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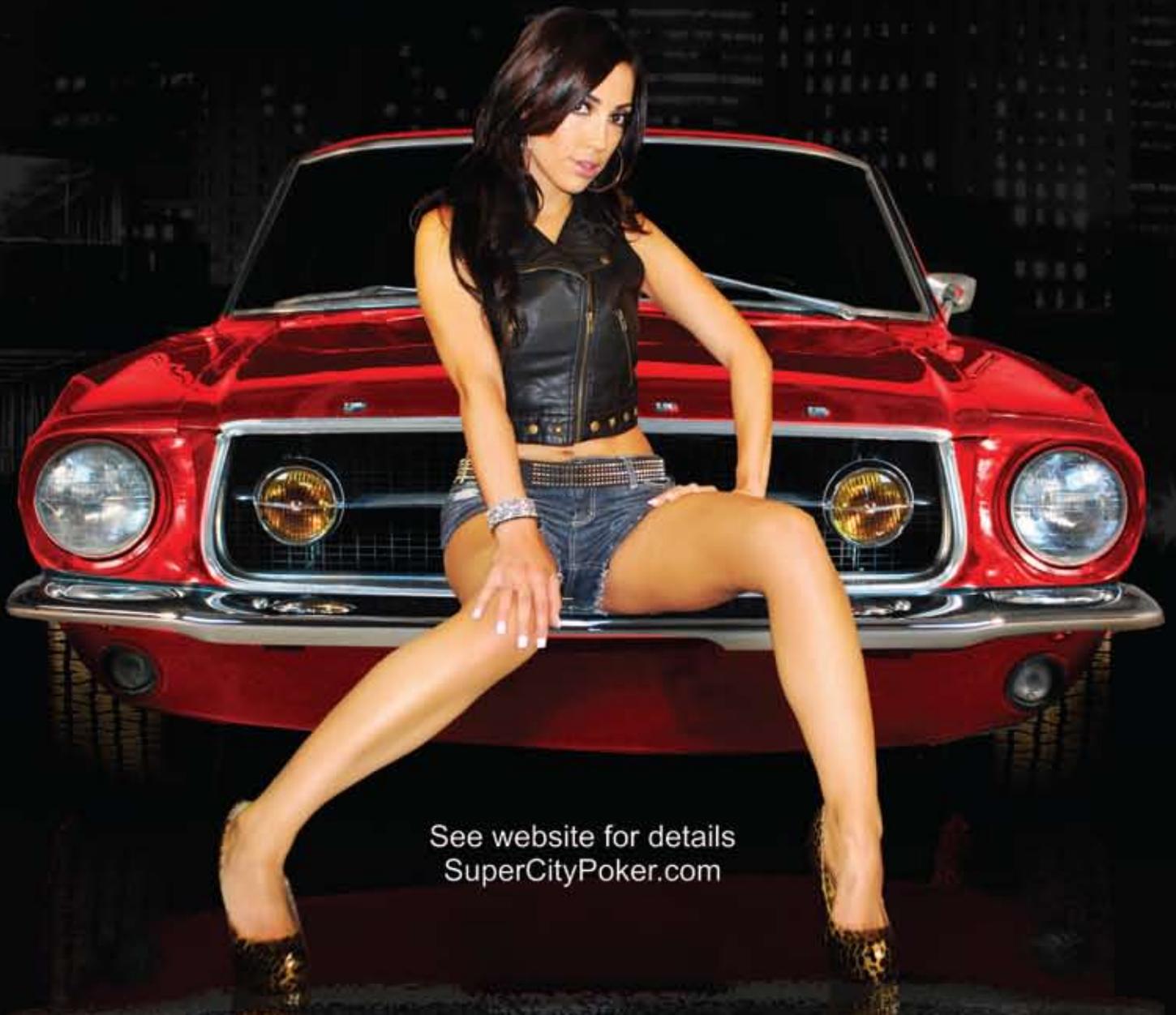
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3	Oct 6, Wed	7pm	NL Holdem	\$300+\$30
4	Oct 7, Thurs	7pm	NL Holdem Bounty Shoot Out	\$200+\$50+\$25
5	Oct 8, Fri	7pm	NL Holdem	\$360+\$40
6	Oct 9, Sat	2pm	Last Chance Main Event Satellite	\$65+\$5
7	Oct 9, Sat	7pm	High Heels Poker Ladies Event	\$200+\$20
8	Oct 10, Sun	2pm	Emerald Coast Championship	\$550+\$50



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FROM THE PUBLISHERS



YOU SPOKE, WE LISTENED

We love this time of the year. The weather is breaking. Football is getting started, and baseball is getting exciting. Our favorite TV shows are back on the air. And we get to analyze the results of our annual Ante Up Readers Choice Survey.

Each year, we invite our readers to tell us what's on their poker mind, to tell us what their favorite poker rooms and leagues are and to give us some feedback on what we can be doing better to serve you.

And this year's survey was particularly enlightening since we broadened the questions and let you answer some of them however you like.

For example, we now know you think A-K is an overrated hand. That pot-limit Omaha will be poker's next game. And that Mike Sexton and Vince Van Patten are your favorite poker TV announcers (but just barely).

And we now know you hold 11 of the poker rooms and 12 of the poker leagues in our coverage area in the highest regard, and that many more exceed your expectations in one way or another.

And we now know what many of you would do if you were handed the keys to your favorite poker room for a day, and what you'd do if were an *Ante Up* publisher for a day. No doubt, the answers to those questions will go a long way toward improving the rooms we serve and the magazine you hold in your hand.

To see what our readers had to say on all of these issues, and many more, please turn to pages 36-41.

But this is just the beginning of providing feedback. Every poker room and league worthy of your business stands ready to hear your opinions whenever you want to share them. In our travels all over The South and Mid-Atlantic, we've never run into a poker room manager who didn't put his or her players first. Sometimes what we want just can't be done. But more often than not, the only reason something hasn't been changed is that no one has asked. So don't be bashful. Your idea could be the one that makes the experience better for everyone.

Ante Up is open for suggestions year-round, not just during our survey. If you have an idea for improving our products, drop us a line at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

We appreciate that you take time out of your busy lives to read our magazine, listen to our show, use our website and participate in our events, and we want to repay that devotion by doing anything possible to enhance your enjoyment of *Ante Up*.

Also, this month we feature quite a few profiles on successful players, including Harold Angle, the WSOP senior champ from Florida, Mississippi's Poker Monkey (along with coverage of the Gulf Coast Championships) and a quick chat with poker legend Freddy Deeb.

We also visited the many charming rooms of Louisiana for our Road Trip feature, plus a respected college professor helps us understand why we go on tilt. Enjoy!

We'll see you at the tables.

Christopher Cosenza and Scott Long



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ROAD TRIP

We cover more than 600 miles in about 48 hours as we visit eight poker rooms and report back to you. **44**



PERSPECTIVE

LEE CHILDS

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DR. BLOOMFIELD

You can have all the preparation in the world, but if you're not patient at the table you're doomed. **56**

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The young pro finds himself in a very difficult PLO hand with two pros at the WSOP. **55**

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PALM BEACH POKER CLASSIC

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More than 1,000 entrants generated a prize pool in excess of \$200K for the fifth annual PBPC, ending with one of the hottest players in the state, Ebony Kenney, winning the main event and POY.

By Garrett Roth

Seasoned tournament player Ebony Kenney is finally catching her hot streak.

Her conquering of the Palm Beach Poker Classic's main event for more than \$20,000 also gave her the title of PBPC Player of the Year, culminating an incredible run that began in 2009.

The Estero, Fla., resident has won some of Florida's most prestigious tournaments, including the \$1K Hard Rock Summer Open main event last year (\$54,000). She followed up that performance with a third-place finish in the ladies event and a chop in Event 5 at the Isle Florida State Championship for a combined \$11,000.

Kenney, who now has a backer, started playing poker in home games with a couple of her friends, long before the "Moneymaker Effect."

"My first real tournament was at the Sands in Atlantic City," she said. "It was a \$45 buy-in. My friends and I had a last-longer bet and there were about 100 entrants. I won the tournament outright. The same weekend, I had my first taste of cash games and parlayed my \$45 into more than \$4,000. It was a good trip."

Downswings are a part of the poker lifestyle, however, and Kenney knows this well. Her bankroll was busted just before her latest run in Florida.

"I've been on the end where I don't cash for a dozen or more tournaments," she said. "I know how to deal with the downswings."

Kenney would say emotional control is one of the most important factors in the separation of "good" and "great" players, and her results display this perfectly.

A mother of two children, Kenney attributes her recent success to playing and running well.

"It's nice when I'm actually winning coin-flips and hands are holding when they should," she said. "I'm able to maximize those opportunities by playing well. I've played five tournaments in the past month and final-tabled three. I'm really happy about the way I'm playing."

It also helps that she has some top players as friends to discuss hands with, which creates more opportunities for improvement in her game. Some of her close friends include North Miami Beach's Steve Karp (runner-up in 2009 WSOP Event 7), Ronnie Bardah (24th in the 2010 WSOP Main Event), Adam Adler (fourth in 2009 WSOP Event 11), and Tampa's John Racener (member of 2010 WSOP November Nine).

Her future seems bright in the tournament circuit. She's going to continue playing Florida's larger buy-in tournaments, which now include the World Poker Tour.

"I'll be playing the WPT event in November, which will be good test run for the upcoming televised event in April," she said.



Ebony Kenney



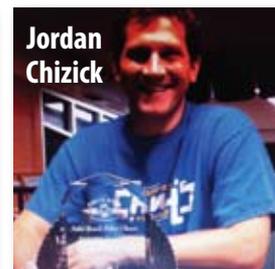
Thomas Sloop



Kevin Spires



Brian Locklar



Jordan Chizick

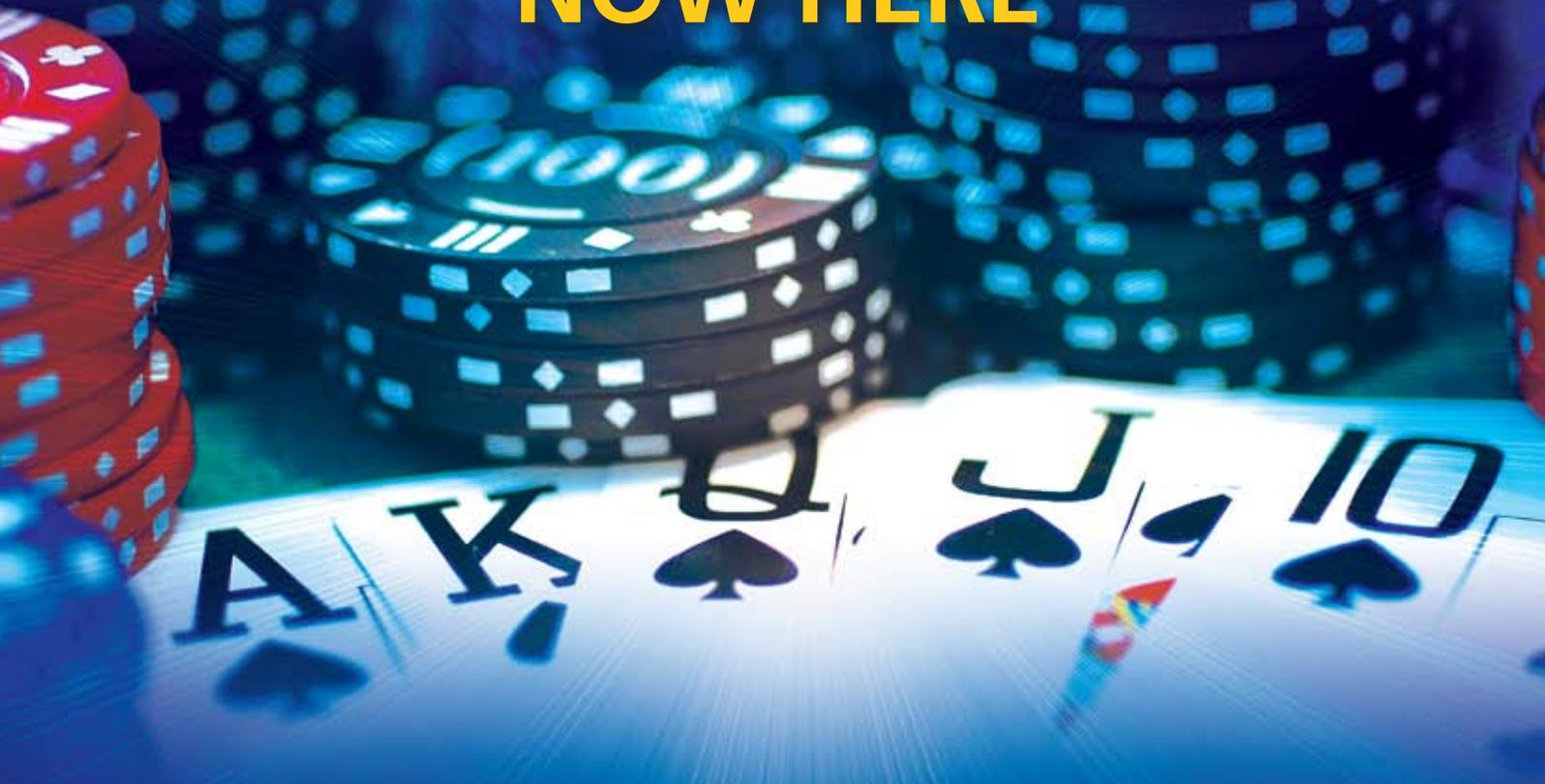


Dolline Vance

Final results

Winner	Event	Players	1st place
Thomas Sloop	\$10K NLHE	195	\$3,140
Kevin Spires	\$10K 6-Handed	162	\$3,775
Brian Locklar	\$10K NLHE rebuys	168	\$3,007
Jordan M. Chizick	\$10K H.O.R.S.E	139	\$3,450
Dolline Vance	\$20K NLHE	220	\$7,212
Ebony Kenney	\$50,000 Main	205	\$20,250

