve Nussrallah, Alpharetta, GA, \$4,040
 14. Bob Woodward, Jacksonville, FL, \$4,040
 15. James Payne, Picayune, MS, \$4,040
 16. Adeb Harb, Long Beach, MS, \$3,366
 17. Barbara Smith, Houston, \$3,366
 18. Richard Hensarling, Lafayette, LA, \$3,366

* Event 11 benefited the Women's Center for Nonviolence. All 32 rebuys (\$50 each for \$1,600), went to charity. The winner, Leonard Chabot, Fernandina Beach, Fla., also received a \$2,500 seat into the series' main event.

Chris Conrad earned a \$2,500 main-event seat by winning the opening event and main-event winner Tyler Smith earned a \$5K seat to September's Gulf Coast Championship.

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ISLAND VIEW CLOSES POKER ROOM

After just two years in existence, the poker room at Island View Casino in Gulfport, Miss., closed May 2.

The nine-table poker room will make way for what employees called a "point of development area," likely turning the space into a slots tournament area.

The poker room employees have been invited to audition for other positions around the casino. There are no plans to bring back the poker room in any capacity.

ISLE CASINO BILOXI



Isle Casino's poker room raised \$5,650 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, surpassing its goal. In recognition of reaching the goal, poker room manager Steve Galle agreed to get his head shaved.

The daughter of Patrick and Tara Moore of Woolmarket, Miss., was the driving force behind the fundraising effort.

POKER HAS GONE TO THE DOGS

THIS WEEK'S TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENTS

<p>\$120 Buy-In No-Limit Texas Hold'em Tournament \$5000 Guarantee Sunday 4 pm</p>	<p>\$65 Buy-In No-Limit Texas Hold'em Tournament Monday 6 pm Saturday 4 pm Wed 6 pm \$100 Bounty</p>
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Photos courtesy of Isle Biloxi

WSOP SATELLITE SERIES

APRIL 21-MAY 3, 2010 • IP CASINO, RESORT & SPA • BILOXI, MISS.

MISSISSIPPI

Event #1 • \$120 NLHE

Players: 100 • Prize Pool: \$9,700

1. Joshua Peterson, Diberville, MS, \$2,804
2. Gerald Sullivan, Saraland AL, \$1,899
3. David Jorgensen, Luling, LA, \$1,267
4. Rodney Crosby, River Ridge, LA, \$905
5. David Matin, Moulton, AL, \$724
6. Ben Littleton, Cary, NC, \$543
7. Ronald King, Biloxi, MS, \$362
8. Ludek Sisac, Mobile, AL, \$294
9. James Miller, Notasulga, AL, \$248
10. Thomas Gurr, Saucier, MS, \$218
11. Daniel Buys, Slidell, LA, \$218
12. Kimberly Bragg, Atlanta, \$218

Event #2 • \$120 NLHE

Players: 106 • Prize Pool: \$10,282

1. Tammer Ilcafanas, Pensacola, FL, \$2,972
2. Kevin Fazzo, Saucier, MS, \$2,013
3. Phillip Jackson, Metairie, LA, \$1,343
4. Richard King, Biloxi, MS, \$959
5. John (JJ) Kiger, White Oak, PA, \$767
6. Ismael Cabrera, Marietta, GA, \$576
7. James Parker, Moultrie, GA, \$384
8. Aaron Lashlee, Las Vegas, \$312
9. Marv Corzine, Denham Sprgs., LA, \$263
10. Robert Gorman II, Largo, FL, \$231
11. John Evans, Biloxi, MS, \$231

Event #3 • \$230 NLHE

Players: 196 • Prize Pool: \$38,024

1. Capt. Tom Franklin, Gulfport, MS, \$10K
2. Pamela Cobb, Panama City FL, \$6,141
3. Mohammad Moeini, Gulfport, MS, \$4,346
4. William Phillips, Metairie LA, \$3,103
5. Robert Giardini, Buford, Ga., \$2,483
6. Minh Huynh, Lawrenceville, GA, \$1,863
7. Tony Campione, Hattiesburg, MS, \$1,243
8. Reid Gilbert, Mobile AL, \$1,008
9. Corey Souther, Pensacola, FL, \$856
10. Harold Hill, Daphne, AL, \$749
11. Marcus Childress, Moss Point, MS, \$749
12. Joseph Okeefe Jr., Biloxi, MS, \$749
13. Christopher Taylor, Lucedale, MS, \$616
14. Chris Jones, Thompson St., TN, \$616
15. Milton Sabba, Bush, LA, \$616
16. Donald Noland, Livingston, LA, \$513
17. Robert Moore, Gulfport, MS, \$513
18. Thomas Pullens, Picaune, MS, \$513
19. Angelo Zozella, Austin, TX, \$449
20. Ted Barrick, Ocean Springs, MS, \$449
21. Mitchell Franks, Tupelo, MS, \$449

Event #4 • \$230 Omaha/8

Players: 19 • Prize Pool: \$3,686

1. Barron Whipple, Houma, LA, \$1,843
2. Tyler Mock, Cincinnati, \$1,106
3. Alan Roberts, Diamondhead, MS, \$737

Event #5 • \$120 NLHE

Players: 82 • Prize Pool: \$7,954

1. Phillip Walsh, Gulfport, MS, \$2,546
2. Hiep Nguyen, Hattiesburg, MS, \$1,750

3. Ken Carter, Denham Springs, LA, \$1,193
4. Dianne McKnight, Biloxi, MS, \$795
5. Ken Rowell, Coden, AL, \$636
6. Kimberly Stone, St. Louis, 477
7. Randall Bloch, Mequon, WI, \$318
8. Eunice Mitchell, Bay St. Louis, MS, \$239

Event #6 • \$340 NLHE

Players: 53 • Prize Pool: \$15,423

1. Mitchell Franks, Tupelo, MS, \$6,324
2. Chris Jones, Thompson St., TN, \$4,010
3. Chip Ervin, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$2,313
4. Corey Souther, Pensacola, FL, \$1,542
5. Dwayne Clanton, Fairhope, AL, \$1,234

Event #7 • \$230 PLO/8

Players: 22 • Prize Pool: \$4,268

1. Peter Mullin, Diamondhead, MS, \$2,134
2. Tyler Mock, Cincinnati, \$1,280
3. Herberft Tapscott, Hartselle, AL, \$854

Event #8 • \$120 Partners

Players: 44 • Prize Pool: \$8,536

1. Kenneth Milam, Laplace, LA, \$1,921
1. Rodney Shows, Hattiesburg, MS, \$1,921
2. Thu Tran, Santa Clara, CA, \$1,280
3. Hiep Nguyen, Hattiesburg, MS, \$1,280
3. Rodney Bergeron, Austin, TX, \$640
3. Ken Carter, Deham Springs, LA, \$640
4. Chris Goodsonm Biloxi, MS, \$427
4. Kerri Dorsey, Gautier, MS, \$427

Event #9 • \$550 NLHE

Players: 42 • Prize Pool: \$20,370

1. Rusty Moore, Crestview, FL, \$9,166
2. James Ray, Pensacola, FL, \$6,111
3. Corey Souther, Pensacola, FL, \$3,056
4. Chris Jones, Thompson St. TN, \$2,037

Event #10 • \$230 NLHE

Players: 60 • Prize Pool: \$11,640

1. Sidney Farrell, Kenner, LA, \$4,424
2. Billy McBrayer, Duncanville, AL, \$2,677
3. Dustin Skarra, Mobile, AL, \$1,746
4. Peter Sullivan, Roscoe, IL, \$1,164
5. Oran Calton, Daphne, AL, \$931
6. Tyler Dixon, Baton Rouge, LA, \$698

Event #11 • \$340 NLHE

Players: 39 • Prize Pool: \$11,349

1. Tom Franklin, Gulfport, MS, \$5,674
2. Kimberly Stone, St. Louis, \$3,405
3. Hal Lockwood, Weatherford, TX, \$2,270

Event #12 • \$230 Seniors

Players: 64 • Prize Pool: \$12,416

1. Jerry Wise, Smyrna, GA, \$4,718
2. James Wampol, Wetumpka, AL, \$2,856
3. James Berry, Braxton, MS, \$1,862
4. Robert Moore, Gulfport, MS, \$1,242
5. Rodney Reagan, Lake City, FL, \$993
6. Clifford Mathews, Odenville, AL, \$745

Event #13 • \$230 NLHE

Players: 14 • Prize Pool: \$2,716

1. Jodi Westendorf, Key Largo, FL, \$1,358
2. Sheryl Page, ColdWater Rd, MS, \$815
3. Romana Szmurlo, Pensacola, FL, \$543

Event #14 • \$120 NLHE

Players: 83 • Prize Pool: \$8,051

1. David Fountain, Senoia, GA, \$2,576
2. Eric Dogu, Gretna, LA, \$1,771
3. Arthur Craig, Pas Christian, MS, \$1,208
4. Kimberly Stone, St. Louis, \$805
5. James Miller, Auburn, AL, \$644
6. Rachel Boudreaux, Slidell, FL, \$483
7. Rusty Moore, Crestview, FL, \$322
8. John Landman Jr., Chelsea, AL, \$242

Event #15 • \$230 NLHE

Players: 61 • Prize Pool: \$11,834

1. Randy Landry, Thibodaux, LA, \$4,497
2. Robert Vanolinda, Lakeland, FL, \$2,722
3. Pam Cobb, Panama City Bch, FL, \$1,775
4. Hal Lockwood, Weatherford TX, \$1,183
5. Daniel Deugenio, Punta Gorda, FL, \$947
6. Josh Palmer, Daphne, AL, \$710

Event #16 • \$340 H.O.R.S.E.

Players: 8 • Prize Pool: \$2,328

1. Jim Wheatley, Harrisonburg, VA, \$1,164
2. Ronald Hudspeth, Callaway, FL, \$698
3. James Reed, Stockbridge, GA, \$466

Event #17 • \$120 NLHE

Players: 66 • Prize Pool: \$6,402

1. Randall Bloch, Mequon, WI, \$2,434
2. Marites Faeldonea, Las Vegas, \$1,472
3. Christopher Hice, Southport, FL, \$960
4. Thurman Crowe, Prattville, AL, \$640
5. Joseph Tinsley, Port Arthur, TX, \$512
6. Meghan McFall, Newnan, GA, \$384

Event #18 • \$230 NLHE

Players: 67 • Prize Pool: \$12,998

1. Rich Radford, Ocean Springs, MS, \$4,938
2. Robert Vanolinda, Lakeland, FL, \$2,990
3. Nicole Fouche, Sharpburg, GA, \$1,950
4. Pamela Cobb, Panama City, FL, \$1,300
5. Kenneth Milam, Laplace, LA, \$1,040
6. Bruce Little, Metairie, LA, \$780

Event #19 • \$230 Omaha/8

Players: 21 • Prize Pool: \$4,074

1. Arthur Mitchell, Pasadena, TX, \$2,037
2. Christopher Hice, Southport, FL, \$1,222
3. Corey Souther, Pensacola, FL, \$815

Event #20 • \$120 NLHE

Players: 57 • Prize Pool: \$5,529

1. Robert Dye, Ocean Springs, MS, \$2,267
2. Richard King, Biloxi, MS, \$1,438
3. William Phillips, Metairie, LA, \$829
4. Ronny Sharpe, Dadeville, AL, \$553
5. Gene Dudek, Houma, LA, \$442

Event #21 • \$2,100 NLHE

Players: 43 • Prize Pool: \$83,420

1. Charles Elliott, Theodore, AL, \$37,539
2. Tom Franklin, Gulfport, MS, \$25,026
3. Linda Fredericks, B. Rouge, LA, \$12,513
4. Kimberly Stone, St. Louis, \$8,342

Event #22 • \$230 PLO/8

Players: 16 • Prize Pool: \$3,104

1. Corey Souther, Pensacola, FL, \$1,552
2. Bill Gladden, Ocean Springs, MS, \$931
3. David Diaz, Bartlett, TN, \$621

Event #23 • \$120 NLHE

Players: 62 • Prize Pool: \$6,014

1. Fred Edwards, Montgomery, AL, \$2,286
2. Raymond Viers, Lilburn, GA, \$1,383
3. Nicholas Rodrigue, Chalette, LA, \$902
4. Ernestine Kaufmann, Slidell, LA, \$601
5. Glynn Butts, Jonesville, LA, \$481
6. Adrian Lopez, Las Vegas, \$361

Event #24 • \$440 NLHE

Players: 30 • Prize Pool: \$11,640

1. Rex Mounger, Wimberley, TX, \$5,820
2. Corey Souther, Pensacola, FL, \$3,492
3. Will McBride, Thonotosassa, FL, \$2,328

Event #25 • \$230 NLHE

Players: 30 • Prize Pool: \$8,342

1. Ronald Schauer, Gulfport, MS, \$3,754
2. Richard Dodge, Gulfport, MS, \$2,503
3. Tim Blanchard, Pierre Part, LA, \$1,251
4. Kevin Fazzo, Saucier, MS, \$834

Event #26 • \$120 NLHE

Players: 74 • Prize Pool: \$7,178

1. Willie Hutchinson, Carson, MS, \$2,512
2. Peter Shashy, Montgomery, AL, \$1,579
3. Timothy Hill, Prentiss, MS, \$1,077
4. Robert Ray, Moss Point, MS, \$718
5. Mary Keenan, La Porte, IN, \$574
6. Lawrence Tumlin, Biloxi, MS, \$431
7. Robert Odell, Vance, MS, \$287

Event #27 • \$550 NLHE

Players: 26 • Prize Pool: \$12,610

1. Rusty Moore, Crestview, FL, \$6,305
2. Timothy Burt, Grenada, MS, \$3,783
3. Donald Norman, Marion, IL, \$2,522

Event #28 • \$230 NLHE

Players: 46 • Prize Pool: \$8,924

1. D. Markevicius, Willowbrook, IL, \$4,016
2. Mark Ryan, Slidell, LA, \$2,677
3. Justin Jones, Rockdale, TX, \$1,339
4. David Jorgensen, Luling, LA, \$892

Event #29 • \$120 Team NLHE

Players: 99 • Prize Pool: \$9,603

1. Cory English, Diamondhead, MS, \$2,978
1. Nick Contreras, Diamondhead, MS
1. Malley Malley, Pas Christian, MS

2. John Pearson, Moss Point, MS, \$2,017

2. Whitney Brown, Moss Point, MS
2. William Whitley, Ocean Springs, MS
3. Kerry Poelman, Dowagiac, MI, \$1,344
3. Roger Schaus
3. Dennis Corey

4. Albert Yaggi, Grayson, GA, \$960
4. Joseph Gardner, Alpharetta, GA
4. Jared Mitnick, Alpharetta, GA
5. Donna Reid, Meridian, MS, \$768
5. Ernestine Kaufmann, Slidell, LA
5. Ralph Reid, Meridian, MS
6. Chris Goodon, Biloxi, MS, \$576
6. William McBride

6. Kerri Dorsey, Gaucier, MS
7. William Wilson, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$384
7. Jennifer Parrish, Alma, AR
7. James Evans, Shawnee, KS
8. Larry Freeman, Ocean Springs, MS, \$312
8. Charles Campos, Pace, FL
8. Jason Price, Ocean Springs, MS
9. Shawn Lynch, Pensacola, FL, \$264
9. Neal Wilkinson

9. Deborah Sims

Event #30 • \$1,080 NLHE

Players: 26 • Prize Pool: \$25,220

1. Wendell Arrington, Leesburg, GA, \$12,610
2. Tom Franklin, Gulfport, MS, \$7,566
3. Ronald Romano, Acworth, GA, \$5,044

Event #31 • \$230 NLHE

Players: 78 • Prize Pool: \$15,132

1. Bertel Ladner, Biloxi, MS, \$5,296
2. Mike Melkerson, Harrisonburg, VA, \$3,329
3. Joshua Palmer, Daphne, AL, \$2,270
4. William Holman, Headland, AL, \$1,513
5. David McCarty, Lagrange, GA, \$1,211
6. Joe Salvaggi, Richmond Hts, OH, \$908
7. D. Markevicius, Willow Brook, IL, \$605

Event #32 • \$120 NLHE

Players: 140 • Prize Pool: \$13,580

1. Guy Tunner, Mobile, AL, \$3,721
2. Jonathon Wall, Plato, MO, \$2,519
3. Mathew Welch, Ellisville, MS, \$1,680
4. Donovan Aromy, River Ridge, LA, \$1,200
5. Jeffrey Schneider, Hattiesburg, MS, \$960
6. Linda Fredericks, Baton Rouge, LA, \$720
7. William Wilson, Tuscaloosa, AL, \$479
8. Warren Gottschalk, Harahan, LA, \$390
9. Clifton Sons, Mobile, AL, \$330
10. Lawrence Aromy, River Ridge, LA, \$289
11. Danny Little, Bay Minette, AL, \$289
12. Eric Nuss, Waterloo, ON, \$289
13. Priscilla Giroir, Lafayette, LA, \$238
14. Renee Skinner, Youngsville, LA, \$238
15. Paul Martinez, Seguin, TX, \$238

HARRAH'S TUNICA

The poker room at Harrah's Tunica has revamped its tournaments with additional levels and later antes.

Also, payouts will be changed to give the players more value. First place in all tournaments will be guaranteed at least 10 times your total buy-in with a full 10 percent of the prize field still paying out. Tournaments with buy-ins of \$90-plus are guaranteeing more than 10 times your buy-in for first place. All of the guarantees above are based on a minimum of 20 players.

All tournament winners are invited back every two months to play in an invitational event where in addition to the prize pool over \$2,000 in WSOP circuit event seats will be added.

Other changes include:

- The maximum buy-in on \$1-\$3 no-limit games has been increased to \$500.
- Spin-to-Win (Mon.-Fri.) continues for a chance to win \$500 an hour (doubled between 6-9 a.m. for a chance at \$1K per hour.



WSOP CIRCUIT EVENTS



ST. LOUIS (APRIL 2-15) • LAS VEGAS (APRIL 14-30)

Two World Series of Poker circuit stops in April produced two champs from The South: Douglas Lovelace of Richmond, Va., and Jerry Flannigan of Concord, N.C. Here are our cashers, and if an event isn't listed it means no one from The South had a significant cash or the tournament wasn't a circuit ring event.

