

ANTE UP

SPECIAL REPORT

SEMINOLE COMPACT AND HOW FLORIDA'S NEW NO-LIMIT POKER WILL AFFECT YOU

DARVIN MOON

POKER'S EVERYMAN HITS DAYTONA BEACH FOR ONE-OF-A-KIND CHARITY EVENT



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VIRGINIA
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THE TOP
10

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BUY A TICKET NOW TO THE **VENETIAN DEEPSTACK CHARITY CLASSIC POKER TOURNAMENT** IN DAYTONA BEACH ON SUNDAY, MAY 16th

1. Matusow! Moon! McEvoy!

You arrive at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club and Poker Room on May 16th, enjoy brunch by Strathmore Bagels and Deli, and get ready to play poker against superstar Mike Matusow, fan favorite Darvin Moon, poker legend Tom McEvoy and hundreds of other players in the \$150 Venetian Deepstack Charity Classic. You'll start with up to 10,000 chips, play 25-minute levels and enjoy an Outback Steakhouse dinner!

2. Grand Prize Worth \$11,300!

You win the final hand, try on the \$1,300 champion's bracelet and start making arrangements to fly you and a guest by Air Tran Airways on July 11th to Las Vegas, business class! A limo whisks you to the Venetian Resort, where you check into a suite for four nights and enjoy \$1,000 in fine dining and other goodies. You'll play in the \$5,000 Deepstacks Extravaganza Main Event, with a prize pool of more than \$1,000,000!

3. Four More Vegas Trips!

Who doesn't like Las Vegas? Four other players will win \$5,600 in travel-and-poker packages to the Venetian Resort!

4. Cash And More!

And there's more, if you're good. You'll be in the running for great prizes like a \$3,500 Adventure Boat Club membership, a \$1,200 Daytona International Speedway Coke Zero VIP weekend pass, more than \$3,000 in Best Buy electronics and \$500 Costa del Mar sunglasses!

5. ... And a Rolex!

The first player to get a royal flush wins a \$4,500 Rolex watch from House of Gold and Diamonds!

6. ... And a Car!

That's a \$40,000 car! During the dinner break, four lucky players will play "Royal Flush Bonanza" sponsored by Daytona International Auto Mall. Get a pair or better and win a prize. Get a royal flush, win the car!

7. ... And \$5,000 in Door Prizes!

You don't have to be good, just lucky. More than 100 players will win great stuff, from \$1,200 luxury weekends, to an autographed Vince Carter Basketball, to dozens of gift certificates!

8. Make it a Vacation!

All play and no rest makes for a dull boy. Stay at the four-diamond Shores Resort and Spa for just \$119 when you call (386) 767-7350 and mention "Deepstack Charity Classic!"

9. Be a VIP!

Not only can you enjoy playing with Matusow, Moon, & McEvoy on Sunday, May 16th, but 45 lucky players will join them in the sneak preview 'Adventure Boat Club VIP Tournament' on Saturday, May 15th. Buy your Charity Classic Tickets by May 7th and you may win a seat at the Sneak Preview VIP Tournament Saturday night.

10. Did We Say Vegas?

You haven't won a Vegas trip yet? Before the first card is dealt, two roundtrip tickets and three nights at the Venetian Resort are up for grabs for players who enter by May 7th.

11. One Extra Thing ...

The Venetian Deepstack Charity Classic Poker Tournament will sell out. So call **NOW** to reserve your seat!

“ The Best Poker Tournament in Florida Just Got Even Better! ”

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*Main Event last year paid approximately **\$1,200,000** with first place receiving **\$377,000**.

Suggested Contribution: **\$150 in advance** or \$175 on the day of the event.

Every prize package includes:

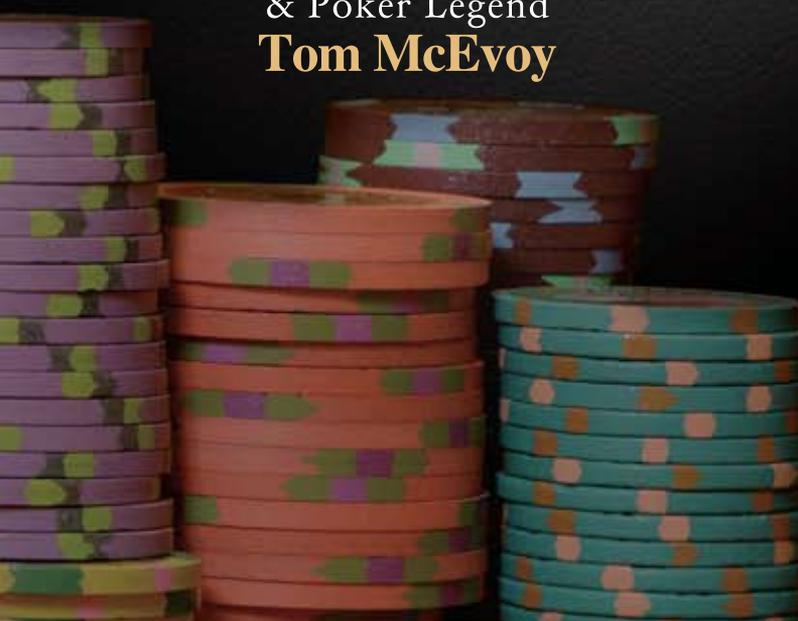
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Pre-tournament nosh by Strathmore Bagels, and dinner provided by Outback Steakhouse.

2nd up to 5th place will receive entry into the \$2,100 Deep Stack Extravaganza III No-Limit Event.

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& Poker Room

THE VENETIAN
LAS VEGAS



FROM THE PUBLISHERS



MOON: POKER'S EVERYMAN

Whenever we interview an old-school professional poker player (and by old school we just mean someone who was making a living playing poker before Chris MoneyMaker came along), we usually ask them if they're happy for the poker boom. Seems like a simple answer, since more people are playing poker now than ever, and that means more money in their pockets. But you'd be surprised how many people wish they could go back to anonymity.

Think about it. You're there in your day job as a professional house painter and all of a sudden millions of people want to watch you paint and take your picture or get your autograph. Why? Because they like the way you do trim around windows, or they enjoy how you open the big 10-gallon buckets of paint. It's reminiscent of those silly Peyton Manning commercials when he's cheering for the butcher: "Cut that meat! Cut that meat!"

Sound ridiculous? But that pretty much is what happened to these pros who were thrust into stardom, and thrust from a profession that had been shunned or frowned upon for decades. T.J. Cloutier, while at dinner with us on the recent Ante Up Poker Cruise, said he used to tell people he owned Cloutier Investments before the World Poker Tour made its splash on the Travel Channel. That's more than 40 years of hiding what he did for a living. Now people are falling over themselves on the streets of Cozumel, Mexico, just to say "Hey, T.J.!"

If you choose to be a pro poker player these days you understand the ramifications and celebrity that might go along with it. Don't want to be famous? Don't want to be on TV or on the cover of a magazine? Then think twice about this profession.

But what about the guy who just enjoys playing poker, wins a little satellite in his home casino and then has a great run in a huge event? How do you prepare

for the attention? The constant requests of your time and life have to be taxing. Such is the case of Darwin Moon, only he was smart about it. When he made the final table of the World Series of Poker Main Event last year, he let everyone know upfront he was uncomfortable with the media attention. He also said the money wouldn't change him, regardless of where he placed, and that any money he won would go right into the bank. He'll be the first one to tell you out of the 6,494 players in the main event about 6,300 were better players than him.

We were honored he agreed to an interview after we found out he'd be in Daytona Beach, Fla., on May 16 for the second annual Venetian Deep Stack Charity Classic.

We asked him about his newfound celebrity and how he's dealing with it, how happy he was when his beloved Saints won the Super Bowl, how his life has changed (or hasn't) and how he found his way to the Sunshine State for the fantas-

tic event that supports the philanthropic efforts of the Congregation B'nai Torah.

Also in this issue is a special report on the Seminole Compact and no-limit poker in Florida; we look at when children should learn how to play poker; we chat with Eric "Rizen" Lynch, and find out what an AED is and how it can save your life in a poker room. Next month look for full coverage of the Florida Million and the Louisiana State Poker Championship.

We'll see you at the tables.

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long

• *Ante Up* columnist Bryan Oulton's mother passed away on Easter. Ante Up has made a donation in Yvonne Oulton's name to the Frankie Foundation (www.frankiefoundation.com) and encourages its readers to the same.



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
Bryan Oulton
Dr. Frank Toscano

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- 2nd place gets buy-in and hotel accommodations
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The annual Battles at the Beach series saw its first female winner, Lindsey McAdams, at the Isle Casino at Pompano Park. **Complete results, 16**

KENTUCKY



The Poker Players Alliance is sponsoring the Derby Poker Championship, which features hosts Phil Hellmuth, Robert Williamson and Denny Crum. **25**



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A tiny town named Portsmouth is the only place to play poker legally in the Commonwealth, thanks to an interpretation of the law. **42-43**

AROUND THE NATION

Southerners rocked the poker standings last month, from WSOP circuit titles to victories and deep runs at Foxwoods and the Borgata. **29-31**

COVER STORY



IS A NEW MOON RISING?

Darwin Moon finished second in last year's World Series of Poker Main Event. He said the \$5 million wouldn't change him, but did it? Plus we preview the Deep Stack Charity Classic. **36-39**

ON THE BUTTON

Pro poker player Eric "Rizen" Lynch chats about his nickname, his new book (*Winning Poker Tournaments Vol. 2*), life in Kansas and his... um, frugality. **62**



KIDS & POKER

We hear about young Internet whiz kids playing poker all the time, but at what age should a child be taught this wonderful game? **35**

SPECIAL REPORT

THE SEMINOLE COMPACT

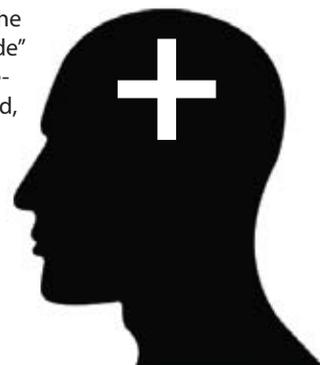
What is it? And what does it mean for poker in Florida and beyond? *Ante Up's* Marc Dunbar and Scott Long explain the details and ramifications of this historic deal. **40-41**



PERSPECTIVE

Just because you're down doesn't mean you're out, says poker pro Lee Childs. Anything can happen at the poker table. **47**

Continuing in the "positive attitude" theme is Dr. Stephen Bloomfield, who says you should visualize yourself winning before you play. **48**



DeepStacks pro Jay Houston is a turbo sit-and-go specialist, and he has some interesting advice when it comes to when to shove. **49**

You never want to refer to the Perfect Storm when you're aboard a ship, but that's exactly what happened in a hand with *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza. Plenty of lessons to be learned from this one. **51**



• Plus, the Ante Up Poker Cruise was a blast, as you'll see in this pictorial. **28**

THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS OUT AT THE POOL.



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BIG STACKS POKER LEAGUE



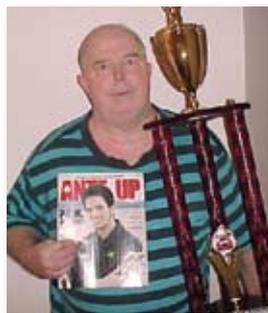
Nearly 250 players competed in the annual main event and Billy Boon was the last player standing. The top 10 were, from left: Bob Wilson (fourth), Carla Ward (ninth), Jose Rodriguez (10th), Mike McClusky (sixth), Larry Pirolo (eighth), Marino Thomas (seventh), Bob Chew (second), Billy Boon (first), Robert Stone (fifth) and Andrew Parks (third).

Boon and Chew went heads-up for the title and play went back and forth for several hands until Boon picked up K♥-Q♥ and went all-in. Chew called with 8♣-9♣. Boon faded a flush draw to win a Las Vegas travel package.

Chew received the second-place Tampa Hard Rock package.

- During the final it was announced the top prize of the 2011 season will be a \$10K World Series of Poker Main Event seat.

DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB



Glynn Adkins Sr. of Rockledge shows off his two prized possessions, his free copy of *Ante Up* and the trophy he won after beating 100 players and taking down the \$65 daily at the DBKC.

PLAYERS CHOICE POKER



From left is Gary Greenhow, Jill Severinghaus and Ray Lau. They chopped the January monthly event at Boots n Buckles, receiving \$258 each. The rest of the top 10 were Jeremy Yawn, Mike Paulk, Chelsea Young, Dwayne Guy, Jan Anderson, Eddie Pierce and Steve Noreika.

TREASURE CHEST POKER



St. George



Rossi



Mares



Smith



Fields

It was a busy month for Treasure Chest Poker with numerous tournaments.

- Jon St. George beat more than 120 players in the quarterly event to win a \$1,500 WSOP seat.

- Kim Rossi defeated nearly 120 players at the Cop Shop in Oldsmar to win the February monthly tournament. She came to the final table as the short stack but managed to turn that around and took home the trophy and a \$500 gift card. The remaining top 10 players were: Pete Theodore, Grace Dignam, Marcie Danova, Brenda Gluck, Tom Dwyer, Meko Schrimshaw, Tiffany Rayel, Wanda Pellin and Lisa Mast.

- Roger Mares won the Battle of the Bars for Azara's, which keeps the trophy for a third month in a row. Azara's defeated Gunslingers to defend the title.

- Pat Smith won the Stokers monthly for a \$100 buy-in at a local cardroom.

- Sherry Fields captured the Murphy's monthly for a \$100 buy-in at a local cardroom.

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURS



Winner Dick Lovely is flanked by league owners Matt Ehlert and Kevin Mangan.

The Central Florida quarterly championship, held Feb. 27-28, featured more than 360 players, including Poker Hall of Famer T.J. Cloutier and other members of DeepStacks University.

The winner was Dick Lovely. Here are the results (payouts are for various sponsorships): 1. Dick Lovely, \$3,500; 2. Mike Schuermann, \$1,495; 3. Jason Hartley, \$500; 4. John Clancy, \$200; 5. Ray Hartley, \$200; 6. Marjorie Correa, \$125; 7. James Maher, \$125; 8. Marc Vent, \$100; 9. Pat Wickersham, \$100; 10. Chris Smith, \$75 and 11. Bruce Walters, \$75.

The next quarterly will be May 15-16.

ALL IN POKER SERIES



Robert Pentsy won the monthly tournament March 13 in Orlando. He defeated nearly 70 players to earn the trophy and a two-night stay in Daytona Beach.

Garo Fuerstenberger placed second as both players won entry into the "Compete for a Seat" event June 6 when the winner will get a seat to a WSOP tournament.



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**Florida
MILLION**
POKER TOURNAMENT

Thank you to all of the players and staff involved in the inaugural Florida Million tournament! We were able to achieve a prize pool of

\$1,174,500

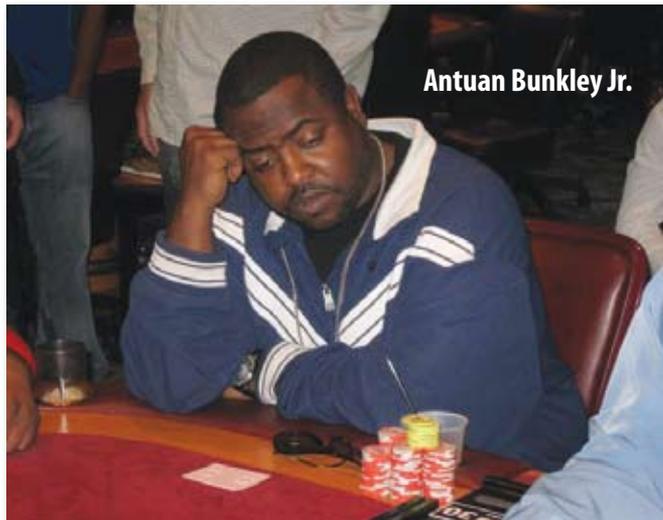
BATTLES AT THE BEACH

MARCH 5-14, 2010 • ISLE CASINO • POMPANO BEACH, FLA.

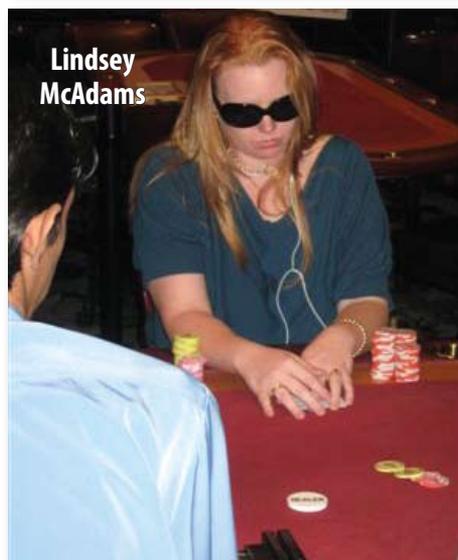
Fred Bunchan of North Miami won the main event, good for \$51,736. He also cashed in Event 4. Not to be forgotten is Lindsey McAdams of Coral Springs, who won the heads-up title to become the first woman to capture an event in the series' brief history. She pocketed \$25K for her victory.



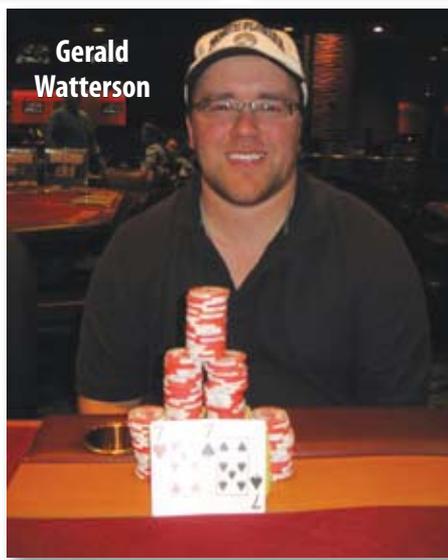
Fred Bunchan



Antuan Bunkley Jr.