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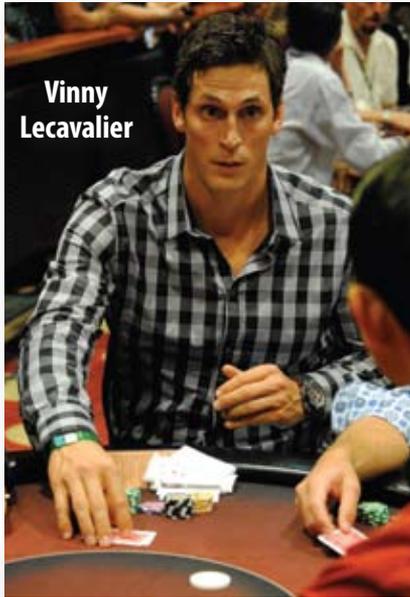
VINCENT LECAVALIER'S CELEBRITY POKER CLASSIC

SEPT. 10, 2010 • DERBY LANE • ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

The Tampa Bay Lightning star moved his charity event to Derby Lane for the first time this year as poker stars Annie Duke, Joe Sebok, John Racener and 2007 world champ Jerry Yang were among the 170 participants who raised nearly \$70K for the Vincent Lecavalier Pediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at All Children's Hospital, including \$20K from celebrity winner Matt "Burch" Helm.



Annie Duke



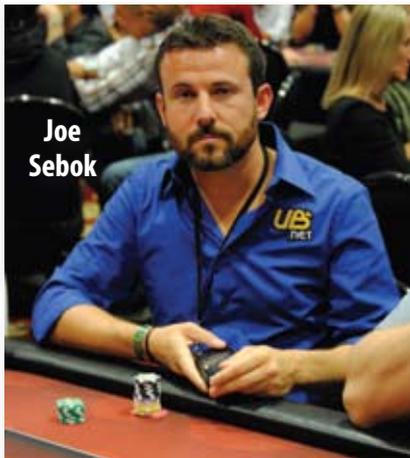
Vinny Lecavalier



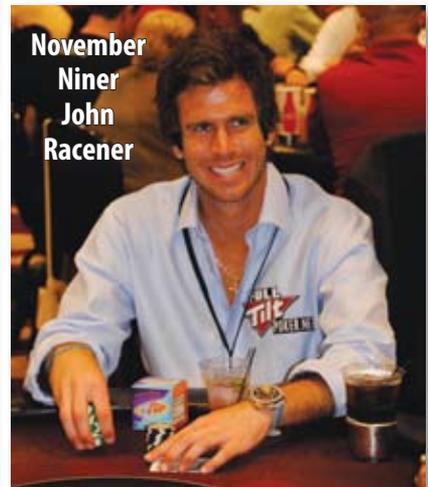
Jerry Yang



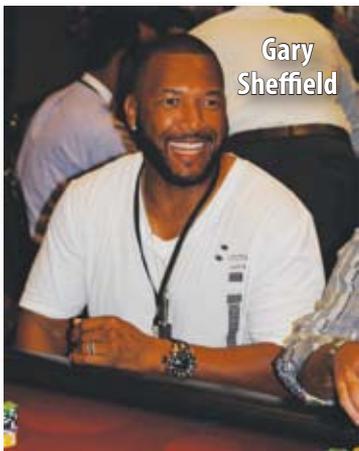
Ex-Bucs QB Shaun King



Joe Sebok



November Niner John Racener



Gary Sheffield



The tournament area at Derby Lane was packed.



Ex-Bucs kicker Martin Grammatica

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DANIA JAI-ALAI



Instead of playing out the Dan Le Batard tournament to see who would win a seat in the World Poker Tour main event at the Borgata in Atlantic City, **Mike Balan** from Davie (who won the trophy) and Jorge Pena of Lauderhill agreed to split \$12,959. An amazing 374 players showed up for the \$79 tournament on Sept. 1.

The next big tournament scheduled at Dania will be a \$40K guarantee Halloween event Oct. 30 at noon (\$250 buy-in).

PENSACOLA GREYHOUND

The \$20K guarantee on Aug. 28 had a \$340 buy-in and drew 90 players.

It was chopped 10 ways (\$2,700 each) and the players were: Dan P., Jim D., Christina S., Allen P., Jonathon J., Billy K., Neil P., Dave R., Trey C. and Justin W. Maybe someday we'll learn their last names.

ALL IN!



Phil Pagan won the monthly tournament Aug. 14 in Orlando.

He beat more than 70 players to take home the trophy, an iPod Touch and gift cards.

WSOPC – IOWA

Rob Georato, 41, a former high school math teacher in Wisconsin, and now a semi-pro poker player from Naples, won the eighth ring event at the WSOP circuit tour at Council Bluffs, Iowa, a \$300 no-limit hold'em tournament.

His victory earned him \$18,694 and a diamond-encrusted gold ring, and it gave him the lead in the Casino Champion points race for a seat in a \$1 million event in Las Vegas next year.



He also had two earlier cashes in ring events (third and 14th).

Afterward, Georato described his victory as a "roller-coaster ride." Two key hands for him came when players attempted bluffs while he was holding big hands, once when he had pocket kings, another time when he had flopped a set of kings.

He began playing poker with neighborhood gangs in his teens. He has about a half-dozen WSOPC cashes and his biggest payday is \$38,600 for finishing 195th at the WSOP main event in 2008. This event had 276 players with a \$77,888 prize pool. Georato's performance was the only significant one from any players in *Ante Up's* coverage area.

ALL IN FREE POKER



Teddy Mass, a member of the inaugural class of All In Free Poker's Hall of Fame, died recently at the age of 96.

He played in the league almost five years, showing up multiple nights a week.

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURS



Paul Anderson, left, won the July tournament held at Calhoun's Pub & Grub in

Destin while Wayne Smith and Tracy Godwin, below, chopped the August event after playing heads-up for more than an hour.



FOXWOODS

David Felger of Lantana waded through 663 players on Aug. 19 and ultimately chopped the \$560 Mega Stack Challenge in Connecticut, earning about \$31,500 of the \$321K prize pool.



TREASURE CHEST POKER



OCALA: **Tiffany Golab** captured the largest monthly to date to win a trophy and an Ocala Poker tournament seat.

MURPHY'S: **Connie Oliff** won a WSOP quarterly seat and a \$100 gift card.

STROKERS: Samuel Mayers won a quarterly seat and a \$200 gift card.

TAMPA: **Jessie Taylor** took home a \$500 gift card for his monthly victory.

BATTLE OF THE BARS: Barkley Witcher and Stingrays captured the title.



PLEASURE ISLAND POKER

Michael Gauthier defeated 70 players to win his second monthly tournament in less than two years. He won a seat to a Pensacola Greyhound Park tournament.

• **John Davis** won the Emerald Coast Foundation's charity event on Aug. 14 at Scully's on the Bayou in Ft. Walton Beach.

He earned a seat to a PGP event.



PLAYERS CHOICE TOUR

Kevin Newton, Travis Wilson and Terrance Bolling defeated more than 120 players and chopped the monthly tournament held at Boots 'N' Buckles in Lakeland. Each won \$258. They were followed by Kim Zolwig (\$50); Bev Garceau (\$50); Glen Stanlick (\$25); Ray Wooten (\$25); Laura Elkin (\$25); Bill Brazell (\$25); and Michael Taylor (\$25).

CHIP ANA CHAIR



The Lost Kangaroo Pub of Bradenton hosted the summer main event Aug. 8 as Russ Wood amassed a mountain of chips and defeated nearly 60 players to capture the top prize, a laptop computer.

The final table featured the following players ranked from second to 10th: Amanda Sheley, Kim Sanders, Jack Farrell, Bill Lewis, Bill Coker, Geno, Mike Munchel, Rick Lane, and Joe Rogers.

The bubble boy, Dave Helyer, took home an assortment of bubble bath products and a can of Scrubbing Bubbles.

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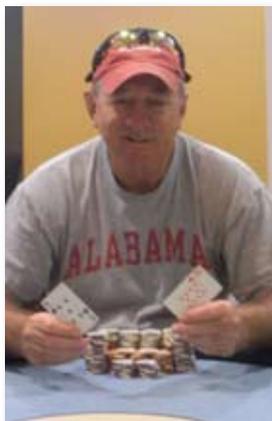
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ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB



The first effort for Jacksonville's Florida Poker Tour, held in late August, drew more than 400 entries for a combined prize pool of more than \$200,000. Here are the winners and results.



EVENT 1 CHAMPION



EVENT 4'S TOP THREE

Event 1 • \$150 Rebuy Mega

45 Players • \$8,060 Prize Pool

1. Roston "Doc" Stukes, \$2,418
2. Thomas Singson, \$1,612

Event 2 • \$150 HHPT

52 Players • \$6,240 Prize Pool

1. Tonia Williams, \$2,373
2. Maria Elkaz, \$1,310
3. Lilly Rojo, \$1,029
4. Patty Smith, \$686
5. Rebecca Like, \$468
6. Kelly Slay, \$374

Event 3 • \$225 Mega Stack

93 Players • \$18,600 Prize Pool

1. Shane Barnes, \$7,068
2. Steve Mitchell, \$3,906
3. James Walker, \$2,418
4. Allan Deguino, \$1,488
5. Kerry Goldberg, \$930

Event 4 • \$150 H.O.S.E.

32 Players • \$4,160 Prize Pool

1. Mike Spegal, \$2,080
2. Nancy Ricks, \$1,250
3. Kerry Goldberg, \$830

Event 5 • \$150 Seniors

51 Players • \$6,630 Prize Pool

1. Mo Hill, \$2,984
2. Moe Gottlieb, \$1,658
3. Mark Matt, \$994
4. Frank Vandal, \$663
5. Steve Cheski, \$331

Event 6 • \$150 PLO/8

45 Players • \$5,850 Prize Pool

1. Nisam Cohen, \$2634
2. John Burks, \$1462
3. Beverly Pringle, \$877
4. Jim Ruiz, \$585
5. Greg Kimball, \$292

\$1,500 Main Event

122 Players • \$173,240 Prize Pool

1. Andrew Dykeman, \$40,000
1. James Gladwell, \$40,000
3. Carl McGowan, \$22,521
4. Edward Mroczkowski, \$15,489
5. David Koira, \$15,489
6. Marvin Thomas, \$15,488
7. David Trager, \$6,063
8. Brian Margretta, \$5,197
9. Kristen Budreck, \$4,331
10. Paul Barnett, \$3,465
11. Tim White, \$2,599
12. Kelly Slay, \$2,598



EVENT 2 CHAMPION



EVENT 5 CHAMPION



EVENT 3 CHAMPION



EVENT 6 CHAMPION

BIG STACK POKER LEAGUE



Paul Lewis won the first bimonthly in league history, thus becoming the first champion to qualify for the Tournament of Champions. Unfortunately he died just before the tournament was held, so the league has renamed the event the Paul Lewis Memorial Tournament of Champions.

Here are the results: 1. Marino Thomas (\$1,000 WSOP or WPT trip); 2. Gary Sokolitsky (\$400 poker room sponsorship); 3. Sharon White (\$250 sponsorship); 4. Andrew Parks (\$200 sponsorship); 5. Keith House (\$150 sponsorship).

• David Butkovich won the Big Stacks Dollars July quarterly event, good for a \$750 WSOP or WPT trip. Chris Leair was second (\$150 WSOP satellite sponsorship) followed by Bob Wedlock (\$100 sponsorship).

• Sarah Carroll won a \$500 gift card after defeating the field in August's Habitat for Humanity charity event. She was followed by Chris Walsh (\$300 gift card); Wedlock (\$200 gift card); Fred Wilsen (\$100 Hard Rock sponsorship) and Keith Britton (\$65 Dirty Jim tournament sponsorship).

THE NUTZ POKER LEAGUE

• Joel Nauta took down the monthly championship at Copa Restaurant and Lounge to win a \$500 gift card and bracelet.