ST. LOUIS



Douglas Lovelace

Event #1 • \$340 NLHE

- 41. Scott Hiatt Pegram, TN \$1,059

Event #2 • \$560 NLHE

- 4. Jon Sexton, Southaven, MS \$10,504
- 20. Nicholas Lanzi, Raleigh, NC \$1,523

Event #3 • \$350 Seniors

- 16. Robert Rousseau, Tallahassee, FL \$737

Event #4 • \$350 NLHE

- 4. Donald Rousseau, Kissimmee FL, \$5,669
- 18. Carl Lee, Lawrenceville, GA, \$935

Event #5 • \$350 NLHE

- 5. Stanton Thomas, Marietta, GA, \$5,334
- 9. Maurice Hawkins, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, \$1,837
- 13. Francis Anton, Memphis, TN, \$1,322
- 15. Mark Smith, Georgetown, KY, \$1,322
- 20. Nicholas Vennari, Stuart, FL, \$967
- 23. Charles Cramer, Clarksville, TN, \$861
- 26. Carl Lee, Lawrenceville, GA, \$781
- 27. Warren Lushia, Pikeville, KY, \$781

Event #6 • \$350 NLHE

- 4. Jerry Zehr, Florence, KY, \$6,823
- 5. Johnny Bryant, Monroe, GA, \$5,458
- 20. William "Monkey" Souther, Pensacola, FL, \$984
- 22. Danny Nelson, Batesville, AR, \$882

Event #7 • \$450 NLHE

- 1. Douglas Lovelace, Richmond, VA, \$22,796
- 10. Christopher Gray, Atlanta, GA, \$1,704
- 20. Frederick Smith, Loganville, GA, \$1,017

Event #8 • \$560 NLHE

- 3. Brandon Hinkle, Carthage, TN, \$15,621
- 7. David Rylander, Collierville, TN, \$4,463
- 8. Tina Tellone Sunrise, FL, \$3,628
- 9. Nathaniel Grinols, Southaven, MS, \$3,066
- 15. Neal Harding, Louisville, KY, \$2,216
- 27. Ricky Daniel, Franklin, TN, \$1,306
- 32. Ernest Smith, Shepherdsville, KY, \$1,108

Event #9 • \$1,090 NLHE

- 18. Michael Schneider, Covington GA, \$3,178
- 21. Scott Jones, Highland Beach, FL, \$2,778
- 24. Radwan Khuri, Memphis, TN, \$2,478

Event #10 • \$1,590 NLHE

- 5. Kenneth Ware, Georgetown, KY, \$12,591
- 6. Jason Goldman, Ft. Charlotte, FL, \$9,452
- 13. Daniel Biddle, Paris, KY, \$2,532

Event #11 • \$240 Ladies NLHE

- 9. Tina Tellone, Sunrise, FL, \$707

Event #12 • \$1,690 Main Event

- 4. Matthew Schwarmann, Orlando FL, \$58,373

LAS VEGAS



Jerry Flannigan

Event #1 • \$230 NLHE

- 2. Gift Kusuwan, Orlando, FL, \$10,988
- 11. Arthur Dupraw, Neptune Beach, FL, \$1,117
- 20. Tina Kendall, Alexis, MS, \$596

Event #2 • \$340 NLHE

- 4. Eugene Liu, Atlanta, GA, \$4,540

Event #3 • \$550 NLHE

- 6. Blake Dennison, New Smyrna Beach, FL, \$4,026

Event #5 • \$340 NLHE

- 7. Paul Brettler, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, \$3,108
- 22. Thomas McTeer, Columbia, SC, \$777

Event #6 • \$230 NLHE

- 8. Alexander Kardomateas, Alpharetta, GA, \$1,810
- 12. Chad Clement, Lakeland, FL, \$905
- 18. Wendy Blumenthal, Atlanta, GA, \$603
- 21. Frank Dagostino, Nashville, TN, \$483
- 22. Richard Coppola, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, \$483
- 29. Kenneth Davis, Charlotte, NC, \$422

Event #7 • \$340 NLHE

- 7. Michael Shannon, Satellite Beach, FL, \$2,362

- 10. Phillip Grimes, Lakeland, FL, \$1,034

Event #9 • \$550 NLHE

- 3. Daniel Lowery, Peter Pender, AR, \$9,694
- 7. Samuel Anastasio, Ft. Myers, FL, \$3,783

Event #11 • \$340 NLHE

- 1. Jerry Flannigan, Concord, NC, \$16,372
- 5. Dante Magnoto, Alexandria, VA, \$4,200
- 8. Michael Jukich, Lynchburg, VA, \$2,194

Event #13 • \$550 NLHE

- 4. Matt Schwarmann, Orlando, FL, \$6,286

Event #16 • \$1,080 NLHE

- 8. Thomas Barnard, Lake Mary, FL, \$4,350

Event #18 • \$550 NLHE

- 10. Tony Velasquez, Miami, FL, \$1,550

Event #19 • \$5,150 Main Event

- 8. Aaron Been, Tallahassee, FL, \$23,319
- 12. Steven Burkholder, Largo, FL, \$16,144

BORGATA SPRING POKER OPEN

Here are four southern champs from this year's series. Our cashers, including Event 26 champ Jen Sherwood, are on the next page.



Event 6: Adel Shakerian, Falls Church, Va.



Event 14: James Boyd, Martinsburg, WV



Event 21: William Kakon, Miami, Fla.



Event 24: David Bell, Sunrise, Fla.

AROUND THE NATION

BORGATA SPRING POKER OPEN



Jennifer Sherwood of Newport News, Va., had the only significant cash in Event 26 (\$200 NLHE) and what a cash it was, winning the tournament for \$14,957.

Event 1 • \$560 NLHE

Entries: 1,214 • Prize pool: \$607,000

5. Joseph Capalbi, Deerfield Beach, Fla., \$33,854
9. James Boyd, Martinsburg, WV, \$11,776
10. Kenneth Packer, Fayetteville, NC, \$7,654
21. Yat Cheng, Charlotte, NC, \$2,650
22. James Graff, Portsmouth, Va., \$2,650
27. Srinivasa Peyyalamitta, Ashburn, Va., \$2,650
38. Robert Behrenst, Fairfax, Va., \$1,884
52. Konrad Szydelko, Hudson, Fla., \$1,649
56. Hoang Nguyen, Vienna, Va., \$1,472
59. Edward Edwards, Woodbridge, Va., \$1,472
68. Terry Hardy, Loxahatchee, Fla., \$1,295
70. James Mihokovich, Centerville, Va., \$1,295
77. Kambiz Behbahani, Fairfax Station, Va., \$1,178
78. Rashad Maysaud, Springfield, Va., \$1,178
91. Mark Swain, Virginia Beach, Va., \$942
95. John Myung, Vienna, Va., \$942

Event 2 • \$450 NLHE

Entries: 285 • Prize pool: \$114,000

14. Elia Ahmadian, Chantilly, Va., \$1,216
17. John Sill, Aberdeen, NC, \$996
21. Matthew O'Flynn, Reston, Va., \$829
24. Hoa Minh Nguyen, Fairfax, Va., \$829
25. James Kaplan, Boca Raton, Fla., \$829

Event 3 • \$400 NLHE

Entries: 197 • Prize pool: \$68,950

6. Orlando Reyes, Hanahan, SC, \$3,344
9. James Ostrander, Southern Pines, NC, \$1,505

Event 6 • \$400 Omaha/8

Entries: 129 • Prize pool: \$45,150

1. Adel Shakerian, Falls Church, Va., \$13,489

Event 7 • \$450 NLHE

Entries: 163 • Prize pool: \$65,200

2. Hubert Hoffman, Arlington, Va., \$10,751
6. Roongsak Griffith, Columbus, Ga., \$3,162
8. Robert Kalteux, Seminole, Fla., \$1,898
15. Marc Davis, Orlando, Fla., \$1,075

Event 9 • \$700 NLHE

Entries: 197 • Prize pool: \$124,110

12. James Kaplan, Boca Raton, Fla., \$2,347
14. William Beasley, Hollywood, Fla., \$2,047
15. Nathan Zehring, Fairfax, Va., \$2,047

Event 11 • \$1,090 NLHE

Entries: 206 • Prize pool: \$206,000

24. Norman Rodriguez, Kissimmee, Fla., \$1,499

Event 12 • \$550 NLHE

Entries: 210 • Prize pool: \$105,000

21. Hisham Atari, Ashburn, Va., \$1850

Event 14 • \$300 Seniors NLHE

Entries: 243 • Prize pool: \$63,180

1. James Boyd, Martinsburg, WV, \$18,385

6. Edward Jones, Kennesaw, Ga., \$3,064

Event 15 • \$560 NLHE

Entries: 501 • Prize pool: \$250,500

8. William Looper, Greer, SC, \$6,682
39. Vincent Lee Housden, Stanley, Va., \$850
53. Sandra Boyd, Williamsburg, Va., \$729

Event 16 • \$400 NLHE

Entries: 209 • Prize pool: \$73,150

10. Sandra Boyd, Williamsburg, Va., \$922
11. Ricardo Rodriguez, Tampa, Fla., \$922

Event 17 • \$200 NLHE w/rebuys

Entries: 850 • Prize pool: \$144,500

17. Hao Le, Aldie, Va., \$841
25. Benny Thacker, Fredericksburg, Va., \$631
33. Nancy Thacker, Fredericksburg, Va., \$533
39. Ryan Baroff, Weston, Fla., \$449
43. Calvin Lipscomb Jr., Colonial Heights, Va., \$449
65. Dao Bui, Sterling, Va., \$308
69. William Campbell, Palm Beach Gar., Fla., \$308
70. Marc Davis, Orlando, Fla., \$308
74. Justin Levy, Coral Springs, Fla., \$280
76. Timothy Leventhal, Centerville, Va., \$280
81. Sheldon Gross, Hillsboro Beach, Fla., \$280

Event 18 • \$450 NLHE

Entries: 182 • Prize pool: \$72,800

12. Steven Wolansky, Cooper City, Fla., \$1,377

Event 20 • \$1,650 NLHE

Entries: 162 • Prize pool: \$243,000

8. Robert Kalteux, Seminole, Fla., \$7,071
13. Ray Shackelford, Fredericksburg, Va., \$4,007
14. Vitor Coelho, Tampa, Fla., \$4,007
16. Adam Adler, Aventura, Fla., \$3,536
17. Mark Peluso, Fairfax, Va., \$3,536

Event 21 • \$1,090 6-handed

Entries: 156 • Prize pool: \$156,000

1. William Kakon, Miami, Fla., \$46,607
17. Manelic Minaya, Tampa, Fla., \$2,270

Event 23 • \$450 NLHE

Entries: 171 • Prize pool: \$68,400

5. Barry Hutter, Bradenton, Fla., \$3,981
17. James Wethington, Raleigh, NC, \$995

Event 24 • \$400 NLHE

Entries: 213 • Prize pool: \$74,550

1. David Bell, Sunrise, Fla., \$21,694
13. Marvin Marshall, Spotsylvania, Va., \$796
18. William Beasley, Hollywood, Fla., \$651
23. Michael Lewin, Delray Beach, Fla., \$542

\$3,500 Main Event

Entries: 383 • Prize pool: \$1,263,900

5. Matthew Waxman, Parkland, Fla., \$61,299
16. Steve Karp, North Miami Beach, Fla., \$8,582

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NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

JOHN LANIER • A look at Southern online players and beyond



IT'S LEGIT: THERE'S A GOLD STRIKE

In previous columns I've mentioned one type of online poker site is immune from any Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act legislation, and that's a membership site. Examples include WPT Online, SpadeClub and a new site called Gold Strike Poker. The site opened in May and offers ring games and tournaments for a monthly fee. If you use promo code ANTEUP you'll get your first month free as a promotion.

Unlike its rivals, Gold Strike offers a rich 3D feel to its play. You can create a classy 3D avatar where you choose your sex, appearance, features, clothes and various accessories. This way you'll appear like the shark everyone thinks you are. Choose the perspective on the game that you like from either overhead or side view.

As in most sites table chat is allowed, and you get hand-strength analysis at the table as well. Gold Strike says chip dumping and collusion among players is a virtual impossibility with its strong risk-management efforts.

ALABAMA: Shannon Shorr finished off a nice three-month run for about \$300K. Here are his results:

- First place, FTOPS Event 18 (4/28) for \$213,500
- First place, NLHE on PokerStars (5/9) for \$44,226
- First place, NLHE on PokerStars (2/10) for \$39,387

GEORGIA: A player known as Seth (a.k.a. Grtwhitehoop) from Atlanta has had quite a decent run as well.

- Third place, FTOPS Event 12 (4/26) for \$154,492
- Third place, SCOOP NLHE Event 8 (5/4) for \$108,775

NORTH CAROLINA: Jeremy "Chip-

steela" Menard from Raleigh has had a good string of firsts:

- Full Tilt Million Guarantee (3/21) for \$180,123
- UB's \$150K guarantee (4/18) for \$39,000
- PokerStars \$109 NLHE (4/3) for \$13,987

— John Lanier plays as "WildHare" on most poker sites and lives in Lutz, Fla.



Hoyt "Cowboy" Corkins



Jonathan "Jcardshark" Little



Young "Phantastic" Phan



John "The Razor" Phan



Kathy "PokerKat" Liebert

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AIPS V

Buy-ins are \$5.50



JUNE 9, 9 p.m.: Limit Hold'em	OCT. 30, Noon: NLHE
JUNE 26, Noon: NLHE	NOV. 10, 9 p.m.: NLHE
JULY 14, 9 p.m.: Rebuy NLHE	NOV. 27, Noon: HORSE
JULY 31, Noon: 2-7 Triple Draw	DEC. 8, 9 p.m.: HOSE
AUG. 11, 9 p.m.: Stud/8	DEC. 18, Noon: NL Heads-Up
AUG. 28, Noon: NLHE	JAN. 12, 9 p.m.: NLHE
SEPT. 8, 9 p.m.: NLHE	JAN. 29, Noon: 8-Game Mixed
SEPT. 25, Noon: PLO/8	TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
OCT. 13, 9 p.m.: PL 5-Card Draw	FEB. 5, Noon: 8-Game Mixed

What is AIPS?

The Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series (a.k.a. AIPS) is our PokerCast's fan tournament series on PokerStars.com. Square off against the Ante Up Nation, including *Ante Up* publishers — Scott "OffDeadline" Long and Chris "aun2112" Cosenza. Don't have a PokerStars account? No problem. Go to anteupmagazine.com and click on our online poker rooms link. Use marketing code ANTEUPMAG and signup code STARS600 to get a 100 percent deposit bonus up to \$600!



Edward McDonald kicks back on a hammock with his bananas after winning Events 2 and 3 in AIPS.

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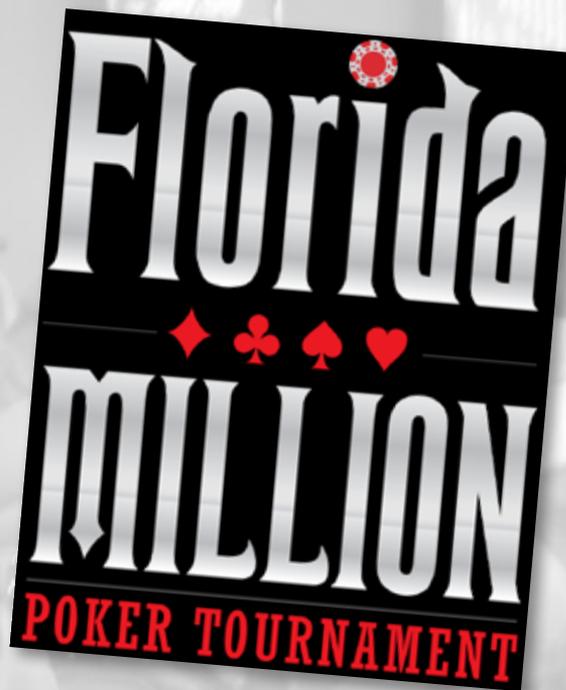
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Call him ...

CHARLIE MILLION

Charlie Miller of Palmetto, Fla., becomes the first winner of the Florida Million.

By Christopher Cosenza

Unprecedented. That's the only way to describe the inaugural Florida Million Poker Tournament that attracted 2,349 entries.

- Never have six Florida poker rooms (Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, Mardi Gras Casino in Hallandale Beach, Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room, Naples-Ft. Myers Greyhound Track in Bonita Springs, Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach and Orange Park Kennel Club in the Jacksonville area) come together with one common goal.

- Never have poker rooms held Day 1s across the state with Days 2 and 3 culminating in one room for the grand prize.

- Never has a Florida poker event had a million-dollar prize pool.

- Never has there been such a poker tournament buzz in the Sunshine State.

And, yes, we have a winner: Charlie Miller of Palmetto.

Florida Million Top 10

This reflects the "official" payouts before chops and deals.

1. Charlie Miller Jr., \$137,000
2. Alexander Gregory, \$73,000
3. Toan Trinh, \$73,000
4. David Bennett, \$78,000
5. Joseph Parrish, \$62,000
6. John Berger, \$55,000
7. Richard Grant, \$55,000
8. Randy Mueller, \$63,000
9. Roy Cohen, \$55,000
10. Eddie Cone, \$10,000

Miller, chipleader for pretty much all of the last day (April 11), bested the 234 qualifiers who had advanced to Derby Lane for the finals. He took home \$123,000 and a crystal trophy.

What? You thought the winner was supposed to pocket \$250K? Well, that's another facet of this event that might be unprecedented. The amount of deals and chops that were executed nearly outnumbered the players in the field. Day 3 began with 18 players left, and some of the shorter stacks tried to convince the chipleaders to take some money off the top to flatten the pay scale. But can you blame them? This prize pool (\$1,174,500) was the largest in state history, and most of these players got into the finals via \$70 satellites or \$550 buy-ins.

Calmer heads prevailed and the tournament played out until the final table, which had six Derby Lane qualifiers (including the final five). When the event reached 10-handed play, many of the players pushed for an equitable chop, but Miller stood strong



A chat with the champ



Ante Up's Chris Cosenza had a chance to speak with **Charlie Miller**, the inaugural Florida Million champ. The 37-year-old from Palmetto, Fla., shares his thoughts on his poker career and winning this historic event.

When did you start playing poker? Like most guys I started playing in college for a little beer money. I really didn't get serious about the game and try to improve my play until around 2005.

Where do you play regularly? Most of the time I'm playing mid stakes online. I try to play a couple of times each week at Derby Lane (in St. Petersburg, Fla.) or One-Eyed Jacks (in Sarasota, Fla.) just to relax and have a little fun.

How did you qualify for the Florida Million? I won my way in through a satellite tournament at Derby Lane. I think the buy-in was \$70 and won the first time I played.

What did you think of the way the event was run? I thought for a first-time event the tournament was run really well. I'm not sure how the other Day 1s were handled but I think Derby Lane did a great job running the final two days. I do think all the rooms need to sit down and discuss the tournament structure and provide the players with longer blind levels later in Day 2 and the final table. I wouldn't mind seeing 30-minute levels early then increase to 40-, 50- and have at least 60-minute levels at the final table. Obviously, most players like having longer blind levels but at the same time I don't think you can turn a \$550 event into a four- or five-day tournament. Hopefully all of the tournament directors will find a way to increase the play at the later stages of the tournament and not have so many players in "push-fold" mode.

How many chips did you have entering Day 2 and Day 3? On Day 2 I had 277,600 with blinds starting at 1K-2K and a 400 ante; Day 3 I had 4,970,000 with blinds at 60K-120K and a 15K ante. I had a small lead entering the final day. Alexander Gregory had 4,885,000.

You had the chip lead pretty much the entire Day 3. How difficult was it to play with such a large stack for such a long period of time? I think the big stack is the easiest to play. Most players do not want to play a pot against you and it's pretty easy to control the action on the table. Having said that, you obviously don't want to get careless and spew off a large chip stack. I've punted off a few large chip stacks before and it's not the best feeling.

Tell me the story of the 18-player chop discussion. Why didn't it happen and who first approached you about it? (laughs) Ah, yes, the infamous chop story. Actually, there never was a plan in place to chop the tournament 18 ways. A lot of the short stacks approached me and Alexander and asked us if we wanted to flatten out the pay structure. I can't remember the exact details but they wanted to take off \$50K from first and take additional money from second through fourth and move that money to increase 11th-18th place. Then we would play the tournament out as \$200K for first and, if I recall correctly, 11th-18th would get \$15K. All of the short stacks wanted to take money from the top but the larger chip stacks didn't want to do this. I had plenty of chips at this point and didn't have any plans of taking money away from first.

Officially you won \$137K, but unofficially you took home \$123K; that's still not chump change. Any plans for the money? Well, \$123K isn't life-changing money, but it's still a nice score for me. I will buy I few small items but nothing major. I will probably take the majority of the money and look to invest in a foreclosed property and flip it in a few years. Though, a Nissan GT-R would look good sitting in the driveway. (laughs)



Continued from previous page

... for a while.

"I was joking with a friend that there was no way in hell I was going to chop this tournament," he said. "The only way I was going to chop was when the blinds were high enough and forced me to get into 'push-fold' mode. Luckily, I had a the chip lead or close to it most of Day 3 and the start of the final table, but I never had the massive 100-plus big-blind stack that some people seem to think the chipleader always has. Per usual the short stacks were just trying to survive and move up a few spots because they knew I wasn't interested in a chop at that point. Eventually, I lost a big flip (A♠-Q♠ vs. 10-10) and after the hand my chip advantage was pretty much gone."

The stacks started to equal out and Miller realized he'd be better off avoiding variance.

"I still had the chip lead but not by much over second place, and the third- and fourth-place stacks were not too far behind," Miller said. "But the rest of the table was short-stacked and in trouble. At this point I was willing to listen to a deal, so I told them to put something on paper and I would look at it.

"I really wasn't interested in a chop until I heard the magic \$100K number. My biggest win up to that point had been \$25K so I wasn't about to get greedy. I still had the chip lead and wasn't close to 'push-fold' mode, but the short stacks were and we have all seen short stacks go on rushes late in tourneys and build up a stack. Basically, I ended up chopping because I didn't want to take the chance of getting coolered vs. another big stack or two-outed and be forced into shoving with any two. So I finally agreed to chop."