Lindsey McAdams



Gerald Watterson



Jerome Price

Event #1 • \$575 Heads-Up

- Entries: 128 • Prize pool: \$64K**
1. Lindsey McAdams, Coral Springs, \$25K
 2. Tony Lessel, Missouri, \$15,000
 3. Mike Amato, Boca Raton, \$7,000
 4. Randy Zane, Quebec, \$4,200
 5. N/A, \$2,000
 6. Hayden Fortini, Vero Beach, \$2,000
 7. Charlie Bender, Coconut Creek, \$2,000
 8. Harvey Freedman, Plantation, \$2,000
 9. Nicholas Ricciardi, West Palm, \$600
 10. Stewart Newman, Weston, \$600
 11. Howard Appledorf, Pem. Pines, \$600
 12. Andrew Williams, Delray Beach, \$600
 13. Stuart Paterson, Boca Raton, \$600
 14. Raj Vohra, Lake Worth, \$600
 15. Basil Narinr, Boca Raton, \$600
 16. Anthony Bertuccio, Coral Springs, \$600

Event #2 • \$350 Bounty

- Entries: 125 • Prize pool: \$27,500**
1. Gerald Watterson III, Jacksonville, \$7,160

2. N/A, \$6,860
3. James Barkan, Ft. Lauderdale, \$3,383
4. Michael McNeerney, P.B. Gardens, \$2,338
5. Iliia Lekach, Golden Beach, \$1,733
6. Nick Esquivel, P.B. Gardens, \$1,348
7. Taylor Stelfox, Boca Raton, \$1,018
8. Charles Phelan, Jupiter, \$770
9. Mitch Smith, Miami Beach, \$633
10. Zvi Shiff, Miami, \$605
11. Abraham Rojas, Davie, \$578
12. Chaim Halpern, Lake Worth, \$550
13. Robert McLaughlin, Jupiter, \$523

Event #3 • \$230 NLHE

No results given

Event #4 • \$550 NLHE

- Entries: 118 • Prize pool: \$59,000**
1. Antuan Bunkley Jr., Riviera Beach, \$16K
 2. Lashone Dobard, Hollywood, \$9,430
 3. "FH", Aventura, \$8,990
 4. Evan Teitelbaum, Parkland, \$8,650

5. Daniel Kolchikov, Ft. Lauderdale, \$3,835
6. David Macdonald Jr., Jupiter, \$2,950
7. Fred Bunchan, North Miami, \$2,301
8. Robert Transue, N. Lauderdale, \$1,711
9. Brian Krinsky, Delray Beach, \$1,416
10. Daniel Vig, Ft. Lauderdale, \$1,298
11. Sharon Levin, Miramar, \$1,239
12. William Burdick, Palmetto, \$1,180

Event #5 • \$150 NLHE

- Entries: 155 • Prize pool: \$11,700**
1. Jerome Price, Boca Raton, \$2,100
 2. Julian Conde, Sunrise, \$2,100
 3. Peter Bejusca, Ft. Lauderdale, \$1,890
 4. Bonnie Sack, Sunny Isles, \$1,889
 5. Antonio Colon, Princeton, \$702
 6. John Kwon, Palm Beach, \$527
 7. Joe Memoli, Lighthouse Point, \$386
 8. Koreen Ford, Delray Beach, \$281
 9. Doug Perez, Coral Springs, \$269
 10. Sebastian Grenier, Montreal, \$257
 11. Josh McMahan, Weston, \$246

12. Arlene Vazquez, Parkland, \$234
13. Fred Pearson, Coral Springs, \$222
14. Tom Ciccone, Sinking Springs, Pa., \$211
15. Steve Zukowski, Coral Springs, \$199
16. Jamael Williams, Boca Raton, \$187

Main Event • \$900 NLHE

- Entries: 224 • Prize pool: \$184,800**
1. Fred Bunchan, N. Miami, \$51,736
 2. Tony Cappadona, Pompano, \$30,328
 3. Steven Wolansky, Cooper City, \$19,624
 4. Geddes Cooper, Lauderdale, \$12,488
 5. Rolando Wong, Miami, \$8,920
 6. Evan Teitelbaum, Parkland, \$7,671
 7. Keith Ingham, Boca Raton, \$5,887
 8. George Hortelano, Weston, \$4,282
 9. Stanley Weiss, Nashville, \$4,103
 10. Jeff Balsewich, Boynton Beach, \$3,925
 11. Sharon Levin, Miramar, \$3,746
 12. Soo Jae Han, Boca Raton, \$3,568
 13. Juan Naranjo, Hialeah, \$3,390
 14. Ray Fischer, Coral Springs, \$3,211

15. Maurice Hawkins, Tamarac, \$3,033
16. Ray Nalbandian, Tamarac, \$2,854
17. David Sale, Ft. Lauderdale, \$2,676
18. Daren Stabinski, Weston, \$2,498
19. Steve Senter, Plantation, \$2,319
20. James Ladeira, Hollywood, \$2,141
21. Matthew Frank, Davie, \$1,600
22. Richard Birs, Loxahatchee, \$1,600
23. Howard Appledorf, Pem. Pines, \$1,600
24. N/A, \$1,600

High Heels Poker Tour

- Prize pool: \$6,240**
1. Roxanne Putnan, Royal Palm, \$2,371
 2. Lois Bouit, Boca Raton, \$1,454
 3. Sue Tolson, Plantation, \$942
 4. Aisha Erakbas, Hallandale, \$649
 5. Dee Penchal, Deerfield Beach, \$468
 6. Shawn Fanshier, Hollywood, \$356



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POMPANO PARK

GREEN & GOLD WEEK

MARCH 17-20, 2010 • DANIA JAI-ALAI • DANIA BEACH, FLA.

Dania Jai-Alai's poker room celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a week-long series, including the Le Batard Celebrity tourney. The \$320 main event winner was Andrew Fernandez.



More than 130 starters played in the \$60 tournament, ending in a 10-way chop for \$643 each. Pictured are Stephanie Streeter, Angelo Celangelo, Glen Chiesa, Mia Pupante and John Gordon. Wednesday night's \$35 bounty event drew 202 players. The final 11 chopped for \$393 each.

George Unich of Delray Beach, Fla., took home the trophy for the March 20 Dan Le Batard 790 The Ticket Celebrity tournament. The final 14 players called it a night and chopped, with each pocketing \$490 for their \$50 buy-in. Unich was chipleader and declared the champion, earning a glass trophy from 790 The Ticket.



Andrew Fernandez of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., was the chipleader at the conclusion of the \$50K "Green & Gold" poker tournament on March 20.

With more than 200 entries in the \$320 event, the final 10 players decided to chop the prize pool. However, Fernandez had the most chips and took home more than \$13K. The remaining players won between \$4,000 and \$5,500 each.

ALL IN FREE POKER



On March 28, **Al Hinson**, a member of Team Mugs, won the season final and a \$5K tournament entry prize when he defeated Team Duck member and season points champion John Lynch.

Hinson bested more than 170 players, first at the Isle Casino in Pompano Beach, Fla., and then at the Duck Tavern, where the final table was played.

Lynch won \$700 in Isle tournament entries.

Lisa Thaler, who won her way into the finals via a donation to the Make-A-Wish foundation, was the highest placing woman, finishing third and taking home \$520 in entries. Bobby Morando was fourth (\$350) followed by Ronald Dias of Hollywood (\$270).

Also that day was the conclusion of the month-long heads-up tournament, won by Andy Weir, who beat Charlie Black, 2-1, in their best-of-3 match. Weir earned a \$5K buy-in package to the Aruba PPC SuperPass event.

GULFSTREAM PARK

Michael Johnson defeated Malcolm Purow and a strong field of challengers to win Gulfstream Park's 2010 Cash is King Challenge.

The freeroll event, held March 7, was the latest in Gulfstream Park's Tournament Challenge Series, which awards points for tournament play and then advances the top 50 to a finale.

Gulfstream Park began its WSOP Challenge on April 1 with the concluding freeroll to be held June 6. The top three in that will win WSOP seats.



Shift manager Michael Lord congratulates Michael Johnson.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Michael Johnson, North Miami, \$25K | 6. John Christensen, Miami, \$1,750 |
| 2. Malcolm Purow, Ft. Lauderdale, \$8,500 | 7. Tyrone Gordon, Liberty City, \$1,350 |
| 3. James Ladeira, New York, \$5,075 | 8. Mitch Saintcyr, Sunny Isles, \$1,100 |
| 4. Mark Vienneau, Hollywood, \$3,200 | 9. Rolando Wong, Miami, \$900 |
| 5. Errol Rosen, Miami Beach, \$2,375 | 10. Igor Korkhin, Aventura, \$750 |

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HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD

Here are the results of the \$360K guarantee Spring Poker Open at Paradise Poker Room at the Seminole Hard Rock.

Event	Date	Entries	Winner	Prize	Prize Pool
1.	3/9	205	G. Glass	\$7,065	\$24,600
2.	3/10	422	Z. Willis	\$5,000	\$10,000
3.	3/11	90	Chopped	\$1,500 each	\$13,500
4.	3/12	261	T. Douglas	\$8,564	\$31,320
5.	3/13	83	C. Geddes	\$11,055	\$30,000
6.	3/14	82	J. Dickinson	\$4,875	\$15,000
7.	3/14	148	R. Leuhrs	\$2,798	\$8,800
8.	3/15	145	S. Paolini	\$11,417	\$36,250
9.	3/16	126	S. Wasniewsk	\$4,914	\$15,120
10.	3/17	178	R. Marks	\$3,203	\$10,680
11.	3/18	73	Chopped	\$1,500 each	\$10,950
12.	3/19	157	Hasnain Ali	\$48,670	\$157,000
13.	3/21	158	J. Garcia	\$2,937	\$9,480
14.	3/22	92	D. Fernandez	\$2,040	\$6,000
15.	3/22	117	H. Ayoub	\$9,652	\$29,250

Totals: 2,337 Entries • Prize Pool: \$407,950



Hasnain Ali won the main event and \$48,670.

SEMINOLE CASINOS



The Seminole's Mega Bad Beat Jackpot continues to be hit at an amazing rate.

At Seminole Casino Coconut Creek on March 30 the jackpot was hit for \$180,393. **Evan Rosoff** of Boca Raton won \$90,196

when his jack-high straight flush lost to a king-high straight flush by Itzhak F. of Boca Raton (\$54,117). The other seven players at the table won \$4,510 each. This comes less than two weeks after the jackpot was hit at the Seminole Hard Rock in Tampa for \$285,816. The Mega has now been hit six times since December.

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PLAYER PROFILE: RAJ VOHRA

An occasional interview with a local player • By Garrett Roth

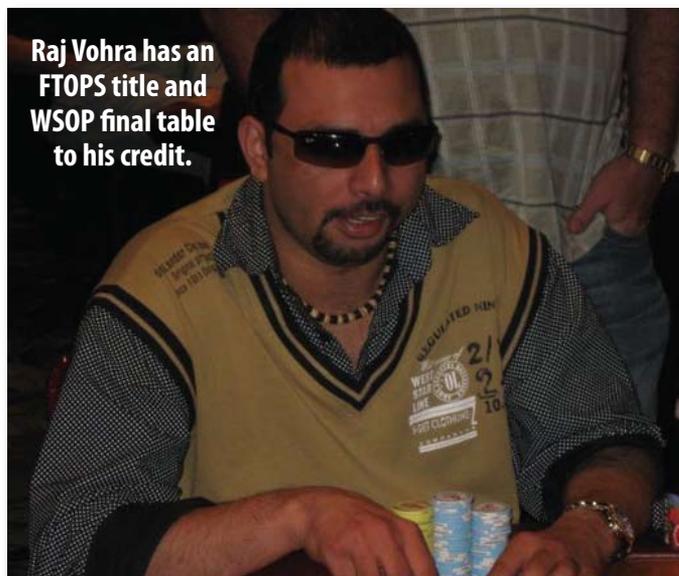
The past three years have been anything but average for poker professional Raj Vohra. Vohra, who lives in Wellington, Fla., has quickly been rising to the top of the poker world. He's making a substantial name for himself, live and online. His largest wins include the Full Tilt Online Poker Series Event 22 (\$430K), Poker Stars Super Tuesday (\$74K) and a 2008 World Series of Poker Event 21 final table (\$196K). He also has won two Ante Up Poker Tour events (\$60K combined) and cashed in the Florida Million (\$6K, 18th). Over the past three years, Raj "BadcardsAA" Vohra has amassed more than \$1.8 million in tournament winnings. Impressive, considering he didn't even know the rank of hands before Joe Hachem's WSOP win in 2005.

The former tennis pro has learned how to take his aggressiveness and competitiveness on the court and translate it into world-class play on the felt. Vohra has taken poker as his new viable sport and has shown through his results what an outstanding contender he really is.

Vohra met with *Ante Up's* Garrett Roth to discuss his journey from tennis pro to poker superstardom.

You started as a tennis player and now have transitioned into a poker phenomenon. How did you make the transition and what factors have helped you succeed? I have always been a very competitive person and that showed in my tennis career. I played since I was 8 years old and eventually became a professional player for India. I still play whenever I can, but my main focus now is on poker. I received my degree in accounting as a backup to tennis in case I was ever injured. That education has helped me tremendously in my transition to poker. I was very aggressive and always attacking the net in tennis, which has also translated to my poker game.

How did you get your start online and what are some of the main differences



Raj Vohra has an FTOPS title and WSOP final table to his credit.

you see apart from the live arena? After moving to Florida to coach tennis, I started watching poker on TV on my time off. I got extremely interested in the game after seeing Joe Hachem win the main event in 2005 and wanted to learn more about the game. About eight months after experimenting in the local casinos, someone told me that everyone was playing online, so I started grinding Party Poker cash games and was actually doing very good. I turned \$200 into about \$6K and after a few months, I started playing multitable tournaments. I actually won the first online tournament I ever played, which was the Party Poker \$200K Guarantee, which I chopped for \$40K. A few days later, I won my WSOP Main Event seat and was hooked after that.

What are some of the factors that separate you from the typical poker player?

I am a very visual player. I don't read or try to get much information from any poker books or videos. I've seen a lot of guys making mistakes and not changing what they are doing. Every day the game is changing and I want to make those adjustments first, before anyone else. All the online kids nowadays are so genius and all they do is play poker 24/7. You have to be one step ahead of them if you have any chance of competing with them. There are so many new trends in poker that your average player might not even think of. Today's game is not about playing conservative or upscale hands. You don't need good cards to win. I like to take control of the table and play a lot after the flop. I would say that about 90 percent of my game is post-flop play. I like to put my opponents to a difficult decision and wait for the right spots. It will make a huge difference in your game if you know and understand concepts like stack sizes, bet-sizing and pot control.

Since you have had so much success in such a short period of time, what is some advice you can give to fellow players and what are some of your upcoming plans for your poker career? The game is getting so complex that you must learn advanced strategy. Training sites are good tools to use for learning fundamental tips, but you have to have the experience for yourself. You have to make your own mistakes and learn what to do to make it better. I can remember hands that I played more than six months ago and having a visual memory like that is what is going to help you succeed. Even though I have some success live, I want to play a lot more tournaments. I traveled a lot when I played tennis, so I'm trying to get used to traveling again for the big tournaments. As far as my future plans, I'm definitely going to win a bracelet this year. I'm so confident in the way that I'm playing that I am totally prepared for the World Series of Poker in June.

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JCKC poker room back in business

Jefferson County Kennel Club in Monticello, Fla., near Tallahassee has resumed poker operations.

The room is open from noon to midnight Monday through Saturday and offers a \$50 buy-in tournament at 7:30 p.m. every Friday night as well as a jackpot.

PLEASURE ISLAND POKER



On March 13, Thomas Dickerson, left, won Scully's on the Bayou's charity tournament to benefit the Emerald Coast Foundation. He was followed by Glenn Yost, Robert Glenn, Meredith McCann, John Brown, Scott Lee, R.C. Klein, Frank Lee and Josh Fike.

- On March 21, Frances Wilson, right, won the monthly tournament at Fokkers Pub in Fort Walton Beach. She bested 62 players, including Jack Lippert when it got to heads-up play.

Over the past three years she has qualified for every monthly tournament and made the final table nearly 20 times.

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURS



Chip Godwin, above, won the grand opening event at the Original Oasis in Destin, Fla.

Not to be outdone, Susan Murphy, below, won the monthly northwest Florida tournament by defeating 33 players on April 3 at Twisted Palm in Destin.



IMAGE COURTESY OF OASIS OF THE SEAS

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PPA SPONSORS DERBY POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

The Poker Players Alliance is sponsoring the Derby Poker Championship, hosted by poker pros Phil Hellmuth, Robert Williamson III and former Louisville men's basketball coach Denny Crum.

The event, with the slogan "Go All-in for The Kids and The Climate," will benefit Blessings in a Backpack and the HC Foundation.

The Derby Poker Championship is an annual no-limit Texas Hold'em tournament held the week of the Kentucky Derby in Louisville, Ky., with 51 percent of the prize pool going to local and international charities.

This year the tournament will be April 29 at the Palace Theatre in downtown Louisville. Cocktails, appetizers and event registration be-

gins at 6:30 p.m. followed by the start of the tournament at 7:30. Late entries will be accepted for one hour after the first deal.

The Derby Poker Championship has a \$550 buy-in and a max field of 220 players. Rebuys and add-ons cost \$200.

Anyone wanting to attend the event but not fork over the buy-in can buy general admission tickets for \$25 or VIP tickets for \$150.

The winner of the event gets a \$10,000 World Series of Poker Main Event seat plus \$2,000 for expenses. Other celebrities expected to attend include Jennifer Tilly, actress Heather Graham and pro golfer Corey Pavin.



LOUISVILLE POKER TOUR

Linda McDonald bit her nails as the final hand was dealt, but after the river she was points champion, receiving a \$550 buy-in to the Derby Poker Championship on April 29.

McDonald, who has been playing in the LPT for a year, had high hopes before the April 2 event at the Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center.

"I kept telling everyone they could go ahead and go home. I had a strong feeling this was my night to win," McDonald said.

She said she enjoys returning every week to the LPT: "I love seeing the same people every week that enjoy the same passion I do. Also, the dealers make it

fun to be there, especially if you're a new player, they will make sure you are welcome."

The Louisville Poker Tour, which is the largest in the region, was established in 2005 by John Taylor as a way to bring in money to local restaurants and bars. Poker is free to patrons and there are more than 40 games in Louisville, Southern Indiana and Bardstown.

"Our main objective is to host an establishment and make them money. Poker is just the way we do that," Taylor said.