• Cathrine White snagged a \$50 gift card at the Peggy O'Neill's Kickoff event, besting a crowd of almost 50 players.



HAMILTON JAI-ALAI AND POKER



Dang Van Ngoc hit the diamond royal jackpot for \$7,269 on Aug. 11.

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Omaha High Only |
| 9-18 Limit Holdem | 5-10 Pot Limit
Omaha High Only |
| 15-30 Limit Holdem | |
- 1-2 NL buy-in \$60 min-\$200 max
2-4 NL buy-in \$200 min-\$400 max
5-10 NL buy-in \$500 min- No Cap
10-20 NL buy-in \$1000 min - No Cap

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TWO MORE POKER ROOMS GET GREEN LIGHT

State approves second cardrooms for Palm Beach Kennel Club and Daytona Beach Kennel Club.

Two Florida parimutuel permit-holders have been approved for the first step toward opening second poker rooms.

Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach and Daytona Beach Kennel Club in Daytona Beach have received approval from Florida's Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering to convert dormant jai-alai permits into greyhound permits.

The conversions were made possible by a new state law that took effect on July 1. Once converted, the permits will allow the two tracks to open second, stand-alone poker rooms within their counties and

run the necessary greyhound races at the original locations.

No details are available on either of the second rooms. It's believed Palm Beach Kennel Club owners are looking near Boca Raton for the location of their new room.

Daytona Beach Kennel Club's conversion is facing a legal challenge from a company that had sought to open a quarterhorse track/poker room in the town of DeBary. That project didn't receive approval from the DeBary City Council, which has since passed an ordinance banning poker in its town.

TAMPA BAY DOWNS

About 100 players entered the Curtis/Kocab Memorial Fund charity event on Sept.6-8 at the Silks Poker Room, raising about \$2,000 for the families of two Tampa police officers killed in the line of duty. The event was organized by Rick Danford of The Nutz Poker League.

Four Ante Up Poker Cruise packages were awarded and bounties were placed on some local celebs. After two days of qualifying 13 players advanced to the final day, including *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza, who was the last bounty standing. He made the final table and finished seventh. Here are the rest of the players who cashed: John Golota, Jeff Bookin, Bill Dubay, Lou Miccio, Nick Zoidos, Donald Schaffer, Joseph Schafferrer, Donald Richter (who won the event), James Horton, James Bickford, Mo Maher and *Ante Up* superfan Barbara Aucion.



Donald Richter

ORLANDO

The annual "All In For Kids" casino night and hold'em tournament is Oct. 16 at the Vue at Lake Eola at 150 E. Robinson St. in Orlando. Buy-in is \$150 and benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Florida. Top 10 finishers earn prizes.

Last year's winner earned a World Series of Poker seat.

For more information or to sponsor the event contact Annie Nuno at (407) 478-2996, ext. 30, or email her at aniany@bbbscf.org.

COMING SOON

WIN YOUR WAY IN!

Free Poker Tournaments

Starting this month, Seminole Casino will host free Poker tournaments in the Zig Zag Lounge. There is no better time than now to get into the Zig Zag Poker League!

First place - \$60 buy-in to the Friday Night Freeze Out Tournament
 Second place - \$35 buy-in to the Wednesday Tournament



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Tournament Line (727) 812-3339 ext. 216

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Friday - Saturday 11:15 a.m. - 5:00 a.m.



Second Sunday
**SUPER
STACK**

SECOND SUNDAY of each month.
First Event is October 10th

\$300 + \$30
1pm Start Time
15000 Units, 30 Minute Blinds
Add-on \$10 for 5000

WIN YOUR WAY IN

Monday - Thursday
First High Hand After Midnight
Friday and Saturday
Lucky players get to draw for a
chance to win a seat.

Please see a floor for specific rules and details

DAILY PROMOTIONS

Check out our site or come in for details on the many ways that you can win extra cash and prizes while playing.

DAILY MULTI-TABLES

Download the tournament calendar on our site or come in to see our schedule, which includes at least 3 daily multis during weekdays and 4 on Fridays and Saturdays.

FISHER'S TOURNEYS

Fisher from the 97X Morning Show hosts tournaments regularly. These events always feature a fun crowd as well as some bonus giveaways and cash. Check out the tournament calendar for dates and times.

*...and keep your eyes
peeled for this*

Florida
MILLION II
POLICE TOURNAMENT

HALLWEEEN

OCTOBER 31ST

\$200 ENTRY W/\$50 KOs

BONUS PRIZES TO BE ANNOUNCED

An occasional interview with a local player • By Garrett Roth

EVERYTHING WENT RIGHT FOR ANGLE AT THE WSOP

Better late than never. That's how Harold Angle felt after his first World Series of Poker event in 2010.

Angle, 78, of Sun City, Fla., participated in his first event this year, the \$1K Seniors Championship. He beat a field of 3,142 players to claim the \$487,000 first-place prize, a WSOP bracelet and the "Golden Eagle" trophy, awarded to the winner of the senior event.

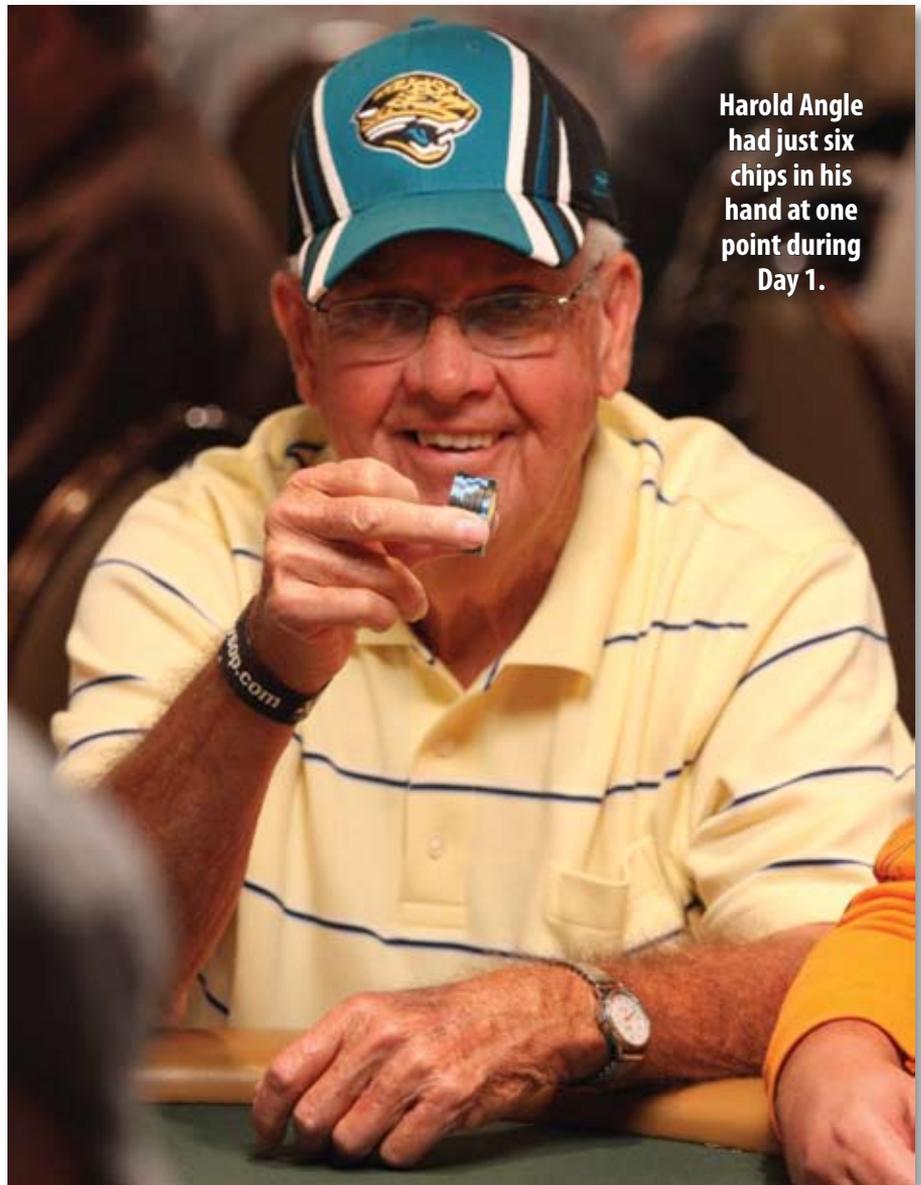
Ante Up's Garrett Roth had a chance to catch up with Angle and chat about his amazing run.

What are some of the variations of poker that you play?

Well, I started playing poker when I was about 15 or 16 years old. We would play five-card stud and jacks-or-better draw. The stud game was \$1 to get in. It's been a long time since I first started. Now I just play hold'em. I've only been playing hold'em for about five years, so it's still a new game to me. I'm at the (Tampa) Hard Rock most of the time where I usually play the \$2-\$5 no-limit cash games.

Explain a little bit about your experience this year at the WSOP.

This was my first time playing at the World Series. I arrived two days before the tournament and played one \$200 tournament a day before, but my first (and only) series tournament this year was the seniors event. I should have played the main event after, but I was exhausted after 14 hours the first day, 13 hours the second day and 11 hours the last day. It's a great event and I will play it next year and



Harold Angle had just six chips in his hand at one point during Day 1.

probably the main event as well.

On Day 1, I was down to (600) chips. It was pretty unbelievable how it ended up working out. My grandson took 1,500 pictures of me during the tournament (he's a photographer) and my favorite one was a picture of me when I held up my last (600) chips. I have it sitting on my desk right now. I had just told him that I was about to be out and then I came back and won it. It was unbelievable.

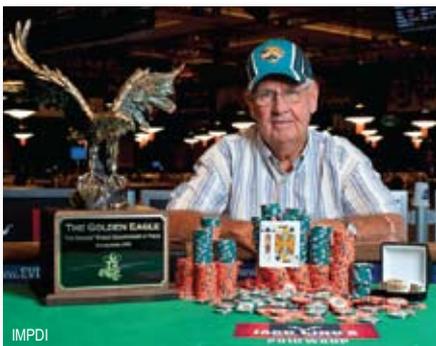
Being your first series tournament, what were the main factors that contributed to your win?

There are certain things you need in this game: knowledge, patience and luck. I had all three and it all came together. My two daughters, sons-in-law and my wife were all there as

well supporting me. My daughters were crying after the win; it was awesome.

I've also got three kids, 10 grandchildren and six great grandchildren and they were all up the entire night on the computer. One minute after the last hand was played out, it was up on the computer and they all saw. They were all over the country in Ohio, South Carolina and Florida. It was a pretty big event for my family. They couldn't believe Ol' Grandpa could do all that. One of them said, "Grandpa IS for real, isn't he?"

I couldn't believe it how things work like that, to be so lucky in life and then to have something like that happen. It really is still unbelievable to me.



<< After three days Angle won the Golden Eagle and nearly a half-million dollars.

DAYTONA BEACH INTERNATIONAL POKER TOURNAMENT

November 1-14, 2010

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DAYTONA BEACH
KENNEL CLUB & POKER ROOM



SCHEDULE

Event	Date	Day	Time	Game	Buy-in	Entry
1	November 1	Monday	2:00 pm	Finals Qualifier Super Sat., NL Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
2	November 1	Monday	4:00 pm	Finals Qualifier Super Sat., NL Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
3	November 2	Tuesday	2:00 pm	Finals Qualifier Super Sat., NL Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
4	November 3	Wednesday	2:00 pm	Finals Qualifier Super Sat., NL Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
5	November 3	Wednesday	4:00 pm	Finals Qualifier Super Sat., NL Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
6	November 4	Thursday	2:00 pm	Finals Qualifier Super Sat., NL Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
7	November 5	Friday	2:00 pm	Finals Qualifier Super Sat., NL Hold'em	\$80	\$70+10
8	November 6	Saturday	4:00 pm	Deep Stacks, NL Hold'em	\$225	\$200+25
9	November 7	Sunday	2:00 pm	Casino/Hospitality Indstry, NL Hold'em	\$175	\$150+25
10	November 8	Monday	7:00 pm	Deep Stacks, NL Hold'em	\$115	\$100+15
11	November 9	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Young Guns 18-40 yrs.old NL Hold'em	\$120	\$100+20
12	November 10	Wednesday	2:00 pm	Finals Qualifier Super Sat., NL Hold'em	\$80	\$65+15
13	November 10	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Razz	\$125	\$100+25
14	November 10	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Pot Limit Omaha Hi/Lo	\$125	\$100+25
15	November 11	Thursday	6:00 pm	<small>LATE ENTRY FIRST HR.</small> Championship Event (day 1A)	\$550	\$500+50
15	November 12	Friday	7:00 pm	<small>LATE ENTRY FIRST HR.</small> Championship Event (day 1B)	\$550	\$500+50
16	November 13	Saturday	2:00 pm	Ladies, NL Hold'em	\$150	\$125+25
17	November 13	Saturday	4:00 pm	Deep Stacks, NL Hold'em	\$225	\$200+25
18	November 14	Sunday	12:00 pm	Championship Event (day 2) FINAL		

BONUS DAYTIME EVENTS

Bonus Event	Date	Day	Time	Game	Buy-in	Entry
*	November 1-5	Monday-Friday	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Training Table	\$0	

BONUS EVENING EVENTS

Bonus Event	Date	Day	Time	Game	Buy-in	Entry
1	November 5 & 12	Friday	7:00 pm	NL Hold'em*	\$120	\$100+20
2	November 6	Saturday	7:00 pm	Pot-Limit Omaha Hi/Lo	\$80	\$70+10

Registration is open Monday - Sunday during our normal Poker Room hours. For more information please call 877-311-6484.