Ultimately it came down to the two men who coincidentally were the chipleaders when the day began: Miller and **Alexander Gregory** of Tampa.

"We kinda developed a friendship," said Gregory, who officially made \$73K, but made \$124K after the final deal. "I almost busted (Miller) earlier in the tournament. It was small blind, big blind, got into a fight and he shoved on me. I had king-queen and he had king-seven, but I laid my hand down. I almost called him. ... We were the only two who said no to the (18-player) deal. ... And then in the bathroom we saw each other and said if we get down to the final two we'll chop it up."

And with that, months of planning, qualifying and playing came to an end. But the tournament will live on as future Florida Millions are being planned after such an extremely successful maiden voyage.

"I don't think it could have gone any better or been better executed," Derby Lane director of poker operations Jeff Gamber said.

This event also served as a taste of things to come for Florida rounders. With the state getting true no-limit poker July 1, million-dollar prize pools may become commonplace, and the Florida Million series will fit in nicely.

"No matter what the limits are I think this format transcends that," Gamber said. "If you can get six or seven people to agree and have a common goal to provide the best possible events that you can, I think no matter what the buy-in is, the Florida Million will continue on." ♠



For complete Florida Million results please turn the page.

Florida Million results, including name, payout and qualifying location.

1. Charlie Miller Jr., \$137,000, Derby Lane
2. Alexander Gregory, \$73,000, Derby Lane
3. Toan Trinh, \$73,000, Derby Lane
4. David Bennett, \$78,000, Derby Lane
5. Joseph Parrish, \$62,000, Derby Lane
6. John Berger, \$55,000, Palm Beach
7. Richard Grant, \$55,000, Daytona
8. Randy Mueller, \$63,000, Derby Lane
9. Roy Cohen, \$55,000, Palm Beach
10. Eddie Cone, \$10,000, Jacksonville
11. Eugene Calden, \$8,000, Palm Beach
12. Jonathan Anitra, \$8,000, Palm Beach
13. Terry Britton, \$8,000, Palm Beach
14. Tan Trinh, \$7,000, Derby Lane
15. Sheldon Gross, \$7,000, Palm Beach
16. Donald Hornby, \$7,000, Mardi Gras
17. Mark Gallo, \$6,000, Palm Beach
18. Rajesh Vohra, \$6,000, Palm Beach
19. Eric Kolodny, \$6,000, Mardi Gras
20. Driton Haxhijaj, \$6,000, Mardi Gras
21. Monty Dweck, \$5,000, Mardi Gras
22. Nick Avena, \$5,000, Daytona
23. Lee Hung, \$5,000, Daytona
24. Gary Petro, \$5,000, Jacksonville
25. Mike Pascale, \$5,000, Jacksonville
26. Chris Moulton, \$5,000, Jacksonville
27. Christina Fischer, \$5,000, Naples-Fort Myers
28. William Metcalf, \$5,000, Jacksonville
29. Eric Brewster, \$5,000, Palm Beach
30. Mark Bernstein, \$5,000, Mardi Gras
31. David Keil, \$3,875, Daytona
32. Cuong Tran, \$3,875, Daytona
33. Louis Frank, \$3,875, Derby Lane
34. Bill Soscia, \$3,875, Naples-Fort Myers
35. Georgia Feller, \$3,875, Palm Beach
36. Jagdish Punjabi, \$3,875, Daytona
37. Steven Burkholder, \$3,875, Derby Lane
38. Jerry Worlock, \$3,875, Daytona
39. Pete Valdes, \$3,875, Derby Lane
40. Steve Constantino, \$3,875, Daytona
41. Raymond McDonough, \$3,875, Palm Beach
42. Ricardo Rodriguez, \$3,875, Derby Lane
43. Farad Jattin, \$3,875, Mardi Gras
44. Douglas McCay, \$3,875, Palm Beach
45. Brian Wood, \$3,875, Derby Lane
46. Howard Darnold, \$3,875, Palm Beach
47. Kerry Goldberg, \$3,875, Jacksonville
48. Mike Matthews, \$3,875, Derby Lane
49. Chase Fredensburg, \$3,875, Derby Lane
50. Alan Phillips, \$3,875, Daytona
51. Diana Ross, \$2,900, Mardi Gras
52. Morris Kauffman, \$2,900, Mardi Gras
53. Qasem Jambour, \$2,900, Mardi Gras
54. Bernard Schmidt, \$2,900, Naples-Fort Myers
55. Vinnie Iannuzzi, \$2,900, Naples-Fort Myers
56. Kurt Gregory, \$2,900, Mardi Gras
57. Scott Zakheim, \$2,900, Palm Beach
58. Stuart Greenbaum, \$2,900, Mardi Gras
59. Harry Demakes, \$2,900, Derby Lane
60. Filipp Khavin, \$2,900, Derby Lane
61. Antonio Lyons, \$2,900, Palm Beach
62. Lance Newton, \$2,900, Jacksonville
63. Paul Mastella, \$2,900, Naples-Fort Myers
64. Scott Corbitt, \$2,900, Daytona
65. Robert Quintana, \$2,900, Derby Lane
66. Robert Vaughan, \$2,900, Jacksonville
67. Kirk Fritsch, \$2,900, Naples-Fort Myers
68. Henry Moses, \$2,900, Palm Beach
69. Sharon Levin, \$2,900, Mardi Gras
70. James Kerr, \$2,900, Derby Lane
71. Hans Winzeler, \$2,400, Mardi Gras
72. Josh Flann, \$2,400, Jacksonville
73. James English, \$2,400, Palm Beach
74. William Moffett, \$2,400, Derby Lane
75. Rob Jaenicke, \$2,400, Naples-Fort Myers
76. Justin Warner, \$2,400, Palm Beach
77. Dan Dyke, \$2,400, Daytona
78. Phil Drigant, \$2,400, Mardi Gras
79. Sergio Esteban, \$2,400, Mardi Gras
80. Tony Pellegrini, \$2,400, Derby Lane
81. Michael Nicholas, \$2,400, Mardi Gras
82. Pam Moore, \$2,400, Jacksonville
83. Michael Tafaro, \$2,400, Derby Lane
84. Marsha Wolak, \$2,400, Derby Lane
85. Alex Jean-Giles, \$2,400, Mardi Gras



86. Roy Vazquez, \$2,400, Jacksonville
87. James Cousino, \$2,400, Derby Lane
88. Dalton Mills, \$2,400, Jacksonville
89. William Toth, \$2,400, Naples-Fort Myers
90. Anderson Echavaria, \$2,400, Mardi Gras
91. Travis Morey, \$1,950, Jacksonville
92. Craig Fishman, \$1,950, Daytona
93. Dan Clark, \$1,950, Daytona
94. Nancy Ricks, \$1,950, Jacksonville
95. Patrick Malone, \$1,950, Jacksonville
96. Julius Ktori, \$1,950, Mardi Gras
97. Nicos Ktori, \$1,950, Mardi Gras
98. Steven Dockswell, \$1,950, Palm Beach
99. Sara Malowitz, \$1,950, Derby Lane
100. Steve Rockmuller, \$1,950, Derby Lane
101. Rosanne Brandt, \$1,950, Daytona
102. Jeremy Gianfgona, \$1,950, Mardi Gras
103. Andrew Kelsall, \$1,950, Derby Lane
104. Jing Haidong, \$1,950, Mardi Gras
105. Mike May, \$1,950, Palm Beach
106. Don Rolfe, \$1,950, Palm Beach
107. Bill Ryan, \$1,950, Palm Beach
108. Mike Schiappa, \$1,950, Palm Beach
109. Pierrot Massenat, \$1,950, Mardi Gras
110. Stephen Eder, \$1,950, Derby Lane
111. John Barber, \$1,650, Daytona
112. Jose Rodriguez, \$1,650, Mardi Gras
113. Dolline Vance, \$1,650, Palm Beach
114. Manuel Leon, \$1,650, Palm Beach
115. Paul Stanechewski, \$1,650, Derby Lane
116. Neil Kanterman, \$1,650, Palm Beach
117. Robert Williams, \$1,650, Mardi Gras
118. Lloyd Mandel, \$1,650, Naples-Fort Myers
119. Sebastian Laurent, \$1,650, Naples-Fort Myers
120. Ronald Cahen, \$1,650, Daytona
121. Gabe Leighton, \$1,650, Derby Lane
122. Tom Nguyen, \$1,650, Naples-Fort Myers
123. Tom Marciano, \$1,650, Mardi Gras
124. Cuong Pham, \$1,650, Naples-Fort Myers
125. Uri Kadosh, \$1,650, Mardi Gras
126. Greg Veltra, \$1,650, Palm Beach
127. Scott Mersky, \$1,650, Palm Beach
128. June Amer, \$1,650, Mardi Gras
129. Greg Cosenza, \$1,650, Daytona
130. Kenneth Pittman, \$1,650, Mardi Gras
131. Jeff Chapman, \$1,400, Derby Lane
132. Lucinda Rivera, \$1,400, Derby Lane
133. Carleen Heath, \$1,400, Daytona
134. Jorge Chavez, \$1,400, Mardi Gras
135. Rob Lindell, \$1,400, Derby Lane
136. Ron Nacol, \$1,400, Derby Lane
137. Bruce Lankford, \$1,400, Daytona
138. Bill Van Ormer, \$1,400, Jacksonville
139. Chris Kocher, \$1,400, Daytona
140. Chuck Clark, \$1,400, Palm Beach
141. David Fowler, \$1,400, Daytona
142. Jason Barthalamani, \$1,400, Derby Lane
143. Abe Crawford, \$1,400, Derby Lane
144. Richard Blanchar, \$1,400, Mardi Gras
145. Ian Feller, \$1,400, Derby Lane
146. Yves Fequiere, \$1,400, Mardi Gras
147. Dan Shortley, \$1,400, Palm Beach
148. Richard Lopez, \$1,400, Naples-Fort Myers
149. Jesus Ortega, \$1,400, Naples-Fort Myers
150. David Baker, \$1,400, Palm Beach
151. Ismael Delgado, \$1,400, Palm Beach
152. Dean Gauton, \$1,400, Derby Lane
153. Mark Jagiello, \$1,400, Derby Lane
154. Collin Williams, \$1,400, Derby Lane
155. Fremio Gomez, \$1,400, Daytona
156. Tom Bruschi, \$1,400, Derby Lane
157. Mike Bruno, \$1,400, Derby Lane
158. Amin Herari, \$1,400, Derby Lane
159. Coung Nguyen, \$1,400, Derby Lane
160. Peter Borzokv, \$1,400, Naples-Fort Myers
161. Donnie Vann, \$1,250, Jacksonville
162. Jermaine Certain, \$1,250, Jacksonville
163. Ryan Sheehan, \$1,250, Jacksonville
164. Arthur Smith, \$1,250, Palm Beach
165. Charlemagne Benjamin, \$1,250, Mardi Gras
166. Raphael Doromal, \$1,250, Daytona
167. Howard Becks, \$1,250, Mardi Gras
168. Sam Sundaram, \$1,250, Derby Lane
169. Nigel Murray, \$1,250, Mardi Gras
170. Andrew Strohm, \$1,250, Palm Beach
171. Josh Kurchin, \$1,250, Mardi Gras
172. Lou Cheffy, \$1,250, Naples-Fort Myers
173. David Katz, \$1,250, Palm Beach
174. Richard Sasso, \$1,250, Mardi Gras
175. Joe Anonesty, \$1,250, Mardi Gras
176. Trif Trajan, \$1,250, Mardi Gras
177. Basil Josisingh, \$1,250, Daytona
178. Ashley Bunch, \$1,250, Mardi Gras
179. Gary Bates, \$1,250, Daytona
180. Jason Greenberg, \$1,250, Palm Beach
181. Zung Nguyen, \$1,250, Derby Lane
182. Max Marion, \$1,250, Palm Beach
183. Brian Scheekey, \$1,250, Daytona
184. Antonio Moody, \$1,250, Derby Lane
185. Jose Martich, \$1,250, Mardi Gras
186. Jack Land, \$1,250, Daytona
187. Gerard Griffa, \$1,250, Palm Beach
188. Louis Bruno, \$1,250, Naples-Fort Myers
189. Diane Gagne, \$1,250, Derby Lane
190. John Racener, \$1,250, Derby Lane
191. Jeff Silverstein, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
192. Roxana Cintron, \$1,100, Derby Lane
193. Brett Delesus, \$1,100, Naples-Fort Myers
194. Aldo Pambianchi, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
195. Waseem Taranett, \$1,100, Daytona
196. Steve Flacco, \$1,100, Palm Beach
197. Mike Bury, \$1,100, Palm Beach
198. Magdiel Medina, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
199. Tony Close, \$1,100, Palm Beach
200. Walter Harris, \$1,100, Derby Lane
201. Norman Levesque, \$1,100, Derby Lane
202. Malcolm Ferguson, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
203. Milino Naik, \$1,100, Daytona
204. Scott Chea, \$1,100, Derby Lane
205. Mike Evans, \$1,100, Daytona
206. James Pridgen, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
207. Mike Wilson, \$1,100, Palm Beach
208. David Aronow, \$1,100, Palm Beach
209. Charlie Jarvis, \$1,100, Derby Lane
210. Brandon Blackman, \$1,100, Derby Lane
211. Toufik Belouahi, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
212. Graham Missouis, \$1,100, Derby Lane
213. Chester Adamson, \$1,100, Naples-Fort Myers
214. David Philleo, \$1,100, Naples-Fort Myers
215. Dennis Rodriguez, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
216. Ray Hadley, \$1,100, Derby Lane
217. Paul Senate, \$1,100, Palm Beach
218. Blair Miller, \$1,100, Naples-Fort Myers
219. John Carlon, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
220. Steve Gomez, \$1,100, Naples-Fort Myers
221. Zani Resuloska, \$1,100, Derby Lane
222. Dave Muscarella, \$1,100, Derby Lane
223. Dave Nomkos, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
224. Robert Paretta, \$1,100, Palm Beach
225. Scott Lagan, \$1,100, Palm Beach
226. Gary Little, \$1,100, Naples-Fort Myers
227. Zvi Shiff, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
228. James Kelly, \$1,100, Jacksonville
229. Barbara Cardin, \$1,100, Derby Lane
230. Martin Shapiro, \$1,100, Derby Lane
231. Salman Lakhani, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
232. Lashone Bodard, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
233. Terrence Selover, \$1,100
234. James Gleason, \$1,100, Mardi Gras
235. Mike Collins, \$1,100, Naples-Fort Myers

Derby Lane
**poker
room**

Located at Derby Lane Greyhound Track
10490 Gandy Blvd., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

1:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Sunday - Thursday
2:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Friday - Saturday



Featured Promotions (727) 812-3339 ext. 214

We offer a wide range of daily promotions that give our players the chance to win extra money and prizes.

To find out what we have running, please visit www.derbylanepoker.com or see our handouts in the poker room.

Check in for the latest updates on the new limits for July 1st on www.derbylanepoker.com

Featured Tournaments (727) 812-3339 ext. 216

We run 3 to 4 daily multi-table tournaments, with buy-ins usually ranging from \$60 to \$220 and we schedule featured tournaments each month.

The last Saturday of every month is our Mega Stack Tournament, with a \$200+\$20 buy-in, 12000 units and 30 minute blinds.



For our tournament calendar, visit www.derbylanepoker.com



June will be World Series Month. Check out the June Tournament Calendar for promotions and tournaments for your chance to win your way in to the main event.



SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA

Beautiful magnolia trees bloom majestically as they dot the flanking property along Interstate 10 and sandy beaches hug the twisting curves of Highway 90 like a long lost friend. Must be a Mississippi Gulf Coast Road Trip! ¶ Perhaps the only thing more attractive than these natural beauties is the expectation of playing poker in some of the finest establishments The South has to offer. *Ante Up* recently visited the seven poker rooms that stretch the southern edge of Mississippi, meeting some terrific managers, staff and characters along the way. ¶ And despite the not-yet-forgotten devastation of Hurricane Katrina and the impending misfortunes headed their way from an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the dealers, floors and managers still have the friendliest dispositions in the country. ¶ Whether it's the quiet local flavor of Boomtown, Hollywood and the Silver Slipper, the exciting nightlife vibe of the Isle, IP and Hard Rock casinos or the stunning beauty and big-action games of Beau Rivage, *Ante Up* indeed has found something on this Southern Mississippi trip for everyone.

BEAU RIVAGE

Beau Rivage literally means “beautiful shore,” and you’d have a hard time arguing with that as you walk over the marble and mosaic floors toward the breathtaking views of gardens, pools and the golf. But what also might make you breathe a little heavier is the action you’ll find in the poker room.

The crown jewel of the Mississippi Gulf Coast spreads the biggest games in the state, and when the property hosts one of its three signature events (WPT Southern Poker Championship, Gulf Coast Championships and Spring Break Poker Classic), there’s no limit to how high games can get as pros from around the world descend upon what some players call Bellagio South.

The upstairs Magnolia Ballroom will add anywhere from 23 to 65 tables for these huge events, but the Beau isn’t just about big tournaments and big action. It’s about the player.

“Our No. 1 rule is: Whatever the players want,” poker room manager Johnny Grooms said. “We want to set up an experience where the only thing the player has to worry about is playing poker. ... Their goal is to be entertained and to get a first-rate product. And our focus is making sure that’s what they get.”

Players also can count on plenty of bonuses.

“We probably give away more money in this poker room than anywhere I’ve seen,” said Grooms, who has been with the Beau since 2007 but started in poker in 1999.

Tournament satellites for their signature events, royal flushes (\$500 in spades, \$200 in other suits), round-the-clock aces cracked (Tuesday-Thursday) and lucky-seat drawings give you a lot of chances to win free cash. And this summer they’ll be giving away \$100K in cash promotions, including four \$5K seats into their WPT main event.

The room’s amenities include tableside dining and massage, liberal comps and the Bravo Tracking System, which Grooms says is handy



The 16-table room has a high-limit area in the rear.

for his staff and players.

“It allows players to see where they are on the list,” he said. “It allows us to keep track of time for players for awarding their comps. ... Four hours of play and you’ll get a ticket to the buffet.”

Shift managers, floors, brushes and dealers were friendly, fun to be around, sharp and efficient.

“We feel like our service is better than most,” Grooms said.

WEB SITE: www.beaurivage.com

PHONE: (228) 386-7092

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold’em (\$4-\$8 limit; \$1-\$2 NL — with a \$6 timed rake every 30 mins. — \$2-\$5 NL, and \$5-\$10 NL and \$10-\$25 NL on weekends) and PLO (\$2-\$5, \$5-10, \$10-\$25).

STAFF: 75-80 (55 dealers) • **TABLES:** 16 (five for high limits)

BOOMTOWN CASINO

When you’re in a competitive market you have to be creative to survive. You have to have something you’re known for, something no one else has. For the poker room at Boomtown Casino that something would be the ashtray. Boomtown is the only poker room in the area that allows players to smoke at the table. So if you like to light up as you’re check-raising that kid who has his cap screwed on sideways,

Boomtown is for you.

But it’s not all about the smoke. The poker room may be small, tucked away in the corner of the second floor, but it has character. On the wall is a collage of autographed old-time playing cards from the cast of *Maverick*, including Jodie Foster’s **Queen of Hearts**.

Next to the display is a self-serve counter with hot dogs and popcorn.

“We used to have nachos,” said a smiling **Debbie Luzius**, who’s been with Boomtown for 18 months. “You can eat at the

table but they do not bring the food to you. You gotta go get it. The grill is like a 100 yards away.”

Luzius swears by the grill’s hot ham-and-cheese sandwich that’s served on a pretzel roll. It’s \$6.99 and you get tater tots and a soda. And the casino’s bakery gets raves as well.

But enough about food and smoke; let’s talk poker.

Remember how we said the room had character? There are Omaha and stud bad-beat jackpots that likely will never be hit because they never get those games going. And there are no tournaments. Luzius said the tournament market, which mostly consisted of monthly \$100 events in the past, shriveled up after last summer.