Go to www.thelouisvillepokertour.com for more tour information.

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MOUNTAINEER RIVER

WHAT A WEEKEND!

To say March 13-14 was a busy time at the Mountaineer River poker room would be an understatement. First, on Saturday, the room's bad-beat jackpot was hit ... TWICE! Then, on Sunday, Ralph Fee of Kirtland, Ohio, won the room's \$30K freeroll event.



Ralph
Fee



Robert
Moore



Charles
Nelson



The \$30K final table

\$30K Freeroll results

1. Ralph Fee, Kirtland, Ohio	\$10,000
2. Robert Moore, Steubenville, Ohio	\$5,200
3. Charles Nelson, Stow, Ohio	\$2,800
4. Donald Eckberg, Hammondsville, Ohio	\$1,700
5. George Theilman, Mars, Pa.	\$1,400
6. Glenn Bednar, Pittsburgh	\$1,200
7. Jess Pritchard, Derry, Pa.	\$1,000
8. Jeffrey Summer, Mentor, Ohio	\$800
9. Robert Beshara, Youngstown, Ohio	\$750
10. Sharon Roethlisberger, Beaver Falls, Ohio	\$700



On March 13, in a \$1-\$2 NLHE cash game John Krugle (red shirt) had his quad nines beaten by Donald P's straight flush to win the \$109,818 bad-beat jackpot. Krugle of McKees Rocks, Pa., pocketed \$54,908. Donald won \$27,454. The rest of the table took home \$3,922 each. They were James Welling, Akron, Ohio; Rex Moniger, Orrville, Ohio; Richard Boozer, Schellsburg, Ohio; Charles Wern, Warren, Ohio; Chester Patterson, Kent, Ohio; Damon Zeigler, Imperial, Pa.; and Tom Kantaras, Youngstown, Ohio.



Again on March 13 in a \$1-\$2 NLHE cash game, Miles Lewis' aces full of kings fell Christine Gergels quad sevens to hit the \$85,615 jackpot. Lewis of Mentor, Ohio, won \$42,807 while Gergel of Mentor, Ohio, took home \$21,403. The other members on the table each won \$3,058. They were: Joseph Diabiase, Butler, Pa.; Daniel Gaetano, N. Canton, Ohio; Matthew Fein, Akron, Ohio; Donald Stocz, Cortland, Ohio; Matthew Radak, Akron, Ohio; Charles Horton, Freedom, Pa.; and James Eales, Wadsworth, Ohio.

AROUND THE SOUTH



GEORGIA

For the first time in Atlanta Poker Club history, women held six spots in the club's top-10 leaderboard at season's end, including the winner, **Karen Brooks**, who had the lead throughout the season but had to hold off Sonya Miller for the points title.

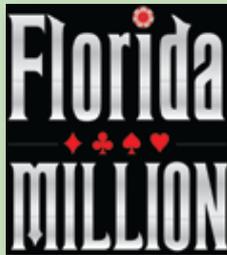
The four-month winter season garnered a lot of spirited competition, which is to be expected with more than 5,000 members in the APC.

ALABAMA: ALL-IN ALABAMA



All-In Alabama's Miss Deal, Valerie Watson, congratulates March Player of the Month Bruce Armstrong of Pell City. Bruce collected one win and three top-five finishes during the month. Jeff Willingham of Coal City was runner-up for the award.

NEXT MONTH IN ANTE UP



When six poker rooms around Florida came together with the goal of having a tournament with a \$1 million prize pool, there was understandably a little nervousness their part, and a little skepticism from the players. But the Florida Million had a \$1,174,500 prize pool as 235 players advanced to the finals on April 10-11.

Pick up next month's issue of *Ante Up* for full coverage of the Florida Million.

The Beau Rivage's Spring Break Poker Classic was still running when *Ante Up* went to press. But that doesn't mean we can't give you a little teaser.

Chris Conrad of Tallahassee, Fla., won the opening tournament, a \$555 no-limit hold'em deepstack event that drew 208 entries. From the \$100,880 prize pool Conrad won \$32,465, plus a seat into the main event and, apparently a very ripe banana (maybe he won that in the Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series?). Be sure to pick up your FREE copy of *Ante Up*'s June issue to see all of the results from this tournament series.



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Wed	7 PM: \$65 NL Hold'em Multi Table
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Thu	7 PM: \$50 No Limit Hold'em MTT
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The spacious Ante Up poker room was packed our first night at sea.



Can you tell Scott Long and his wife Laura enjoyed a tequilla tasting?



A stressful final table in the AUP main event required some relaxation.



T.J. Cloutier flanked by Ante Up publishers Chris Cosenza and Scott Long.



Docked at Cozumel, Mexico, the ship was nothing but smooth sailing the whole way from Tampa, Fla.



The massage ladies of Amenity Pro enjoy formal night on the ship.



T.J. Cloutier instructs his students during his DeepStacks Live poker seminar.



Ante Up's Healthy Bet columnist Dr. Frank Toscano supports his Blue Devils during the Ante Up Poker Tour main event. Duke fared better than Frank.

A terrific new ship, an open-bar meet-and-greet party, a very large poker room, Poker Hall of Famer T.J. Cloutier and, of course, the always beautiful Cozumel, Mexico, made our second poker cruise a thrilling success. The poker room spread everything from no-limit hold'em and Omaha/8 to H.O.R.S.E. and Chinese poker cash games while hosting freerolls and a handful of hard-fought tournaments. Look for information regarding our next poker cruise in upcoming issues of *Ante Up*.

LOUISIANA

AMELIA BELLE



Viet Nguyen hit the bad-beat jackpot for \$54,835.25 while N.J. Cavalier won \$27,417.63 and the table split the rest.

BELLE OF BATON ROUGE



Branton Jackson of Baton Rouge, La., left, won \$93,910.50 from the bad-beat jackpot. Brandon Miles of Prairieville, La., right, won \$46,955.25. Don't spend it all in one place, fellas.

AROUND THE NATION

NEW JERSEY: BORGATA \$500K GUARANTEE



The Borgata poker room's deep-stack series garners a lot of attention, especially when it's a \$500K guarantee event, such as the \$1,650 tournament held March 7-10.

The no-limit hold'em tournament drew 506 players for a \$759,000 prize pool.

Though no one from The South won, we did have a few cashers, including John Myung of Vienna, Va., who finished third. Here's a look at our players who made money in New Jersey.

3. John Myung, Vienna, Va.	\$57,058
14. David Bell, Tamarac, Fla.	\$6,994
15. James Ostrander, Southern Pines, N.C.	\$6,994
27. Kambiz Behbahani, Fairfax Station, Va.	\$3,828
39. Ray Shackelford, Fredericksburg, Va.	\$2,577
48. Carlos Avalos, Woodbridge, Va.	\$2,209



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WSOP CIRCUIT EVENT



MARCH 3-14, 2010 • HARRAH'S CASINO • ATLANTIC CITY

Southern players fared well in New Jersey, including winning two rings. Congratulations to Yat Cheng (Event 1) and Earnest Whistler (Event 3) for capturing their major titles. Below is a look at the WSOPC main event as seen through the lens of photographer Jonathan Dennis.



Best friends Manny Minaya, left, and Jacobo Fernandez, both of Florida, play a hand together in the main event.



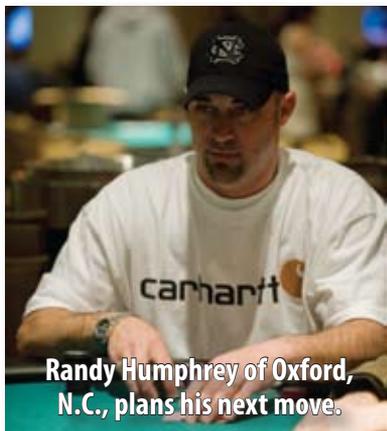
Sang Kim of Leesburg, Va., stares at the flop.



Dennis Summers of Charlottesville, Va., rakes in a nice pot and smiles.



Robert Kalteaux of Seminole, Fla.



Randy Humphrey of Oxford, N.C., plans his next move.



Christopher Mitchell of Sumter, S.C., finished second for \$138,894.



Yat Cheng

Event #1 • \$340 NLHE
Entries: 682 • Prize Pool: \$198,462
 1. Yat Cheng, Atlanta, \$55,569

Event #2 • \$560 NLHE
Entries: 256 • Prize Pool: \$124,160
 5. Lance Carter, Arlington, Va., \$7,450
 8. Michael Hodgdon, Charlottesville, Va., \$3,724



Earnest Whistler

Event #3 • \$340 NLHE
Entries: 662 • Prize Pool: \$192,642
 1. Earnest Whistler, Fairfax, Va., \$53,940
 5. Jason DeLozier, Arlington, Va., \$11,559

Event #4 • \$660 NLHE
Entries: 392 • Prize Pool: \$190,120
 4. John W. Jones, Fredericksburg, Va., \$13,308
 5. Dennis Summers, Charlottesville, Va., \$11,407
 6. Mike Graybill, Roanoke, Va., \$9,506
 10. John D'Anselmi, Clarksburg, W.Va., \$2,281

Event #5 • \$340 NLHE
Entries: 451 • Prize Pool: \$131,241
 6. Jack Sumner, St. Augustine, Fla., \$6,562

Event #7 • \$1,080 NLHE
Entries: 196 • Prize Pool: \$190,120
 3. Charles Croft, Sumter, S.C., \$19,012
 4. Kenneth Packer, Fayetteville, N.C., \$15,210
 6. Bruce MacGregor, Port Orange, Fla., \$9,506
 7. Anthony Tannoya, Woodbridge, Va., \$7,605

Event #8 • \$1,600 NLHE
Entries: 190 • Prize Pool: \$276,450
 5. Christopher Carey, Hillsborough, N.C., \$16,587

Main Event • \$5,150 NLHE
Entries: 174 • Prize Pool: \$817,015
 2. Christopher Mitchell, Sumter, S.C., \$138,894
 3. Dan Witcher, Mt. Pleasant, S.C., \$81,702
 14. Jacobo Fernandez, Hollywood, Fla., \$11,438
 16. Manelic Minaya, Tampa, Fla., \$9,804

Event #11 • \$230 NLHE
Entries: 282 • Prize Pool: \$54,708
 3. Khan Tiath, Fairfax, Va., \$4,924

Event #12 • \$230 Ladies
Entries: 174 • Prize Pool: \$33,756
 7. Antoinette Fiorenza, Oviedo, Fla., \$1,350

AROUND THE NATION

WSOP CIRCUIT, SAN DIEGO



Yang

Bernie Yang of Atlanta won the first event of the World Series of Poker circuit tournament at the Harrah's Rincon Casino in San Diego.

He dominated the last half of the tournament, a \$550 no-limit hold'em event, to pocket \$20,065 and the gold ring. Yang was never in serious danger of losing this chip lead at any time during the last eight hours of the tournament, which was played March 20-21.

Yang was born in Taiwan but attended Georgia Tech, where he earned his masters degree in electrical engineering. Yang is pursuing a Ph.D., though he admits he has taken some time off to play poker, mostly online.

He is working an internship in the San Diego area, yet is uncertain about his next career move.

• In February at the Legends of Poker in Los Angeles, Garrett Levirini won a preliminary event, but in March he followed that up with a WSOP circuit win. The 26-year-old poker pro, who is between residences in Las Vegas and Reston, Va., plays live and online.

Levirini took home \$13,339 and his first gold ring, the coveted award presented to all champions of WSOP circuit tournaments held around the country.

Event #1 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 599 • Prize Pool: \$116,206
25. Paul Greenwood, Flagstaff, AR, \$848

Event #3 • \$550 NLHE

Entries: 151 • Prize Pool: \$73,235
1. Bernie Yang, Atlanta, \$20,065

Event #6 • \$230 NLHE

Entries: 283 • Prize Pool: \$54,904
1. Garrett Levirini, Reston, Va., \$13,339
2. Rodney Ziegler, Linden, Va., \$439

Event #10 • \$1,080 NLHE

Entries: 105 • Prize Pool: \$101,850
2. Bernie Yang, Atlanta, \$19,942



Levirini

FOXWOODS POKER CLASSIC



Hodson

The annual Foxwoods Poker Classic draws a lot of southerners to Eastern Connecticut this time of year.

Floridians took three undercard titles and made up most of our cashers. Jim Welsh of Kissimmee, Fla., is happy he made a deal. When the tournament \$200 NLHE Shootout reached five-handed play, the play-

ers made a deal and he received the most (\$23,202) because he was chipleader. He was eliminated shortly thereafter in fifth place.

A few days later Robert Hodson III of Jupiter, Fla., won the \$400 NLHE event, edging 260 players for \$19K. Robert Rosengarten of Aventura, Fla., finished 27th for \$753.

Here are our cashers from the remaining undercard events:

\$400 STUD: 3. Harold Kizzire, Birmingham, Ala. \$5,383

\$500 NLHE: 2. Ben Klier, Versailles, Ky., \$17,627

\$200 NLHE: 48. Troy LaPointe, Alexandria, Va., \$399

\$600 NLHE: 24. Maurice Hawkins, Tamarac, Fla., \$1,162

\$1K NLHE: 5. Antuan Bunkley, Riviera Beach, Fla., \$11,065

\$500 NLHE: 1. Joseph Hertel, West Palm Beach, Fla., \$5,252

\$3,500 MAIN EVENT: 5. John Manwaring, Wappingers, Fla., \$46,606;

10. Richard Rice, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., \$12,547

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MAY 7TH - MAY 15TH

MAY 7, 8, 13 & 14 - Main Event Day Ones - 2 pm at St. Johns Greyhound Park - \$150 buy-in

MAY 10TH - Seniors Event WSOP Satellite - 1 pm at St. Johns Greyhound Park - \$150 buy-in

MAY 11TH - Pot Limit Omaha Championship - 1 pm at St. Johns Greyhound Park - \$150 buy-in

MAY 12TH - Bounty Event - 1 pm at St. Johns Greyhound Park - \$225 buy-in



HIGH HEELS POKER TOUR ACADEMY

MAY 21ST - High Heels Poker Tour Academy - 10 am at Orange Park Kennel Club

MAY 22ND - High Heels Poker Tour WSOP Ladies Satellite Event - \$150 buy-in

June Events:

JUNE 13TH - "Final Chance" WSOP Satellite Event - 1 pm at Orange Park Kennel Club - \$150 buy-in

JUNE 6TH - "Final Chance" WSOP Satellite Event - 1 pm at St. Johns Greyhound Park - \$150 buy-in

JUNE 25TH - JUNE 27TH - Mega Stack Main Event - 2 pm at St. Johns Greyhound Park - \$225 buy-in. Players knocked out on Day 1A can re-enter on Day 1B

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CONVERTING SATELLITE MONEY

Last month I discussed how to earn satellite dollars and use them as an opportunity to enter larger buy-in tournaments. There's a special Web site that allows you to take advantage of satellite dollars without actually playing in one. It's an exchange site called www.pokerstarsTW.com. Think of it as a combination of eBay and Craigslist, but for poker.

Here's how the site describes its service: "Say you accumulate a number of PokerStars T\$, which are a special form of currency that PokerStars offers for winning satellite tournaments. PokerStars realizes not everybody will be available to participate in the target event so they give you the option to unregister from the target event and credit your account with the target event buy-in amount in the form of T\$. These can then be used to register into any PokerStars' tournaments, including SNGs."

Not only can you exchange these tournament dollars, but you can buy-sell PokerStars Euros.

If you need more help, an excellent resource for those of you looking for tournaments is pokerstars.com/poker/tournaments/feed from PokerStars. It displays tournaments with special sorting to weed out only satellites. Once you find your perfect tournament, it links you to it and opens your Pokerstars' software. It is a real time-saver.

Around The South

FLORIDA: Corey "comandr_cool" Burbick earned a cool \$195K for only three tournaments in March: \$55,959.90 for his victory on March 7 in the \$150K guarantee on Full Tilt; \$77,401.50 for his third place on March 28 in the \$215 Sunday Warm-Up on PokerStars; and \$61,132.50 for a third on Stars in the Super Tuesday on March 30.

LOUISIANA: Jeremy "thechemist83" Gaubert won \$115K in two recent tournaments: \$66,875 for a second in the Sunday \$500K on Stars on Valentine's Day, and he won the March 7 \$109 rebuy event on Stars for \$47,338.40.

MISSISSIPPI: actionjunky earned \$60K in two tournaments: He won first place and \$14,112 in the \$30K Super Turbo on Full Tilt (2/18) and finished fourth in the \$750K guarantee on Full Tilt, good for \$45,980.

ONLINE SERIES RETURN: PokerStars' Spring Championship of Online Poker (SCOOP) runs May 1-16 with 38 tournaments. Also, Full Tilt's FTOPS XVI is under way with 30 events and an \$18 million guaranteed prize pool.

— 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



MAY 12, 9 p.m.: NLHE	SEPT. 25, Noon: PLO/8
MAY 29, Noon: Razz	OCT. 13, 9 p.m.: PL 5-Card Draw
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

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!

POKERCAST SOUND BYTE OF THE MONTH

After I took my shower last night . . . because I felt dirty playing badugi all night, I had this sort of epiphany. Having AIPS in my life is kinda like committing a sin, but having a PokerCast like this is like having a priest to confess my sins. As long as we have this show I can confess my sins toward poker and move on to play the next AIPS. ... I feel like I can cleanse my poker soul because I felt so dirty after playing badugi last night.



— CHRIS COSENZA, after playing in the show's Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series

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KIDS & POKER

When should you teach your youngsters how to play poker, and which game should you choose?

By Christopher Cosenza

My heads-up opponent was young. I could tell she didn't have a lot of experience playing cards in a live environment; typical for youngsters these days. I stared her down, studying her every move while I awaited her next action. She glanced at her hand one last time, bit her lip slightly and said, "Do you have any sixes?"

"D'oh!"

I handed over my 6♦ and watched the glee in her face as she put down her final pair, trouncing me in Go Fish, eight pairs to three.

The young lady was Izabella, my 6-year-old granddaughter, who began our session by saying she had been practicing Go Fish for the past few months and couldn't wait to beat me. She had so many facial tells it would've made Mike Caro blush, but it was adorable nonetheless. Her pure joy from this sweet victory brought a smile to my face.