Blind structures and additional details are available at daytonapokergreyhound.com.

Complete rules are available at the poker room host station.



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A look at the Mississippi-area poker scene • By Jennifer Gay

NO MORE MONKEYING AROUND

The excitement of the Gulf Coast Poker Championship's \$5K Main Event created buzz surrounding Tyler Smith, a young pro who has blitzed through Mississippi during 2010. Onlookers also hoped to see the beautiful Vanessa Rousso, braving the field at the Beau Rivage, vying for another final table. Slightly more curious was the tremendous amount of interest in local player William "Poker Monkey" Souther, who hoped to turn his year around in this one event. Last year was excellent for Monkey, including his win of the "Best Overall Player" award at the Venetian in Las Vegas during the summer deepstack event. A final table on his homefield at the Biloxi main event would make 2010 a close contender. (Results are on the next few pages.)



JENNIFER GAY

Monkey, who won the trophy for Event 7 after a 20-player chop, is a contentious character and impossible to play against without remembering him. This 43-year-old pro draws crowds of fans and hecklers at any event he plays. His strength as a player is in his uncanny ability to put opponents on a hand.

"Body language gives away a wealth of information," he said "I laugh when I see players who insist on looking at their hole cards right away. They should be watching everyone else and figuring out what they have."

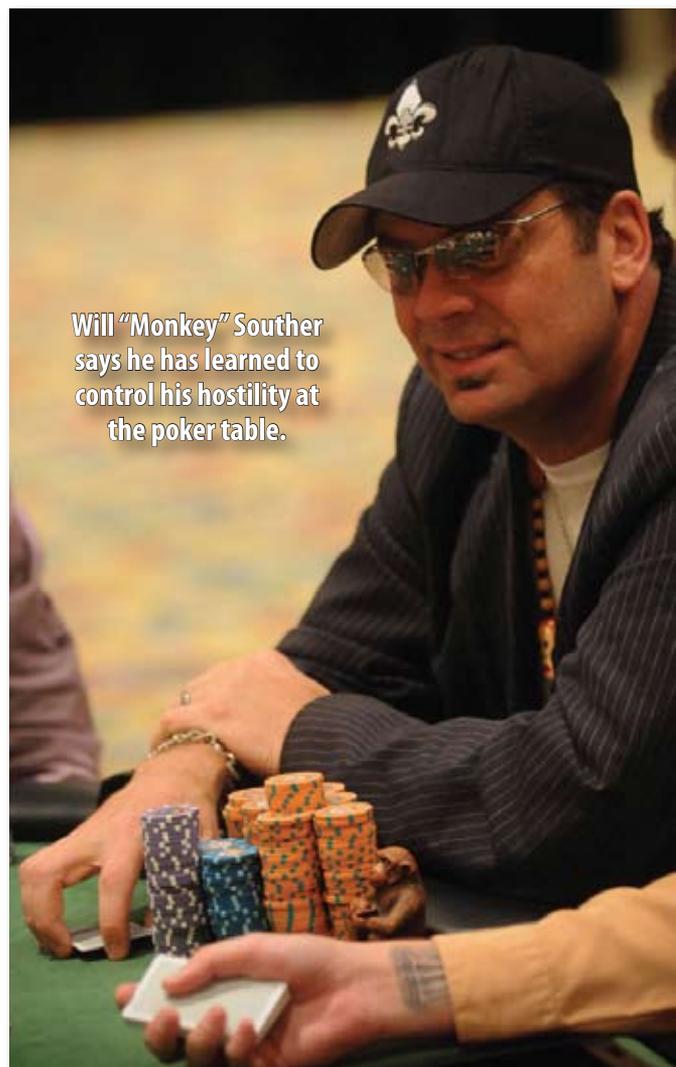
His weakest attribute as a player? Monkey has a self-proclaimed "anger" issue, which explains why he draws all the railbirds. Through a continuous effort to keep his temper under control, he now channels his outbursts into an almost comical tone that delights onlookers and frustrates opponents. Said Monkey: "I have a tendency to personalize situations. Players who min-raise, raise too much or constantly snipe my big blind, in the past I'd get tremendously hostile when those things occurred. I'm getting better now. I've had to. It will control you if you don't. The worst thing I can do is to start targeting a specific player."

Rumor has it Monkey is on probation with a host of casinos.

"That's a touchy subject," he said. "I've had my share of incidents where I was the culprit. I've also had a few things go against me that were based on a bias against me. I play poker with the best of intentions. I've taken it all down a notch. I no longer berate people's play. I don't act like a freak when I take a bad beat. I'm more polite and it's paying off. I used to get several ugly comments on my blog a week and now I haven't had one in over six months. I think you have to be slightly nuts to do this for a living. I am considered a loose cannon, but I'm acutely aware of what I'm doing and saying. ... unless I'm drinking Patron, then all bets are off!"

His background includes bar ownership, modeling, baseball and real estate, but full-time poker is where he's found his groove. There are pros he respects, but he says, "I don't think poker inspires amazement. I look up to doctors, firemen and soldiers. At the end of the day, we're all just card players trying to make a living, while fading bad luck."

On Day 1 of the main event, after playing through most of the 108 entrants, Monkey knew he was the underdog to survive. The close of Day 1 saw the demise of both Smith and Rousso, and left just 45 players. Monkey barely survived as the short stack. Sunday began with an epic run of luck and excellent calls. He doubled up time after time,



Will "Monkey" Souther says he has learned to control his hostility at the poker table.

maintaining his heater to secure a final-table position by day's end. Monday opened with nine contenders and a series of rapid eliminations, which left only three. Mark Rose, Kai Landry and Souther took a brief break and came to an undisclosed financial agreement, which pleased them all. They played for bragging rights, the WPT seat and bracelet, but for Monkey it was over quickly. Within a few hands he was all-in against Rose with the lower end of Rose's nut straight. Out in a commendable third place, he "officially" took with him a cool \$59K paycheck.

"After the money was worked out, I relaxed," he said. "I kind of knew I was beat, but it was okay. This was the best day of my poker career." With an astronomical week-long run, the GCPC has made 2010 one of the best years of his poker career.

Follow Monkey's trials and tribulations on the pro circuit at pokermonkeytalk.blogspot.com.

— Jennifer Gay is a poker journalist, poker room supervisor and poker player local to the Mid-South region. Her column will focus on the Mississippi-area poker scene. She can be contacted at facebook.com/aceofjewels.

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GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP

AUG. 26-SEPT. 7, 2010 • BEAU RIVAGE • BILOXI, MISS.



**Mark
Rose**

Another stellar series for the Beau Rivage meant another stellar series for Floridians as they captured four of the 15 events up for grabs, including Mark Rose of Orlando winning the \$5K main event. Let's meet this aspiring pro from the Sunshine State.

When you hear Mark Rose tell you he began playing poker for free on PokerStars just four years ago (and he played that way for a year), it's hard to imagine, especially since he just took down the GCPC \$5K main event for the first six-figure cash and title of his young career.

"My game has evolved," said the Troy State graduate. "I'm primarily an Internet player, but I put a lot of hard work into my game. So I came into Biloxi with a load of confidence. This was just the

second time I've had the chance to play in a larger buy-in event because I've been trying to be very diligent with managing my bankroll."

He won his seat in a \$540 satellite, which was his main goal, and the \$177K payout was a pretty good return on his investment.

"It's one of those weird feelings you have," said the single dad who celebrated his 44th birthday one



**EVENT 1 CHAMPION
THOMAS HICKS**



**EVENT 2 CHAMPION
RAMONA SZMURLO**



**EVENT 3 CHAMPION
TIM MORGAN**



**EVENT 4 CHAMPION
JOHN ROBINSON**



**EVENT 5 CHAMPION
STEVEN MARSHALL**



**EVENT 6 CHAMPION
WALTER CHAMBERS**



**EVENT 7 CHAMPION
WILL SOUTHER**



**EVENT 8 CHAMPION
JACOB VICCELLIO**



**EVENT 9 CHAMPION
JIM QUICK**



**EVENT 10 CHAMPION
GRADY YEAGER**



**EVENT 11 CHAMPION
GARY BLAND**



**EVENT 12 CHAMPION
WILLIAM BRYANT**



**EVENT 13 CHAMPION
BARRY WASHINGTON**



**MAIN EVENT CHAMP
MARK ROSE**



**EVENT 15 CHAMPION
CHRIS CORNELL**

GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP

AUG. 26-SEPT. 7, 2010 • BEAU RIVAGE • BILOXI, MISS.

Event #1 • \$230 NLHE

Players: 439 • Prize pool: \$85,166

1. Thomas Hicks, Bluffton, SC, \$22,997
2. Todd Skinner, Youngsville, LA, \$12,775
3. Harold Mahaffey, Anderson, SC, \$7,495
4. Dana Murse, Millbrook, AL, \$5,791
5. Jay James, Suwanee, GA, \$4,940
6. Jeffrey Sanford, Tampa, FL, \$4,088
7. Brad Peterson, Dinuba, CA, \$3,236
8. Frank Alpandinar, Baton Rouge, \$2,385
9. Brandon Spencer, Slidell, LA, \$1,533
10. Devin Jarreau, \$1,192
11. Marla Coleman, \$1,192
12. Byron Higueros, \$1,192
13. Taylor Black, \$1,022
14. Rusty Moore, \$1,022
15. Philip Walsh, \$1,022
16. Don Burrill, \$852
17. Kevin Kaylor, \$852
18. Thomas Stade, \$852
19. Long Tran, \$681
20. Michael Windham, \$681
21. Christopher Schadel, \$681
22. Marvin Crawford, \$681
23. Michael Whittton, \$681
24. Nekuda Foster, \$681
25. Joe Waid, \$681
26. Richard Read, \$681
27. Mederic Lemenager, \$681
28. Danny Little, \$511
29. Nick Cook, \$511
30. George Sellers, \$511
31. Scott Blumenfeld, \$511
32. Michael Bradford, \$511
33. Richard Estep, \$511
34. Randy Gordon, \$511
35. Kenneth Christopher, \$511
36. David Matthews, \$511

Event 2 • \$230 Ladies NLHE

Players: 98 • Prize Pool: \$19,012

1. Ramona Szmurlo, Milton, FL, \$6,845
2. Michelle Russo, Pan. City Bch, FL, \$3,612
3. Chantale Cote, Destin, FL, \$2,281
4. Mary Haight, Chappel Hill, TX, \$1,521
5. Kim Simpson, Jacksonville, FL, \$1,331
6. Faith Giordano, New Orleans, LA, \$1,141
7. Maria Lopez, Biloxi, MS, \$951
8. Wanda Kelley, Dothan, AL, \$760
9. Mary Rouse, Gilmer, TX, \$570

Event 3 • \$340 NLHE

Players: 459 • Prize Pool: \$133,569

1. Tim Morgan, Pompano Beach, FL, \$34,659
2. Blake Pool, Mobile, AL, \$18,700

3. Cameron Ainswor, Frogmore, LA, \$10,686
4. Jason Bain, Memphis, \$8,816
5. Denis Devenport, Kenner, LA, \$7,480
6. Scott Hammer, Smyrna, GA, \$6,144
7. Donald Norman, Marion, IL, \$4,808
8. Leslie Roussel, Laurel, MS, \$3,473
9. Ed Bridges, Spanish Fort, AL, \$2,137
10. Kristen Deardorff, \$1,870
11. Nicholas Sellers, \$1,870
12. Bridget Fredericks, \$1,870
13. Grady Myrick, \$1,603
14. Walter Chambers, \$1,603
15. Lindsey Spence, \$1,603
16. Ron Brown, \$1,336
17. Edward Gingerella, \$1,336
18. Brandon Owens, \$1,336

Event 4 • \$230 NLHE (charity)

Players: 179 • Prize Pool: \$34,726

1. John Robinson, Brookhaven, MS, \$11,459
2. Farid Nasserzad, Atlanta, \$6,320
3. Robert Ray, Hurley, MS, \$3,473
4. Eric Kaplan, Biloxi, MS, \$2,778
5. Thomas Gardner, Tampa, FL, \$2,084
6. Brad Peterson, Dinuba, CA, \$1,736
7. Terry Siele, Delray Beach, FL, \$1,389
8. James Eubank, Houston, \$1,042
9. Gary Allen, Tallahassee, FL, \$695
10. John Poole, \$486
11. Davon George, \$486
12. Curtis Terry, \$486
13. Brian Traster, \$417
14. Alan Smi, \$417
15. John Riola, \$417
16. Patrick Jones, \$347
17. Richard Palter, \$347
18. Yong Chen, \$347