The most popular game by far is the \$1-\$4-\$8-\$8 spread-limit, which seems to be the case in most of the rooms on the coast. There are bad beats in hold’em (mini jackpots pay 10 percent of the overall jackpot) and there’s an aces-cracked promotion where your name goes into a box and if you get picked you could win \$25, \$50 or \$100.

The busiest nights are Friday and Saturday for a poker room that had three tables before Katrina and now has five.

“We get four games on Friday nights,” Luzius said. “We’re like one big happy family in this room. We give them whatever they need to have and we have open arms to everybody.”

WEB SITE: www.boomtownbiloxi.com

PHONE: (228) 436-8999

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold’em (\$1-\$4-\$8-\$8 spread-limit; \$1-\$2 no-limit, mostly on weekends)

STAFF: 10 • **TABLES:** 5



HARD ROCK BILOXI

If you're looking for an aesthetically pleasing poker experience be sure to hit the Hard Rock: cool rock 'n' roll art on the walls, sharply designed felts and Renee Lawrence, an equally cool poker room manager who treats her players the way she expects to be treated when she plays.



"I play poker, when I get a chance," Lawrence said, laughing. "So when I opened the room I kinda designed it after what I would look for in a room. And No. 1 was no timed drop. The other thing was no rebuy tournaments."

The Hard Rock has a solid Saturday tournament (\$55 for 4K units, one \$20 add-on with 15-minute levels until the break, then 20 minutes)

that starts at 3 p.m.

"Straight across the board, 3 p.m. for all tournaments," said Lawrence, who might be better known as Renee Weaver (she recently got hitched). "I like to make it easy and not have you worry about what time the tournament starts. It's always 3 p.m."

You can tell the room's clientele isn't of the "local" variety by the fact \$1-\$2 NLHE is the game of choice, unlike the spread- and structured limit that's so popular elsewhere.

"We play very little limit here," she said. "We don't take a timed drop on our \$1-\$2 no-limit. We do \$2 for the jackpot, but it's \$1 at \$15 and \$1 at \$30, as opposed to some others who take (\$2) at \$15. That's kinda hard to fade."

The bad-beat jackpot is looser than most (aces full of queens beaten by quads or better and you don't need an ace in your hand) and that's by design. Plus there are high hands with corresponding payouts.

"We try to give the money back (to the players) that we get in the jackpot as fast as we can," said Lawrence, who's been in poker since



If you're a tight player there's plenty to look at in this room while you're folding your cards.

1993, opening this room in 2007. "I'd rather have them come in and not have to shoot for the stars."

The staff "really pushes" tableside dining, according to Lawrence because they want the players to be comfortable. And this isn't a case of servers coming in to take your order. Lawrence's staff is multifunctional, taking player orders and getting their food for them.

"If you're hungry, we'll feed you. We cater to a laid-back type of person and we try to give them kick-ass service. That's what we're all about."

WEB SITE: www.hardrockbiloxi.com

PHONE: (228) 374-7625

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (mostly \$1-\$2 no-limit and occasionally \$1-\$4-\$8-\$8 limit)

STAFF: 19 • **TABLES:** 6

HOLLYWOOD BAY ST. LOUIS

Poker players at Hollywood Casino Bay St. Louis should be grateful the property has a golf course. That's the only way poker room manager **Darryl Hodgson** could be lured out of retirement, and the poker room is much better off having him on its side. Hodgson, who has been in the business for 34 years with about seven years in poker, took over the poker room three years ago and has turned it into a family environment.



"All casinos offer the same thing," he said. "They all offer \$1-\$4-\$8-\$8; they all offer no-limit. What they don't offer is when you come in I say, 'Hi, Chris.' I know what you do for a living; I know what my customers do for a living, what their health concerns are ... they walk in, they give you a kiss, they give you a hug, they give you a handshake, and that's what we want. I want you to come back over and over."

Hollywood also offers a crazy pineapple tournament on Thursdays, which you can't find in too many rooms. It's \$45 (6:30, 2,500 chips) and a lot of fun. And you'll always find lower-limit NLHE tournaments (Monday and Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., \$30 with unlimited rebuys; Sat. (\$40) and Sun. (\$55) with no rebuys at 12:30).

There's no tableside dining, but they do have hot dogs and a handful of flatscreen TVs in the room. As far as promotions, there is aces cracked on Mondays (\$50) and progressive Tuesdays (\$100 first time, \$150 second and up to \$200 third) from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. High hands also get paid \$50 every hour Wednesday-Thursday (10-6 p.m.) and Friday (10-2 p.m.). And as you saw in the April issue of *Ante Up* the casino brought Poker Hall of Famer T.J. Cloutier to town to teach a hold'em seminar.

"We're thinking of doing another one," Hodgson said. "It's just figuring out the cost."



Brandi Longman deals to the regulars in the game of choice: \$1-\$4-\$8-\$8 limit hold'em.

Again, it's about treating the players right, something Hodgson instills in his staff.

"We know most of our customers by their first name, which we kind of insist on. We have a nice friendly room."

WEB SITE: www.hollywoodcasinobsl.com

PHONE: (866) 758-2591 x4026

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$1-\$4-\$8-\$8 limit; \$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 no-limit (on weekends usually))

STAFF: 17 (14 dealers) • **TABLES:** 6

IP CASINO

If it weren't for Hurricane Katrina the IP Casino might never have ventured back into poker. The property once had a poker room in the late '90s for a few months, but that was a debacle.

When Katrina devastated the area gambling barges, the IP took that opportunity to renovate its property and add the swankiest poker room in southern Mississippi.

"When I came here (in Oct. '05) this place was literally a shell," said poker room manager Jim Sterling. "They gutted it and redid the whole property. We've built this from concrete floor and steel rails on the ceiling. That's all we had, no walls, no nothing. Within two months the contractors they hired put this place together. We were the first ones open, right around Christmas week of '05. That was pretty amazing. It's really been a whirlwind for this property."

Two things come to mind when you sit at the IP tables: food and comfort. The menu for the tableside dining was designed with the poker player in mind, and the food comes from the casinos restaurants.

"We were the first ones to implement that on the coast back in early 2006," Sterling said. "Our biggest seller is the IP burger. We even do soups in a cup for our players. That's growing more popular."

The room is spacious and the seats are sweet, which was important to Sterling.

"I wanted a chair people could sit in for hours and be comfortable. We probably spent more money on chairs than most people spend on their entire rooms."



IP's 14-table room is very spacious, and check out the bamboo floor that frames the room.

As for poker, there are plenty of promotions to keep you seated as well. Aces cracked wins \$100 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; poker squares (\$200 hourly Sun.-Mon.) and Play Your Way is a great way to enter tournaments on the cheap. If you play four hours between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. (Mon., Tue., Sat.) the house will pay \$50 of your \$60 buy-in to the next day's daily tournament.

Speaking of tournaments, the IP, which is an official WSOP satellite location, hosts two signature events, one in the fall and one in the spring. This fall it will host a WSOP circuit event (the tentative schedule is Oct. 28-Nov. 10), which Sterling says has everyone excited.

The IP poker room is a very relaxed place and a complete experience for the discerning player.

"We're not high-pressured," Sterling said. "And we have something for everyone."

WEB SITE: www.ipbiloxi.com

PHONE: (888) 946-2847 x8554

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$1-\$2 no-limit; \$4-\$8 limit)

STAFF: 50 • **TABLES:** 14

ISLE OF CAPRI

Finding a stud game in southern Mississippi is like trying to find a watermelon in a sweet potato pie ... you just won't find one. Don't blame Isle manager **Steve Galle**, though, because he's been pushing to spread stud in his poker room for ages. He even offers cash for stud-specific high hands and still nothing. But to his credit Galle gets a \$4-\$8 H.O.S.E. game on Tuesdays and Thursdays. That mixed game is pretty much the only chance a player will have to play stud or stud/8 along the coast, so if antes are your thing head to the Isle.

Galle makes sure promotions are offered every day and tableside dining is always an option as the staff with give you an order form, then call down and get it for you. The room is quiet with no slots ringing in the background as you're trying to make a big decision. It's also across from the buffet and 20 feet from the restrooms. Tournaments are NLHE and six days a week, mostly freezeouts, but sometimes there's a bounty event (\$60, Saturdays, 3 p.m.)

And there may be a new room on the horizon, but "it's in corporate's hands." Galle says it's been in the works since

after Katrina hit and he feels once the economy steadies it may happen. If the

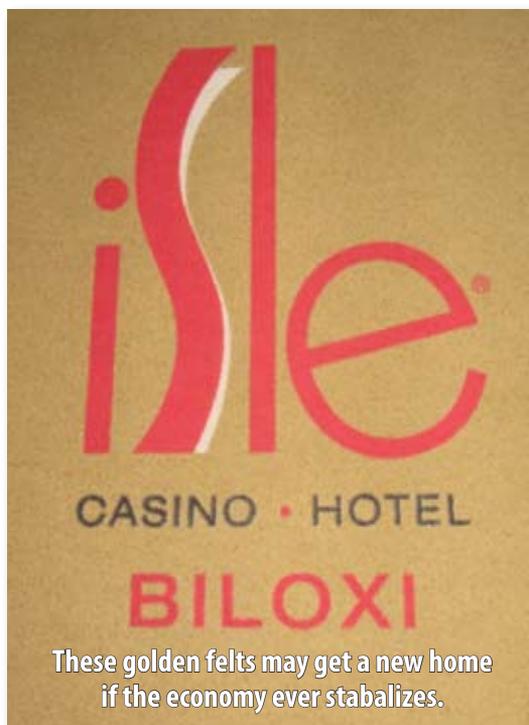
Isle at Pompano Park in Florida is any indication of what's to come then the Biloxi room certainly will be the place to be.

Galle is mostly proud of two things: charity and rake.

First, charity: His room collected more than 2,500 toys for the Toys for Tots drive two years ago by giving more chips to players who brought in a unopened \$10 toy. Last year they collected 900 toys. The room also partners with Paralyzed Vets and recently with St. Baldrick's Hospital to raise money for their needs (see story Page 30).

Now, the rake: When the area rooms all reopened after Katrina, Galle said rooms were taking \$6 from each pot.

"Well, to drum up business I went, for eight months, back to the old \$3 rake with a \$2 jackpot. I was taking \$2 less than the rest of the places and keeping \$3 less for the house. ... Then I brought it up to \$4 and \$2. ... Next thing you know they're dropping their rakes. So now, if you go to just about any place here along the coast you're looking at a \$4 and \$2 rake. Every one of them oughta come thank me."



WEB SITE: biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com

PHONE: (228) 436-7967

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: hold'em (\$4-\$8 limit with \$1-\$2 blinds; \$1-2 NL; H.O.S.E. on Tue. & Thurs.)

STAFF: 29 • **TABLES:** 9

SILVER SLIPPER CASINO

Isn't it great when someone appreciates you?

Sunday is Player Appreciation Day at the Slipper's poker room. Every hour you play and every full house or better you make you get a ticket for drawings for cash (\$100 every hour). Drawings start at 11 a.m. and players line up at 9:30 to get in. You must be playing in a cash game to win; otherwise the money rolls over. And payouts double the last Sunday of the month.



Shift manager **Cheyenne Coates**, who's been in poker for 40 years and with the Slipper since 2006, runs the room and makes sure her players are happy.

"We give comps," she said. "We have food always brought in; we give away jackets for royals, hats for straight flushes."

And in the corner of the room is a display that depicts the "History of Poker." Old-time playing cards, trinkets, games, etc. decorate the case and add a little extra something to the five-table room. When asked what makes her poker room different Coates said, "Me," and then she chuckled. But she says the players are all friends and they tell her they like to play there because it's a well-run room and it's clean.

Another big reason to play there regularly is their signature event: The Silver Slipper Invitational, Aug. 18-21. The top 70 players with 220-plus hours of play, plus every SNG winner, get a seat to play for free in this invitation-only event. If they win the invitational they'll earn a tournament seat and room in Beau Rivage's Gulf Coast Championship main event in September.

Aside from the invitational, the tournament business is almost non-existent.

"We used to have two or three sit-and-go tournaments every Saturday," Coates said. "But then we had the hurricanes and that was it."



But if you're looking for what's really unique you have to look at the cash games and something called "overs." Since it's a small room they can't always get a \$1-\$2 NLHE game going. So to encourage these players to stick around they're invited to play in the popular \$4-\$8 limit game, but with a twist. They're given "over buttons" to indicate they're allowed to play no-limit if they're the only players remaining in a hand. So, for instance, if two "over" players and a strictly limit player are in a hand and the limit player folds on the turn, then the "over" players will be playing no-limit for the remainder of the hand.

Just another way Coates and her staff go the extra mile to please their patrons.

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STAFF: 14 (10 dealers) • **TABLES:** 5

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Thu	7 PM: \$50 No Limit Hold'em MTT
Fri	7 PM: \$65 No Limit Hold'em MTT

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The Southern Gaming Summit in Biloxi, Miss., is a once-a-year opportunity for great gaming minds to come together.



THE STATE OF GULF COAST GAMING IS GOOD

Dearest Mississippi Gulf Coast,

I know we've grown apart since I've moved from Pensacola, but you must know that the absence has made the heart grow fonder. Visiting you again last month left no doubt to that.

No matter how many hurricanes howl off your coast, no matter how much oil gushes in your gulf, nicer people will never be found, your tasty food will forever be hard to top and your gaming will always be grand.

XOXO,
Scott



SCOTT LONG

After Chris Cosenza and I returned from visiting every poker room from Bay St. Louis to Biloxi, it was easy to remember why I had been so smitten with the Gulf Coast.

My first tournament cash came at the Grand Casino, a poker room that stands no more. ("Gosh, that was a great room," we heard time and time again on our travels last month, as many of the room's staff and players have moved on to other rooms.) I bought a mailbox with that money, and it's a trophy of sorts that still stands in what today passes for my yard.

While that great Grand room is gone, seven worthy poker rooms — and everything else in the resilient region — still offer plenty to pine over. Please spend some time reading our Road Trip on Pages 40-44 and plan a trip there yourself soon. You'll love it, too.

But this trip was about more than poker, as the annual Southern Gaming Summit brought movers and shakers together to assess the state of the gaming market in Mississippi and beyond.

To no one's surprise, the lingering effects of the recession that erode a little more each day were still fresh in everyone's minds.

"We're seeing our deepest declines here in The South," said R. Scott Barber, regional president of Mid-South operations for gaming giant Harrah's Entertainment.

Pressure from expanded gaming in Alabama and Florida, coupled with increased competition within the Mississippi market, led Virginia McDowell, president of Isle of Capri Casinos Inc., to reason that the market has been transformed.

"This market has really become very similar to Atlantic City, in

Snapshot of the Mississippi market

CASINOS: 30
HOTEL ROOMS: 11,690
POKER TABLES: 154
SLOT MACHINES: 34,524
TABLE GAMES: 762
ANNUAL CASINO VISITS: 34 million

Emerging issues

STATE BUDGET: Will there be cuts? Will taxes increase?

ALABAMA: How will November's gubernatorial election change that state's gaming?

FLORIDA: What effect will expanded poker and a Seminole Compact have?

CASINO PROJECTS: What effect will the stalled Margaritaville project in Biloxi and announced projects in Tunica, Natchez, Diamondhead and D'Iberville have?

Source: 2009 Mississippi State of the State Annual Report

that it is pretty much a pure gaming play at this point," McDowell said. Without additional unique amenities to woo out-of-towners, McDowell continued, all of the region's properties are left to market to the same customer.

So what does this gloom and doom mean for poker? Well, in a direct sense, it means the region has one less room today than it did a month ago. Island View Resort in Gulfport closed its poker room on May 2, trading poker tables for tournament slot machines.

It's a move all too common to poker players. When times are tough, casinos look for every opportunity to squeeze a dollar out of their properties. And that means it's always tempting to cast away player-vs.-player gaming like poker so you can usher in games where players play against the house in a game stacked against them.

And in less certain terms, there's no doubt that marketing budgets have shrunk, though an entire Southern Gaming Summit panel was unanimous in saying that properties should spend more, not less, to

Continued on next page

SPECIAL REPORT

Southern Gaming Summit

Continued from previous page

promote themselves in downtimes. That means fewer incentives to get poker players to come play cards rather than go to the movies.

Taken together, these concerns are a reminder of the struggles that casino poker room managers have day in and day out: How do you convince casino executives and marketers that poker, while not a huge direct money-maker, is the straw that stirs the drink for bringing in the more desirable slots and table-games players? No poker room in your casino? Or a poker room in your casino that no one knows about? Then chances are those slot-playing spouses and friends of poker players will be losing their money in the poker-friendly casino down the street, not in yours.

But hope does spring eternal, especially in this market. Barber reminded summit attendees that the state's pro-active regulators mean that Mississippi is an "outstanding state to do business in." And McDowell said, "the light at the end of the tunnel right now is actually a light, not an oncoming train."

In the 2009 Mississippi State of the State Annual Report, the Mississippi Casino Operators Association acknowledged that many challenges remain in 2010, but that the state has proved its strength in the past and will do so again.

"Other recessions have occurred, and even the worst natural disaster in U.S. history did not hold the market down for long. As the nation climbs out of the recession, Mississippi's gaming industry will come back strong."

I'm still smitten, after all these years.

— Email Scott Long at scott@anteupmagazine.com.

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

Race for the Bracelet

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

1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach	7,600
2. Tomas Singson, Orange Park	3,650
3. Jay Roden, Estero	3,300
4. Luis Cristobal, Coral Gables	2,925
4. Mitchell Abrahams, Miami	2,925
6. Ken Basilio, Ft. Lauderdale	2,575
7. Rosa Muchovej, Ft. Myers	2,375
8. Zvi Shiff, North Miami	2,300
9. Raj Vohra, Lake Worth	2,150
10. Carleen Heath, Belleview	2,100
11. Robert Beyra, Hollywood	2,000
11. Armando Cisnero, Jacksonville	2,000
11. Nikita Patalinghug, Gainesville	2,000
14. Glen Blumberg, Alachua	1,975
15. Omar Diaz, Coconut Creek	1,900
16. Eugene Link, Cocoa Beach	1,750
16. James Nighbert, Hilliard	1,750
18. Rolland Botel	1,700
18. Ronnie Browne, Gainesville	1,700
18. Eddie Rosenberg, Miami Beach	1,700
18. Matt Ridley, Jupiter	1,700
18. Chet Sickle, Melbourne	1,700
18. Eli Gomez, Jacksonville	1,700
18. Joe Loiacono, Bonita Springs	1,700
18. Jimmie Robison, Folkston, Ga.	1,700
26. Peter Nadeau, Gainesville	1,625
27. Charle. Benjamin, Miami Gardens	1,525
28. Alberto Dominguez, Hollywood	1,500
28. Steve Mitchell, St. Augustine	1,500
28. Mark Petrillo	1,500
31. Nigel Murray, Miami	1,475
32. Jon Ronsiballe, Naples	1,450
32. Scott Long, Safety Harbor	1,450
34. Manny Leon, West Palm Beach	1,425
34. Becky Dery, St. Augustine	1,425
36. Carlos Dorca, Doral	1,400
36. Brian Capobianco, Tampa	1,400
38. Rob Corjay, Wesley Chapel	1,325
39. Glenn Fullone, St. Petersburg	1,300
39. Omar Recuero, Hollywood	1,300
39. Alex Fusco, Sunny Isles Beach	1,300
39. William Rodriguez, Lehigh	1,300
39. Raymond Witt, Lake City	1,300
39. Matt Blaxberg, St. Petersburg	1,300
45. Nick Maddas, Immokalee	1,250
45. Nancy Ridos, Jacksonville	1,250
45. Luis Deguzman	1,250
48. Victor Dillon, Loxahatchee	1,200
48. Larry Powell	1,200
48. James Ladeira, Dania	1,200

CAN ANYONE CATCH WALT?

Well, we're in the homestretch of the inaugural Ante Up Poker Tour and it looks like it might be a foregone conclusion.

As *Ante Up* goes to press there are a few May events left around Florida before we crown our AUPT Player of the Year, and the race looks like it's the same as it ever was.



Walt Strakowski Jr. of West Palm Beach has a commanding points lead over second-place Tomas Signson of Orange Park. Strakowski's 7,600 points are more than double that of Singson.