But that grin wasn't nearly as big as the one I had when she said, "Now let's play deuce-to-seven, triple-draw lowball!"

The night before she had asked me what game I wanted to play, and I jokingly said "deuce." But before I could tell her I was kidding she said, "What's that?" I laughed and was about to suggest we play Go Fish. But then I thought about it some more and wondered what the proper age was to start teaching a child poker. There are many legitimate life lessons that can be extracted from the game, including courtesy, patience, risk, reward and, of course, math.

I'm not promoting childhood gambling or contributing to the delinquency of a minor here, but just about everyone reading this learned how to play cards at a young age from their parents or grandparents. I was incorrectly drawing an inside straight in 5-card draw when I was 4. So what's the correct age to start teaching children this great game? I contend if he or she likes to play games, knows number values and understands the concept of winning and losing, then your child is ready. These attributes usually are grasped by the age of 5, which coincides with the age in which you officially enroll your child in school. Learning is learning, is it not?

In the past, my granddaughter often was frustrated because she had to be excluded when I played poker with her dad and uncle at the kitchen table. Cards, chips and poker banter always mesmerized her. Now she fit the aforementioned criteria for learning the game, so I agreed to teach her.

But surely deuce-to-sev-

en is much too complicated for a 6-year-old player, right? Not so fast. Children love to play games, and they love every opportunity to win. In triple-draw a player is given three chances to make their hand, which thrills children. Plus there's no need to explain straights, flushes, sets, full houses and quads. All they need to know is how to count and that having a pair in your hand is a bad thing. Since Izabella was a gold-bracelet winner in Go Fish she clearly knew what a pair was, so as far as I was concerned triple-draw was the perfect game to teach her first.

I suggest letting your youngster make straights and flushes without penalty. Nothing kills the spirit of learning like telling a little girl she didn't win because her 7-6-5-4-3 lost to your pair of deuces. If you want to change the game to A-5 California triple-draw lowball by all means do so. It only makes it that much easier. And keep chips out of the equation for the first few sessions. There's no need to confuse them further until they fully comprehend the game.

So, I explained the basic rules to Izabella, that I would deal her five cards, she could discard as many as she wanted and that I would replace them with new cards from the deck. She understood she could do this three times but that she didn't have to if she liked her hand. And at the end we would compare hands and the lowest number (with no pairs) won. Pretty simple, and she grasped it immediately.

On the first hand I was dealt K-Q-4-3-2. I asked her how many cards she wanted and she said two, neatly pulling out her discards and pushing them toward me. I gave her two and I took two as well. On the next draw she took just one, and I had been dealt J-8 so I kept the 8 and drew one. I got another 4 and asked her how many she wanted. She said, "I like these."

I raised my eyebrows and said, "Are you sure, Sweetie? You can draw again if you want."

But she said, "No, I don't need any."

So I smiled, threw my 4 in the muck, drew one to my perfect 8 and got another jack.

Then I said, "OK, this is called the show-down, when we show each other our cards."

She put them down one at a time. First a 10, then a 9, then an 8, then a 3 and then a 2. Did she just slowroll me? Did she really know she was a favorite if I had to draw one more time? Did she actually listen to our Ante Up PokerCast when Greg Raymer was a guest? Did I have the next Jennifer Harman on my hands? As a preteen Harman used to sit in and win back her father's money when things went sour in his home game. Would Izabella be sitting in for me some day?

I said, "You win!"

She smiled and said, "I know, 'cause a jack is higher than a 10! Can we use chips now?"

From the mouths of babes. ...

— Email Chris at chris@anteupmagazine.com





NEW MOON

He said the money wouldn't change him, but did it? Darwin Moon, the 2009 World Series of Poker Main Event runner-up, shares his thoughts about life after his amazing run and his \$5 million win.

BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA

Anyone who paid attention to the 2009 World Series of Poker Main Event learned Darwin Moon wasn't exactly a big fan of media attention. The 46-year-old logger from Oakland, Md., would prefer to just play in a home game than with 10 cameras in his face, hordes of reporters analyzing his play and millions of viewers watching his every move. ¶ It's only natural to wonder: Is he actually glad he finished second and didn't have to deal with the ultimate celebrity that goes with being the world champ?

“That’s a touchy question,” Moon said, pausing to put his thoughts together. “I’m gonna put this as nicely as I can. Anybody that plays anything competitive, if they want to come in second, they’re a moron. You play for first. I wanted to win. When I sat down at that table July 6, I wanted nothing but first place. When I sat down at the table on Nov. 9, I wanted nothing but first place. It didn’t work out but. ... anybody that’s competitive and has the competitive edge only wants first. I wanted first, bad, but it didn’t work out.”

Well, it worked out a little. He won \$5 million for second place, and if he hadn’t gotten that far he might never have earned one particular perk: His beloved New Orleans Saints got wind of Moon’s devotion to the team (“You won’t see many pictures without me wearing a Saints hat,” he says.) and invited him to be in the suite on their march to the Super Bowl title.

“It was the happiest feeling of my life besides winning five million bucks,” he said, laughing. “It was great. Memories you’ll never forget. The Saints have been the underdog all these years and I ended up doing well wearing their hat. Then they turn around and win it. How much better feeling could it be for you than thinking maybe by me wearing the hat I put them over the edge.”

Living in Maryland you’d think Moon would adopt one of the three pro teams in his vicinity (Washington, Baltimore or Pittsburgh), but Moon is never one to go along with the masses.

“I’ve always rooted for the underdog,” said Moon, who many considered an underdog at the final table last year despite having the chip lead. “You’ve always had Pittsburgh here as a good team ... Washing-

ton, Baltimore; they’ve always had good teams and that’s all people around here talk about. ... I just said I like the underdog, so who’s the underdog? It’s the Saints. So I started being a Saints fan for the last 25 years.”

Something else he’s done for the past 25 years has been the family logging business, Moon Logging. And it’s this business that almost kept him from his date with destiny. Moon frequents the Wheeling

Island Casino in West Virginia, where he won his WSOP seat via satellite. With the economy nose-diving, Moon considered just collecting his \$10K and putting it back into the business. But that’s when his brother, Bill, stepped in.

“He said, ‘You got there on nothing. You played a \$30 tournament here in town, won \$600. You went to Wheeling and invested \$130 of that and won a seat. You got there on \$30! ... Win or lose we’ll still make it. The business will still survive,’ which it would. But I was always looking out for my business. ... He said, ‘Go give it a shot; don’t take your money.’ When I walked in that poker room out there, there was no doubt in my mind I was playing. Any doubt in my mind that I’d think I’d come in where I come in? No way in hell.”

After Moon made the final table he insisted the money wouldn’t change him. And it hasn’t. He’s still the same self-deprecating gentleman he was before July 6, 2009. But his LIFE has changed, and even he can’t deny it.

“It’s a lot different than it was before this,” said Moon, who began playing poker regularly after he got “too old” for his softball leagues. “Before this it was a pretty simple day; you get up a 6 o’clock in the



Darvin Moon congratulates Annie Duke in the NBC Heads-Up Championship after she "took me to school," he said.



Continued from previous page

morning, ya eat breakfast, lace up your work boots and head to the woods for 10 hours. Now you get up at 6 in the morning, go make sure the men are working, they got everything they need and you're on the phone doing business most of the day It's changed a lot. You can say your life's not going to change but it changes around ya. You can't help it.

"I'm 10 times busier. You got so much stuff. I never worried about having all of the insurance coverage you've gotta have. Hell, it was just work one day to survive the next. Now it's make sure you got all your ducks in a row so somebody doesn't take everything you have the next day. Am I the same person? Yes I am. It's just life is a lot more hectic. I guess you could say it's a fun, hectic way of life. I've told my wife a hundred times that if I knew we were going to have to deal with some of the stuff we're dealing with I'd a took my \$10,000 and come home in a heartbeat. (But) the amount of money vs. the aggravation, there's no comparison. The money wins over the aggravation. . . . Life's good."

One thing that hasn't changed is his love for helping others. Moon will be in Daytona Beach, Fla., on May 15-16 for the second annual Venetian Deep Stack Charity Classic, which aids in the philanthropic efforts of the Congregation B'nai Torah.

"If you can help somebody that's down, if you can make their life easier for one day, that's what life's about. To me it is. If I can help somebody that needs a little boost in life . . . we raise a lot of money doing tournaments for people around the area, like cancer patients. The closest hospital to where we live that can treat you for chemo and radia-

tion and do major surgery is West Virginia University, and that's 70 miles away. That's a lot of expense just in gas. Even if your insurance is covering your medical, you gotta go there and back every day when gas is \$3 a gallon. You got a lot of expense. And if you're down in that shape you're not working. So if I can put on a benefit poker tournament to raise enough gas so somebody can get there and back for a week, that's what it's all about. They have one week they don't have to worry about how they're going to get there. That's what I think living's all about, helping somebody else. That's where I come from.

"And if I would take a sponsorship this year, wear somebody's logo at the WSOP, which there's a good chance I will, at least 60 percent of it will be donated to non-profit organizations. . . . But it would only be to wear during the Series. There'd be no other ties to me."

That was a big storyline from last year's WSOP: Why didn't Moon sign with a sponsor for the free money and endorsement privileges?

"I've been self-employed my whole life," said Moon, who learned to play poker from his grandfather at age 8. "I worked 18 months for another company and then I was self-employed. Once you work 20-something years for yourself you can't work for someone else. You'll get fired! I just can't see anybody telling me I gotta be somewhere at a certain time. That's the reason I didn't sign. I just don't want that.

"Besides, we woulda been in court. Because as soon as they told me I had to be somewhere and I had a little local game here at home I wanted to play in, I'd be here and they'd be suing me 'cause I wasn't there.

Continued on next page

IN THE MUCK

Darvin Moon has a terrific sense of humor. *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza asked him some non-poker questions and here were his responses:

With all of these logging reality TV shows, what's the craziest thing you've ever seen out on the job site? Nothing near what they show. My logging job is nothing half as intense as that. They just make it for TV. First thing, if you talk to your employees the way they talk to their men, they're gonna get a tree on them. Loggers are proud people. They don't take that. That's around here anyway.

How is it there's an official Darvin Moon Facebook page yet you don't have Internet access? There's like *seven* of them out there, my niece keeps telling me. It's not me. I'm telling you it's not me. I don't even look at any of this. I don't even know what Facebook is.

I read where you planned on spending time in Alaska and buying your dad a pink Caddy. Have you done either of those things? When is this going to be put in a book?

It'll be in the magazine in late April. OK, like before the 18th?

No, it'll be like the third week in April. OK, 'cause we're having my mom and dad's 50th wedding anniversary on April 18th and that's when he's getting a vehicle. And that's when I want to take my dad, my mom and my wife and set up a vacation, a cruise to Alaska. . . . He don't want a Cadillac. We live in the mountains. This past year we had 284 inches of snow; we need four-wheel drive units. Cadillac is worthless to us up here; we can run 'em six months out of the year. They'll probably be getting an all-wheel drive SUV, but the Cadillac's out."

Moon, Mouth, McEvoy to play in Deep Stack Classic

By Scott Long

Darvin Moon, Mike “The Mouth” Matusow and Tom McEvoy will be among the players in this year’s Venetian Deep Stack Charity Classic on May 16 at Daytona Beach Kennel Club in Florida.

Top-five win four nights in a suite at the Venetian Resort in Las Vegas, roundtrip airfare for two, limo transportation, \$1,000 in food credit and a Venetian tournament entry. The winning player gets a seat in the \$5,000 Venetian Deep Stack Extravaganza III Main Event, while second through fifth get \$2,100 seats.

More than 100 door prizes worth a combined \$5,000 will be given out randomly during the tournament, and a raffle will award an additional \$7,000 in prizes, including floor seats to Orlando Magic games, designer watches and resort getaways.

Players can buy an entry voucher in advance for a \$150 donation (\$175 day of event) at www.deepstackcharityclassic.com or at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club. Players can rebuy and buy an add-on once. All players get a pre-event nosh from Strathmore Bagels and dinner during the tournament. The event benefits the Congregation B’Nai Torah and its related charities.

Players start with 10,000 units and levels are 25 minutes.

The tournament was created last year by Daytona Beach businessman Scott Frank and Rabbi Steven Kane.

“Looking to initiate and create a charitable effort and foundation to support a variety of worthy causes, my congregation asked my rabbi and me to help,” Frank said. “Perhaps they simply thought that a charity auction was in the works. Or maybe a gala dinner. They had no idea what was really coming.”

New this year will be the Adventure Boat Club VIP event, which is a 50-player-max field invitation-only tournament on May 15 featuring Moon, McEvoy and Matusow. Players can earn invitations (valued at \$450) at DBKC, and one *Ante Up* reader will earn a seat in a May 5 drawing. Register at anteupmagazine.com/contest.

Mike Matusow will play in the May 16 event and teach a DeepStacks Live poker course May 14.



“We also know that the opportunity to play with poker superstar Mike Matusow and fan favorite Darvin Moon right here in Daytona will make the tournament uniquely special,” Frank said. “We are so appreciative they will be joining us as celebrity players.”

Matusow will teach one-day DeepStacks Live poker course on May 14. Registration is available at www.deepstacks.com.

To preregister visit www.deepstackcharityclassic.com or call (386) 871-9187.

Continued from previous page

I’m pretty much set in my ways and I’m not going to sell myself or sell out. And that’s the way I was raised, not selling yourself to something you don’t believe in.”

But viewers did see a Wheeling Island Casino logo on his shirt.

“We have a good relationship,” he said. “Do they pay me to wear their advertisement? No they don’t. If I want to go over to the island and spend a night or two nights they’ll comp me a room, they’ll comp me a meal, and that’s all I expect from them. And they don’t expect a whole lot from me. I wear their shirt, their advertisement out of respect. If they wouldn’t have given me the opportunity to play a qualifier I never woulda been where I’m at, financially. So I just have a lot of respect for them and they have a lot of respect for me and it works out good for both of us.”

Despite his newfound riches, Moon says he only plans on playing the main event this year (“I’ll get into town on (July) 7th and I play the 8th.”) and he firmly believes he’ll make the final table again.

“I don’t think I’m as good as those guys,” he said, “but I feel pretty confident I’ll be at the final table again because I feel I have a lot of luck in cards.”

One of the downfalls in Moon’s quest for the 2009 title was his

lack of experience at a final table, especially heads-up play. He admits now he probably shouldn’t have spent a month hunting “to clear his head” during the WSOP hiatus from July to November. So, one of the things he’s done this year in preparation for making the final table is play in the NBC National Heads-Up Championship at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

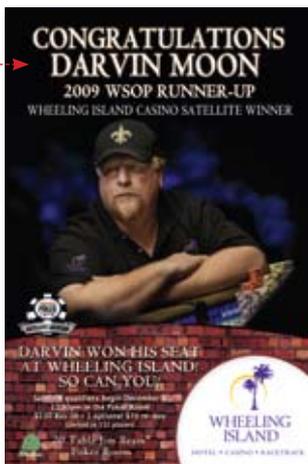
“I won my first match,” he said, “then (eventual champ) Annie Duke beat me like a dog the second match. She took me to school.”

But isn’t there a less obtrusive way to gain experience without having to deal with Las Vegas and the media?

“It wasn’t that I didn’t like Vegas, I just didn’t like all the cameras. You come from where I come from, when I was out there in July it was like the world come to an end. Every time you make a move there’s a camera, an interview. I’ve grown accustomed to a lot of that now, but I’d never been around anything like that. You get up to leave the table and you got six or eight cameras and 20 mikes in your face and people asking you questions. It’s like ‘What the hell?’ You know? ... But it wasn’t that I didn’t like Vegas. It

was too hot in July for me in Vegas. I’m a fat guy, ya know, and heat just don’t work when you’re fat. ... I didn’t realize poker was as big as it is. It’s a hundred times bigger than I ever dreamt it would be.”

And now poker is even bigger because of him. ♠



FLORIDA PRIMED TO

HOW IT HAPPENED: AFTER THREE TRIES, THE SEMINOLE TRIBE, GOV. CRIST AND THE LEGISLATURE FIND COMMON GROUND AND GIVE A LITTLE SOMETHING TO THE PARIMUTUEL ROOMS.

After three years, a lawsuit, and countless rounds of discussions and negotiations, it appears that the gaming compact between the State of Florida and the Seminole Tribe finally will come to fruition.

The third time must be the charm as the two previous iterations of the compact have failed; the first signed 2007 was declared null by the Florida Supreme Court and the second from 2009 was rejected by the Florida Legislature.



MARC DUNBAR

The latest compact grants the tribe exclusive operation of house-banked card games, including blackjack, baccarat and chemin de fer, in Florida at the Seminole casinos in Coconut Creek, Hollywood, Immokalee, and the Seminole Hard Rock Casinos in Hollywood and Tampa. It also authorizes the tribe to convert their "Class II" bingo machines to "Class III" slot machines at all seven facilities. The compact was signed by Gov. Charlie Crist and the tribe on April 7, subsequently approved by the Florida Legislature. Crist will seek final approval by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

In exchange for exclusivity in offering house-banked card games, the compact provides for revenue-sharing with the state. The agreement guarantees a minimum payment to the state for the first five years of \$1 billion. After the initial five years, the state can permit the games to continue and payments would be based upon the profits received by the tribe. The tribe may reduce or cease payments if exclusivity is lost or if additional games are authorized for parimutuel facilities.

Rep. Bill Galvano (R-Brandenton) is chairman of the House Select Committee on Seminole Compact Review, and he has served as one of the influential architects in negotiating and developing the compact.

Committee members praised the compact as the resolution of a "19-year standoff" between the state and the tribe that would inject some much-needed economic aid into the state's coffers.