Event 5 • \$340 NLHE

Players: 257 • Prize Pool: \$74,787

1. Steven Marshall, Cumming, GA, \$22,440
2. Allan Barne, Atlanta, \$11,966
3. Herbie Crook, Pascagoula, MS, \$6,731
4. John Poole, Trinity, AL, \$5,235
5. Rob Habisreitinger, Covington, LA, \$4,487
6. Scott Blumenfeld, Potomac, MD, \$3,739
7. Shane Delaney, Palm Harbor, FL, \$2,991
8. Mark Gray, Atlanta, \$2,244
9. Ben Livingston, Lynn Haven, FL, \$1,496
10. Matthew Queir, \$1,047
11. James White, \$1,047
12. Tyler Dixon, \$1,047
13. Tommy Combs, \$897
14. Ismail Birben, \$897
15. Carl Adkins, \$897
16. Will "Monkey" Souther, \$748

17. John Nguyen, \$748
18. Chip Ervin, \$748
19. Dayson Westbrooks, \$598
20. Herbert Tapscott, \$598
21. Robert Whitten, \$598
22. Robert Hall, \$598
23. Barron Whipple, \$598
24. Thomas George, \$598
25. Justin Hunt, \$598
26. Patrick Pintavalle, \$598
27. John Cornelison, \$598

Event 6 • \$340 LHE

Players: 43 • Prize Pool: \$12,513

1. Walter Chambers, Baton Rouge, \$5,631
2. Kevin Kaylor, Houston, \$3,128
3. Joey Carlson, Houston, \$1,877
4. Douglas Saab, Trussville, AL, \$1,251
5. Daniel Carney, Long Beach, MS, \$626

Event 7 • \$230 NLHE

Players: 207 • Prize Pool: \$40,158

1. Will "Monkey" Souther, Biloxi, MS, \$2,008
2. Mohammad Moeini, Gulfport, MS, \$2,008
3. Gary Bland, Edwardsville, IL, \$2,008
4. Edward Corrado, Naples, FL, \$2,008
5. Gerald Bergeron, Houma, LA, \$2,008
6. Mike Massengale, Newalla, OK, \$2,008
7. Jeffrey Gill, Gulf Breeze, FL, \$2,008
8. Kerri Dorsey, Gautier, MS, \$2,008
9. Tam Nguyen, Hammond, LA, \$2,008
10. Charles Hayes, Biloxi, MS, \$2,008
11. Nick Visconti, Boca Raton, FL, \$2,008
12. Mary Prats, Mandeville, LA, \$2,008
13. Chris Sharkady, North Glen, CO, \$2,008
14. Paula Halata, Houston, \$2,008
15. Daniel Kim, Suwanee, GA, \$2,008
16. Stephen Cooper, Atlanta, \$2,008
17. Ryan Williamson, Bluffton, SC, \$2,008
18. Merton Toler, Princeton, WV, \$2,008
19. Chris Collins, Irvington, AL, \$2,008
20. Justin Jones, Wesley Chapel, FL, \$2,006

Event 8 • \$340 Omaha/8

Players: 89 • Prize Pool: \$25,899

1. Jacob Viccellio, Pride, LA, \$9,324
2. Dan Walsh, Powder Springs, GA, \$4,921
3. Joshua Palmer, Daphne, AL, \$3,108
4. Mark Wilds, Biloxi, MS, \$2,072
5. Allan Barrie, Atlanta, \$1,813
6. Phillip Cornell, D'Iberville, MS, \$1,554
7. Calvin Newman, Irvington, AL, \$1,295
8. Donald Spagnuolo, Akron, OH, \$1,036
9. James Alello, Baton Rouge, \$777

Event 9 • \$340 NLHE

Players: 250 • Prize Pool: \$72,750

1. Jim "Sarge" Quick, Decatur, TN, \$21,820
2. Barry Washington, Beaverton, OR, \$11,640
3. Mark Kehrees, Alexander, AR, \$6,548
4. John Riola, Biloxi, MS, \$5,093
5. Mike Gilbert, Fortson, GA, \$4,365
6. Jason Lipscomb, Ponchatoula, LA, \$3,638
7. Tim Louie, Metairie, LA, \$2,910
8. Brian Fontana, Slidell, LA, \$2,183
9. Peter Barrell, Mandeville, LA, \$1,455
10. Michael Crowder, \$1,019
11. Ronald Richardson, \$1,019
12. Christopher Brauch, \$1,019
13. Nicolas Visconti, \$873
14. Ane Amato, \$873
15. Danny Doucet, \$873
16. Leonard Nicoletta, \$728
17. Elliot Howze, \$728
18. Eugene Dudek, \$728
19. Clint Schaffer, \$582
20. Carl Baker, \$582
21. Bertel Ladner, \$582
22. Timmy Blanchard, \$582
23. Song Hong, \$582
24. Michael Barbaree, \$582
25. Larry Carroll, \$582
26. Fred Boatwright, \$582
27. Peter Ruszkiewicz, \$582

Event 10 • \$340 Stud Mix

Players: 30 • Prize Pool: \$8,730

1. Grady Yeager, Cape Coral, FL, \$3,928
2. Daniel Prejean, Port Allen, LA, \$2,619
3. Kai Landry, Biloxi, MS, \$1,310
4. Kirk Flom, Gulfport, MS, \$873

Event 11 • \$340 NLHE

Players: 242 • Prize Pool: \$70,422

1. Gary Bland, Edwardsville, IL, \$23,240
2. James Reed, Newnan, GA, \$12,817
3. Phillip Starner, Ocala, FL, \$7,042
4. Henry Gill, Baton Rouge, LA, \$5,634
5. "Chilly" Williams, Orange Park, FL, \$4,225
6. Cornelius O'Sullivan, New Orleans, \$3,521
7. Rich Woodward, Baton Rouge, \$2,817
8. Ron Lee, Long Beach, MS, \$2,113
9. Howard Mash, Coral Springs, FL, \$1,408
10. Curtis Terry, \$986
11. Elliot Howze, \$986
12. Carl Adkins, \$986
13. James Marlowe, \$845
14. Robert Skulman, \$845
15. Roger Ledford, \$845
16. Alexander DeBelle, \$704

17. Glafiro Valle, \$704
18. Joseph Freck, \$704

Event 12 • PLO w/rebuys

Players: 22 • Prize Pool: \$19,885

1. William Bryant, Bossier City, LA, \$9,942
2. Matt Landon, Montgomery, AL, \$5,966
3. Galen Kester, Senatobia, MS, \$3,977

Event 13 • NLHE Turbo

Players: 201 • Prize pool: \$58,491

1. Barry Washington, Beaverton, OR, \$19,301
2. Norwood Chesnutt, Gastonia, NC, \$10,645
3. Michael Nasserzad, Atlanta, \$5,849
4. Ankush Mandavia, Atlanta, \$4,679
5. Mohammed Moeini, Gulfport, MS, \$3,509
6. Judy Rhodes, Houma, LA, \$2,925
7. Ronnie Loflin, Raleigh, NC, \$2,340
8. Tom Darce, Prairieville, LA, \$1,755
9. Christopher Galvez, Houston, \$1,170
10. Marvin McCord, \$819
11. Kelley Farrar, \$819
12. Lance Wedgewor, \$819
13. James Theodocion, \$702
14. James Lenaghan, \$702
15. Aaron Brant, \$702
16. Donald Fulps, \$585
17. Michael Glsondi, \$585
18. Jeffrey Rothwell, \$585

Event 14 • \$5K Main Event

Players: 108 • Prize pool: \$492,710

1. Mark Rose, Orlando, FL, \$177,386
2. Kai Landry, Biloxi, MS, \$93,621
3. Will "Monkey" Souther, Biloxi, MS, \$59,129
4. Chad Brown, Margate, FL, \$39,419
5. Jonathan Stanton, St. Pete, FL, \$34,492
6. Mike Bradford, Douglasville, GA, \$29,534
7. Ricky Bennett, Rockmart, GA, \$24,637
8. Ben Chan, Panama City, FL, \$19,710
9. Ron Romano, Acworth, GA, \$14,782

Event 15 • \$230 NLHE Turbo

Players: 69 • Prize Pool: \$13,386

1. Chris Cornell, Clarksville, TN, \$4,820
2. Tommy McCullom, Gulfport, MS, \$2,543
3. Mong Ngo, Bayou LaBatre, AL, \$1,606
4. Sam Al-Shurie, Pensacola, FL, \$1,071
5. Bert Ladner, Biloxi, MS, \$937
6. Alex DeBelle, Gulfport, MS, \$803
7. Ramzey Awerie, St. Louis, \$669
8. Mike Windham, Slidell, LA, \$535
9. Hamid Izadi, Atlanta, \$402

Continued from previous page

day after his victory. "I told some friends that I was due for a score. ... The whole time that I played, from when I won my seat to Day 1, my confidence level was so high and I've worked so hard at it that my skill equity is maybe above average compared to the people I'm playing against. ... I think I had a lot of momentum once I built a big stack."

Rose made the final table with two popular players, Florida pro and defending champ Chad Brown, who has become legendary for making final tables in Mississippi, and Will "Monkey" Souther, who is legendary for being himself. (See his story on Page 28.)

Brown's quest to repeat ended when he got it all-in as a huge favorite (A-K vs. A-J) vs. second-place finisher Kai Landry, only to

be outflopped. He had to settle for fourth place and \$39,419.

Shortly thereafter Souther was knocked out as well, officially giving the Poker Monkey a \$59,129 payday.

When it got to heads-up the hand that helped Landry get there ultimately spelled the end for him as Rose's A-J outflopped Landry's 7-7 and gave Rose his first big victory and a \$10K seat in the Beau's Southern Poker Championship in January.

"The Beau is great to play at," Rose said.

And why has he had so much success as of late?

"I've taken the game much more seriously the past year and I've tried to enhance my skills, reading hand histories, online training and so forth, which has really accelerated my game."

— Christopher Cosenza

LOUISIANA



CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S: Derrick Sonnier and John Ruiz won the All About You Poker Cruise Tournament on Sept. 4 and will be sailing with *Ante Up* in October from Florida to the Bahamas.



ISLE LAKE CHARLES: David B. of Houma, La., and Brent T. of Sulphur, La., hit the bad-beat jackpot on Aug. 11 when Brent's four sevens lost to David's straight flush. David, right, received



\$65,446 while Brent pocketed a whopping \$130,893. The hand came in a \$2-\$5 NLHE game as the remaining players at the table each received \$13,089. The \$261,786 jackpot is an Isle record.

ALABAMA: BLUFF TO WIN



• Marcus Nakamura, left, won July's points race (5,025), surpassing June winner Alyse Clayton, who finished with 4,873 points in July. Honorable mention goes to third-place finisher



Anita Losoya, who finished with 4,055 points.
• Steven "Stevy" Jones, right, won the first quarterly points title, totalling the most the most points from May to July.

NORTH CAROLINA: WAPL



Here are the results of the WAPL July monthly championship, which drew 62 players to the Icehouse in Charlotte on Aug. 15:

1. Buffie Bradford; 2. Wesley Bunker; 3. Ryan Cook; 4. Tina Salada; 5. Rex Bornman; 6. Shaun Hughes; 7. Kelly Damrell; 8. Reggie Jeffers; 9. Norman Woodard; 10. Kevin Boyle; 11. Dusty Rhoades; 12. Shannon Helms; 13. Rick Bradford; 14. Patrick Powers; 15. Billy Needham; 16. David Letsky.

Pro basketball player Vernon Maxell played and finished 30th.

WEST VIRGINIA

Mountaineer hosts Autumn Classic Oct. 18-24

With 10 events ranging from \$65 to \$1,120, the Mountaineer River poker room offers buy-ins for all bankrolls in its Autumn Classic, which runs Oct. 18-24. It will culminate with the two-day main event, which will feature 40K chips and hour-long blinds, on Oct. 23.

Event 1	Oct. 18	7p	NLHE	\$65	12K 20 min.
Event 2	Oct. 19	12:15p	NLHE	\$65	12K 20 min.
Event 3	Oct. 19	7:30p	PLO	\$100	10K 20 min.
Event 4	Oct. 20	2p	NLHE	\$150	12K 20 min.
Event 5	Oct. 20	11:59p	NLHE	\$65	14K 12 min.
Event 6	Oct 21	2p	\$15K guar.	\$350	12K 30 min.
Event 7	Oct. 22	12:15p	Super Satellite	\$135	12K 20 min.
Event 8	Oct. 22	7:30p	Super Satellite	\$135	12K 20 min.
Event 9	Oct. 23	11a	Main Event	\$1,120	40K 60 min.
Event 10	Oct. 23	2p	NLHE	\$245	10K 20 min.