Strakowski started the year battling his father, Walt Sr., aboard the now-defunct Palm Beach Princess for his first 1,000-point score. He trailed Ken Basilio for the AUPT POY points lead after that first month, but before too long he had the lead and never relinquished it.

The winner of the AUPT POY race will receive a custom-made bracelet provided by Madison Jewelers, will be featured on the cover of *Ante Up* in July and will be interviewed on the award-winning *Ante Up PokerCast* on anteupmagazine.com.

But even if first place looks like a lock for Walt, there was still plenty to play for. This month we saw Rosa Muchovej of Ft. Myers surge into the top 10 (she's in seventh with 2,375 points). If she remains there, she (along with the rest of our top 10) will win Blue Shark Optics poker glasses and qualify for our AUPT party and bounty tournament at Palm Beach Kennel Club on June 8.

The party begins at 6 p.m. with a presentation of awards and prizes to our POY and top 10, followed by a \$125 bounty event at 6:30, which our top 10 gets to play in for free. Knock out any of our top 10 or *Ante Up* publishers Chris Cosenza and Scott Long and win a \$100 bounty. (See ad on next page.)

COMING SOON: Details on the AUPT's future.

APRIL RESULTS

CALDER CASINO

APRIL 10

1. Carlos Jimenez
2. Eric Davis, Miami Gardens
3. Keith Kulp, Miami Gardens
4. Alayne Zeto, Miami
5. Mark Proman, Boca Raton
6. Juan Romero, Kendall
7. Declined points
8. Declined points
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

DANIA JAI-ALAI

APRIL 2

1. David Lopez, Pembroke Pines
2. Charle. Benjamin, Miami Gardens
3. Susan Krowitz, Ft. Lauderdale
4. Nigel Murray, Miami
5. Steve Olek, Hollywood
6. Mike Jones, Ft. Lauderdale
7. Franklin Michel, Miramar
8. Stephen Karsay, Hollywood
9. Chris Nomikas, Hallandale
10. Mike Jaafar, Miami

FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER

APRIL 17

1. Regino Cowan, Melbourne
2. Catherine Guest, Melbourne
3. Jack Ambrosi, Melbourne
4. Chuck Clark, Port St. Lucie
5. Eric Backus, Tennessee
6. Daniel Clark, Melbourne
7. Donald Gousse, Port St. Lucie
8. Rich Clark, Port St. Lucie
9. Aaron Gunter, Vero Beach
10. Rich Macklem, Port St. Lucie

ISLE CASINO

APRIL 17

1. Brian Goldstein, Pompano Beach
2. Mohammad Massoud, Homestead
3. Rolando Wong, Miami
4. Eli Bohadanah, Plantation
5. Bobby Binsky, Hallandale Beach
6. Steven Sanzone, Weston
7. Gary Vanburhen, Plymouth, MI

8. Mike Eidelberg, Coral Springs

9. Jason Prest, Delray Beach
10. Felice Vasta, Royal Palm

OCALA POKER & JAI-ALAI

APRIL 24

1. Nikita Patalinghug, Gainesville
2. Phil Starner, Belleview
3. Lucian Stephens, Homosassa
4. Doug Garmichael, Leesburg
5. Chris Neyin, Gainesville
6. Carleen Heath, Belleview
7. Glen Blumberg, Alachua
8. Declined points
9. Sakis Saitis, Inverness
10. Declined points

ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB

APRIL 16

1. Jimmie Robison, Folkston, GA
2. Eli Gomez, Jacksonville
3. Bob Tims, Jacksonville
4. Bobby Benefield, Augusta, GA
5. Nancy Ricks, Jacksonville
6. Rich Tosnell, St. Mary's, GA
7. Pam Moore, Jacksonville
8. Shane Barnes, Jacksonville
9. Robbie Robinson, Orange Park
10. Declined points

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB

APRIL 23

1. Jim Kintz, Atlantis
2. Andre Yzo, West Palm Beach
3. Kevin Davis, West Palm Beach
4. Thomas Nasuti, Juno Beach
5. Dillon Madani, West Palm Beach
6. Lenny Pisciotto, West Palm Beach
7. Kevin Newman, West Palm Beach
8. Declined points
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB

APRIL 24

1. Jim Hooks
2. Joe Loiacono, Bonita Springs
3. Tom Sappington



Nikita Patalinghug won Ocala's event.

4. James Booe
5. Daniel Kinnetz
6. Jay Choi
- 7-10. Declined points

SEMINOLE H.R. HOLLYWOOD

APRIL 24

1. Lawrence Lipman, Bonita Springs
2. James Ladeira, Dania
3. John Joseph Piscopo, Pembroke Pines
4. Michael Tait, Hallandale
5. Russel Dohan, Coral Gables
6. Yaroslav Vasilievich, Hallandale
7. Steven Sanzone, Weston
8. Alexander Manuel Garcia, Miami
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA

APRIL 24

1. Taylor Mizelle, Suffolk, VA
2. Charlie Lo, Land O'Lakes
3. Wayne Hiott, Brandon
4. Jeff Essink, Tampa
5. Fred Atlas, Sarasota
6. Rodney Fisher, Riverview
7. Ron Brown, Tampa
8. Mike Ingalls, Dade City
9. Jason Smith, Tampa
10. Mostafa Asari Pir Alvan, Tampa

SEMINOLE IMMOKALEE

APRIL 3

1. Rosa Muchovej, Ft. Myers
2. Victor Burns, Lehigh Acres
3. Jeff Marculaitis, Cape Coral
4. Michael Tufaro, Ft. Myers
5. Dave Swivle, Ft. Myers
6. Emory Smith, Ft. Myers
7. Jen Han, New York
- 8-10. Declined points

ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK

APRIL 17

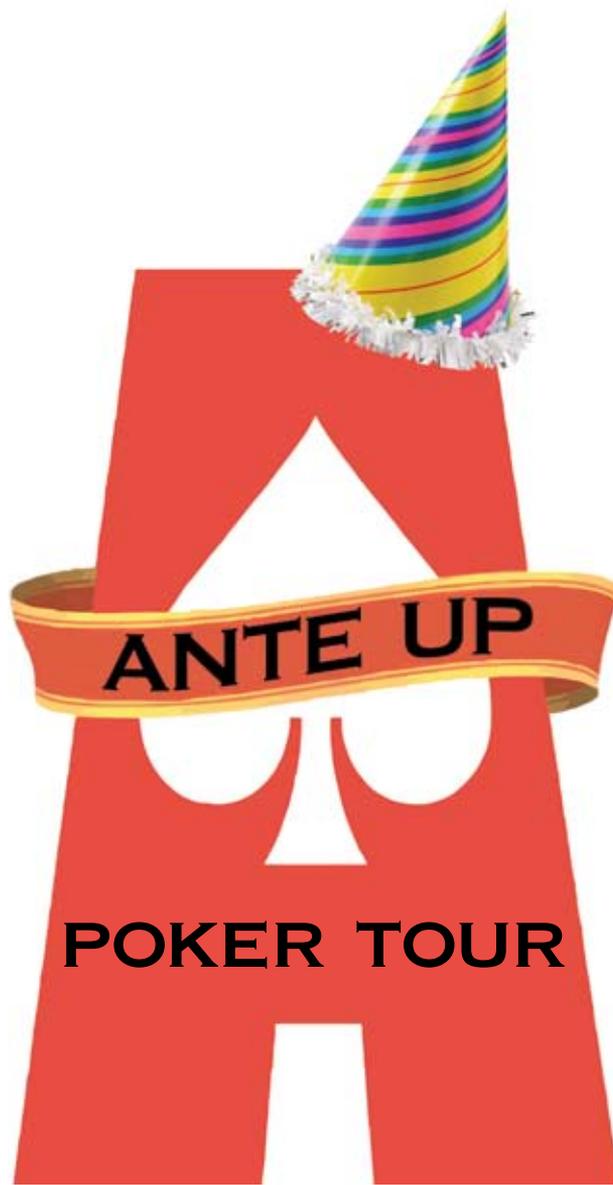
1. Armando Cisnero, Jacksonville
2. Dennis Bergeron
3. Tommy Onice
4. Donnie Vann
5. Becky Dery, St. Augustine
6. Barry Price
7. Declined points
8. Bob Woodward
9. Francis Deschaur, Jacksonville
10. Alta Sudduth, Jacksonville

TAMPA BAY DOWNS

APRIL 18

1. Peter Bogulski
2. Tony Peilecam
3. Rob Corjay, Wesley Chapel
4. Mickey Mazzatta
5. Jerry Kielian, Hollywood
6. Lmain Williams
7. Ralph Franco
8. Steve Ulrich
9. Dan O'Connor
10. James Fernald

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



TOURNAMENT PARTY

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 6 P.M.

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB • WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Celebrate with us as we congratulate our 2010 Ante Up Poker Tour Player of the Year and Top 10 with an awards presentation. Then the Top 10 and *Ante Up* publishers Chris Cosenza and Scott Long will have \$100 bounties on their heads in a \$125 tournament at 6:30 p.m. Every table has a bounty! Light snacks, too!

Player of the Year wins an \$1,100 custom silver bracelet from Madison Jewelers and a cover story in *Ante Up*. The rest of the Top 10 get stories in *Ante Up*, a pair of Blue Shark Optics and a free entry in the Player of the Year bounty tournament!



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ANTE UP
YOUR POKER MAGAZINE
anteupmagazine.com

As told to *Ante Up* publisher Christopher Cosenza

THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR TALKIN'

The following is one in an occasional series of recollections by Aquasino director of poker operations Dan Malka, who has rubbed elbows with just about every big name in poker history.

It was the late '80s and I was dealing the World Series of Poker at Binion's Horseshoe. I always enjoyed dealing the biggest games even though the tips were few and far between. The players were the most interesting, but on this particular day I didn't make any money and my last down was Table 60, "The Big Game."



DAN MALKA

Toward the end of the down I pushed a fairly large pot to Bobby Baldwin. While Bobby was stacking his chips, he mistakenly put an extra black chip (\$100) out on his small blind. It was accepted procedure for a player to put a tip in front of his blind for the dealer. Well, I knew damn well Bobby didn't intend to tip me \$100 but I picked up the chip in my hand, and said, "Bobby, what is this? You put an extra black chip out on your small blind." Bobby said, "Give it here," so I tossed it back to him.

Sitting front and center was Freddy Deeb. He looked at my nametag, smiled and said, "Dan, did you really think gentleman Bobby Baldwin was going to tip a guy dealer \$100?" and then he started laughing.

Bobby threw the black chip to me and said, "Change it up." So I did and he then threw me three reds (\$15). Bobby was not the kind of guy to tip a pretty lady more than a guy. He just had a soft spot for single mothers dealing to raise their children. Bobby Baldwin is all right.



Freddy got a big kick out of this. He was shaking his head and chuckling to himself the rest of the down and when I got tapped out, Freddy threw me a red chip and said nothing, but he kept shaking his head and laughing. Twenty dollars sure beats the hell out of the big fat zero I got the previous

two times I dealt Table 60.

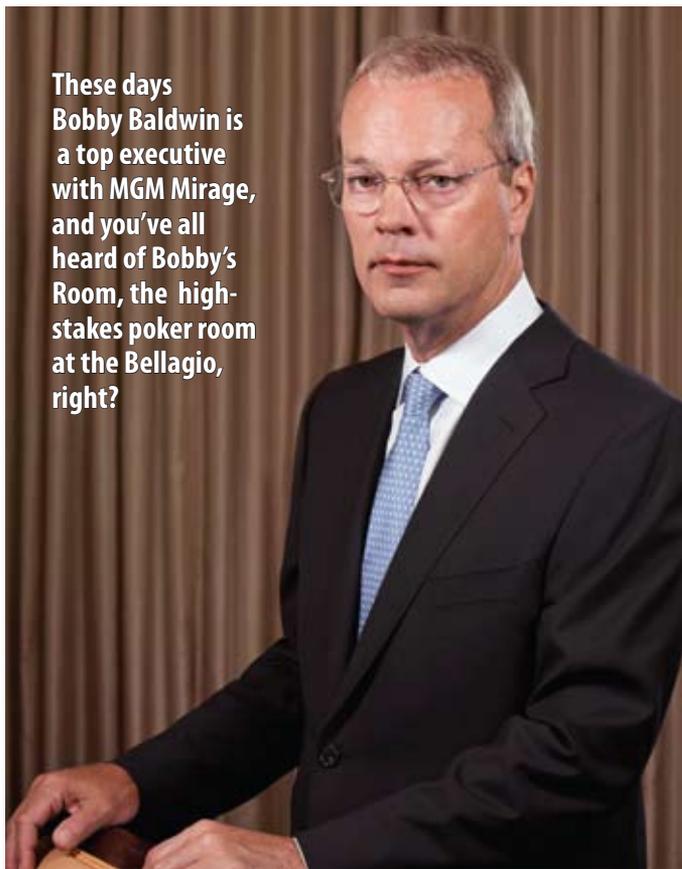
Two years later at the start of my shift at the WSOP, I was sitting on a dead spread (no game) on Table 59. There was a big ring game on Table 60. Then four players sat at my table and the floors took care of the buy-ins. I dealt for the button with Doyle Brunson in the small blind in Seat 4. Chip Reese was the big blind in Seat 6, Baldwin was first to act in Seat 8 and an out-of-town guy I somewhat recognized named Lyle was on the button in Seat 2.

Bobby fired first; Lyle raised huge and Doyle called. Chip, who was on the phone, interrupts whoever was talking and said, "I'm in a really huge game." He shut off his phone, looked at his cards and then mucked. The flop came **K♣-Q♦-J♦**. Bobby pushed all-in and Lyle called. Doyle stared a hole through Bobby. Chip stared at Doyle, then Bobby, then Lyle and back to Doyle. Doyle released his hand to me. The turn and river were misses. Bobby tabled pocket kings and Lyle had **A♦-K♦**. I pushed Bobby over \$100,000 on the first pot of this game. Bobby stood up, pulled out his wallet, took a \$100 bill and tossed it to the well. I grabbed it and said, "Bobby, what's this?"

"This time you can put it in your pocket!" he said.

Five hours later dayshift boss Schoff (John Sheffield, long time WSOP dayshift supervisor for Jack McClelland) caught me going on break and said, "Dan, you want an early out?"

These days Bobby Baldwin is a top executive with MGM Mirage, and you've all heard of Bobby's Room, the high-stakes poker room at the Bellagio, right?



"Why would I? I am having a great day."

"Because you're the guy Baldwin tipped \$100," he said.

I said, "Yeah, so?"

"Didn't you ever hear that if a player went broke, he could ask for his tip back?"

"What are you talking about?" I said, not sure if he was joking.

"Look over at Table 59," he said. "The game just broke up. Bobby was the only loser; he got crushed."

"I don't believe it," I said, "I thought the out-of-town guy Lyle was going to get killed."

"You don't know who Lyle Berman is?" he said. "He just won an event. He is also one of the wealthiest businessmen in the Midwest. He just made the game too big for Bobby."

"Yeah, but I thought Bobby was a rich guy, too," I said.

"How much do you think Bobby makes?" Schoff said. "Even if it's a million a year, do you think \$600,000 in one day isn't devastating to Bobby?"

"Geez, Schoff, you really bummed me out. I like Bobby," I said. "If it is not to late, I'll take you up on the early out."

Schoff laughed and said, "Get out of here. I'll see you tomorrow."

I went right out and bought a nice pair of boots. For years to come, any time somebody said, "Nice boots," they had to hear this story because I wanted everyone to know Bobby Baldwin is all right.

— Dan Malka is the director of poker operations for Aquasino Partners LLC in South Carolina. You can write to him at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

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STRUGGLES AT THE SAUSAGE FACTORIES

With a big sigh of relief, poker players across Florida saw their Legislature finally get it right. Led by Sen. Dennis Jones and Rep. Bill Galvano, the 2010 Legislature put to bed a host of issues that have been pending for years. Effective July 1, full no-limit action is on its way to Florida!



MARC DUNBAR

Picking up where it left off in 2009, political realists shook off objections from the conservative right and passed legislation to effectuate the provisions of the 2009 omnibus gaming bill that was held hostage pending the outcome of dispute with the Seminole Tribe of Florida over its gaming operation. The legislation created once and for all a gaming compact with the Seminoles that allow them to operate their Class III casino operations with blackjack.

For the parimutuel cardrooms, operating hours will be allowed to increase to 18 hours on weekdays and 24 hours on weekends and holidays. Tournament caps and betting limits are a thing of the past. Parimutuel casinos will see a nice tax break on their slot machine revenue from 50 percent to 35 percent, a reduction in their annual fee and an authorization for “wide area progressives” (Think multimillion dollar slot-machine jackpots). It’s expected that as a result of the change a few new poker rooms will pop up around the state, one outside of Tallahassee, two in the Ocala area, one in Volusia County and another in Palm Beach County.

While many heralded the legislation as a tremendous victory, others (particularly the parimutuels in the Tampa Bay area) are signaling it may be the beginning of the end for their facilities. Citing the competitive imbalance between the Seminole Hard Rock and their facilities, Tampa Bay Downs and Derby Lane expressed major reservations about the legislation when it passed. Time will tell, but as the new era embarks one thing is for sure, poker players in Florida were big winners.

Elsewhere in The South, poker players and casino-goers weren’t so lucky. South Carolina considered a number of bills aimed at clarifying social gambling. The idea behind the measures was to eliminate the selective prosecution that has led to a couple of very high-profile cases working their way up to the South Carolina Supreme Court. These cases involved home games where, on anonymous tips, law enforcement raided private games and arrested those involved. Smoke-and-mirrors lobbying and procedural delays by the conservative right ultimately prevented the bills from being taken up by the South Carolina House of Representatives. In the meantime, the court cases continue to work their way through

South Carolina courts as the various poker player groups and well-known pros such as Mike Sexton weigh-in to support those prosecuted in the hopes of clarifying a very old and very convoluted law.

Like South Carolina, Alabama saw itself embroiled in litigation and legislation trying to sort through the state’s gaming future. The Alabama Legislature has been at the epicenter recently in trying to answer one very basic question: What is bingo? Alabama is a state with a very conservative past and archaic constitution that prohibits pretty much all games of chance. However, over the years numerous amendments to the Alabama Constitution have allowed “charity bingo” in certain rural counties. These amendments, which went into effect before the computer age, have (with the help of local elected officials and a couple of judges) morphed into authorizations for slot-machine casinos. Developers have invested millions in developing gaming and entertainment venues anchored by Class II slot machines, which are based on the game of bingo.

Much like other southern states, the push and pull between conservatives and moderates made its way to the capital with the governor and the attorney general squaring off in the state supreme court over the slot-machine gambling. Most operations were shut down by the governor’s gambling task force and the 2010 Alabama Legislature moved in to clarify the dispute. In what has been criticized by Gov. Robert Riley as one of the most corrupt pieces of legislation he has ever seen, the Alabama Legislature came within a handful of votes of placing before the voters an amendment to the Alabama Constitution that would’ve ushered in the Yellowhammer State as the newest member of the fraternity of gaming states in our country.

In the end, it was not to be. Federal corruption investigators descended upon Alabama and the legislative votes began to evaporate. The legislative session ended without a measure being taken up by the full House or Senate. Most of the bingo slot machines remain dark, and the uncertainty will continue in Alabama for at least another

year, when a new governor will be at the helm. In the meantime, casino developers are looking elsewhere in the hopes of moving their shuttered operations to more friendly jurisdictions.

As the phrase goes, legislation is a lot like making sausage ... you don’t want to watch the process, but the result is often a treat for those who like it. For poker players in The South, the sausage factories in Alabama and South Carolina continue to work on their recipes, but in Florida come July 1, belly up to the buffet as the all-you-can-eat special is coming for poker players in the Sunshine State.

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



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ATTENTION FLA. PLAYERS: DON'T GO BROKE BY JULY 2

On July 1 the world as we know it is changing. Rivers will part, the sky will fall, dogs and cats will start living together ... oh, yeah, and we're FINALLY getting real poker in Florida.



DON BARUCH

So what does all this politicking really mean to you? We all have been bitching and moaning forever about \$100 maximum buy-in cash games and ridiculously low-limit games and tournaments.

What should we expect? Expect everything to change, and when it does, don't go broke.