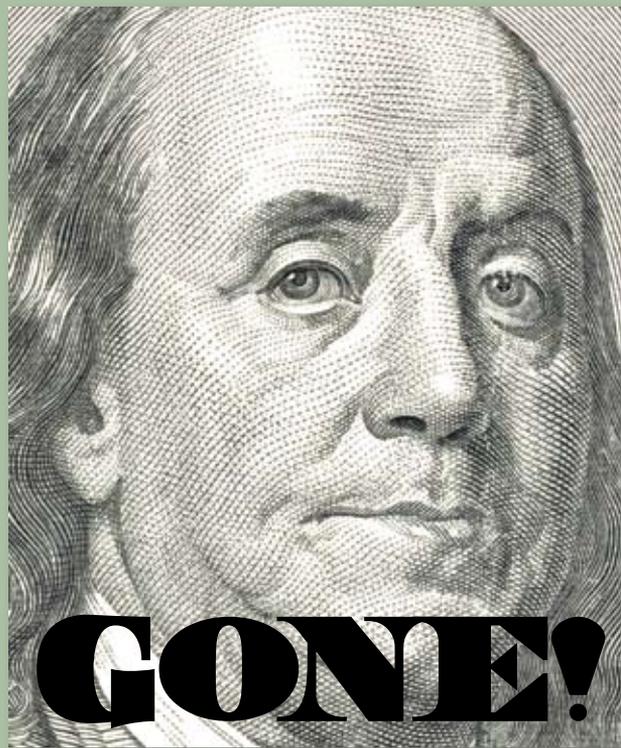
Though the compact was criticized by members of the parimutuel industry, the proposal is paired with legislation that will lower the slot machine tax rate, expand the poker hours and betting limits and permit facilities to add bingo-style and historic racing machines.

While the parimutuel industry and the Internet poker companies left the Capitol by and large disappointed, (a bill to create an Internet poker system in Florida didn't advance), the poker expansions afforded parimutuel cardrooms allow Florida's players to take their games to the next level.

Kudos to all who weighed in with the legislators and their staff for asking these issues be put to bed once and for all!

— **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.**

GOING ... GOING ...



THE NEW LAWS

Barring last-minute developments, here is what Florida law on poker will look like starting July 1 at all parimutuel and Indian poker rooms:

NO LIMITS

Gone are the \$5 bet limit in limit games, the \$100 max buy-in in no-limit games and the \$800 max tournament buy-in limits. There will be no limits on bets or buy-ins, though rooms are free to impose some if they wish.

LONGER HOURS

Gone is the 12-hours-a-day limit. Parimutuel rooms may stay open 18 hours a day Monday through Friday and 24 hours on Saturdays, Sundays and some holidays. Indian rooms can remain open 24 hours a day every day.

MORE ROOMS

Palm Beach Kennel Club is permitted to convert its unused jai-alai permit into a greyhound racing permit, thereby allowing it to build a second poker room. Also, new quarterhorse tracks meeting state restrictions can open a room after its held at least one day of racing. Hialeah Park has already held racing, and a number of other licenses have been granted for quarterhorse tracks, though none appears ready to open imminently.

ROCK POKER WORLD

WHAT IT MEANS: FLORIDA MAY SOON BECOME A POWERHOUSE IN POKER, THE EFFECTS OF WHICH WILL RIPPLE THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH.

If you want to know what Florida poker might look like this time next year, cast your eyes west to California.

The Golden State and the Sunshine State have much in common: great beaches, sunny weather, millions of people. ... and coming July 1, a “poker is king” mentality to gaming.



SCOTT LONG

With the shackles removed from Florida’s poker rooms (no more \$100 max buy-ins, no more \$5 bet limits, no more shooing customers out the door at midnight), the state will finally be able to rival California, where poker is top dog. The biggest rooms there offer 100 tables of poker action, with plenty of space for hard-to-find games like deuce-to-seven triple-draw lowball. Like California,

Florida has treaded lightly toward the full casino experience. And while the state’s gamblers and parimutuel owners may be upset with the Seminole Tribe’s near exclusivity on slot machines and table games, poker players should recognize that the new compact and the continual decline of the state’s day-cruise industry mean more gamblers will be sitting at the poker tables, and playing higher limits.

So what does this mean for Florida?

Cautious optimism

You might be surprised by this, but many poker directors I’ve talked with are cautious about the effect. No doubt a few will be very aggressive in taking advantage of the new freedom, but many worry their players’ bankrolls may be at great peril, and that there won’t be enough new players to replace them while they replenish their rolls. It’s a legitimate concern, so look for most, if not all, rooms to still have limits on some games. This won’t be the Wild Wild West.

Bigger cash games

And hopefully a wider variety of games. I’m a long-suffering limit player, so selfishly I’m hoping for a good full-kill Omaha high-low game near my house. Pot-limit games can be offered now, which is a big void in the current lineup.

Bigger tournaments

Expect to see a World Poker Tour event come to Florida. Perhaps even a World Series of Poker circuit event, since it appears Harrah’s is considering extending them to properties it doesn’t own. And, hopefully, we’ll see better structures. Managers now are hamstrung by the operating hours. If they can go 24 hours there won’t be the double-edged sword of giving players good play vs. finishing before Cinderella turns into a pumpkin.

More competition

Generally, Florida rooms are dominated by cash games, tournaments or promotions, with most doing well in two or three of these categories. But the dispar-

ity between rooms will become more prevalent now.

We may see some rooms cater to the low-limit players that grind out consistent rake, while others will go for the splash of big games and events. I’ll be curious to see what this means for rooms that have gone to a \$2 jackpot rake. Will they still need that extra dollar now that they can do new things, and if so, will players mind it less when the dealer pushes pots to them in the thousands rather than the hundreds?

And the competition isn’t just room vs. room. The big question: How many new players will we see in Florida rooms? If Internet and home-game players materialize, they’ll be tougher players, as will be the influx of out-of-state pros that have set forums ablaze with intentions of feasting on Floridians who have been conditioned to play with a \$100 max buy-in.

But the effect of Florida’s changes should reverberate across The South.

Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas — the states with the easiest commutes to Florida — likely will see their players make the trek more often. They’re also the most ardent states against gambling within their borders, particularly Alabama, where the governor is in the midst of an intense crackdown. Don’t be surprised if some poker-playing residents pick up and move south to enjoy Florida’s zero state taxes now that they can play real poker there, too.

Mississippi and Louisiana stand to lose the most as they are the closest destinations with real poker. They’re also states that draw heavily from the region for the bulk of their players. Now that there’s a viable alternative, will they bump up their marketing efforts to keep their players from flying south? They have an ace in the hole, however. They can offer what not even the Seminole casinos in Florida (no craps or roulette) can offer: the complete casino gaming experience.

Arkansas, Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia are the most insulated from the Florida changes, and aren’t likely to be affected much. West Virginia, however, faces a challenge this summer when poker rooms start popping up in nearby Pennsylvania.

In the end, it’s the Florida poker rooms that will define how big of a poker tsunami the new laws are in the state and around the country. What players desire more than juicier games is an enhanced experience. It’ll be fun to watch how this hand plays out.

— Email Scott Long at scott@anteupmagazine.com.



Bankroll management becomes a major concern for Florida poker room managers. Will their players be able to survive the higher limits?

But the dispar-

TINY TOWN, BIG COURAGE

Virginia says gambling is illegal, but one man, Commonwealth attorney Earle C. Mobley, says hold'em is a game of skill, so the town of Portsmouth has embraced his stance with poker halls for charity.

By Dave Forster

The Virginian-Pilot © 2010 • Reprinted with permission

Charlie Daniels blazed a trail for card players in Virginia when he opened a charitable poker hall on Airline Boulevard in Portsmouth, Va., in 2006.

Four years later, Texas Hold'em poker halls are flourishing in Portsmouth, unlike anywhere else in the state. The Circle Restaurant, a landmark building that was closed for more than a year, reopened recently as a poker hall, and another new location – the fifth in the city – just opened on George Washington Highway.

The growing profile of the games is catching the attention of City Council members, some of whom wonder if it's a good thing, and of charities eager to get in on the action. Even the operators are curious where all this is headed – will it help them win regulation from the state, as some would like, or will bad apples spoil the fun for everybody?

Mark Tibbitt, manager of Victory Poker Lounge, which started last year, said his outfit was on pace to donate more than \$25,000 in March. To prove it, he showed signed receipts from the charities he helps: the Portsmouth Community Health Center, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 22, and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 539.

"We're really looking to give the players a permanent place to stay, and if it helps keep everything legal, if the higher donations help, we're

going to give higher donation amounts," Tibbitt said.

Portsmouth is the only city in Virginia where poker halls have been allowed, according to local operators and state legislators. That's because of the stance local Commonwealth's Attorney Earle C. Mobley has taken on the games.

Mobley determined Texas Hold'em is a game of skill, not chance, and therefore does not fall under the state's prohibition against gambling. That position hasn't changed. Mobley maintains state law is not clear enough to prosecute, and he has continued to push legislators to change the law so it explicitly addresses poker.

"We take serious issue with the lack of effort by the legislature to clear this up, and we don't want to be put in a position to have to do it for them," said Bill Prince, a spokesman for Mobley.

Del. Johnny Joannou, who represents Portsmouth, tried to get some clarification this past session, with an amendment to a gaming bill that would have stated poker is a game of chance, thereby making it illegal.

Joannou, an attorney, said recently he believes the law already says enough to ban poker halls, but he sought the amendment to address the situation in Portsmouth. The amendment didn't survive because it was deemed non-germane to the bill.

"I've always assumed that playing poker is gambling, and I always thought it was illegal," Joannou said.

Mobley bucked his counterparts in other cities, including some in Hampton Roads, when he said he didn't believe the law was clear





Eugene Shull plays in a hold'em tournament at the Circle Restaurant in Portsmouth, Va.



Rich Coffman, Jackie Hale and Keith Davis play poker at the Circle Restaurant in Portsmouth, Va.

enough to prosecute charitable poker hall operators as the law stands. Prince said it's an ironic stance for someone who isn't big on gambling, but Mobley is standing by his interpretation of the law.

"If he found out you were doing an office pool for the tournament, he would go ballistic," Prince said.

The poker halls are not regulated by the state. Virginia's Charitable Gaming Department oversees bingo but has nothing to do with poker. Permitted bingo operations must give at least 10 percent of their proceeds to their charitable mission and are subject to inspections and audits.

There's none of that for a poker hall. Daniels, who runs the Poker Palace in Portsmouth, said he wishes there were.

Daniels said his organization has donated more than \$700K since 2006 to its charities, which include the March of Dimes, Portsmouth Catholic and the H.E.R. Shelter. They will soon donate \$12,000 in Rowena's cakes to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, he said.

Charities contact the Poker Palace weekly, Daniels said. If the games were regulated, the state would open a new revenue stream for nonprofits besides bingo and raffles, he said.

As the number of poker places grows in Portsmouth, so does the competition for customers. Recently, Tibbitt threw out someone he suspected of trying to gather information and poach players for the newest operation in town, Portsmouth Bingo on George Washington Highway.

At thepokeratlas.com, players can leave reviews.

"Facility is average, however they have police security inside and outside," a person wrote about one spot. "By far the friendliest poker room in Portsmouth. Variety of player levels. They have the best tournaments 'bang for your buck.'"

City leaders aren't sure so much variety is a good thing. Vice Mayor Bill Moody Jr. said he needed to know more about how each operation

is run before he could comment on them, but they could be a positive for the community if they help charities.

"Apparently they're spreading, and I guess the question would come to mind: who's regulating them, or are they required regulations?" he said.

Councilwoman Marlene Randall said she's adamantly opposed to gambling. "We sure don't need a reputation as a poker haven," she said.

Prince, Mobley's spokesman, said the commonwealth's attorney would prosecute a poker hall if it were operating solely for profit and without a charity.

Another question the poker halls have raised for local officials is how to treat them for business-license purposes. Commissioner of the Revenue Frankie Edmondson said there is no apparatus under state law to tax proceeds from a poker operation, unless there are related sales such as for food and drink.

"We are concerned with making sure that we accurately assess any and all legal businesses in the city of Portsmouth," Edmondson said.

He said his office is conducting a compliance review on some of the poker halls, but he could not disclose which ones.

The Portsmouth Police Athletic League hopes the poker games that just started at The Circle Restaurant will help it fund its programs for local children. The league started last summer after a period of dormancy and has no regular funding stream, said Mike Hayes, a police lieutenant who

serves as the group's treasurer.

The games at The Circle have only recently started, so the Police Athletic League (as of April 1) hasn't received any donations, Hayes said. The partnership doesn't include a written agreement on the terms, he said.

"There's no kind of percentage or anything like that," Hayes said. "We're just happy to get whatever we can."

— **Dave Forster is a reporter for The Virginian-Pilot and you can email him at dave.forster@pilotonline.com**

POKER HALLS IN PORTSMOUTH



SOURCES: ESRI, Tele Atlas

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT



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. Zvi Shiff, North Miami	2,300
8. Raj Vohra, Lake Worth	2,150
9. Robert Beyra, Hollywood	2,000
10. Carleen Heath, Belleview	1,900
10. Omar Diaz, Coconut Creek	1,900
12. Glen Blumberg, Alachua	1,800
13. Eugene Link, Cocoa Beach	1,750
13. James Nighbter, Hilliard	1,750
15. Rolland Botel	1,700
15. Ronnie Browne, Gainesville	1,700
15. Eddie Rosenberg, Miami Beach	1,700
15. Matt Ridley, Jupiter	1,700
15. Chet Sickie, Melbourne	1,700
20. Peter Nadeau, Gainesville	1,625
21. Alberto Dominguez, Hollywood	1,500
21. Steve Mitchell, St. Augustine	1,500
21. Mark Petrillo	1,500
24. Jon Ronsisballe, Naples	1,450
24. Scott Long, Safety Harbor	1,450
26. Manny Leon, West Palm Beach	1,425

Final events

- May 1: Seminole Immokalee, 7p, \$225
 - May 1: St. Johns Greyhound Park, 2p, \$125
 - May 7: Dania Jai-Alai, 6:30p, \$100
 - May 15: Hard Rock Tampa, 10a, \$100
 - May 15: Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai & Poker, 3p, \$150
 - May 16: Tampa Bay Downs, 1p, \$350
 - May 16: Deep Stack Charity Classic, 1p, \$150
 - May 20: Mardi Gras, 6:30p, \$150 (10K chips)
 - May 21: Orange Park K.C., 2p, \$100
 - May 22: Isle Casino, 2p, \$720 (Seven-Deuce)
 - May 22: Gulfstream Park, 6:30p, \$150
 - May 23: Miami Jai-Alai, 1 (\$500, 30 players max)
 - May 28: Palm Beach K.C., 1p, \$100
 - May 29: Ocala Poker and Jai-Alai, 2p, \$100
 - May 29: Sarasota Kennel Club, 6:30p, \$100
 - May 29: Hard Rock Hollywood, 11a, \$1,100
 - May 29: Derby Lane, , 1, \$100
 - May 29: Pensacola Greyhound, 4, \$340
- Updated schedule at anteupmagazine.com

MARCH RESULTS



The final table of the \$350 AAPT event aboard the Ante Up Poker Cruise.

ANTE UP POKER CRUISE MARCH 28

1. Lisa Boyd, New York, NY
2. Jim Mohr, Palm Harbor
3. Jeff Liss, Land O'Lakes
4. Leonard "Steve" Pessin, Tampa
5. Giovanni Tagliamonti, Montreal
6. Jon Hawkins
7. Elmo Mariathasan, Ft. Myers
8. Jason Hawley, Riveron, Utah
9. Oliver Agostini, Tampa
10. Scott Long, Safety Harbor

CALDER CASINO MARCH 13

1. Walt Strakowski Jr., West Palm Beach
2. Cyril Gittens, Miami
3. Arturo Veloz, Miami
4. Mitchell Abrahams, Miami
5. Jack Rosenthal, Miami
6. Jorgo Castillo, Miami
7. Declined points
8. Declined points
9. Leo Yoellarreol, Hialeah
10. Wesley Garcon, Hallandale

DANIA JAI-ALAI MARCH 6

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 MARCH 20

1. Declined points
2. Alex Lubo, Ft. Pierce
3. Tracy Steele, West Palm Beach
4. Declined points
5. Freddy Miller, Port St. Lucie
6. Hien O'Grady, Port St. Lucie
7. Eric Martin, Vero Beach
8. Will Stewart, Vero Beach
9. Dan Tommey, Ft. Pierce
10. Pat Patterson, Sebring

ISLE CASINO MARCH 17

1. Richard Anderson, Ft. Lauderdale
2. James Ostinvil, Miami
3. Michael Vagnerini, Boca Raton
4. James English, Tamarac
5. Carl Delprete, Delray Beach
6. Margaret Rodriguez, Miami Shores
7. Jack Amrhein, Coral Springs
8. Le Tyuen, Plantation
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK MARCH 13

1. Ronald Winter, Viera
2. John Uelupi, Merritt Island
3. Dennis Corderman, Cocoa
4. Chris Taylor, Melbourne
5. Patricia Barnes, Satellite Beach
6. Mike Elkins, Rockledge
7. Mo Sussmitol, Cocoa Beach
8. John Stinson, Rockledge
9. Daniel Campbell, Sebastian
10. Declined points

MIAMI JAI-ALAI MARCH 28

1. Pedro Ortiz
2. Eduardo Peraza
3. Gonzalo Ruiz
4. Arturo Garcia, Miami
5. Lazaro Rojas, Miami
6. Jorge Calero
7. Ricardo Perez
8. John Swalls
9. Carlos Rodriguez
10. Ricardo Monte

NAPLES-FT. MYERS GREYHOUND MARCH 13

1. Bruce Yamron, Naples
2. Jay Roden, Estero
3. Louis Bruno, Ft. Myers
4. Hassan Abulchdeir, Ft. Myers
5. Declined points
6. Ray Russell, Naples
7. Joseph Stutz, Naples
8. Declined points
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

OCALA POKER & JAI-ALAI MARCH 20

1. Drew Norton
2. Nikita Patalinghug, Gainesville
3. Jimmy Costa, Hernando
4. Malcolm Cheek, Tampa
5. Starla Scarborough, Ocala
6. Carleen Heath, Belleview
7. Adam Jacobs, Gainesville
8. Bruce Strube, Melrose
9. Joe Freck, Melrose
10. James Paladino

ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB MARCH 19

1. James Nighbter, Hilliard
2. Jimmie Robison, Folkston, Ga.
3. Mary Madison, Jacksonville
4. Declined points
5. Nancy Ridos, Jacksonville
6. Declined points
7. Ken Kaplan, Silverdale, Wash.
8. Arthur Mitchell, Jacksonville
9. Omar Little, Orange Park
10. George Robson, Jacksonville

PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB MARCH 21

1. Debbie Steele, Port St. Lucie
2. Michael Chirieleison, Ft. Lauderdale
3. Art Loring, West Palm Beach
4. Paul Scholtes, Palm Beach Gardens
5. Billy Campbell, Palm Beach Gardens
6. Victor Dillon, Loxahatchee
7. Michael Gantine, West Palm Beach
8. Declined points
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB MARCH 27

1. Billy Mack
2. Don Hilton
3. James Darcangelis
4. Ray Swart
5. James Booe
6. Dan Murphy
7. Declined points
8. Declined points
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

SEMINOLE H.R. HOLLYWOOD MARCH 27

1. Zvi Shiff, North Miami
2. Ory Hen, Cooper City
3. Soo Han, Boca Raton
4. Craig Hueffner, Franklin, Wis.
5. Michelle McLeod, Weston
6. Richard Blanchar, Lauderdale BTS
7. Robert Cooper, Plantation
8. John Stevenson, Plantation
9. Declined points
10. Declined points

SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA MARCH 20

1. Lawrence Morrison, Winter Haven
2. Niurka Gonzales, Tampa
3. Douglas Black, Brandon
4. Jose Perez, Brandon
5. Aaron Galavotti, Taunton, Mass.
6. Richard Serafin, Spring Hill
7. Harold Gearhart, Brooksville
8. John Scavitto Jr., Largo
9. Robert Corjay, Wesley Chapel
10. Stanley Blacker, Tampa

SEMINOLE IMMOKALEE MARCH 6

1. William Rodriguez, Lehigh
2. Norm Connolly, Livia, Mich.
3. Bobby Hays, Clewiston
4. Kevin Bethel, Naples
5. Charles Buford, Naples
6. William Burns, Lehigh Acres
7. Victor Burns, Lehigh Acres
8. Declined points
9. Declined points
10. Ervin Bradley

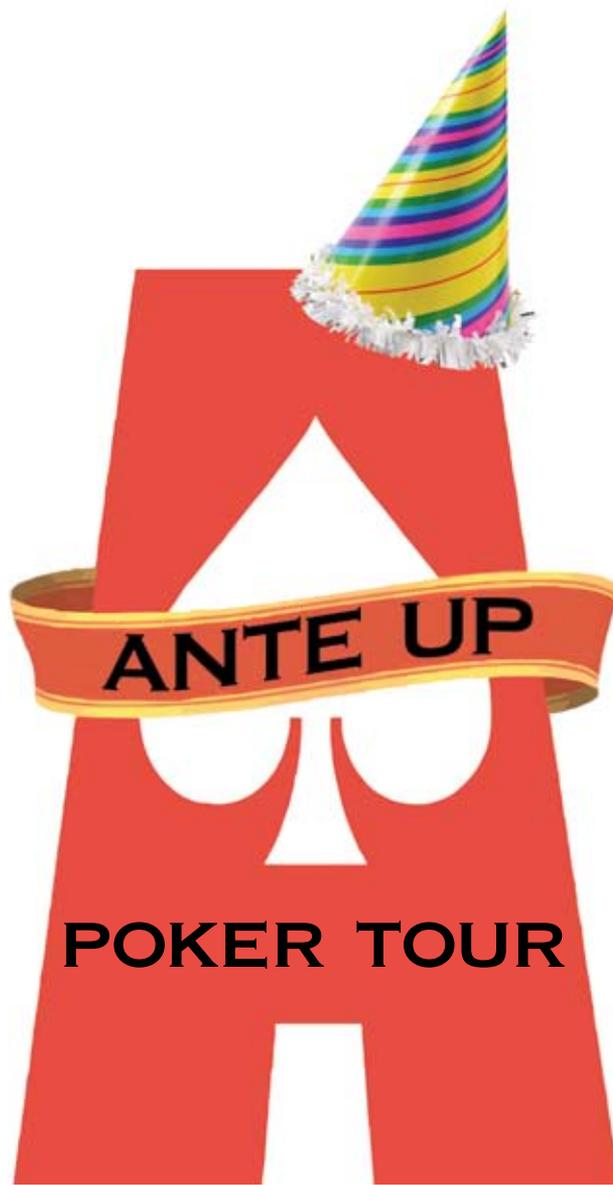
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK MARCH 20

1. T.J. Harris, Jacksonville
2. Steven Don
3. David Thigpen
4. Ezekiel Long
5. George Fallis
6. Harold Angle
7. Ben Dever
8. Tomas Singson, Orange Park
9. Al Fedele
10. Kerry Goldberg, Jacksonville

TAMPA BAY DOWNS MARCH 21

1. Declined points
2. Ron Brown
3. Mel Perez
4. Ray Johnson
5. Cecil Riddle
6. Chris Swanson
7. Shaun King
8. Mike Duwall
9. Willie O'Reilly
10. Declined points

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!

The Race for the Bracelet is still on! With just a few events left there's still time to make it into the Top 10 or dethrone our leader! 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!



MADISON JEWELERS
madisonjewelers.com



pbkennelclub.com



BLUE SHARK OPTICS
bluesharkoptics.com



YOUR POKER MAGAZINE
anteupmagazine.com

BEAT? LAY IT DOWN, DESPITE BIG POT

By the time you read this someone will be about \$250,000 richer. Florida's biggest and best tournament is over, and we can all hope it's only the beginning of great things to come.



Personally, the tournament was a disappointment. Any tournament I enter and don't win is a disappointment. I've learned over the years if you don't play for first place it's pretty hard to win. It might not be a realistic expectation, but it should be your only expectation.

I wish my first column for *Ante Up* could be a self-congratulating piece that shares my brilliant play and subsequent jubilation. Instead, I'm going to take you through one hand that turned about six hours of very good play into a precarious chip count in less than five minutes.

I loathe bad-beat stories, so this isn't one. Instead, it's an interesting hand that combines a bit of everything that can happen in a hand, and how that one hand can go from well-played to poorly played in a matter of seconds. We all want to become better poker players, and I'm convinced if we were more honest with ourselves and used losing hands as learning experiences we'd be much better off.

Blinds were 200-400 with a small ante. I had built my 15,000 chips to about 46,000 with good, solid, aggressive play. I used my position at the table to my advantage, but never got too far out of line. It was my original table and the play was solid, tight and pretty predictable. I was chipleader at the table and probably in the top 5 percent of the room. There were three decent stacks at the table besides mine.

On the button I looked down at Q-J suited. The player under the gun made it 1,200, and got one caller plus me. This was a standard raise and I liked my cards ... and my position. The raiser was a good player with about 30,000 chips, solid but aggressive. The flop came Q-10-4 rainbow. Both players checked to me and I bet 3,000. If I got reraised I was prepared to throw it away with little damage done. Based on how things had gone, I expected both players to fold. The original raiser called, the other player folded. At this point it was hard to put my opponent on a hand, but I felt like I was ahead. I would've guessed A-K or a middle pocket pair. The turn was a very pretty J♥, giving me top two pair, but putting two hearts on the board. The player checked again, and I bet about 5,000. I felt very good about my hand and was only mildly concerned about the heart draw. She fairly quickly reraised to 12,000. I called the extra 7,000 without much thought, assuming that even if I were somehow behind, a jack or queen on the river would solve my problems.

This is a good time, though, to try a little harder to figure out what I was up against. An UTG solid player raised a standard amount. She called a standard bet on the flop, then reraised a bigger stack on a card

that improved my hand dramatically. Hmm. What could she have? I put her on five hands: A-A, a set of 10s or fours, A-K or two hearts.

She had about 15,000 chips left and unless a jack or queen showed up, I was going to have to make a decision on the river, which ended up being a forgettable, low non-heart. She pushed in her remaining chips within five seconds. Crap, if my read was right, the only thing I could beat was a busted draw or an overpair.

I thought the hand through for about two minutes, and despite knowing I was beat, made the mistake of deciding the pot was just too big to give away on the unlikely chance I was ahead. I was not surprised after reluctantly tossing in my chips when she announced "Straight." I was very surprised, however, when she turned over the K♣-9♣. Huh?

Wow, I didn't see that coming. An UTG raise with K♣-9♣ into an aggressive, big-stacked button. And it worked. So, in self-analysis, what could I have done differently?

- Don't call the initial preflop UTG raise with Q-J suited? Unlikely since I had lots of chips, decent cards and position.

- Make a bigger bet on the flop after both players checked? Absolutely. My bet accomplished nothing. I had the best hand and I didn't bet enough to protect it or define it. I should've made a big enough bet to take the pot down there. If I were facing a set or overpair I would've found out then and saved myself a lot of chips later.

- Fold when I was check-raised on the turn? Probably. But my thought process made sense. Even if I'm beat, a jack or queen on the river gives me a winner that probably gets paid off.

- Fold on the river to save my last 15K? Yes, even though there were 34,000 chips in the pot. It was costing me 15K to win 60K. Pot odds say call if you think you have a 25 percent chance of having the best hand. But I didn't give myself that high a likelihood. Also, pot odds shouldn't be used exclusively to make such a critical decision. Instead, I should've given greater weight to the significant amount of chips I would've had if I had folded, especially considering the relatively small blinds and antes, the significant buy-in and payouts of this particular event. And, most important, I was playing extremely well and should've been confident in my read and ability to recover with a decent amount of remaining chips.

So, by playing the hand to the end, I lost the maximum. I dropped my powerful stack back to my starting stack, and I got mad at myself for playing the hand poorly. Though I virtually never go on tilt, (I know I can have a temper, but I don't let it affect my play) I did start to push things a bit. It only took a couple of hands where I deviated from my plan, or got a little unlucky, and I was done.

— 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.



BARUCH



FLOP



TURN



RIVER



OPPONENT

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LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way

DON'T EVER GIVE UP

"Don't give up, don't ever give up!" These are the well-known words of the late Jim Valvano and the motto of his V Foundation for Cancer Research. Whether it's poker, sports or some other area of life, we often encounter the "you can do it, don't give up," statements from our supporters and coaches. These motivational quips are designed to help us stay motivated. "All you need is a chip and a chair." I think most of us, though, tend to think in response, "Yeah, right, after that beat there's no way I can come back. I have two big blinds and the chipleader has like 250.



At the 2007 Gulf Coast Poker Championships with 17 players remaining, Bill Edler lost a massive pot and was left with just two 1,000-unit chips with the blinds at 4,000-8,000 and a 1,000 ante. He posted his 1,000 ante and was all-in with the other 1,000 in the big blind. He had several double-ups and quickly found himself back in the thick of the tournament. He didn't give up and won the event. I bet there was quite a bit of positive energy in the room that day with people thinking, even if just in the back of their minds, it'd be really cool to be part of history and see a stand-up guy make this modern-day Jack Strauss chip-and-a-chair comeback.

Recently I had a similar experience. Playing in the \$162 PokerStars Nightly Hundred Grand tournament with 704 of my closest friends and enemies, I found myself sitting with 75 chips at the 50-100 level after my K-K lost a monster pot to 6-6 on a Q-6-6 board. No pot control for me on that one. I really thought he had A-Q. Bad read, but would've been nearly impossible to fold based on the situation. On the next hand I folded my under-the-gun trash and took my chances with my inevitable big-blind hand.

All-in for my last 75 chips, I woke up with A-K and more than tripled-up to 275! Seems futile, right. That's what most people think at this stage because we know we have to get extremely lucky to make a comeback from this point. Well, I'll spare you the awesome details and let you know I won the tournament for a cool \$19,881.

So, while I got lucky to win the hands I played, I also never panicked. I remembered a time at the Caesars Palace Classic in Las Vegas where I finished second in a \$2K event. Early on I dropped from the 4,500 starting stack to about 1,700 chips.

My initial thought was "Man, this sucks. I have so much work to do now." Then I took a step back to think about the situation and realized blinds were still just 25-50. I had more than 30 big blinds. I spend most of the time in a lot of my tournaments with less than that. There was NO reason for me to EVER give up. So I took my time and picked all my spots wisely. I didn't worry about those that had been chipping up quickly. That didn't matter to me and it can't matter to you. What matters is how much ammunition you have to work with and if you use it properly.

Don't panic, just play your game, pick your spots and play good poker. I took my time in these tournaments and was able to play some quality poker after getting lucky in a few spots, just like Edler in the Gulf Coast Poker Championships. Most important, I never gave up. If you get yourself in this mind-set on the felt this positive way of thinking may carry over into your everyday life.

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.acumenspoker.net.

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VISUALIZE YOURSELF WINNING

The psychology of poker can be used at (and away from) the table as a training tool.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

At the table we look for tells, styles of play, personality, deception and bluffs. We use psychologically sound techniques to avoid tilt. We read patterns of play and we establish a table image. We use psychology to achieve peak performance.

To achieve peak performance during a game, we work on ourselves away from the table. We try to enhance our peak performance by reading books, articles, *Ante Up*, talk to others, watch poker shows and listen to podcasts.

Peak performance has to do with how you can improve yourself to improve your game.

When I write about this I am applying the principles of sports psychology to poker. These principles begin with activation and relaxation of body and mind. It all starts with learning to breathe properly. For example, if you want to avoid tilt, learn to breathe through it: First practice and then use it at the table.

Acclimating to your situation is another good technique. I use the “take a lap” technique when you enter a brick-and-mortar poker room. This also can be applied to online play. Having the right frame of mind helps in setting the most appropriate goals and working toward achieving them. Leaving your problems and turmoil away from the table will always help.

Once you’ve mastered these techniques you’ll want to start using guided imagery to create the right mind-set. This is a technique that uses visualizations. Elite and recreational athletes have used these principles to improve their games; almost all elite college players, world-class athletes and professional sports teams use these principles of sports psychology.

There are hundreds of papers in sports psychology literature that promote the idea of using mental practice to enhance performance and achieve peak performance. It all can be boiled down to mentally rehearsing and using imagery of yourself performing successfully.

Visualization can be thought of as creating a mental picture of what you want to happen or how you want to feel.

Now don’t think you can control the cards through mental imagery or visualization. I’ve tried for years to visualize pocket aces and a flop of A-A-x. There’s no such thing as magical thinking. Rule 1 in poker is you can’t control the cards. Rule 2 is try to control everything else.

Visualization should become part of your “training” regimen if you want to achieve peak performance.

Here are the basics:

- Sit in a comfortable chair, at a time you won’t be interrupted; set a timer for 5, 10 or 15 minutes.
- Place your feet squarely and firmly on the ground and your hands on your knees.
- Close your eyes, breath in through your nose for a count of three, hold the breath for a count of two and exhale while thinking “relax.”
- Create a convincing picture of a successful poker experience or

imagine one you desire; you can picture a previous successful session, hand or experience or you can create a picture of how you’d like to see it happen.

- Focus on breathing and if you get distracted go back to breathing by counting.
- Keep positive thoughts.
- Try to use all of your senses.

Imagine yourself succeeding; playing right, raising, folding calling, bluffing, etc.

Do this daily. When you get to the poker room, take a couple of minutes in your car, breathe and visualize a successful session; create a positive and winning attitude. Before you turn on your computer try the same thing.

There is no “perfect” way to practice mental imagery but sometimes a coach can help. Visualize a past poker session where you were in the zone or a future one where you picture yourself doing everything right and you feel great, a session where you grok the table.

We think this works because it trains the neural patterns in your brain, almost as if you had physically performed the action.

It is like programming your brain the way you would a computer. Imagery can be used to prepare for an upcoming competition, accelerate your learning process, replay a past success to lock it in or to practice handling difficult situations.

Poker players often listen to iPods and other devices at the table. This serves many purposes. It helps some concentrate by blocking out noise and conversation; it also allows you to create a positive and relaxed attitude about the game while giving you an unobtrusive way of visualizing and using guided imagery. The use of iPods, etc., gives you an edge that other activities don’t; no one will question why you’re using headphones.

Some folks make music mixes to create a guided imagery or visualization. This is pretty hard to do by yourself, but I am going to give you a pretty easy one to try. The great thing about poker is that lots of folks listen to iPods, etc., at the table. It’s not unusual for a poker player to be wearing headphones. You can be listening to your own success tape.

Record over some music some motivational phrases; some folks will like soothing music others something such as Eye of the Tiger; record one self-help message or a couple. Here are some suggestions:

- I know how to play great poker.
- I know how to succeed at playing poker.
- I can read other players.
- I am relaxed and in the zone.
- I will win more hands because I will play right.
- I feel great and am in the zone.

Imagery and visualization techniques will help you 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.





PASSING UP EDGES IN ONLINE TURBO SNGS

By Jay Houston

What is EV? It's an abbreviation for "expected value." You may see people write they had a +EV, which means a positive or profitable expected value. There have been countless debates among professional sit-n-go players over the years as to whether you should take a positive-EV spot just because it's +EV: Should you wait for a better situation because your skill will help you find a better edge? Or should you take advantage of every edge you find?

Before sharing my thoughts on the matter I'd like to provide a disclaimer that this is just my opinion. Take these concepts into consideration and hopefully they'll add to your game.

Imagine you're playing in \$27 single-table turbo SNG on PokerStars. It's down to eight players and the blinds are 75-150. You are in the small blind with 1,500 chips, the action folds around to you and you have 2-3 offsuit. Assuming the BB and his stack of 1,500 will call you with precisely 20 percent of hands (3-3+, A4+, A2s+, KQ+, K10s+), what is your move? Shove or fold?

If you shove you're going to get folds 80 percent of the time. When you get called you're going to win 27.8 percent of the time (Remember these numbers are against an entire range of hands). This means you'll survive this shove about 85 percent of the time. So this hand becomes a typical any-two-card shove.

But all of that is mostly standard; the real decision lies with the big blind. Imagine you have 10-7 suited in the BB and you know the SB is shoving his 10 big blinds on you with any two cards. If you decide to call, you will win about 51 percent of the time against his 100 percent shoving range. So if you make this call over a million games, it's profitable, but is it the right call?

A few things to take into consideration before answering that question are the skill levels of all of the players at the table, not just the player shoving into you. If you're playing against the seven greatest players in the world then by all means just go with it because chances are you won't find a much better spot. But if you're playing against the seven worst players in the world, then I would suggest you let this hand go because you'll find yourself in better spots to pick up chips. Generally speaking, the higher the stakes, the more likely I am to make this call.