• Also at Mountaineer, in a \$2-\$4 limit hold'em game on July 17 Mark B. of Akron, Ohio, was never more happy to lose the pot then he was on that night. His quad sevens fell to John R.'s straight flush, thus hitting the nearly \$80K bad-beat jackpot. Mark, at right, won \$25,005 and John of Franklin, Pa., took home \$12,502. The rest of the table each received \$1,786.



SOUTH CAROLINA



Jerome "Smiley" Clarke won \$11,995 and the first World Offshore No Limit Hold'em Championship on Aug. 29 aboard SunCruz Aquasino in Myrtle Beach. He is surrounded by the final table, which included Shaw Grego, Myrtle Beach, \$9,163; Gary Carter, Lumberton, N.C., \$6,630; Brye Fairchild, Clinton, S.C., \$2,535; Jim Bailey, Raleigh, N.C., \$1,852; Chris Mitchell, Myrtle Beach, \$1,560; Ron Biglin, Myrtle Beach, \$1,463; Teresa Turner, Myrtle Beach, \$1,365; Perry Johnston, Southport, N.C. \$1,267 and Ed Sinor Jr., Atlanta, \$1,170.

KENTUCKY: LPT



Thomas Bibb bested nearly 70 players to capture \$3,500 and the semifinal title at the Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Louisville.

Brad Edwards and Bibb went heads-up and played 15 minutes. In the final hand Bibb's pocket kings were good enough to beat Edwards' river bluff.

"I never thought I would win," Bibb said. "From the moment I got there and even when we were heads-up, I didn't think I would win." Edwards won \$500.

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DON BARUCH (2007 WSOP BRACELET WINNER)

DWAYNE SCHINTZIUS (FORMER NBA AND UNIV. OF FLORIDA BASKETBALL PLAYER)

GENE MICHAEL (13 TIME WORLD SERIES WINNER WITH NEW YORK YANKEES)

ANGELO DUNDEE (MUHAMMED ALI'S FORMER TRAINER)

LENNOX LEWIS (FORMER HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD)

RONDE BARBER (TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS)

JOHN RACENER (TAMPA NATIVE AND 2010 WSOP MAIN TOP 10 - NOVEMBER 6-9 2010)

HULK HOGAN (FORMER WWE STAR AND HOLLYWOOD ACTOR)

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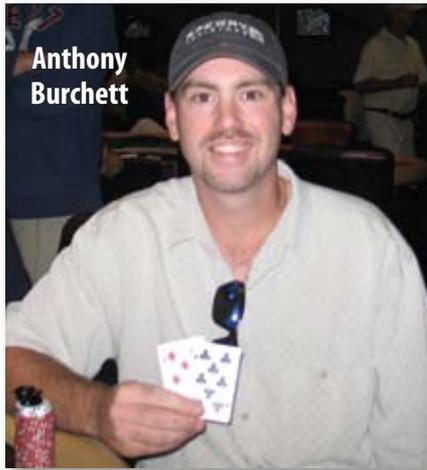
FISHING the FLATS
with Henry Waszczuk

ANTE UP

PENNSYLVANIA

The \$1K Labor Day Classic was the state's first major buy-in, attracting 71 entrants to generate a \$66,030 prize pool. Here are the cashers:

1. Gerald Donahue, Johnstown, Pa., \$23,770
2. Stan Geier, Sewickley, Pa., \$12,216
3. Dean Burkhammer, Weston, W. Va., \$7,593
4. John Alfera, Pittsburgh, \$5,613
5. Gary Haubelt, Baldwin, Pa., \$3,632
6. Phil Zendt, Canonsburg, Pa., \$3,302
7. Harry Barringer, Canonsburg, Pa., \$2,971
8. Rich Andreolli, Meadowlands, Pa., \$2,641
9. Joe Daddario, Cleveland, \$2,311
10. Jesse Rockowitz, Columbus, Ohio, \$1,981



DELAWARE

Delaware Park's first bad-beat jackpot payout (\$91K) came the first week in September when Anthony Burchett from Blackbird, Del., watched his quad eights in hold'em lose to four jacks.

Burchett was awarded \$41,100 and the "winning player" took home \$22,850. The nearly 100 lucky patrons playing hold'em in the poker room at the time were each paid \$283.

This was Delaware Park's first bad beat awarded since its live table games officially opened in June.

Said poker room manager Anthony Chester: "This is really exciting. You never know when a bad beat will be dealt. Everyone in the room was pumped up."

TENNESSEE

On Sept. 5 Lauren Pottmeyer of Murfreesboro captured the U.S. Ladies Championship at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas.



The event is the crown jewel of the LIPS tour.

Pottmeyer won nearly \$10K. Also, Patricia Born of New Port Richey, Fla. (seventh, \$1,762) and Toni Fiorenza of Oviedo, Fla., (eighth, \$1,568) qualified for this event at Tampa Bay Downs in Tampa.

VIRGINIA

Charity hall owner fights City Hall

Charles Daniels, owner of the first poker hall to open in Portsmouth, Va., has gone to court to get the city's poker halls reopened.

Daniels, owner of the Poker Palace, petitioned a court on Sept. 7 to allow the halls to reopen until the case can be heard in court, Dave Forster reported in *The Virginian-Pilot*.

Commonwealth Attorney Earle Mobley had taken a hands-off position, saying state law was unclear on whether Daniels' charity poker hall was gambling since poker can be considered a game of skill. But after six more halls opened in the city, Mobley said he'd prosecute owners for illegal gambling, and all seven shut their doors.

Halloween Hold'em

\$40,000

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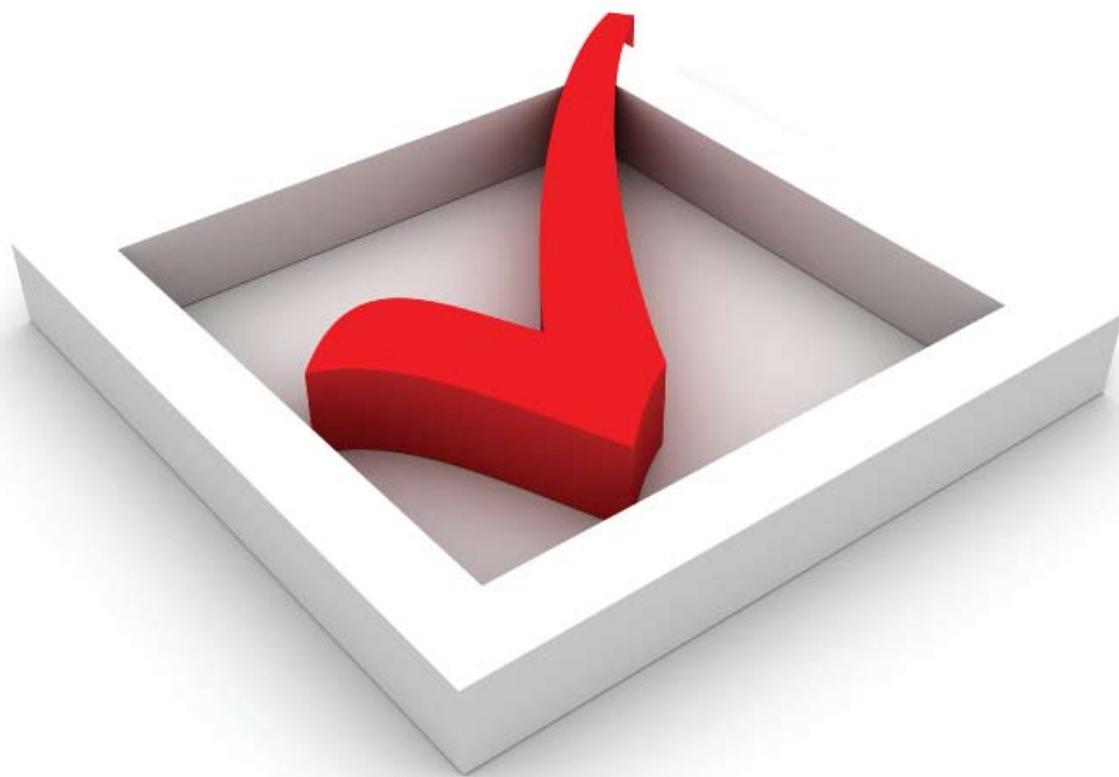
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THE SURVEY SAID!

BY SCOTT LONG

Who knew poker players were so opinionated? Well, like, everyone. So that's why each year *Ante Up* surveys its readers on a number of topics so we can keep a finger on the pulse of what players think, what players want and, most hilarious, what annoys them. This year, we beefed up our Ante Up Readers Choice Survey to hit a wider cross-section of poker topics. We also let you wax on with thoughts and suggestions about what poker rooms need and how we can make *Ante Up* better. And, just like last year, we let you honor the poker rooms that are giving you what you want with our Ante Up Readers Choice Award of Excellence.

So what did you have to say? Read on.

THE WORLD OF POKER

This year's Ante Up Readers Choice Survey began with 10 questions germane to anyone who plays poker, no matter where you live or where you play.

WHAT IS THE MOST OVERRATED HAND IN HOLD'EM?

A-K: 50%

Suited connectors: 22%

A-A: 14%

7-2 offsuit: 8%

K-K: 6%

Take another look at those hole cards. Yep, that's just one ace and just one king. Not two bullets. Nor two cowboys. Just one of each. Sure, if you're opening a pot or pushing your short-stack or know the dude in Seat 8 likes to overplay A-Q, Big Slick is a nice hand. But when it's raised, re-raised and re-raised by the time it gets to you, yeah, it's time for the dream to end.

SCOTT LONG SAYS: A-K. It's a drawing hand, people!

CHRIS COSENZA SAYS: They don't call A-K Anna Kournikova for nothing. Looks good, but never wins.



WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR MOST IN A TOURNAMENT?

Payout structure: 26%

Blind structure: 25%

Guaranteed prize pool: 22%

Buy-in-to-rake-ratio: 17%

Rebuys/add-ons: 10%

Wow, what's going on here? Poker players have spent many a year honing a well-deserved rep for being so nitty that we keep Jo-Ann Fabrics in business. But now, it looks like we're looking for more play for our peanuts instead of money in our pockets. So poker room managers, if you offer a good payout and blind structure and guarantee the prize pool, you'll be certain to make three out of every four players happy.

SCOTT LONG SAYS: Blind structure. I came to play poker, not play Shove or Fold. Let me play.

CHRIS COSENZA SAYS: Payout structure. I want to be rewarded for going deep, since it doesn't happen often.



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE TEMPERATURE OF YOUR POKER ROOM?

Just right: 47%

Hot: 23%

Cold: 22%

Sweltering: 4%

Shivering: 4%



Let's have a round of applause for the building maintenance staff, shall we? While poker players pride themselves on being persnickety, it looks like the men and women with the finger on the thermostat have done what few others have ever been able to do: make half of us comfortable. It's never easy finding the right temperature, but Goldilocks would approve.

SCOTT LONG SAYS: Shivering. I moved to Florida for a reason. So why does it still feel like Ohio inside?

CHRIS COSENZA SAYS: Just right. Nuff said.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST FACTOR IN DECIDING WHICH POKER ROOM TO PATRONIZE?

Location: 53%

Tournaments: 15%

Staff/management/dealers: 13%

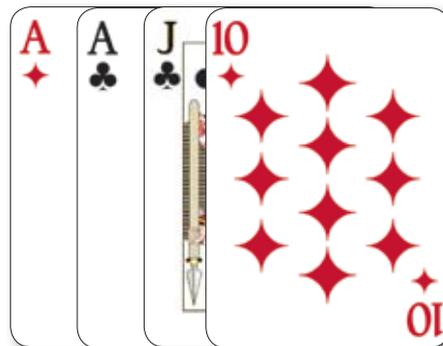
Cash game variety: 13%

Promotions/jackpots: 6%

Retail execs have known it for years. "Location, location, location." We're lemmings. We're only going to go as far as we have to to play our favorite game unless you give us a reason to drive a little farther. It might have been interesting to see what the second choice would have been, since all of the rest are things in a room's control.

SCOTT LONG SAYS: Location. Everything else on this list is a very close second.

CHRIS COSENZA SAYS: Location. I'm lazy and get bored quickly behind the wheel.



If you're going to play PLO, this is the hand you'll want to see.

WHAT WILL BE POKER'S NEXT HOT GAME?

Pot-limit Omaha: 46%

H.O.R.S.E.: 25%

8-game mixed: 14%

Badugi: 8%

Chinese Poker: 7%

Well, it looks like we think we've mastered two cards, so at least half of us are ready to graduate to four cards. And that includes some of the game's top no-limit hold'em specialists who are just learning what many of us have known for years: PLO is a high-action, big-pot thrill ride. Maybe by this time next year we'll all be ready for seven cards. Or even 13 cards. We can dare to dream, can't we?