I'm as eager as anyone for the upcoming changes, and I'm uniquely prepared for the onslaught. My 2007 World Series of Poker victory and payday helped bankroll me into a couple of years of Vegas and home cash games far above Florida's draconian poker laws. I also discovered it's easy to lose lots of money fast if you're not prepared and careful.

I admit I learned the hard way that bigger isn't always better. It can be much better, but just like anything in life there's a learning curve when things change. Therefore I have some suggestions to help prepare you for the changes. If you think July 1 just means you sit down at your favorite poker table and play your same game but with more money in front of you, don't be surprised if in 30 days you're looking back nostalgically at the good old days of \$100 max buy-ins and a positive balance in your savings account.

So, let me share a few tips to help you survive, enjoy and maybe even profit during this exciting time for Florida poker.

PLAN YOUR BANKROLL: You have a month to figure out how much money you can afford to lose and how fast you can afford to lose it. I would recommend a separate bank account just for poker. It keeps you organized and honest.

DROP DOWN IN LIMITS: In all likelihood most rooms will spread \$1-\$2 no-limit hold'em with minimum \$100 and maximum \$500 buy-ins; \$2-\$5 will run \$200 minimums and \$1,000 max; \$5-\$10 will require

\$500 minimum with no maximum; and \$10-\$25 will cost you \$1,000 to sit and there won't be a cap. So why move down in limits? After all, this is what you've been waiting for, right?

Here's why: You're playing a new game. Your decisions have become much more expensive and important. In a \$2-\$5 no-limit game are you willing to push \$500 preflop with J-J in your first hand at a new table? You can't afford to play stupid or scared. If the decisions are uncomfortably expensive, then you might start making them based on cost instead of sound poker fundamentals.

It's bad strategy to buy in for the minimum. Some players thrive at short-stack poker. They are scared, poor players. You're much better off buying in for \$200 at a \$1-\$2 table and having a medium stack than buying in for the same \$200 on a \$2-\$5 table and being dominated by nine players before you even play a hand. As the short stack you can't protect your hand, you can't bluff and you can't play real poker.

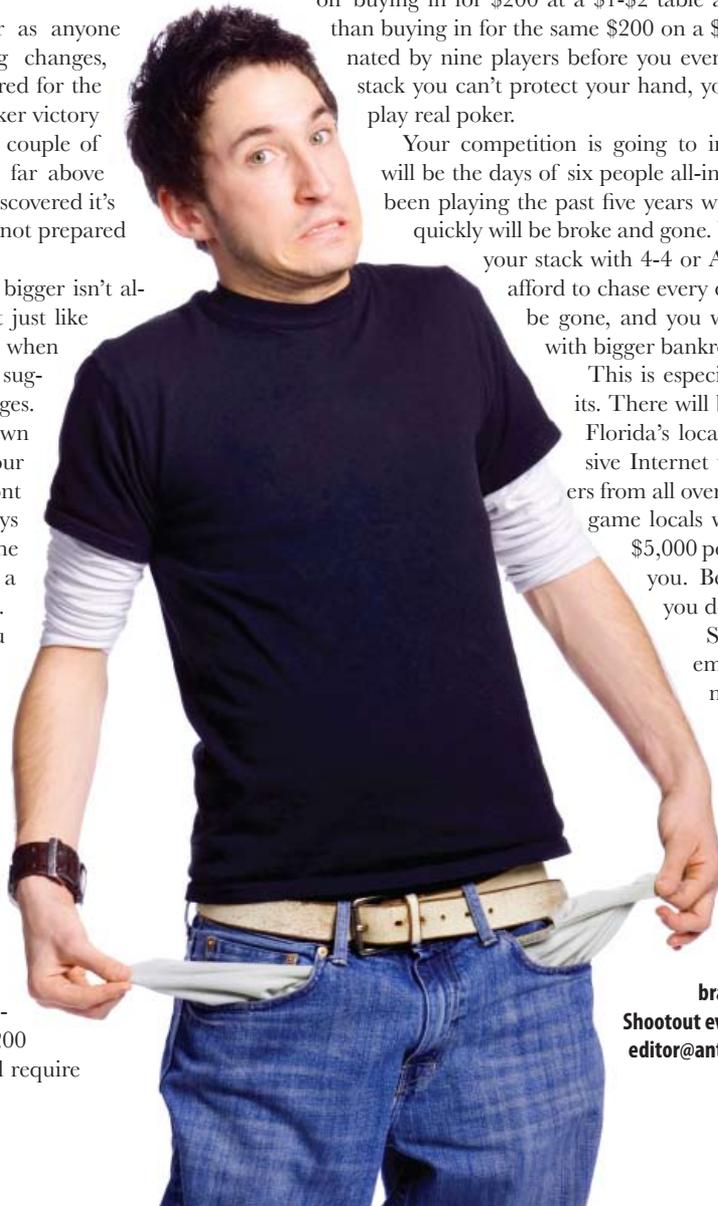
Your competition is going to improve dramatically. Gone will be the days of six people all-in preflop. The people you've been playing the past five years who don't adjust their games quickly will be broke and gone. You simply can't be pushing your stack with 4-4 or A-J suited preflop. You can't afford to chase every draw. The worst players will be gone, and you will be facing better players with bigger bankrolls.

This is especially true at the higher limits. There will be many new faces flooding Florida's local cardrooms. Super aggressive Internet whiz kids, high-stakes players from all over the country and top home-game locals who are used to playing for \$5,000 pots will be sitting across from you. Be very careful of the faces you don't recognize.

So, heed my warnings, but embrace the date. Start planning now for the greatest thing to happen to poker in Florida. But, plan ahead and play smart so you still have enough money to sit back down on July 2 and play another hand.

— Don Baruch lives in Tampa, Fla., and was the 2007 World Series of Poker bracelet-winner in the \$1,500

Shootout event. Contact him via email at editor@anteupmagazine.com.



ACUMEN POKER

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USE ONLINE TO PREP

I primarily play no-limit hold'em, so I thought it'd be a good idea to tell you how I prep for the World Series using online play. These same concepts also can be used for other variations of poker, but I'm not as versed in what buy-in levels will help you prepare the most. I suspect they're pretty close, though.



When I'm playing online, I tend to play a wide range of buy-in levels. Typically I play from \$5 to \$1,000. Leading into the Series, I actually try to play more of the smaller buy-in tournaments because I want to be sure I'm not only working on my advanced game. I need to be aware that in a lot of the smaller buy-in WSOP tournaments — though they're not cheap at \$1K to \$1,500 — there will be a lot of first-time players, recreational players and those looking to have fun. There will be a higher percentage of play-

ers who don't study and work on their game, and that means I have to be a bit more selective about certain plays and representing hands to try to get them to fold. It becomes a much more straightforward game where you simply bet your big hands strongly to maximize value and you don't get overzealous with your bluffing.

Here are my recommendations for tournaments to focus on when playing online as you gear up for your trip out west.

ONLINE EVENTS/BUY-IN/TYPE	WSOP EVENTS/BUY-IN/TYPE
\$5-\$50	\$1,000-\$1,500
\$100-\$200	\$2,000-\$3,000
\$100-\$200 rebuys/1R+1A/\$1K	\$5,000 - \$10,000
All buy-in levels	\$10,000 Main Event
Ring and Heads-up SNGs*	Shootouts/Final Tables

* Heads-up SNGs are useful for practicing blind v. blind and obviously for when you get heads-up in a tournament (the biggest pay jump is between first and second!).

Remember, just because you're playing in a big tournament online or live, that doesn't mean all of the competition is going to match up with the buy-in. There will be really good players in the smaller buy-ins and really bad players in the big buy-ins. The percentages usually match up pretty well and most players will fall in between somewhere. It's your job to figure out who's who and what they're capable of doing. If you're playing in the main event this year look out for amateurs wearing online-poker logos at the outer tables (as opposed to feature tables). They are online qualifiers and simply cashing in the main event may be a huge deal for them. ... especially if they have a deal like what Full Tilt is offering where they'll pay your 2011 main event buy-in if you just cash! The bubble may be very profitable for you if you're fortunate enough to have a few Full Tilt qualifiers who are looking at a much bigger cash bubble than most of the field.

Lastly, remember to enjoy yourself. There's nothing quite like playing at the WSOP if you're a diehard poker player. Play with money you can afford to play with so you can play with fearless aggression and play for the win. Don't play just to cash. Play for the bracelet and the big prize!

Decide to Win!

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



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DR. STEPHEN BLOOMFIELD • Poker psychology

YOU CAN PREVENT CHOKING WITH PRACTICE

Everyone has heard, seen or experienced choking ... in competition that is. It looks like simply falling apart at a crucial time.

Some think it has to do with pressure; others think it might have to do with circumstance (lights and cameras of a televised event). Some believe choking is the result of just plain giving up, like saying the competition is too strong; others offer too much stress, not enough preparation and lack of mental toughness as reasons.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

Is choking an inevitable part of competition? If you're competing, can you expect to choke at some time? And, most important, will you choke at the poker table?

First we need to define our terms. I went online to look at this issue and it seems every sports expert has a list of the 10 worst chokes of all time. Make yours up and see if it fits what I'm describing. Brett Favre in his last game this year is my favorite.

Choking comes in two forms in poker: the actual choke (total destruction) and what I have called the gag (sub-optimal play).

The good news is choking is not an inevitable part of poker. Of course it still sucks when it happens. Choking is not a bad beat or tilt. It is the failure to win because of your error. It's like a complete breakdown of your game. Gagging is sub-optimal performance for a session or several sessions, something everyone experiences.

The earliest use of the term "choking" I can find may have once referred to tests given to women condemned as witches. They were given the communion wafer and if the woman choked, not an unusual occurrence given the stress of being called a witch, and failed to swallow the wafer, she often was sentenced to death.

A great article titled *A Re-examination of Choking in Sport* in the *European Journal of Sport Science* said choking is indicated by "a significant/catastrophic drop in performance; and is marked by the level of performance declining dramatically from expected/normal standards. A moderate under-performance is not considered a choke."

It says there's a critical moment that occurs when the competition is considered important where you're striving for success and you can't perform the way you should. I would add the event has to have a lot at stake, whether it's money, prestige or ego. There's always an extreme stress response: not tilt, but feeling unable to cope with the pressure of the situation.

Individual and personal traits are important in preventing and predicting a choke. A competitor needs to develop mental toughness and self-confidence, needs to engage in functional thinking and keep a balance between poker and life.

A question you should ask yourself if you're gagging or choking is:

Will this matter in five, 10 or 20 years?

Everyone can expect occasional sub-optimal performance sessions but not everyone has to experience the devastation of choking.

Learn to identify your gagging or choking response and react in a positive way.

If you're at a cash game it's pretty easy. Leave. In a tournament you may have to do something else: Take a lap around the room, intentionally miss a rotation or do some deep breathing.

Psychology might be able to help you avoid the dreaded choke and even sub-optimal performance or the gag. Prior preparation and practice is the key. Following the sports psychology techniques I give you every month will help.

Here are some rules to follow, which will be helpful not only in gag/choke moments, but in general as well:

- Avoid negative self-talking. When you're playing badly take a break and start using positive self-talk. Negative self-talk results in self-filling prophecies.
- If you feel intimidated, admit it; select a better game, ask yourself if you're playing over your head, ask yourself if you're being outplayed.
- Don't over-focus on the basics. The best way to ruin a golf swing is to think about the mechanics as you're making the swing. In poker, folks often have sub-par sessions after reading a new book or taking some coaching. This is normal; you focus too much on details that should be natural.
- Remember, in cash games you're more in control than you might think. You're never glued to your seat. Get up, move, change tables, take a nap, walk it off.
- If you are tensing up use activate relaxation and deep breathing.
- Use imagery before to the competition to review strategy and technique.
- Use the "SMART" technique to set realistic and attainable goals. If you aren't familiar with this read my December 2009 column at anteupmagazine.com.
- Get some coaching.

A couple of months ago I wrote about four kinds of "A" games. Achieving peak performance in poker involves: purpose, patience, practice, preparation, persistence, perception, passion and pleasure. More to come on these P's in coming months. Follow these techniques to keep your head in the game.

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





WHY DO YOU PLAY?

By Jay Houston

Why do you play poker? For fun? Are you a consistent winner? Do you have an addiction to gambling? A surprising number of people in a recent survey stated the reason they play poker is because they think they have an edge at every table. The crazy part is they have no sound reasoning for thinking this or where those edges actually are. I'd ask them how much they're up in their career or to show me some winning graphs or statistics and I'd get nothing but mumbles.

At the 2009 L.A. Poker Classic, a short conversation took place between Phil Ivey and Phil Hellmuth.

Hellmuth: "Phil, ever played golf with Tiger Woods?"

Ivey: "Nah and I probably wouldn't. I'm not that good. I would just embarrass myself."

Hellmuth: "Why not? You play poker with me!"

For those of you who don't know, the top pros in the world consider Ivey to be the best all-around poker player ever to play the game, and Hellmuth is a huge loser to Ivey over decades of cash games. So you would hope Hellmuth was just kidding. But was he?

There's a concept I've come across recently on some poker-related Web sites called "Illusory Superiority." In laymen terms, illusory superiority means the dumber you are, the better you think you are compared to the rest of the world (see box below). Now, I'm not saying Hellmuth is the most delusional person on the planet by any means, the guy has 11 WSOP bracelets, but this conversation says a lot about cognitive ability to understand and respect higher levels of skill.

In the late '90s, a couple of guys from Cornell published results from a study of a known phenomenon they called the Dunning-Kruger Effect, which is cognitive bias where people reach flawed conclusions and make unfortunate choices but their incompetence robs them of the ability to realize it.

If you take a look inside the mind of a poker fish, chances are you will find a thought process along the lines of undisciplined, uninformed decision-making, with a lot of justification. This happens to be perfect for a game like poker because it has this amazing scapegoat called "luck" where if explained the right way, can justify your losing career not only to your friends, but to yourself as well.

So the next time you sit down at a poker table, make sure to take a step back and analyze the situation. Do you REALLY have an edge against most of the players at the table? Or do you just think you do? Remember, when you show respect for higher levels of skill than your own, that is a sign of intelligence. The smart thing to do is to constantly be humble about your game, respect other player's thought-processes and learn from them. This is a formula for long-term success and can give you even more of a reason to play the game of poker.

— Jay Houston is a young poker pro with DeepStacks University and is a sit-n-go specialist. You can email him at jay@deepstacks.com



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Illusory superiority is a cognitive bias that causes people to overestimate their positive qualities and abilities and to underestimate their negative qualities, relative to others. It is one of many positive illusions relating to the self, and is a phenomenon studied in social psychology. The Dunning-Kruger effect is a cognitive bias in which people reach erroneous conclusions and make unfortunate choices, but their incompetence robs them of the ability to realize it. The unskilled, therefore, suffer from illusory superiority, rating their ability as above average, much higher than in actuality; by contrast, the highly skilled underrate their abilities, suffering from illusory inferiority. This leads to a perverse result where less competent people will rate their ability higher than more competent people.

DRINKING AT THE TABLE IS FINE, JUST GET A DRIVER

Lately, I've been working a lot of my ER shifts at a busy major trauma center. Trauma care actually demands a different mind-set than standard ER medical problems, such as strokes or belly pain. It's scripted and mechanical. There's a protocol for trauma, almost like a mantra: First check "A" then "B" then "C" etc. If you identify too closely with the smashed body in front of you it interferes with the critical task of finding important broken body parts and fixing them fast. It's demanding and stressful.



Thank goodness my favorite poker room is on my way home. I know if I head straight home after a rough evening shift my whole household, including the dog, will be asleep and yet my mind will still be operating in high gear. Instead, a few hours of cards are just what I need to unwind and settle my psyche for sleep. It was during one of these evening sessions that I ran into "The Kid."

He was brash, loud and hyper-aggressive. With an ugly pierced left eyebrow and a Florida Gators cap twisted a few degrees off-center, he seemed to be raising every pot and collecting chips as fast as he was swigging beer after beer. I knew if I waited for the right time I could double through him.

Eventually, I flopped top set and succeeded in getting it all-in against him. But two cards later, the Kid's backdoor draw got there and I pushed him all of my chips. The cardroom was just about to close so I headed for the exit. The Kid, stumbling a little and talking loudly on his cell phone, followed me into the elevator and down to the parking lot. He looked up briefly and acknowledged me. "Sorry 'bout that hand, Dude." I nodded and replied "No worry, Kid. It happens."

In the parking lot, I watched him get into a red sports car and drive off. No seat belt, clearly loaded, still on the phone. Some day, I thought, he'll end up a grim statistic.

The National Transportation and Safety Board released some interesting stats. Highway deaths are way down, 9 percent less than last year and at its best in 55 years. Why is that? Here are a few reasons:

The recession has people driving less but that's only a small part of it. Public awareness campaigns clearly are a big factor. Tell people enough times about the importance of seat belts or the dangers of driving and drinking or driving and texting and some people will change their behavior. Safer cars are another reason for the drop. Newer cars have more airbags than cup holders and those antilock breaks keep skids from turning into rollovers.

My advice to my poker brethren is straightforward and simple:

Buckle up; pull over to make a call or send a text; and above all, if you like to have a few beers while you play, plan in advance for someone else to drive you home. Remember, even if someone smashes into you, the law presumes the fault lies with the guy who's been drinking. If there's an injury or death, you get to wear an orange jumpsuit for a very long time.

Routinely in the ER, I ask drivers who smell of alcohol if they think they're legally drunk. Routinely they say no and routinely they're wrong. The legal threshold is lower than you think. And for those who use narcotic painkillers, tranquilizers, over-the-counter cough medicine, Soma, Benadryl or even pot, understand that there are plenty of medical studies demonstrating that these drugs impair reaction time and driving skills. A few safety precautions could mean many more years at the poker table.

What about the Kid? Did I ever run into him again? Did I ever regret failing to warn him about the dangers of his behaviors? Read on.

A few weeks later, I was cranking out patients when a "trauma code" radio call came through. "MVA, 22-year-old, no seat belt, shattered windshield, massive head and facial trauma, 3-minute ETA." My team suited up (gowns, gloves, goggles, masks).

He arrived stinking of beer and trussed up like a turkey, strapped to a long-board. As the muscular paramedics hoisted him onto our stretcher, a flash of orange and blue caught my eye. Tucked underneath one of the straps was a crushed, bloody Gators cap.

I caught my breath. "Do I know this guy? Is it the Kid?"

I suddenly felt deep remorse, a sad sinking feeling that I might have some connection to this "trauma code." He might be someone I actually knew. We had a relationship. We had grappled like gladiators on the green felt of the poker arena and he had temporarily come out on top. I understood how he played. I knew this guy. I should've said something that night.

Now he lay in front of me broken and gurgling, unable to breathe through the vomit and blood. I searched his smashed face for familiar features but there was too much blood, too much swelling and distortion to tell for sure. Then I saw it.

His left eyebrow, one of the few square inches of his face not smeared with blood, was clean, no piercing, no scar. It wasn't him. I suddenly could breathe again.

Now it was my job to try to save his life. As I reached for suction and an endotracheal tube, my mantra kicked in: "A" is for airway.

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

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A CHECK-RAISE IS THE OPTIMAL PLAY HERE



This series is taken (with permission) from the No. 1 poker book on Amazon.com, *Winning Poker Tournaments One Hand at a Time Vol. II* by Eric “Rizen” Lynch, Jon “PearlJammer” Turner and Jon “Apestyles” Van Fleet. In this book, each author chose one multitable tournament to discuss key hands, from making the money to heads-up play. This hand from PearlJammer looks at how he played a draw against a weak opponent. Be sure to check out *Ante Up* in the coming months as we will be showcasing hands from Rizen and Apestyles as well.

in from those in the 12-20 big-blind range. The importance of these concepts (deep in MTTs) when your table is full of tough opponents cannot be overestimated.

PREFLOP: 8♦-7♦ (pot is 4,000) — I am in the big blind with strong suited connectors. The action is folded to Seat 9, who min-raises to 3,200. Seats 1, 2 and 3 fold. With 7,200 in the pot, I have 4.5-to-1 pot odds to see a flop. Seat 9’s minimum raise with a 13-big-blind stack sets off some alarm bells. If I knew him to be a strong player, I would probably throw my hand away even with such good pot odds. I would assume a strong opponent making such an inviting raise with such a small stack would be begging for action with a super-premium hand.