In short, there's no reason to take every edge that shows up because every edge is not created equally. Remember in SNGs the goal is to maximize your OVERALL equity, not the equity for every hand you play.

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

AN AED COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE IN THE POKER ROOM

O maha players understand not to overly value middle or bottom set. It's just too easy for someone holding four cards in their hand to run you down or to have a better set. In hold'em, however, most players feel a flopped set must be a monster and are only too glad to get it all-in on the flop. Unfortunately, if your opponent happens to have flopped a higher set, you'll find yourself so thoroughly dominated you're almost drawing dead. You have two streets left to hit a one-outer. Your survival chances are about 5 percent. Dismal!



FRANK TOSCANO M.D.

It turns out your chances of surviving a cardiac arrest in your poker room are only slightly better, around 6 percent. But I'm going to tell you a few things you could do to improve your chances about four times, like having four outs twice instead of just one.

Last month I told you a blocked artery in your heart starves the heart muscle of oxygen, but it also might irritate your heart's electrical system so much that the electrical pulses become disjointed and quivering. The medical term for this is ventricular fibrillation or V fib. The lay term, "Sudden Death" is unfortunately all too descriptive, the ultimate bad beat.

I mentioned some risk factors for this condition. Some of them you really can't change, such as your age, gender and family history. Sorry, gender-switching surgery probably won't help much. To reduce the other risk factors, you should resolve to adopt a healthy lifestyle. Stop smoking, lose weight, exercise and take whatever medications your doctor prescribes to control your blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar.

But there's another key thing you could do to improve your chances of surviving Sudden Death. Ask your poker room manager to buy an Automatic External Defibrillator. These devices are remarkably easy to use, relatively inexpensive and easily available online. Having one nearby dramatically increases V fib survival rates. At least one poker room in my area has one. Another, at my suggestion, is considering it. But others have no clue.

Tell your poker room manager you and others like you who play in his poker room may have heart conditions and you'd like the room to get an AED. If you're told they have one, great! Ask to see where it's kept. Mounted visibly on a wall is good. Locked in the office downstairs is bad. If the "Big One" hits, you have five minutes or so to get

your heart shocked before your brain begins to turn to mush.

At the first sign of chest pressure, arm pain, sweats or difficulty breathing while you're playing, it wouldn't be a bad idea to get someone to call 911 while you get yourself close to where the AED is kept. Pointing to it and saying something like "Help me. I'm having chest pain," is totally reasonable. If you collapse and someone nearby has the sense to turn on the AED and follow the simple instructions, your survival chances skyrocket at least four or five times.

Now, some info for the poker room managers. AEDs are not expensive and, for a poker room, the lowest price models will work just fine. The AEDSuperstore.com Web site lists four for less than \$1,300. I recommend you spring an extra \$50 for the business package, which includes an attractive wall cabinet, a 3-D sign, a cool decal for your front door and some other nifty stuff. And please, mount it someplace visible. On the wall next to a big-screen monitor is good. Underneath the cashier's counter is bad. You usually arrest players who try to reach under the counter, don't you?

Contact your local EMS authority and they'll happily send someone to give you the brief, ridiculously easy training. (Basically, turn it on and follow the voice instructions.) Some states such as

Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana require you to get a physician to sign off on your AED. Others such as Florida and Tennessee don't. The AmericanHeart.org Web site is loaded with state-by-state info. Again, just contact your local EMS and they can advise you and probably get a doc to sign you off for free.

Finally, no need to get all lawyered up to buy one of these lifesavers. Good Samaritan laws in all 50 states make it pretty hard to sue you or your room if you can't save someone. It's actually far more likely for you to be sued for not having an

AED on site.

Conflict of interest disclosure time: Medtronic makes AEDs and I own some Medtronic stock. I wouldn't advise you to buy their model, however. At \$1,700, it's way too expensive. The Philips Model illustrated is extremely reliable and, at \$1,218, the cheapest on the market.

So, there you have it, two ways to increase your survival in your local card room. Ask the manager to buy an AED just in case the "Big One" hits and don't put all your chips in the pot on a one outer.

— 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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HAND OF THE MONTH

CHRIS COSENZA • A look at a hand from the Ante Up PokerCast

THE PERFECT STORM LEADS TO A HUGE \$1-\$3 POT

When you're on a ship at sea, the last thing you want to be reminded of is the Perfect Storm, but that's what I have to call this hand from our recent Ante Up Poker Cruise that sailed to Cozumel, Mexico, in March. And no one died in this story, aside from a couple of stacks.



CHRIS COSENZA

I had joined a \$1-\$3 no-limit hold'em game because players were sitting at the table waiting for one more to make the game run.

I bought in for \$100 and, like the rest of the table, I was playing like a nit just waiting for dinner. My stack had gone up and down for most of the session until I won a few pots in a row to get to about \$260.

That's when we heard the other \$1-\$3 table had broken and the remaining players were joining us to make a full ring.

No one at our original table had more than me, but that all changed when the new players arrived. At least two stacks of \$800 or more joined us. This game was about to get out of the muck.

Just a few hands later I picked up Q♥-Q♣ under the gun and raised to \$15. The button, small blind and big blind called. Just before the flop I said, "So much for thinning the field," and I got a chuckle from the dealer. The flop: Q♠-10♠-4♦. Normally on a hand like this the blinds would give the under-the-gun preflop raiser respect and wait to see what he'd do. But the small blind bet \$50 right away into a pot of about \$60, and the big blind, who was one of the new players with about \$800, called. I had \$245 left in front of me and there was about \$160 in the middle. I thought for a second about just calling, but this was a draw-heavy board with multiple opponents. And since I had the deck crushed, I could only put them on draws or a smaller set.

I decided I didn't want them drawing here for their price, and if one of them had a set they'd be dead to one card and hard-pressed to fold to any bet I made. A standard raise would be \$150, but since I had a caller between the first bettor and me, I felt I needed to make it at least \$200. Since I only had \$245 left, I shoved.

Much to my surprise, the player on the button, who had \$800 in front of him, called! There aren't enough O's in smooth to describe this call. What could he have? I started wondering if everyone flopped sets and flush draws. I sat there calmly trying to piece together what he had when the small blind said, "All right, I can't fold," and he called for the rest of his chips (\$191). Surely the big blind couldn't call, right?

Wrong. He shipped in the call as well.

At this point I knew I had to fade spades that didn't pair the board, and maybe an ace or nine if someone had gotten out of hand with K♠-J♠. It was the largest pot I had ever seen for a \$1-\$3 game. The pile of chips filled the table and reminded me of disturbed red ants boiling over the top of their mound in an intense fury.

The turn: J♥. I liked that card. Only A-K had me beat, and I can't imagine anyone having that unless it was A♠-K♠. There was a side pot between the big stacks and some more betting occurred. I was convinced someone had 10-10 now. The river was the 7♥, and there was no way someone had 8-9 in this hand. When the big stacks checked the river I was confident I had the best hand.

But what could these players have? And what did they think I had to be able to make the calls they did? The small blind showed A♠-9♠ for the missed nut flush. The big blind tabled A♣-A♥ and the button had 10♣-10♦. I took down a \$1K pot in a \$1-\$3 game and it took me four more hands to stack all of the chips.

You can see why I called this hand the Perfect Storm. First I had to win a few hands to get to \$260. Next, the other table, with players who had a ton of chips, had to break and join our game. Then I had to pick up queens and get two quality pocket pairs dealt to the biggest stacks at the table, plus a suited ace dealt to another decent stack. I also had to have the big blind misplay his aces. Why he didn't reraise preflop still baffles me, though I'm not complaining. Had he reraised preflop he may have only lost \$100 or so. But I know him and he's a better player than I am, so maybe he had a plan. I'm positive now he thought I had K-K, which is exactly how it looked. I also had to fade spades, a 10, an ace, and, as it turned out, a king on the river, which would've given the big blind Broadway.

I don't see much the button could've done differently with his hand. I like the preflop call. Maybe he could've shoved over my shove to shut out the other players, but then he wouldn't have made some of his money back in the sidepot with the big blind. The small blind was loose so I can see why he called off his stack on the nut flush draw.

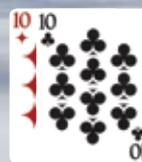
Lessons learned?

- Bet strong hands, especially to protect them in a multiway pot.
- Reraise a raised multi-called pot when you have pocket aces.
- Don't bet into a multiway pot from the small blind when you have the initial raiser still to act and you're only on a draw.
- Be patient and your Perfect Storm hand will come.

— Email Chris at chris@anteupmagazine.com



FLOP



BUTTON



SMALL BLIND



CHRIS



BIG BLIND

VOTE FOR THE LADIES TO PLAY IN THE TOC

The World Series of Poker is allowing the poker community a chance to vote for 20 of the 27 players who belong in the exclusive 2010 Tournament of Champions at the WSOP in Las Vegas.

I was so excited we could have a small say in who could play in this event. Here's a little background:

- The first Tournament of Champions took place in September 2004 with invitations extended to 10 of the most well-known names in the poker community.
- In 2005, the rules changed and players had to qualify by winning a circuit event or by making the final table of the \$10K main event.
- In 2006 it was changed again, still allowing the circuit winners and \$10K main event final table members, but also allowing Harrah's to give player exemptions to those they felt should play.



LAUREN FAILLA

- Sparking continued controversy, in 2007 the TOC was put on hold indefinitely.

So where am I going with all of this? This year I'd like to call attention to the women in poker who are vying for a spot in this elite tournament. I ask all ladies (and gentleman) to vote at www.wsop.com/toc/ for the women you feel are worthy of this honor.

Here are some suggestions: Barbara Enright (three bracelets), Susie Isaacs (two bracelets), Jennifer Harman (two bracelets), Kathy Liebert (one bracelet), Cyndy Violette (one bracelet), Linda Johnson (one bracelet), Carolyn Gardner (one bracelet), Sally Boyer (one bracelet), Vanessa Selbst (one bracelet) and Maria Stern (one bracelet) to name a few. Go through the list and cast your vote for up to 20 ladies.

This is the year for women in poker to show how and why we belong in these elite groups. Don't forget about some of the lesser-known female players on the list; they, too, deserve an opportunity to earn some much needed respect. We have been given this opportunity for the first time; let's make sure we make our presence known. Voting will remain open until June 15. Ah, I can just see it now, 20 women and seven men ... well, I can dream can't I?

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



Vanessa Selbst, who owns a WSOP bracelet and is one of the women you can vote for to play in the WSOP Tournament of Champions, became the first woman to win a PokerStars North American Poker Tour event.

She won the inaugural \$5K event at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Conn., April 11, beating more than 700 players, including Michael Beasley of Florida and Mike Woods of Virginia at the final table. She pocketed \$750K.

Beasley won \$428K for second while Woods finished third (\$230K); Vanessa Rousso of Florida won \$47K for finishing 10th.

FREE LEAGUE, FREE ADVICE

BRYAN OULTON • Learning poker etiquette

Heads-up? Play it out for the invaluable experience

In casinos and bar leagues, the "Florida Chop" is a prevalent monster. As soon as the money is to a certain point, people want to just chop it up along a percentage or even split and move on to the next event or live game. Sure, it's great, and depending on the blind levels vs. chip stacks it's the prudent thing to do for all (The Florida Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering has set new guidelines for chopping. For more on this go to anteupmagazine.com/news). However, it's often laziness and fear of heads-up play that's the underlying factor in this decision. To get better, you have to be able to play well short-handed and heads-up, and the only way to do that is to play till the end.

We recently held our first \$10K heads-up tournament as 216 players participated over four weeks. This is the purest form of poker, in my opinion, as it's a true battle of wills and minds. The eventual winner, Andy Weir, won a \$5K Aruba tournament package. But he also

had a chance to turn that into a \$10K package if he beat me and my business partner Sandy. He defeated Sandy but I was victorious after six hours.

Figuring out your opponent and then playing accordingly is the only way to win (aside from pure luck). I knew this player was willing to play big pots and allow me to chase down hands. I played one of the most passive, small-ball games I've ever played, and utilized that strategy continuously. When I got away from my plan of attack I got in trouble. Ultimately, knowing my opponent and his style, plus a few reads I picked up on him, gave me the edge I needed to overcome his well-played game.

The next time you're playing, especially in a bar-league event, play it out, work on your heads-up play. It can serve you very well.

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correspondence from the Ante Up Nation

Ante Up Poker Cruise was a blast!

We had a wonderful time on the cruise last week. I don't know if Doug enjoyed the poker or partying with the dealers more. He has lined up three of his poker buddies to go on the next one and I have had calls for two days inquiring about the trip. I will be spreading *Ante Up* magazines around and look forward to more copies. Having a tournament director was a wonderful idea. He did a great job.

The dealers were wonderful. Thank you for the freerolls to the main event. When I tell my friends of the large selections of games available they drool. There should be a good contingent from the Charlotte area next time. I could go on and on about our trip and I will for weeks with my clientele.

Doug and Richard Kraus
via email

I just wanted to let you know all the Clevelanders got back to the northeast safe and sound and fortunately to some beautiful spring weather. I want to tell you how much Bobby and I enjoyed the cruise. You all did a wonderful job and it was such fun meeting you all. (Poker room managers) Cassie and Jody were really great at what they did keeping things going so well and I hope you will let them know how impressed all of us were with their professionalism and kindness.

It can't be an easy gig for any of you and you did a great job. The dealers were terrific, too. I especially liked Logan, who managed to learn all our names and to use them. So, keep us posted on the next one and the best of everything to all of you.

Terry Luria
Cleveland

— Email us at letters@anteupmagazine.com

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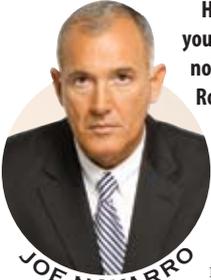
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WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

Sometimes even the best can misinterpret poker tells



Has there ever been a tell you saw on a poker player that you were positive meant one thing but later found out it was not that at all? If so, what was it? — Bobby Burton, Baton Rouge, La.

Bobby, great question. Unfortunately yes, many times, and in each case I was reading the nonverbal just right, squinting eyes or compressed lips, neck touching, but the cause behind it was not what I thought. These tells I just mentioned are all indicative of stress or concern, and I read the players as marginal or weak. What I didn't realize was these individuals were overanalyzing their hand and were indeed concerned about what they had, though in each case they were marginal to strong. Because these individuals were at the WSOP Academy I had the advantage of being able to see it live and ask them what they had and were thinking. It just goes to show we can read the immediate tells, but sometimes the underlying thinking we may not understand because we are witnessing not reality, but rather, what the person is thinking or perceiving. IF they think themselves weak, then that's what we'll see.