SCOTT LONG SAYS: H.O.R.S.E. If you don't know how to play all five, don't call yourself a poker player.

CHRIS COSENZA SAYS: PLO will be the next big game, but I'm wishing for H.O.R.S.E.

WHAT DO YOU WANT MOST FROM THE JACKPOT RAKE?

High-hand bonuses: 36%

Bad-beat jackpot: 35%

Let me keep my buck (or two): 28%



Almost a third of you want to keep your buck, which is fine. But since the jackpot rake is reality, the rest of you were pretty much split on what to do with it. High-hand bonuses get the edge, but just barely, and maybe that's because you get rewarded for making a hand that wins. Then again, big bad beats do keep poker rooms packed.

SCOTT LONG SAYS: Let me keep my buck. If I wanted to get lucky, I'd put that dollar in a slot machine.

CHRIS COSENZA SAYS: High hands. It's nice to get an unexpected bonus.



Mike Sexton, right, and partner Vince Van Patten just barely won as best commentators.



WHAT POKER TELEVISION COMMENTATORS DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST?

- Mike Sexton/Vince Van Patten (World Poker Tour): 36%
- Lon McEachern/Norman Chad (World Series of Poker): 35%
- Gabe Kaplan (High Stakes Poker): 13%
- Chris Rose/Joe Stapleton (PokerStars.Net's The Big Game): 8%
- Ali Nejad (Poker After Dark): 8%

Bingo, bango, bongo! Show tunes are going off in the head of Vince Van Patten, the comedic foil to the sharpest poker strategist on the small screen. Yes, Mike Sexton, we learn a lot from you. But our readers seem happy to give a consolation Flushy to Norman Chad and Lon McEachern for getting pipped on the river in this contest.

SCOTT LONG SAYS: Mike Sexton/Vince Van Patten but only in an A-K vs. J-J coin-flip over the ESPN boys.

CHRIS COSENZA SAYS: ESPN puts on the best show, despite the lack of analysis.

WHAT'S THE MOST ANNOYING TRAIT IN YOUR OPPONENTS?

- Doesn't pay attention: 46%
- Smelly: 26%
- Chatty: 14%
- Wears headphones: 8%
- Wears sunglasses: 6%

You're reading the racing form. Your texting your girlfriend. You're fumbling around for a buck to give the cocktail waitress. Or you're simply checking into a hotel on Mars. Whatever the reason, people are loud and clear that you're annoying when you're not following the action. And if you're a stinky chatterhead, too, well, congratulations. You've won the Triple Crown in Annoying.

SCOTT LONG SAYS: Smelly. A bar of Lever 2000 costs less than the big blind. If you don't have time to wash all 2,000 of your parts, you don't have time to play poker.

CHRIS COSENZA SAYS: Doesn't pay attention. Did you come here to play or flirt with the massage lady you're not even paying?

WHAT'S THE MOST ANNOYING REQUEST AT THE POKER TABLE?

- "Can I see that mucked hand?": 33%
- "Can you wash the cards?": 25%
- "Can I move to that seat?": 19%
- "Can we get a new set-up?": 14%
- "Can we get a deck change?": 10%

Not only is asking to see a mucked hand annoying, it's also bad etiquette. The request should be reserved for when you suspect collusion. Can't you just be happy you won the pot? And if you're a serial abuser of washing cards or asking for a new deck, please go back to reading your horoscope. The rest of us would appreciate you not slowing down our game with your superstitions.

SCOTT LONG SAYS: "Can we get a new set-up?" Can you steer this player into a bear trap for me? Thank you.

CHRIS COSENZA SAYS: "Can you wash the cards?" Really? Do you really think the dealer spinning the cards around is going to make you a better player? I love you in my game; I just hate it when you bring your silly superstitions.

IF YOU COULD TAKE OVER YOUR FAVORITE POKER ROOM FOR ONE DAY, WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE? We'd all like to be the boss for a day, wouldn't we? But we're just guessing that only a few of our readers would want the job permanently, so let's take a moment to appreciate those who do. Managers should take comfort in knowing the most popular answer was "nothing," so you're all doing plenty right. But, hey, if you're looking for a way to boost business, here's a summary of the most popular suggestions from our readers:

TOURNAMENTS: They want more of them, including SNGs and heads-up events, and with smaller buy-ins ... and bigger buy-ins. And include them in jackpots and promotions.

CASH GAMES: They want more variety, including limit games. Run them nine-handed instead of 10. Open more tables more quickly. Offer smaller buy-in games for beginners and teach them how to play.

STAFF: Be friendlier, speedier and more attentive. Also enforce the rules more often and more consistently. Kick out the troublemakers.

THE ROOM: Offer a player-loyalty program. Improve the food and give it out free (including drinks, especially sodas). Spruce up the joint, including new felts, better lighting, cleaner chips and carpet, and add electronic wait lists — and manage those lists better. Eliminate smoking (or allow it). Turn down the music (or turn it up). Offer discount days with reduced rake. Ban cellphones (but allow texting). And partner up with bar leagues.



Here are a few of our favorite answers. To see the complete list visit anteupmagazine.com/news:

- Anyone wearing tracksuits or sweats should be barred from entry.
- When someone calls a pre-flop raise with BS then sucks out some huge hand on the river, they have to sit out for one hour.
- I'd enforce a "no poser" rule, which would prohibit the wearing of sunglasses or any other attire players wear to try to make it look like they know what they're doing. A dress code would also be imposed, which would prohibit the wearing of flip-flops (which expose mutilated toenails), "ballhugger" gym shorts and "wife-beater" T-shirts.
 - Donkey Free Fridays!
 - Letting ANYONE act as though there are TV cameras on them. C'mon players, if you were that good, you would be in Vegas. Quit acting like an idiot. If you need to pay your mortgage (or move out of your parents' basement) GET A JOB!!!
- My dream poker room has an attentive floor person who walks you to your seat, ensures someone is getting your chips and actually smiles! The room provides a comfortable waiting area with beverage service. The host would say "hello" when you enter the room and "thanks for playing when you leave." The dealers' comments would not include information beyond what is proper and necessary. A must-move table would be added to ensure full games for the established tables. Rules would be enforced equally and fairly. The room would serve Coke products and play classic rock!

ALL ABOUT ANTE UP

HERE'S PROOF WE LISTEN TO YOU

At Ante Up Headquarters our focus is on you. Our products are geared toward you, and most of them are offered for free, compliments of our great sponsors. While we think we put out some damn good stuff (and thanks to everyone for their kind words), we know we're not perfect. So we also thank you for letting us know what we

could do better. Here are some things you suggested, and some of you may be surprised to learn we already do what you suggested. You'll be understandably irked that some of it we can't do. And hopefully you'll be pleased we pledge to do our best to do all the rest. To see answers to most all of your suggestions, visit www.anteupmagazine.com/news.

MAGAZINE

MORE COVERAGE OF LOCAL ROOMS, LEAGUES, TOURNAMENTS AND PLAYERS: The most popular section of our magazine is news submitted by the many poker rooms and leagues in our coverage area. So if you're not seeing enough from your room or league, help us out and suggest to the managers that they submit more news to us.

We print most everything we receive, and the rooms and leagues that submit the most news get the biggest splash. The stories we write are largely driven by what our readers suggest. So if you have specific story ideas, or want to suggest players for us to profile, email us at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

MORE INPUT FROM DEALERS AND FLOOR STAFF: We'd love this, but what we've found is that most only want to submit something if we don't use their name or identify their place of employment. And that's not fair to our readers. So if you'd like to write a column and put your name behind your views, email editor@anteupmagazine.com.

MORE INSTRUCTION: In the past year, we've added two strategy columnists to our mix (Jay Houston and Don Baruch) and we continue to be on the lookout for new columnists with fresh perspectives to join Lee Childs and our other unique writers. If you know of anyone, email us at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

MORE INTERVIEWS WITH PROS AND MORE ONLINE COVERAGE: Our bread and butter is focusing on the Average Joes of the poker world, the 90-95 percent of players just like us who

likely will never see themselves in any other poker magazine. And much of that coverage comes from brick-and-mortar poker rooms, which are practically never featured in other magazines.

But we also know our readers have myriad interests, so that's why we include an interview with a pro in our monthly On The Button feature and occasionally write a full-length story on a pro who has had success in our coverage area. It's also why we've enlisted the talented John Lanier as our online columnist.

PUBLISH A CALENDAR OF EVENTS: With the lead time necessary to print the magazine, it's an ongoing struggle to get complete information for the month ahead in our printed product. The information in our Where To Play pages, however, is extensive and we're looking into online options that would provide timely and accurate information.

EXPAND MORE QUICKLY ... OR NOT AS QUICKLY: Ha! In the media world, the old saying is if you're getting heat from both sides of an issue, you must be doing something right.

Our current expansion plans have us continuing to add the rest of the Eastern Seaboard by the end of 2010, and then pausing to consider what areas, if any, we want to tackle next. Our highest priority is to give each of our states the coverage they deserve.

That takes some time when expanding into new states, but with the cooperation of their rooms and players we can make it happen.

PUT MORE MAGAZINES IN ROOMS. THEY RUN OUT FAST: Always ask at the brush stand if you don't find a copy of *Ante Up* in your favorite room. If they tell you they're out, email us at editor@anteupmagazine.com. We're always happy to provide as many copies of our magazine to rooms as there is demand for them.

GIVE FREE MAGAZINES TO POKER LEAGUES: We also provide magazines for free to dozens of poker leagues and charity events in our coverage area. All they have to do is ask for them by emailing editor@anteupmagazine.com.

LARGER FONT FOR TOURNAMENT RESULTS: Readability is always a paramount concern to us, but tournament results take up a lot of space. By increasing the font size, we'll have less room for all of the other great content that we want to share with our readers.

PUT MY FACE ON THE COVER: As long as you win our next Ante Up Player of the Year race, wish granted! Stay tuned for details on how you can be the next **Walt Strakowski**.

FEWER ADS: Well, here's the thing. Those ads from our generous sponsors are what lets us give you the magazine for free, the pokercast for free, the website for free, etc. So how about instead we look at adding even more content?



OTHER

BETTER TOURNAMENT SERIES: Each year we review our two tournament series — the brick-and-mortar Ante Up Poker Tour and the online Ante Up Intercontinental Poker Series — and make changes based on feedback we receive from players. Have an idea? Email us at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

MORE GIVEAWAYS: We give away three prizes a week on the *Ante Up PokerCast*, recently awarded hundreds of dollars in prizes for folks who took this survey and we give out dozens of other items throughout the year in other ways. Sign up for the monthly Ante Up e-newsletter at www.anteupmagazine.com/subscribe to be the first to hear of new giveaways.

MORE PROMOTIONS IN ROOMS, INCLUDING ANTE UP STAFF APPEARANCES: We love getting out to the rooms and leagues that we cover. But it's also

hard to be in 60 places at once. We're always interested in working with our rooms and leagues on joint events and appearances, and hope to have more of them in 2011.

OFFER ANTE UP MERCHANDISE FOR SALE: Regrettably, the vendor we've chosen to handle Ante Up logo merchandise has run into many operational delays. But we're hopeful that a full-featured Ante Up Store will launch before this year's holiday season.

PUSH FOR LEGALIZED POKER IN STATES THAT DON'T HAVE IT: We took pride in our efforts to get Florida lawmakers to finally change the laws in our home state. We'd love nothing more than to have legalized poker in every state that we cover. If you're heading up a group that is actively working to make this happen, let us know so we can lend a hand.



POKERCAST

MAKE IT TWICE A WEEK: We'd love to, but sometimes less is more. By focusing on just one show a week, we can give it all the attention it deserves.

However, we're looking into the possibility of doing a new monthly show for 2011 that will focus on tournaments around the country.

IMPROVE THE SOUND QUALITY: We'll continue to tinker with the available controls.

**POKER CRUISE**

OFFER CRUISES FROM DIFFERENT PORTS: Stay tuned for our 2011 cruise schedule, as we are looking at ports that may be more convenient to different segments of our readers.

OFFER ONLINE SATELLITES FOR THE CRUISES: We're always on the lookout for an online room wishing to do this. We'll continue to have discussions with interested rooms in advance of unveiling our 2011 cruise schedule.

YOUR CRUISES COST MORE THAN THE CRUISE LINES CHARGE: This is a common misconception. You'll find the many websites advertise their "cruise only" prices, while our prices include port charges and government fees and taxes. So if you were to click through the entire booking process on other sites, you'd see that our prices are similar, except that we're mandated by the cruise line to include your on-board gratuities (which you'll have to pay anyhow) and we also levy a small charge to help us offset the cost of the equipment and staff necessary to offer you a high-quality poker experience at sea.

**ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM**

ADD SOME BLOGS FROM LOCAL PLAYERS: We're all about hyper-local coverage, so as soon as we can figure out a good way to accomplish this, we will.

SNAZZ UP ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM/FORUM: We have a great group of volunteer moderators. If you have specific ideas, please feel free to contact them on the site. We want our forum to be as useful as possible.