In late position with 15 big blinds or fewer, I personally will open shove any hand that I feel is worth playing to maximize my fold equity and not give away the strength of my hand. However, against an unknown opponent, this minimum raise could indicate a hand with which he is hesitant to invest too many chips preflop, or he could be begging for action with a monster.

Although I am not looking to play pots out of position or call raises at this stage, my assumption that my opponent is a weak player and the 4.5-to-1 pot odds he offers persuade me to see the flop. I call 1,600 and take the flop heads-up.

FLOP: K♠-9♣-6♣ (8,800) — I flop an open-ended straight draw. With 8,800 in the pot and my opponent only having about 18K remaining, this seems like the perfect time to apply pressure with my draw and put him to a decision. I could lead out into him for about half the pot and call if he shoves, or I could just open shove, putting him to a decision right now and maximizing my fold equity. Many opponents would view a lead-out bet here as an obvious draw or a cheap attempt to steal the pot. After all, if I had a strong hand, I would let my opponent put more chips into the pot before I attacked, would I not? Note that if he only had about one pot-sized bet remaining, I would bet out strongly here to maximize my fold equity; were I to check, he would probably move all-in or at least clearly commit himself with a continuation bet.

I feel my opponent will continuation-bet almost 100 percent of the time in this spot. If I can check-raise him, I will pick up more chips when he folds than if I fire out, and my hand will likely appear stronger to him than if I just lead out at the flop. If he shoves all-in as a continuation bet, I will fold, as I would assume he has at least a pair of nines, leaving me drawing to eight outs and without quite the right odds to call. However, I expect a small bet from him most of the time here, an amount that hopefully does not pot-commit him.

I check, and my opponent bets 3,600. I am very happy he still appears not to be committed to the pot. I check-raise to 22,400, enough to put him all-in. He quickly folds.

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

Hand 1

- SEAT 1:** 47,099 chips
- SEAT 2:** 13,448 chips on the button
- SEAT 3:** 58,327 chips in the small blind
- SEAT 4:** 199,072 chips in the big blind is PearlJammer
- SEAT 5:** 49,655 chips
- SEAT 6:** 42,847 chips
- SEAT 7:** 27,822 chips
- SEAT 9:** 21,522 chips

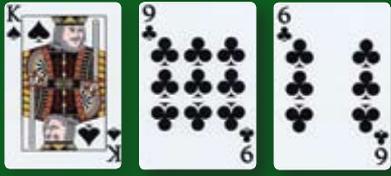
Level: 800-1,600 blinds, 200 ante

SETUP: I have made the money in a \$100 rebuy tournament. There are 27 spots paid, and there are about 25 players left. First place pays \$22,526, and 19-27 pay \$514. I have been the chipleader (most of the time) since the field dropped to 40 players. I have capitalized on a (preconceived) tight image with most of the players in this field to pick good re steal spots to accumulate chips as the bubble has approached. Wielding such a big stack, I have opened up my game more than usual and have been more than willing to race when necessary.

I am familiar with four of my seven opponents at this table, Seats 1, 3, 6 and 7. I know all of these players to be strong, experienced tournament players who are vying for first place, unafraid of busting out. Unless I see otherwise, I can safely assume they will all practice such common tactics of strong online MTT players as not raise-folding stacks of 20 big blinds or fewer and recognizing profitable re steal situations. Thus I will assume I have no fold equity when they open-raise with a stack of fewer than 20 big blinds. I will also avoid open-raising hands from late position with which I am not willing to call an all-



PEARLJAMMER



FLOP



TURN



RIVER



OPPONENT

THE LADIES ARE PRIMED FOR LAS VEGAS IN 2010

The anticipation of the World Series of Poker is just about too much to take.

I have my WSOP list of tournaments, the Caesars Palace tournament schedule, the Venetian DeepStack and more. There are so many choices and buy-in levels that for the poker enthusiast you could literally spend your days going from event to event.



LAUREN FAILLA

With varying buy-in levels, women have an opportunity at any skill level to try all types of events. This year the High Heels Poker Tour has secured space at the Rio for the first hospitality suite dedicated to the women who play the game, own businesses in the poker market or offer services to women who play.

In Brasilia 5 such company will include: Lady Poker Sharks Forum, PMS PokerWear, Poker Jetsetter, Poker Gives, Las Vegas Poker Source, Quad Queens, Pink Ladies Poker Tour, Susie Isaacs, as well as many of our partnering casinos such as Gold Strike and Beau Rivage.

The suite will offer a live stream on June 9 to highlight these businesses as well as interviews with pros and amateurs. So all the ladies who are traveling to Vegas come by and



Las Vegas may be the place of many female triumphs in poker this summer.

see what's new and exciting for women, as it has been said repeatedly this year: "This is the year of the women in poker."

There are so many ladies events this summer starting with Binion's then the Golden Nugget's Grand Series, then the WSOP ladies event, the HHPT, culminating with the Venetian on June 30 (check cardroom schedules).

Now I'm reaching out to all ladies: Please send me your stories from the felt. I want to know what women are doing, saying or reacting to at the poker tables. I say three bracelets this year, what do you think? I'm always up for a good wager!

— 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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NEXT DRAWING

JUNE 18



At the Players Championship in Jacksonville you can't have cell phones but you can have Ante Up and a Burger King mask! Thanks to Dave Sullivan for this hilarious picture!

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An occasional column from a southern cardroom dealer

Even dealers can be sarcastic once in a while

By Jon Roberts

As a dealer, one of my favorite things to do is invent rules and throw them out randomly to start arguments at the table. This way I can slow down the rake, reduce my number of hands per down, aggravate players and, of course, chop my tips considerably.

And it works every time.

One of my favorite rules that I whip out occasionally is “show one, show all.” I like this rule because I feel information about what cards a player has and how he or she plays them can be of some value at the poker table, and only sharing that information with one or two other players isn’t fair to the other people at the table.

As a player, if the player to my right has folded, it seems only natural that I show him my cards and say something brilliant like,

“Can you believe the cards I have to play?” or “Look at this laydown.”

It’s a revelation to some people that you don’t get big pocket pairs every hand or cripple every flop with your J-4 offsuit.

But just because that player folded, is it really OK to show him or her your cards? There are other players that may have folded already. Why not show them your cards? Why only your friend or partner sitting next to you?

The proper way to do it would be to announce to the table (after the hand is over) what cards you played or folded. Or better yet, don’t share that information at all, since poker is about gathering information, not giving it away.

Of course passing your cards around the table would further slow the game down, so I don’t recommend it. What I recommend is

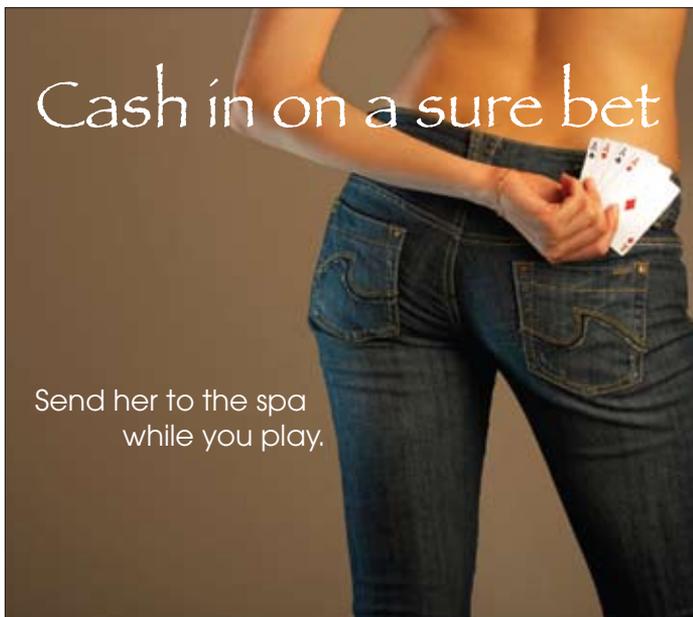
you don’t show your cards to anyone unless absolutely necessary, or simply announce it to the table after the hand is completed.

So even if your poker room or home game doesn’t have a “show one, show all” rule, think about tossing it out one time and see what people say. Usually the standard response is, “But she already folded.” Yeah, well so did that guy and that lady and that other guy. Show them what you had, too.

Or better yet, don’t show anyone. If that sounds unfriendly, here’s a much quicker and easier way to make friends at the poker table: hand \$100 to each player. Trust me, they’ll love you. And you won’t be disrespecting the game, the dealer and 80 percent of the people at your table.

— Jon Roberts is a dealer at a Tampa-area poker room. If you’re a dealer and would like to submit a column send it to editor@anteupmagazine.com.

As a player, if the player to my right has folded, it seems only natural that I show him my cards and say something brilliant like, “Can you believe the cards I have to play?” or “Look at this laydown.”



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WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

Beating pros involves more than just knowing their tells



JOE NAVARRO

I've read a lot of pros love to hear you speak. Would you ever consider sitting down and playing poker against these players since you're so keyed in on their behaviors and mannerisms? Chris Volukis, Frankfort, Ky.

Chris, that's a great question. I have trained more than a dozen pros, most of whom don't want this known for obvious reasons.

One of the things I've found in teaching at the WSOP Academy with Greg Raymer and Annie Duke is that their level of play is several orders of magnitude higher than I will ever achieve.

Anyone who has attended one of these camps will tell you the pros think and analyze at a level that's truly superb.

I don't have that skill; I don't have the ability to do the calculations in my head, etc. I know my weaknesses. So on that reason alone I wouldn't do it. I have played with Jennifer Tilly, Sam Simon and others, and have done OK, but OK is not good enough for me when money is involved. Besides, my attention span for almost anything is about a half hour, so that's why you don't see me out there.

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



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



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

FLORIDA

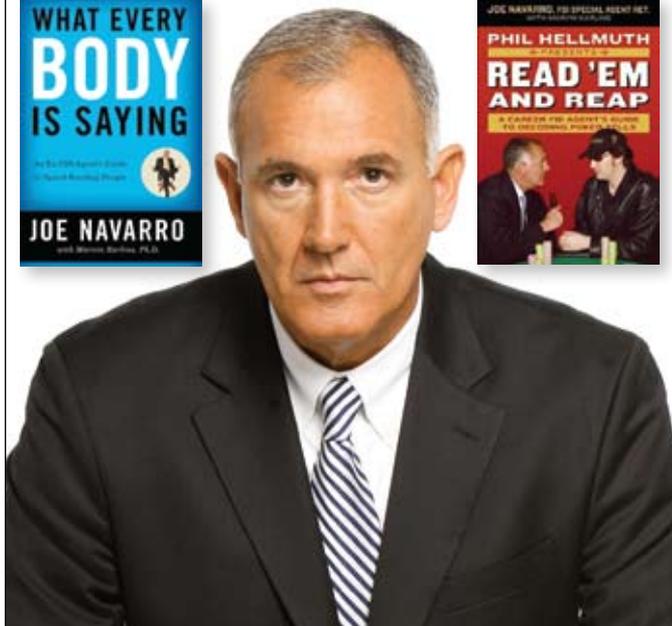
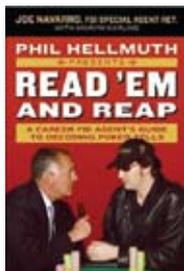
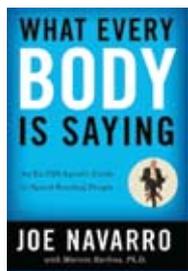
LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
CALDER RACE COURSE Phone: (305) 625-1311 www.calderracecourse.com/poker	Two guarantees every day, one at 11a and one at 7p (\$40-\$200), but every Saturday of the month is a \$5K guarantee with \$100 bounties (\$200, 6p).	Flopped straight flushes pay jackpots according to strength of flush. Call for details (See ad on Page 7).	First 10 aces cracked wins \$50 (limit) or \$100 (NLHE). High hands paid every hour (10s-2a) and payouts vary.
DANIA JAI-ALAI Phone: (954) 927-2841 www.dania-jai-alai.com	More guarantee tournaments coming in June (check site for details); Omaha/8 first Sun. of month (\$100, 3p). Minis: \$30, \$50, \$100.	High hands pay \$50 hourly 1-4p; royals \$500 (Omaha \$250). Ask about bad beats and aces cracked.	"Planting the Seed" charity event (\$250) pays a WSOP seat. See ad on Page 20 for schedule, details.
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (386) 252-6484 www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily, including Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Sat. deepstack (\$225, 2p). WSOP Main Event qualifier, May 30 (\$150, 1p, 10K chips, 25-minute blinds).	Every day in June players winning with three deuces win \$200 and \$500 for quad deuces.	Players dealt a straight flush entered into one of two freerolls in June (19 & 26). Call for details.
DERBY LANE Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7 www.derbylanepoker.com	Daily, including a \$220 Mega Stack event the last Saturday of the month (\$12K, 2p, 30-minute blinds).	Daily royal flushes and mini bad beats. Full calendar of jackpots varying day-to-day. See Web site.	See ad on Page 39.
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (850) 234-3943 www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily, except Friday (\$20-\$330), including Mega Stack (last Sunday of month, \$330, 2p, 10K chips). See ad on Page 56 for full schedule.	Ultimate Big Easy Bad Beat (See ad on Page 55 for details). Mini bad beat is \$2K. Royals (\$250).	See ads on Pages 55 & 56 for new promotions and details.
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (772) 464-7500 www.jaialai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$100, 6:30p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). Deepstack third Sat. every month (\$150, 3p). SNGs: (Thurs.-Sat., \$65-\$110).	All new bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha. Call for details or visit Web site. (See ad Page 27)	WSOP Main Event satellite, May 31 and June 12, (\$175, 3p, 8K units).
GULFSTREAM PARK Phone: (954) 457-6336 www.gulfstreampark.com	Daily, (\$60-\$150, 6:30p), including bounties M-W-F, plus the Saturday Special, (\$150, 8K units). SNGs: \$60-\$120 (10 players, pays three spots).	Bad beat: aces full of jacks; hourly high hands, M-F, 2-10p, starting at \$250 (\$500 4p, 6p, 8p); royals: \$500	World Series of Poker Challenge until June 6 (Call for details).
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (800) 941-4841 www.hamiltontownsjaialai.com	"Almost Freeroll" Sundays (\$5, 3p, 2K units; \$20 add-on good for 1,500 more, plus a \$10 add-on after first break worth 1,500).	Hearts royal pays \$1,466 (mini royal is \$146). Bad beat is aces full of kings and pays \$5K.	First to Hit Thursdays pays players who are first to hit certain hands. Tons of specials on Web site.
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 www.theislepompnanopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$720). Bounty (T, Th, Sa., 7p, plus \$350 Sun., 2p, bounties \$100), \$15K guar. Tue. (\$230, 2p, 13K chips, 30-min. blinds). SNGs: \$60-\$225.	Bad beat was \$177K at press time, plus high hands paid Mon.-Thurs. (See ad on Page 21).	Seven-Deuce, June 19 (\$720, 2p); Battle for the Weekly Pass, Sundays (7p, \$120).
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB Phone: (850) 997-2561 www.jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., \$50 (2K chips and 15-minute blinds)	Royal flushes win jackpot.	Call for promotions.
MAGIC CITY CASINO Phone: (305) 649-3000 www.flaglerdogs.com	Sundays, low-rake bounty event (\$40, 1p). Monday night is a \$75 NLHE event (7p). SNGs: \$65-\$800.	High hands (\$150); non-heart royals win \$1K, heart royals pay \$2,500; Big Slick Royal progressive.	WSOP Main Event satellite, May 30, (\$550, 1p); \$500 progressive hot table paid at 3p & 9p.
MARDI GRAS CASINO Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167 www.playbigeasyypoker.com	Omaha/8 Tue. (\$100, 6:30p, 5K chips); Deepstack Thurs., (\$100, 6:30p. \$3K guar.), 10K chips but 5K more for \$40 add-on. SNGs: \$25-\$110.	Two high hands paid hourly 10a-2a (\$75 limit; \$150 no-limit); \$75 3a-9a. \$500 at noon, 3p, 6p, 9p & mid.	Royals win \$599. Fat Tuesdays all through June. See ad Pages 4-5 for more details.
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (321) 259-9800 www.mgpark.com	Daily, (\$65-\$120), including Sat. Super Stack (\$120, 2p, 10K chips) and Sunday (\$65, 1p, \$1K added to pool). See ad Page 19 for details and coupon.	Bad beat (\$28K) is only in hold'em and requires aces full of jacks be beaten by quads or better.	Quads win \$50, straight flush \$100, royals \$500. Spin to Win Saturdays (See ad on Page 19).
MIAMI JAI-ALAI Phone: (305) 633-6400 www.miamijaijai.net	Daily (\$20-\$165).	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day progressive; see Web site for more information.	Hourly \$100 high hands plus raffle tickets for Sunday raffle.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT Phone: (877) 242-6464 www.miccosukee.com	Fridays (\$65, 8p). Super Saturday no-limit hold'em tournament (\$65, 8p) gets you 3K chips.	Spade royal flush pays jackpot.	Call for information.
NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (239) 992-2411 www.naplesfortmyersdogs.com	Sun. bounty (\$125, 2p); Mon. (\$65, 7p); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed., (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$65, 7p).	Royals pay \$1K (diamonds, \$5K).	On June 11, high hands pay \$1K hourly from 1-10p. (See ad on Page 44).
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI Phone: (352) 591-2345 www.ocalapoker.com	Daily (\$30-\$500). SNGs: (\$45-\$500).	See Web site for numerous jackpots and other cash giveaway promotions.	WSOP Main Event satellites, June 5 & 19 (\$150, 2p).
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150), including WSOP Main Event satellite (\$150, May 29, 2p) with 10K chips and 30-minute blinds.	Royals and Steel Wheels \$250 (spades \$500); Bad beats: See site for details, plus a Super High Hand.	Jacksonville's Florida Poker Tour in August (See ad on Page 51).
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (561) 683-2222 www.pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120), noon & 6:30p Sun-Thurs.; 1 & 6:30 Fri.-Sat., including John "Turk" \$50K guarantee "Big Dog" on June 26, 1p. (See ad on Page 33).	Visit Web site or call for information on daily high hands and bad-beat payouts and qualifications.	Ante Up POY awards ceremony and bounty tournament, June 8 (\$125, 6p) See ad on Page 49.
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (850) 455-8595 www.pensacolagreyhoundpark.com	Weekly (\$65-\$120). Sat. (\$65, 4p); Sun. (\$120, 4p) will be \$5K guarantee. May 29 \$20K guar. (\$340, this is an AAPT event). See ad on Page 30.	Hold'em and stud bad beats (any quads) and in Omaha (quad jacks).	Sun-Thurs. 1st 20 full houses or better, \$25-\$200. Plus, at 1p & 7p, Tue., Thurs. & Sun. first 75 fulls or better.