— 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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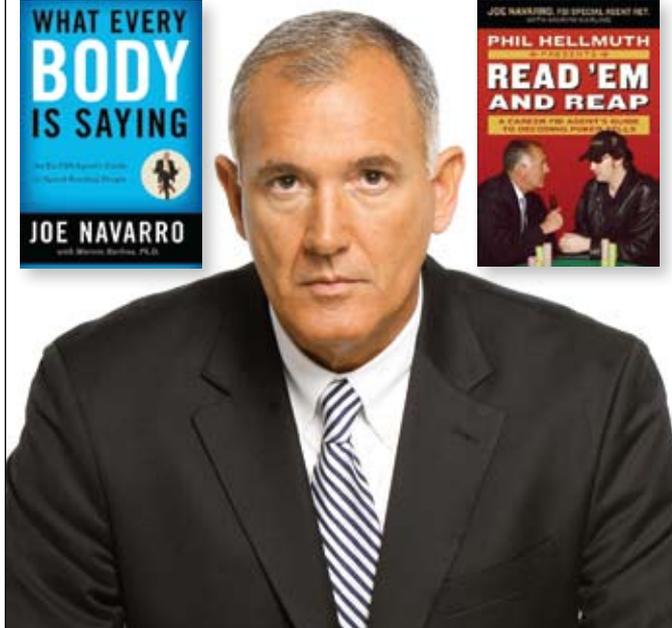
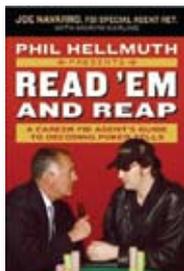
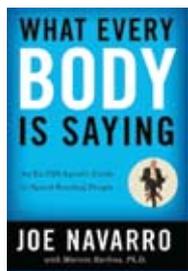
LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
CALDER RACE COURSE Phone: (305) 625-1311 www.calderracecourse.com/poker	Guarantee of at least \$1K every day except Fridays, including \$5K Saturdays (\$100, 11a, 6K units, 30-minute blinds).	Royals \$500 (double if flopped); Bad beat is any quads; big cash drawings April 30 (call for details).	First 10 aces cracked from noon, M-F (\$50 in limit, \$100 no-limit).
DANIA JAI-ALAI Phone: (954) 927-2841 www.dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (\$35-\$150), including \$15K guarantee Fridays, (\$100, 6:30p); Omaha/8 first Sun. of month (\$100, 3p). Minis: \$30, \$50, \$100.	High hands pay \$50 hourly 1-8p; royals \$500 (Omaha \$250). Bad beats in cash games only.	AUPT, May 7 (\$100, 6:30p); \$50K guarantee, May 22 (\$340, noon), with \$40 satellites every day.
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (386) 252-6484 www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily, including Wed. Ladies (\$25) at 1p; Sat. deep-stack (\$225, 2p) and PLO/8 (\$120, 7p). SNGs: \$40-\$220.	Check Web site for details on high hands and bad beats, including the NL \$100K Bad Beat Countdown.	WSOP Main Event qualifier, May 2 (\$150, 1p, 10K chips, 25-minute blinds).
DERBY LANE Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7 www.derbylanepoker.com	Daily, (1p, 4p and 7p Su-Th and 2p, 6p and 8p F-Sa).	Daily royal flushes and mini bad beats. Full calendar of jackpots varying day-to-day. See Web site.	AUPT, May 29 (\$100, 1p). See ad on Page 15 for more specials.
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (850) 234-3943 www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Mega Stack (last Sunday of month, \$330, 2p, 10K chips); Mon. & Wed., (\$40, 3K chips, 7p); Thurs., (\$20, 3K chips, 7p); Tue. & Sat., (\$10, 3K chips, 7p).	Royals paid; bad beat is quad deuces; Bonus Fridays (\$100 high hands every 15 minutes).	Bonus Day (May 1) and Super Bonus Days (May 8 & 31) See ads on Pages 47 & 49 for details.
FLAGLER GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (305) 649-3000 www.flaglerdogs.com	Sundays, low-rake bounty event (\$40, 1p). Monday night is a \$75 NLHE event (7p). SNGs: \$65-\$800	High hands pay \$150 all day; non-heart royals win \$1K, heart royals pay \$2,500.	\$500 progressive hot table paid at 3p & 9p; Big Slick Royal progressive.
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (772) 464-7500 www.jaialai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$100, 6:30p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). Deepstack third Sat. every month (\$150, 3p). SNGs: (Thu.-Sat., \$65-\$110)	All new bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha. Call for details or visit Web site. (see ad Pages 6-7)	AUPT, May 15 (\$150, 3p, \$10K guarantee). WSOP Main Event satellites (May 8 & 31, \$175, 8K units).
GULFSTREAM PARK Phone: (904) 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	Ante Up Poker Tour, May 22 (\$150, 6:30p, 8K units); WSOP Challenge (See ad on Page 11 for details).
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (800) 941-4841 www.hamiltondownsjaialai.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).	Clubs royal pays \$3,832 (mini royal is \$383). Bad beat is aces full of kings and pays \$5K.	First to Hit Thursdays pays players who are first to hit certain high hands. Details on Web site.
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 www.theislepompanopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$720), including bounty events (T, Th, Sa., 7p) and \$15K guarantee Tuesdays (\$230, 2p, 13K chips, 30-min. blinds). SNGs: \$60-\$225	Bad beat was \$82K at press time.	AUPT, May 22 (\$720, 2p, see ad Page 17); Battle for the Weekly Pass, Sundays, 7, \$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.
MARDI GRAS CASINO Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167 www.playbigeasy poker.com	Omaha/8 Tuesdays (\$100, 6:30p, 5K chips); Deep-stack Thursdays, (\$100, 6:30p), 10K chips but 5K more for \$40 add-on. SNGs: \$25-\$110.	High hands, \$100 hourly, 9a-2a, \$50 3a-8a, double in no-limit. \$500 at noon, 3p, 6p, 9p & midnight.	Ante Up Poker Tour, May 20 (\$150, 6:30p). Royals win \$599. See ad Pages 4-5 for more details.
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (321) 259-9800 www.mgpark.com	Daily, (\$65-\$120), including Saturday Super Stack (\$120, 2p, 10K chips) and the Sunday 150 (\$65, 1p 2,500 chips). SNGs: All day, buy-ins vary.	Bad beat is only in hold'em and requires aces full of jacks be beaten by quads or better.	Wed. is Ladies Night at Club 52; quads win \$50, straight flush \$100, royals \$500.
MIAMI JAI-ALAI Phone: (305) 633-6400 www.miamijai.com	Daily (\$20-\$165). Also, \$750 freeroll (May 1, 3p); \$1,500 guarantee (May 15 & 29, \$30, 3p) and \$1K guarantee domino event (May 16 & 30, 4p)	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day progressive; see Web site for more information.	AUPT, May 23 (\$500, 1p, see ad Page 55); 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 May 8, high hands pay \$1K hourly from 1-10p.
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI Phone: (352) 591-2345 www.ocalapoker.com	Daily (\$30-\$500). SNGs: (\$45-\$500).	\$500 high hands every half hour May 22-23 in celebration of room's two-year anniversary.	WSOP Main Event satellites, May 1 & 22 (\$150, 2p); Ante Up Poker Tour, May 29 (\$100, 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 (see ad Page 31).	Royals and Steel Wheels \$250 (spades \$500); Bad beats: See site for details, plus a Super High Hand.	AUPT, May 21 (\$100, 2p); HHPT Academy w/Barbara Enright, May 22 (10a). See ad Page 31.
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (561) 683-2222 www.pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120), noon & 6:30p Sun-Thurs.; 1 & 6:30 Fri.-Sat. WSOP super satellites Wed. and Sun. (\$30 w/\$20 rebuys, 6:30p).	Visit Web site or call for information on daily high hands and bad-beat payouts and qualifications.	AUPT, May 28 (\$100, 1p, 6K units). Every Saturday in May will be a WSOP satellite (\$550, 1p).
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (850) 455-8595 www.pensacolagreyhoundpark.com	Weekly (\$65-\$120). Sat. (\$65, 4p); Sun. (\$120, 4p) will be \$5K guarantee. Thurs., (\$65) super satellite to May 29 \$20K guar (\$340, this is an AUPT event).	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 (\$184K).	Ante Up Poker Tour, May 29 (\$100, 6:30p).
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON Phone: (866) 222-7466 ext. 121 www.seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mondays and Wednesdays, (\$20, 6:30p) with an optional add-on. SNGs: \$25, \$65, \$110.	Sun. quads pay \$50 noon-10p (\$100 after 10p); Tue. high hand \$200; Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s).	Wed., Rolling Cash Fever; Thurs. Aces Cracked, 4-7p (\$100); Sat., straight and royal flushes pay double.
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	Friday bounty (\$150, 7:30p), bounties are \$50 and players start with 8K chips and 20-minute blinds. SNGs: \$55, \$85, \$135.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s).	See Web site for details or call poker room for current offers.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Daily (\$75-\$1,100), including the Big Slick (May 29, \$1,100, 11a) and Main Event series (May 10-16). SNGs: \$60-\$1,050.	Royal flush progressive (daily) and \$3K Daily "Splash Pot" giveaway. Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s).	AUPT, May 29 (\$1,100, 11a, this also is the Big Slick event).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$100-\$550), including a Ladies Only event (May 2, 12:30p, \$100). SNGs: \$125-\$1,075.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s). Royal flushes pay \$500 in spades, \$100 in all other suits.	AUPT, May 15 (\$100, 10a). Four of a Kind Bonus Days; Carnival of Cars Giveaway (See back page ad).
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.	AUPT, May 1 (\$225, 7p)
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$150), including a WSOP Main Event satellite, May 2 (\$150, 1p) and the HHPT WSOP Ladies event satellite (May 22, see ad Page 31).	Royals \$250 (spades \$500); Bad beats: See site for details, plus a Super High Hand.	AUPT, May 1 (\$125, 2p); North Florida Poker Classic (May 7), see ad Page 31 for full schedule.
TAMPA BAY DOWNS Phone: (813) 298-1798 www.tampabaydowns.com	Daily (\$20-\$540), including team event third Tuesday of month (May 17, \$240 per team, 6:30p). 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.	AUPT, May 16 (\$350, 12:30p); aces cracked; Rays Attack, up to \$500 every inning Rays score.
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 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 (aces full of 10s beaten by quads) was \$105K at press time,	Call for information. Promotions tied to state approval.
BELLE OF BATON ROUGE Phone: (800) 676-4847 www.belleofbatonrouge.com	No tournaments yet, but \$4-\$8 limit and \$2-\$5 no-limit hold'em cash games.	Bad beat (any quads) was \$13K at press time.	Call for information.
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 promotions information.
COUSHATTA CASINO Phone: (800) 584-7263 x7336 www.coushattacasinoresort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230), including Tue. (\$15, 6:30p) with rebuys & add-ons; Thurs. (\$85, 7p); Fri. (\$20, 7:30p) with rebuys, and Sat. (\$230, 2p).	Bad beat was \$38K at press time.	High hand pays \$200 every hour from 1-10p in May and June (call for details).
CYPRESS BAYOU CASINO Phone: (800) 284-4386 www.cypressbayou.com	Wed. (\$40, 6:30p); Saturday Super Bounty, (\$60, 3p) with two \$20 rebuys and two \$20 add-ons. Bounties are \$20 and Super Bounties are \$100.	Bad beat: quads (\$47K 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-\$125), including Saturdays (\$125, 11a) and Tuesday rebuy event (\$75, rebuys are \$25-\$50 with \$25-\$50 add-ons at first break, 6:30p)	Bad beat: quads (\$148K at press time); Royal flush progressives pay by suit.	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 Saturday of month (\$300, 10:30a) and last Sunday (\$400, 2p).	Bad beat: quads; plus mini-bad beat pays 10% (aces full of 10s).	Numerous promotions that change daily. Call for details.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES Phone: (337) 430-2407 www.lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Mon. \$3K guar. (\$60, 6p); Tue. (\$90, 6p); Friday (\$60, noon; \$140 7p); Saturday (\$225, noon).	Bad beat is \$50K; "Minor Jackpots" pays quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125), 24/7. Call for details.	Splash Sundays: \$100 each hour, noon-3p.
PARAGON CASINO Phone: (800) 946-1946 x1975 www.paragoncasinoresort.com	Mondays (\$20 w/rebuys, 7p), Thursday bounty event (\$20 with \$15 unlimited rebuys, 7p) and Fridays (\$60 with one \$50 rebuy, 7p)	Loosest bad beat in the state: Aces full of eights. In Omaha straight flush must be beaten.	High hand pays \$50 every half-hour Wednesdays (noon-2:30p and 9-11:30p).

ARKANSAS

OAKLAWN RACING & GAMING Phone: (501) 623-4411 www.oaklawn.com	Daily, including SNGs (\$30), on PokerPro tables.	Bad beat paid on all hold'em cash games. Call for details.	\$100 high hands paid every three hours (Sun-Thurs., 11a-1a).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING Phone: (870) 735-3670 www.southlandgreyhound.com	Mon.-Tue.-Wed. & Sat. (\$20, 2p), 3K chips and 15-minute blinds.	Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	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.
VICTORY POKER LOUNGE Phone: (757) 472-1203 www.victorypokerlounge.net	Wednesday-Thursday-Friday, including SNGS (\$30, \$50 and \$125).	Bad beat is kings full of 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 \$74K at press time.	Armed Forces Day event (May 15, 1p, \$80); \$50K freeroll (May 16, 11a, \$10K for first), call for details.
TRI-STATE RACETRACK AND GAMING Phone: (800) 224-9683 www.tristateracetrack.com	Generally events are Sun. (2p), Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p) & Wed. 7p and buy-ins vary (\$40-\$125). Big Stack is last Sunday of month (\$560, 10K chips, 2p).	Bad beat totals vary by game, but hold'em (aces full of jacks) was \$38K at press time.	Call for details.
WHEELING CASINO Phone: (304) 232-5050 www.wheelingisland.com	Sun-Fri. (\$40, 10a); Sat. (\$150, 3p, 6K chips), plus tournaments every night (\$40-\$65, 7p).	Bad beat was \$70K 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 for limit hold'em players (\$100).	Ask about the \$100 Omaha/8 promotion.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-8999 www.boomtownbiloxi.com	Mon.-Wed and Sat. (\$45-\$65), plus last Wed. of the month features a bounty event (\$100, 7p).	Bad beat is aces full of kings (More than \$50K). Mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks).	Aces cracked pays \$100 all day, every day, plus player entered in \$500 drawing.
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT Phone: (662) 357-1136 www.goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340). \$10K guarantee first Sun. of the month (\$340, 1p), 10K chips, 30-minute blinds. Third Sat. is \$5K guarantee (\$100, 6p, 8K chips)	Call for current bad beat and royal flush jackpots.	Lucky Seat Drawing (3a-6a) in April. Call for other promotions.
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 (\$40K 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.harrahstunica.com	Daily (\$60-\$105), including \$2,500 guarantee Fridays (\$80, 6p) featuring 12K chips and 20-minute blinds.	No jackpots.	\$2K freeroll on Wednesdays (7p), call for details and other promotions.
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 on Tue. (10a-10p) wins \$100-\$200., also 10a-2p Fridays (\$50) starting 5/19.
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-\$550), including first Sat. of the month's \$10K first-place guarantee (\$550, 4p) with 12K chips and 30-minute blinds.	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em.	Hourly high hands in hold'em can win \$25-\$500 depending on the hand made. Call for details.
ISLAND VIEW CASINO Phone: (228) 314-2230 www.islandviewcasino.com	Fridays (\$50 with \$25 rebuys, 6:30p)	Straight flush progressive Fridays (7:30p-8a). Bad beat is aces full of queens. Call about Beat the Dealer.	Splash the Pot daily (\$25 every 30 minutes, 10a-6p) and \$50 high hands Mon-Thurs., Sun. (7p-mid.).
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA Phone: (888) 946-2847 x8554 www.ipbiloxi.com	Daily (except Friday) at noon (\$60, 4K chips). Earn extra chips by playing live action between 8a-11a to receive an extra 1K chips for each hour played.	High hands pay \$75 hourly Tue. & Thurs. (midnight-4p). Hands must be at least a full house.	Aces cracked pays \$100 (Tue.-Wed 4p-midnight). WSOP satellites through May 3; call for details.
ISLE OF CAPRI BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-7967 www.biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Daily (\$20-\$50), including bounty rebuy event on Saturdays (\$30, 3p), featuring 3K chips, 20-minute blinds, \$20 rebuys, \$25 add-on and \$20 bounties.	Bad beat available in numerous games, but hold'em (aces full of queens) was \$46K 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	Thursday bounty (\$75, 7p), 2K chips, 15-minute blinds, \$25 bounties. SNGs: \$45, \$65 (2K chips, 10 players).	Bad beat is \$75K in hold'em, \$2K for Omaha. Mini is aces full of deuces (\$550 to loser).	Aces cracked can earn you from \$50-\$150 depending on the day and time. Call for details.
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) Phone: (601) 650-1234 www.pearlriverresort.com	Daily, (\$35-\$60), including a \$2,500 guarantee on Saturdays (\$85, 2p). Events on M-T-W-Th start at 7p; F-S-Su start at 2p.	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), 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.diamondcasinosavannah.com	Friday (night cruise) and Saturday (afternoon and night cruises), \$110.	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
EMERALD PRINCESS II Phone: (912) 265-3558 www.emeraldprincesscasino.com	Texas Hold'em Saturdays, call for details.	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.

NORTH CAROLINA

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE www.harrahscherokee.com Phone: (828) 497-7777	Tournaments and cash games on PokerPro tables. SNGs: Tuesday and Sunday (\$115).	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
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Stephen Bloomfield, a.k.a. the Doc, is one of Florida's leading psychologists. He wrote **Head Games** in the late '80s to help competitors of every type use the skills he had learned about the effects of the mind on performance.



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



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Q&A

WITH ERIC "RIZEN" LYNCH



Eric Lynch, one of the few poker pros who thrives online and live, is one of the co-authors of the *Winning Poker Tournaments* series, which has just released Vol. 2. In the coming months *Ante Up* readers will be able to read strategy columns written by the series' creators, but first Chris Cosenza chatted with Rizen about his nickname, his time as a software engineer and his frugality.

Your online moniker, Rizen, impulsively came from the *Diablo* video game series when you were in high school. How do you feel about the prospect of being in your 50s someday and still being called Rizen? (laughs) Hopefully when I'm in my 50s people still know who I am. ... It's worked well for me so far, so if that's what people still know me as in my 50s then I'd be happy with that.

Is there anything you miss from your software engineer days? Yeah, one of the biggest things I miss is the sense of accomplishment you have when you complete a big project. I mean, don't get me wrong, when you win a tournament you have a sense of accomplishment as well, but it's not quite the same as when you're working as a team. ... I guess it's more the contribution you feel as part of a team toward some greater goal, whereas poker is more of an individualistic activity.

How difficult was it to turn pro? It wasn't that difficult at all. In 2006 when I decided to go ahead and quit my job it was because I wanted to go to the World Series that year and I knew my job wasn't going to let me just leave for six weeks. So actually I had another job lined up for when I got home and I did so well in 2006 I decided not to take that job. So it was one of those things where I didn't make a conscious decision to quit and never go back to work ... it just kinda turned into a full-time thing.

How did the *Winning Poker Tournaments* series come to fruition? It was an idea (poker player and Dimat Enterprises publisher) Matthew Hilger had a while ago. ... He had the idea and approached me about it and asked me who I thought would be some good players to work with, and we kinda both came up with our own list. Fortunately we had a lot of the same people on it. And I think actually Jon ("Pearl]ammer" Turner) and Jon ("Apestyles" Van Fleet) might have been the first two people we asked, and they jumped on board. I thought it was a great idea. At the time (Gus Hansen's) *Every Hand Revealed* wasn't out yet, so it was a very unique idea.

Vol. 1 dealt with all kinds of scenarios in tournaments. What is Vol. 2 about? Vol. 1 really just covered the early hand scenarios from the very beginning of a tournament through the money bubble. Book 2 kinda picks

up where Book 1 left off. ... In Book 1 you kinda got a lot of hands that were scattered around that deal with a lot of common early to middle tournament situations. While in this one, we all picked a tournament we won and went from the money bubble on to the end. You get a lot of that continuity; you get a lot of the reads that we get. Because I feel like late tournament poker is so much more about reads. Also you're dealing with a lot more shallow-stack situations, so a lot of things are a lot more preflop. ... When do you three-bet? When do you reraise all-in? ... It's more of a late-game sort of book.

What's the biggest mistake you see players make once they're in the money?

People tend to go to one of two extremes. They become too impatient and they start to make plays that really don't make a whole lot of sense and add a whole lot of risk and variance to their game. I realize we're doing a lot of restacking; we're doing a lot of three-betting and reraising. But we're very selective about how we do it. We make sure we're picking the proper opponents with the proper hand ranges who are capable of folding hands. The other mistake is people get too patient. They let themselves get down to five or six big blinds, sometimes even lower. I was actually just at a WPT event in Indiana and two people let themselves get down to three big blinds. (laughs) ... and that was after the money bubble burst. ... Once you get down that low, even if you managed to get dealt aces four or five times in a row, the chances of actually doubling up and getting a workable stack to take on to the final table is pretty low.

Finally, I hear you might challenge me as cheapest individual in America. (laughs) Where'd you hear this? (laughs) Yeah, I'm pretty cheap. Even when I go to Vegas for tournaments I'll Priceline it, or find the cheapest room I can. Sometimes I'll even stay with a friend. ... I don't really feel the need to spend a whole lot of money. A lot of times when I know I'm gonna be there for four or five days I'll actually go to the grocery store other than going out to eat all the time. I'm not cheap in my homelife. ... You know, I see guys blowing thousands of dollars every time they travel and that's just ... it seems like a waste to me.



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