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

FLORIDA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB Phone: (941) 355-7744 ext. 1054 www.skcpoker.com	Daily, plus Fri. (\$100, 1p, 25K chips, 25-minute blinds); Sat. \$12K guarantee with minimum of 10 spots paid (\$230, 2:30p). SNGs: \$35-\$300.	High hands \$599 Fri. & Sat.; progressive jackpots in all games. Bad beat is quad threes (\$194K).	Ante Up Poker Tour, May 29 (\$100, 6:30p). For room's new betting limits see ad on Page 17.
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON Phone: (866) 222-7466 ext. 121 www.seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. & Wed., (\$20, 6:30p) with optional add-on. June 12 & 19 satellite to Hard Rock Hollywood's Big Slick event (\$100). SNGs: \$25, \$65, \$110.	Sun. quads pay \$50 noon-10p (\$100 after 10p); Tue. high hand \$200; Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s).	June 13 bounty tournament; June 27 freeroll (See room for details); Fridays: double reward punches
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	SNGs: \$55, \$85, \$135.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s).	See Web site for details or call poker room for current offers.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Daily (\$75-\$1,100), including the Big Slick (\$1,100, 11a) and Main Event series. SNGs: \$60-\$1,050.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s). Two high hands of the hour every day (See ad on Page 9).	AUPT, May 29 (\$1,100, 11a). \$1K Daily "Splash Pot" giveaway (Mon.-Thurs., see ad on Page 9).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including Night Owl every Wednesday night (\$40, with \$40 add-on, 12:30p). SNGs: \$50-\$1,075.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s). Royal flushes pay \$500 in spades, \$100 in all other suits.	Carnival of Cars Giveaway (See back-page ad for dates and details).
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com	SNGs: \$50-\$100 and are now jackpot eligible.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s).	In-house bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads. Starts at \$2,500, capped at \$10K.
SEMINOLE CASINO IMMOKALEE Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.theseminolecasino.com	Wed. (\$35, 7p); Thurs. (\$50, 7p); Fri. (\$60, 7p); Sat. KO event (\$50, 1p) & DeepStack (\$115, 7p, 25K chips, 25-min. blinds); Sun., Winner Take All (\$30, 7p).	Mega-Bad Beat (quads 10s), plus Immokalee players get \$100 if Mega hits at any Seminole room.	See ad on Page 18 for cruise giveaway.
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150).	Royals \$250 (spades \$500); Bad beats: See site for details, plus a Super High Hand.	See ad on Page 51.
TAMPA BAY DOWNS Phone: (813) 298-1798 www.tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$540), including rake free for all multitable tournaments Mon., Tue. and Wed. SNGs: \$100 and up, starts with as few as 4 players.	Cash games bad beat: \$1K goes to the loser, \$500 winner, \$100 every-one dealt a hand at the table.	Aces cracked; Rays Attack, up to \$500 every inning Rays score. (See ad on Page 15 for more specials.)
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (813) 932-4313 www.luckyscards.com	Daily (\$45-\$200), at 1p and 6:30p, including \$115 Sunday Challenge (last Sunday of the month, 1p, 14K chips). SNGs: \$65-\$200.	Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$599). Spade royal progressive. Call for details.	Friday Bounty (\$150, 7:30p, 8K chips, 20-minute blinds). Aces cracked noon-2p pays \$100.

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LOUISIANA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
AMELIA BELLE CASINO Phone: (985) 631-1745 www.ameliabellecasino.com	No tournaments until further notice.	Bad beat (quads over aces full of 10s) was \$36K at press time.	Call for information.
BELLE OF BATON ROUGE Phone: (800) 676-4847 www.belleofbatonrouge.com	In July, tournaments will be Wed. & Sun., (10a, \$50). Now only \$4-\$8 limit and \$1-\$2, \$2-\$5 no-limit hold'em cash games.	Bad beat (any quads) was \$38K at press time.	In July, Aces Cracked on Mondays. Call for details.
BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS Phone: (800) 366-7711 www.boomtownneworleans.com	Tue. (11a) freeroll for players with 20 hours of play in the room, otherwise it costs \$10; Wed. (\$35, 7:30) and Thurs. pot-limit Omaha (7:30p, \$50)	Bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha.	Check Web site or call for more promotions.
COUSHATTA CASINO Phone: (800) 584-7263 x7336 www.coushattacasinoresort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230), including Tue. (\$15, 6:30p) with rebuys & add-ons; Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$20, 7:30p) with rebuys; Sat. (\$220, 2p).	Bad beat was \$34K at press time.	High hand pays \$200 every hour, Saturdays (1-10p) in June. Call for details and other promotions.
CYPRESS BAYOU CASINO Phone: (800) 284-4386 www.cypressbayou.com	Wed. (\$40, 6:30p); Saturday Super Bounty, (\$60, 3p) with two \$20 rebuys and two \$20 add-ons. Bounties are \$20 and Super Bounties are \$100.	Bad beat: quads (\$54K at press time).	Aces cracked, first Thursday of the month (noon-10p); Tournament of Champs (June 5), call for details.
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT Phone: (318) 220-5274 www.eldoradoshreveport.com	Daily (\$50-\$525), including Saturdays (\$125, 11a) and Tuesday rebuy event (\$75, rebuys are \$25-\$50 with \$25-\$50 add-ons at first break, 6:30p).	Bad beat: quads (\$145K at press time); Royal flush progressives pay by suit (call for current totals).	Aces Cracked Fridays (4a-6p), pays \$100. High hands (M & Th, 3p & 9p) pay \$250.
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS Phone: (504) 533-6000 www.harrahsneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad beat: quads.	Aces cracked Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call for details.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY Phone: (800) 895-0711 www.horseshoebossiercity.com	Daily (\$100-\$400), including last Sunday of the month (\$400, 2p, 10K chips, 30-minute levels).	Bad beat: quads; plus mini-bad beat pays 10% (aces full of 10s).	Numerous promotions that change daily, including Splash the Cash. Call for details.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES Phone: (337) 430-2407 www.lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Tue. (\$90, 6p); Friday (\$60, noon); Saturday (\$115, noon). Also, Fridays in June Heads-Up Championship qualifiers (\$115, 7p).	Bad beat is \$70K; "Minor Jackpots" pays quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125), 24/7. Call for details.	Heads-Up Championship, July 7-10; hourly high hands (Sun. 3-7p; Wed. & Thurs., mid.-4a.
PARAGON CASINO Phone: (800) 946-1946 x1975 www.paragoncasinoresort.com	Mondays (\$20 w/rebuys, 7p), Thursday bounty event (\$20 with \$15 unlimited rebuys, 7p) and Fridays (\$60 with one \$50 rebuy, 7p)	Loosest bad beat in the state: Aces full of eights. In Omaha straight flush must be beaten.	\$100 high hand hourly, June 19 & July 3 (2-9p). Call for details on UTV giveaway on July 4.

ARKANSAS

OAKLAWN RACING & GAMING Phone: (501) 623-4411 www.oaklawn.com	Daily, including SNGs (\$30), on PokerPro tables. Also, qualifiers for Arkansas State Championships every Wed. & Fri. (\$50, 7p) until Aug. 3 final.	Bad beat paid in all hold'em cash games. Call for details.	\$50 Splash the Pot Fridays (7p-midnight). \$5 MTT (Sundays, 10a, \$500 guarantee).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING Phone: (870) 735-3670 www.southlandgreyhound.com	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Sat. (\$20, 2p), 3K chips and 15-minute blinds.	Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	Player Rewards cards offer comps based on play and 10% gift shop discounts. Call for offers.

VIRGINIA

ARABIA TEMPLE NO. 12 Phone: (757) 487-1614 www.takeitdownpl.com	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. (\$25-\$105), including freerolls and SNGs at 6:15p and Olde Town Classic (\$105, 25K chips, 20-min. blinds) on Fri., 7:30p.	Call about the bad-beat details.	WSOP Satellite location, check Web site for details.
THE POKER PALACE Phone: (757) 488-4912 www.thepokerpalace.net	Tuesdays (\$50, 7:30p) and Saturdays (\$65 plus rebuys, 1p; also \$75 plus rebuys, 7p).	Bad-beat qualification descends from aces full of jacks when jackpot reaches \$10K.	Call for information/promotions.
SKILLZ POKER ROOM Phone: (757) 966-5613 www.skillzva.com	Saturdays (1p & 7p). Room open Mon.-Thurs. and Sat.	Bad beat in hold'em is aces full of queens (\$8,553 at press time), Omaha is quad 10s.	Call about Monthly Freeroll, Frequent Player Club and Refer a Friend.
VICTORY POKER LOUNGE Phone: (757) 472-1203 www.victorypokerlounge.net	Wed., Thurs., Fri., including SNGS (\$30, \$50 and \$125).	Bad beat is kings full of jacks (\$28K at press time).	There is a nightly \$200 high hand. A \$5K grand prize event is coming in May, call for details.

WEST VIRGINIA

MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM Phone: (304) 387-8458 www.mountaineerpoker.com	Daily at 12:15p and 7:30p (\$50-\$225).	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was \$15K at press time.	WSOP Main Event satellite, May 30 (\$125, 2p).
TRI-STATE RACETRACK AND GAMING Phone: (800) 224-9683 www.tristateracetrack.com	Generally events are Sun. (2p), Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p) & Wed. 7p and buy-ins vary (\$40-\$125). Big Stack is last Sunday of month.	Bad beat totals vary by game, but hold'em (aces full of jacks) was \$32K at press time.	Bounty event, May 30 (\$290, noon, 10K chips, 30-minute blinds).
WHEELING CASINO Phone: (304) 232-5050 www.wheelingisland.com	Sun-Fri. (\$40, 10a); Sat. (\$150, 3p, 6K chips), plus tournaments every night (\$40-\$65, 7p). Heartland Poker League (Sat., \$65, 10:45a).	Bad beat was \$54K at press time; quads (using both hole cards) Mon.-Sat. lets you spin the wheel.	Full House Frenzy Sundays: Each player with a full house gets a ticket entered into a \$400 drawing.

MISSISSIPPI

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
AMERISTAR VICKSBURG Phone: (601) 630-4996 www.ameristar.com/vicksburg	Thursdays, (\$70, 7p) with one optional add-on.	Mini bad beat (quads over aces full) pays 10% of full bad beat (any quads).	Call for details.
BEAU RIVAGE RESORT AND CASINO Phone: (228) 386-7092 www.beaurivage.com	Daily at noon & 6p (\$120-\$340), including \$20K guarantee first Saturday of the month (\$340, noon, 4K chips, but 2K more for \$10 add-on).	Royals pay \$200 but spades wins \$500; aces cracked all day Tue.-Thurs.	Ask about the \$100 Omaha/8 and Lucky Seat drawing promotions.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-8999 www.boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad beat is aces full of kings (More than \$50K). Mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks).	Aces cracked enters you into a drawing where you can win \$100.
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT Phone: (662) 357-1136 www.goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340). \$5K guarantee first Sun. of the month (\$340, 1p), 10K chips, 30-minute blinds. Third Sat. is \$5K guarantee (\$100, 6p, 8K chips)	Call for current bad beat and royal flush jackpots. Cash drawings (\$100 hourly) Tuesdays (1-10p).	Every Sunday (6p) is a \$500 Freeroll that pays top three spots (call for details).
HARD ROCK BILOXI Phone: (228) 374-7625 www.hardrockbiloxi.com	Daily at 3p (\$25-\$55). Chip stacks, bonus chip offers and blinds vary. Web site has all details. SNGs: \$75, \$125, \$235, \$550.	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads (\$11K at press time).	Royal flush wins Hard Rock Poker Room jacket; straight flush wins Hard Rock Poker Room hat.
HARLOW'S CASINO Phone: (662) 335-9797 x144 www.harlowcasino.com	Tuesdays, USPT event (\$65, 7:30p); 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month (\$100, 5p); first Friday of month (\$250, 8p).	No jackpots.	Call for any promotions.
HARRAH'S TUNICA Phone: (800) 946-4946, x33760 www.harrahtunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110) and first-place guarantees ranging from \$500-\$1,200 set with a min. of 20 players. Plus events at 6p (Thurs.-Sun.).	Bad beats at press time were in hold'em (\$72K), Omaha (\$3,459) and stud (\$34,712).	\$2K freeroll on Wednesdays (7p), call for details and other promotions. (See story Page 31)
HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS Phone: (866) 758-2591 x4026 www.hollywoodcasinobs.com	Daily (\$30-\$55) including a pineapple tournament on Thursdays (\$45, 6:30p) with 2,500 chips, 20-minute blinds.	Bad beat and mini bad beat. High hands win \$50 Wed. & Thurs. (10a-6p) and Mon (10a-midnight).	Aces cracked Mon.-Fri., including Progressive Tuesdays. (See story Page 42).
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA Phone: (800) 871-0711 x5005 www.hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$70), including Sunday \$1K guarantee (\$10 gets 500 chips, \$5 dealer token gets 1,500 chips, \$10 rebuys and \$20 add-on for \$10K, 2p)	Hold'em bad beat (quads or better) must be in \$3-\$6 or higher and there's a new Omaha jackpot.	Aces cracked Wednesdays and High Hands Thursdays spin the prize wheel (\$25-\$500).
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA Phone: (662) 357-5608 www.horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$55-\$150), including Sat. \$10K guarantee (\$150, 4p) with 10K chips (2K more for \$10 add-on); Sun (\$100, 2p) Super Deep Stack (15K chips).	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em.	Hourly high hands in hold'em can win \$25-\$500 depending on the hand made. Call for details.
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA Phone: (888) 946-2847 x8554 www.ipbiloxi.com	Noon (\$60, 4K chips). Play Your Way: Play at least 4 hours (9a-9p on Mon., Tue. or Sat. and the house pays \$50 of a \$60 buy-in for the next day's event.	High hands pay \$75 hourly Tue. & Thurs. (midnight-4p). Hands must be at least a full house.	Aces cracked pays \$100 (Tue., Wed., Fri.). Poker Squares (Sun.-Mon.). Call for details.
ISLE OF CAPRI BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-7967 www.biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Daily (\$20-\$60), including bounty rebuy event on Saturdays (\$60, 3p), featuring 3K chips, 20-minute blinds, \$20 rebuys, \$25 add-on and \$20 bounties.	Bad beat available in numerous games, but hold'em (aces full of queens) was \$54K at press time.	Royals win jacket; aces cracked (Mon & Wed., 10a-mid.) wins \$50 or wheel spin.
SAM'S TOWN CASINO TUNICA Phone: (800) 456-0711 www.samstowntunica.com	Daily (\$20-\$80), including a \$3K guarantee on Saturdays (\$20, 7p). SNGs: \$60-\$120.	Bad beat is any quads.	SNG bad beat is aces full of sixes and is \$2K at press time, but increases \$200 every day it's not hit.
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO Phone: (866) 775-4773 x3766 www.silverflipper-ms.com	SNGs: \$45, \$65 (2K chips, 10 players).	Bad beat is \$75K in hold'em, \$2K for Omaha. Mini is aces full of deuces (\$550 to loser).	Aces cracked (Mon.-Fri., amounts vary). Sunday is Player Appreciation with \$100 hourly drawings.
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) Phone: (601) 650-1234 www.pearlriverresort.com	Daily, (\$35-\$60), including a \$2,500 guarantee on Saturdays (\$60, 2p). Events M-T-W-Th start at 7p; F-S-Su start at 2p.	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad 7s) and stud (quads). Diamond royals (\$500).	\$3,500 freeroll is last Sunday of every month (5p). Call for details. 4 aces pay \$50; high hands (\$100).

GEORGIA

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

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (NC) www.harrahscherokee.com Phone: (828) 497-7777	Tournaments and cash games on PokerPro tables. SNGs: Tuesday and Sunday (\$115).	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
AQUASINO (SC) Phone: (843) 280-2933 See story on Page 20.	Mon. cruise (7p, \$110) and Fri. cruise (11a, \$110). SNGs: \$60	Quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200). Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	Myrtle Beach Championships, Aug. 29, \$550.



Q&A

WITH JOE CADA

With the World Series under way, what better way to kick things off than to interview the defending world champ? Joe Cada won the 2009 WSOP Main Event at the tender age of 21, breaking Peter Eastgate's year-old record for youngest champion. *Ante Up* chatted with Cada about Letterman, PokerStars, Darvin Moon and playing soccer with more than one ball.

How was your year as world champ? It's basically been a whirlwind, taking it one step at a time. But not too much has changed.

What was it like being on Letterman? I was pretty nervous with all those cameras.

Were you more nervous there than at the final table? Oh yeah! (laughs) For sure.

What was the first thing you did when you got home to Michigan after your win? Relaxed. I had to do a lot of interviews so everything was kinda hectic at first and very busy. So when I got home I just took some time away and relaxed a little bit.

Did it take winning the world title to win your parents over to your poker career or did they come around before that? They came around before that. I've been doing it for a living for about four years now. After the first year they started coming around a little bit.

Now that you have your relationship with PokerStars how glad are you that you switched from UB for the November Nine? I'm real happy. Before I even signed with PokerStars I made it pretty clear on the radio that I wanted to be with Stars and I wanted to sign with Stars. I was very happy they gave me the opportunity to be part of the team.

And how did that happen? The UB deal was a **one-day deal**. It was kinda fast ... there were like 30 people left and everyone's coming up to you asking you to wear their patches and stuff like that and you're kinda focused on playing. UB was

one of the few sites that offered a one-day deal and I didn't want to sign with someone right away. And then I was holding out for Stars once I hit that final table.

You won when you were 21. Most 21-year-olds spend their time wondering where their next meal is coming from and you're a millionaire world champ. What has that transition been like? It's a lot less stressful playing. When you go play these (\$10K) main events and lose it doesn't hit you as hard. I don't know, I guess it's been a lot more easy-going.

Darvin Moon told us last month he expects to make the November Nine again this year. Will you make such a bold prediction? (laughs) That'd be awesome. But the variance involved in these big tournament fields is very heavy. So I'm gonna try to play my best poker and if it came down to that that'd be pretty ridiculous.

What did you think of Moon's play? I thought he did a good job. For him to say he wasn't really an experienced player I think he threw a lot of people off with some of the lines he took in hands. I think he played well.

What are your plans for the Series this year? I'm gonna be playing all of the no-limit and Omaha events.

Wow. And you had three cashes last year at the Series. Were you surprised by your overall success? I guess my in-the-money percentage online is like 18 percent and I played about 16 tournaments so it's right around there. I had a real upsetting tournament right before the main. I thought it was my only chance to win a bracelet. It was like a couple thousand

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Continued from Page 68

players and it was down to the final 17 and I was third in chips. It was pretty rough on me, and demoralizing at first. But who woulda known I would have won the main?

How sad are you your year as champ is coming to a close? No, I'm excited for there to be a 2010 winner. There's a lot of interviews and a lot of pressure. Everyone's looking at you and how you do in tournaments. Tournaments can be rough because there are so many players. I guess there will be less pressure on me once there's a new (champ).

You had one live cash after the main event. Were you distracted with the responsibilities of being poker's ambassador? I wouldn't say so. I didn't really play in too many tournaments. I played in a few tournaments at the PCA; I played in Monte Carlo and in Italy and the Venetian. I played in like eight or nine tournaments so one cash in eight or nine is not that far off from normal. These tournaments have a really high variance so a lot of stuff has to go your way to work out well.

Has all of the extra travel been an adjustment to make? When I wasn't 21 I would travel to Costa Rica and the Bahamas for the PCA before that, and then I was over in Aruba. So, I did a lot of traveling when I wasn't 21 to where I could play.

Speaking of being the face of poker, tell us about your experiences in support for online poker politically and legally. I made a few trips to Washington already and met with some congressmen and senators and talked about poker a lot. ... It's a step that all poker players are hoping for, that the



(legalization and regulation of online poker) passes. It's a really big step and I think we're getting a lot closer to passing it.

What were the days of playing live as a 19-year-old in Canada like? Canada actually has a pretty good game. It's not too far away for me; it's about 45 minutes away and on the weekends it was a pretty good game, \$10-\$20 no max buy-ins. I'd make my occasional trip up there to play some live poker. Live poker is always fun, taking a break from online. I had some rough swings over the course of a few years that I'm sure most poker players have. I started off playing \$.10-\$.25 when I was just old enough to play online and worked my way up to \$25-\$50, \$50-\$100.

Do you play any other poker games? I like playing other games occasionally, like stud and razz. But I don't put in nearly as much time as I do with Omaha and no-limit. Hopefully I can get better at those games and I can play some Series events.

Is it true you play indoor soccer? Yeah, I've been playing soccer since I was 4.

Why do you think soccer never caught on in America? That's a good question. All of the other sports are much better spectator sports. Soccer's a little slower pace than football and basketball and NASCAR. So I guess that's the reason.

Would you object to throwing in an extra ball to make it more exciting? (laughs) That would be interesting, I never actually tried that. It's like throwing in two foosballs then trying to play foosball (laughs).



I'm excited for there to be a 2010 winner. There's a lot of interviews and a lot of pressure. — JOE CADA

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Wednesdays 6/2, 6/16 & 6/30 12:30PM • 6/9 & 6/23 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15

Fridays 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15

Saturdays 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15

Sundays 12:30PM • \$100 + \$20

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6/9 & 6/23 12:30PM • \$200 + \$40

Fridays 6/11 7:30PM • \$355 + \$45 • 6/25 7:30PM • \$500 + \$50

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