YOU MADE US LAUGH!

FIRE THE OWNERS: Well, that would be one way to collect on the unemployment taxes we pay each month.

MORE HEALTH COLUMNS FROM THAT GIFTED AND TALENTED WRITER DR. FRANK: Yes, we're very proud we were the first magazine to recognize discussing health concerns at the poker table would be something of interest to our readers. We're glad you approve, Mrs. Toscano.

MORE PICTURES OF LEE CHILDS: Really? Doesn't the glare hurt your eyes? But we're happy that you're reading, Mrs. Childs.



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THE BEST OF THE BEST

Ante Up asked readers to rate their poker establishments, and here's who earned your seal of approval.

The question we're asked most is "Where is the best place to play poker?" And the answer we give is always the same: "It depends upon what you're looking for in a poker room."

It's not a deft way of avoiding answering; it's the truth. Every room in our coverage area has something that appeals to someone. But the Readers Choice Awards of Excellence offer you a snapshot of the opinion of the entire *Ante Up* readership.

We retooled this section of our survey this year. Gone is last year's "popularity contest." This year, we asked readers to rank rooms on a scale of 1-5, with "5" being excellent, in a number of categories. Rooms whose percentage of fours and fives were 45 percent or better were honored with an Award of Excellence.

And our readers were tough. The number of honorees in each category represents just a fraction of the southern rooms in *Ante Up's* coverage area (while we surveyed readers for the mid-Atlantic rooms in our coverage area, the rooms were too new for us to responsibly include them in this year's awards. But we'll look forward to strong showings from them next year).

In all, 21 rooms were honored for cash games, 21 for staff, 18 for tournaments and just 12 for promotions. And only 11 (Beau Rivage, Daytona Beach Kennel Club, Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai, Gold Strike, Horseshoe Casino Tunica, IP Casino Resort, Isle Casino Pompano, Isle Casino Biloxi, Melbourne Greyhound Park, Orange Park Kennel Club and St. Johns Greyhound Park) were honored in all four categories.

TOURNAMENTS

- Beau Rivage
- Daytona Beach Kennel Club
- Derby Lane
- Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai
- Gold Strike
- Harrah's Tunica
- Horseshoe Bossier City
- Horseshoe Tunica
- IP Casino Resort
- Isle Casino Pompano
- Isle Casino Biloxi
- Melbourne Greyhound Park
- Orange Park Kennel Club
- Sarasota Kennel Club
- Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood
- Seminole Hard Rock Tampa
- St. Johns Greyhound Park
- Tampa Bay Downs

CASH GAMES

- Beau Rivage
- Daytona Beach Kennel Club
- Derby Lane
- Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai
- Gold Strike
- Hard Rock Biloxi
- Harrah's New Orleans
- Horseshoe Bossier City
- Horseshoe Tunica
- IP Casino Resort
- Isle Casino Pompano
- Isle Casino Biloxi



- Isle of Capri Lake Charles
- Melbourne Greyhound Park
- Ocala Poker
- Orange Park Kennel Club
- Sarasota Kennel Club
- Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood
- Seminole Hard Rock Tampa
- St. Johns Greyhound Park
- Tampa Bay Downs

PROMOTIONS

- Beau Rivage
- Daytona Beach Kennel Club

- Emerald Princess II
- Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai
- Gold Strike
- Horseshoe Tunica
- IP Casino Resort
- Isle Casino Pompano Park
- Isle Casino Biloxi
- Mardi Gras Casino
- Melbourne Greyhound Park
- St. Johns Greyhound Park

STAFF, MANAGEMENT

- Beau Rivage

- Cypress Bayou Casino
- Daytona Beach Kennel Club
- Derby Lane
- Ft. Pierce Jai-Alai
- Gold Strike
- Hard Rock Biloxi
- Horseshoe Bossier City
- Horseshoe Tunica
- IP Casino Resort
- Isle Casino Pompano Park
- Isle Casino Biloxi
- Melbourne Greyhound Park
- Ocala Poker
- Orange Park Kennel Club
- Sam's Town Tunica
- Sarasota Kennel Club
- Seminole Hard Rock Tampa
- Silver Slipper Casino
- St. Johns Greyhound Park
- Tampa Bay Downs

POKER LEAGUES

- All In Free Poker
- Big Slick Hold'em Poker
- Big Stacks Poker League
- Chip An A Chair Poker
- Dirty Jack's Poker
- Interstate Poker Club
- Nutz Poker League
- Southeast Hold'em
- Texas Hold'em Poker Tour
- Treasure Chest Poker
- WPTAPL

NOTHIN' BUT 'NET

JOHN LANIER • A look at online poker



PUNTA CANA: POKER FUN IN THE SUN

The Punta Cana Poker Classic is a \$100,000 guaranteed three-day Texas Hold'em event Nov. 10-14 at one of the best resorts on the exclusive beaches of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

And you can take advantage of a special offer, exclusive for Ante Up readers.

Spend four nights at the five-star Punta Cana Moon Palace Resort (soon to be Hard Rock Hotel and Casino). Once there you'll be playing poker with players from all over the globe, enjoying the casino's facilities and cash games.

Mention Ante Up when you book to take advantage of this special offer for just \$2,700:

- \$1,000 + \$100 buy-in to the main tournament, with a \$100,000 guaranteed prize pool. Poker legend Doyle Brunson will be among the players.

- Roundtrip airfare for two from Florida.
- Four nights in the five-star Moon Palace Hotel
- Roundtrip shuttle service to and from the airport
- All-inclusive premium food and beverages
- 24-hour premium room service
- Opening event "Dominican Night"
- 50 percent discount on golf fees and special discounts on spa packages

You can also win your way to the event on TruePoker.Com.

The Moon Palace is part of the famous Palace Resorts family, renowned for its "uncompromising, all-inclusive luxury." Its rooms have great amenities, including a private balcony, a private jacuzzi, free Wi-Fi Internet, LCD TV and premium meals and beverages. Its casino has 45,000 square feet dedicated to gaming.

While you grind away at the tournament, companions can unwind at the resort's spa or nine outdoor pools, accented by four swim-up bars. The property also boasts several gift shops and boutiques and a world-class golf course designed by Jack Nicklaus.

To buy a package or for more information, email puntacana@truepoker.com or go to www.puntacanapokerclassic.com.

REGULATION ON THE HORIZON? H.R. 2267, Internet Gambling Regulation, Consumer Protection, and Enforcement Act, the bill that would regulate online poker (and essentially overturn the UIGEA) recently was passed by the House Financial Services Committee by a 41-22 vote. This is sensational news for poker players. If this law passes full congressional vote and becomes law, Internet gambling operators could get licenses authorizing them to take bets from people in the United States.

The bill would continue to prohibit betting on sports, and there's a companion bill that would attach a revenue piece to the proposal, but as of press time no vote had occurred. This bill might not allow gambling operators to take bets made with credit cards, instead consumers would have to use debit or prepaid cards and services similar to PayPal.

There is a concern that people will run up thousands of dollars in credit-card debt. Consider this a protection for the credit card industry. Another restriction would prohibit marketing to underage gamblers, and there would be a self-excluded list of compulsive gamblers.

Licenses would be required to have a substantial U.S. presence, meaning they'd need to be headquartered here and not overseas. In another interesting note, licenses would have to consult with Indian tribes on how they would implement their plans in certain states.



The Punta Cana Poker Classic will be at the beautiful Punta Cana Moon Palace Resort.

Many gaming industry insiders are questioning how the new law would affect their business. One of those industries is online video gaming. PlayStation and Xbox have cornered the market for online gaming. There's a chance video gaming companies will start tournaments and matches. Expect cash versions of World of Warcraft and Madden Football. If this happens there could be a spill over into regular online poker sites.

WCOOP: PokerStars' World Championship of Online Poker returned last month and, from one of our newest coverage states, Philadelphia's Paul "paulgees81" Volpe finished 10th in Event 2, the \$10K High Roller, winning \$46,950. Volpe is ranked No. 1 in Pennsylvania for online poker.

From Gulfport, Miss., "Quartersack" had a good August with two wins in two weeks. A \$69 buy-in good for \$13,632, and a \$120 buy-in good for \$10,900.

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



AIPS V

Buy-ins are \$5.50



OCT. 13, 9 p.m.: PL 5-Card Draw	JAN. 12, 9 p.m.: NLHE
OCT. 30, Noon: NLHE	JAN. 29, Noon: 8-Game Mixed
NOV. 10, 9 p.m.: NLHE	TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
NOV. 27, Noon: H.O.R.S.E.	FEB. 5, Noon: 8-Game Mixed
DEC. 8, 9 p.m.: H.O.S.E.	Only banana-winners can
DEC. 18, Noon: NL Heads-Up	play in this event.

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!



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LOUISIANA

Covering about 600 miles along the bouncing two-lane highways and byways of Southern Louisiana can make the events of a two-and-a-half-day road trip blur together. But when you have such a rich variety of poker rooms and friendly staff to greet you at every stop, the visits can never be forgotten. *Ante Up* landed in New Orleans on a Tuesday and headed straight for Amelia Belle. We then popped over to Cypress Bayou before spending the night at Isle Lake Charles. In the morning we drove to Coshatta Casino, then followed the winding roads to the Paragon Casino before settling in at the Belle of Baton Rouge for the night. On our final day it was back to New Orleans for some Bourbon Street fare and a stop at Boomtown and Harrah's. Coincidentally, it was the five-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and we were humbled by the state's recovery and the terrific disposition of everyone we met. If you've never been to Louisiana to play poker you need to get there. Until then, here's what you're missing:

BY CHRISTOPHER COSENZA

CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S

A good poker player knows appearances aren't always as they seem. Just because your opponent shows signs of weakness doesn't mean he can't have a monster. Keep that in mind as you drive toward Cypress Bayou Casino and notice the round Pantheon-like building that you'd swear is just a nightclub.

Shorty's, Cypress Bayou's complementary casino built in 2006, oozes hipness, from its avant-garde design (look for the massive glass-wall waterfall) to Rox, the jumping, jamming nightclub that covers the entire second floor (15,000 square feet). Shorty's, open 24 hours, is where you'll find the poker room and manager Deon Brent, who always has a smile on his face. ... and with good reason.

"It's a great establishment to work for," said Brent, who has been with the Cypress Bayou family for 16 years. "This is the best. It starts from the top. We have one of the best table games managers (Tony Rohrer) around."



Brent always greets his patrons with a smile and a handshake (or even a kiss on the cheek). It's this attitude that rubs off on his staff, and makes playing in his poker room that much more enjoyable.

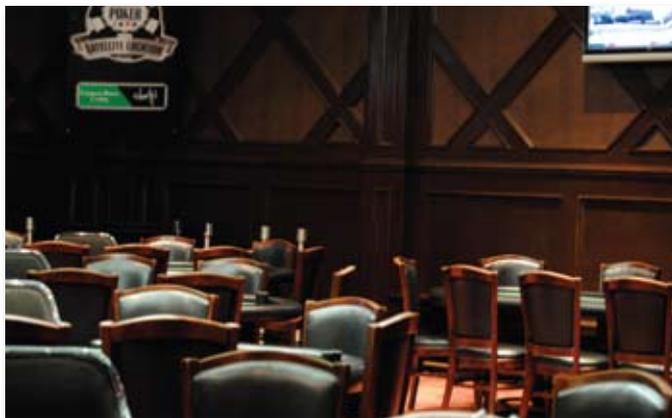
"You're going to be treated like royalty," said Brent, who has been running the poker room for two years. "It's all about the customer. We have a program called 'It's all about you,' and that's what we strive for, to take care of the customers."

And one way they prove it is with rake-free tournaments ... let's be clear here: *All tournaments are rake-free.*

"It's our way of rewarding the players," Brent said of the rake-free events. "And we have a lot of freeroll tournaments. Right now we're doing our Tournament of Tournaments in December. You have to be in the top 30 points to play in the tournament (points are accrued by final-table appearances). Our Tournament of Champions is our signature event held in July because we send you to the World Series. ... It's a one-day freeroll and we take our top 90 players in poker hours (over six months). We give everybody 10K chips, plus they can also get a dealer special for 5K chips for \$25."

Wednesday is the room's busiest night because of the \$40 tournament with two rebuys and two add-ons, and that's when you can find a \$5-\$5 NL game that runs pretty much all night.

Like single-table tournaments? There are \$22 satellites on Saturdays, and if you win your table you qualify for the \$200 big-stack event at the end of the month.



But what about promotions?

"We have aces cracked on the first and third Thursday of the month and the second and fourth Mondays," he said. "The pot starts at \$300 for the first one. It brings in a lot of revenue for us. Plus high hands win hats and jackets."

They also have a player card, but it's mostly used to keep track of your hours for freerolls and other specials. The top five players with the most hours in the month earn \$100 in chips and a comp to one of the casino's fine restaurants.

"Mr. Lester's is our best restaurant; it's the best steakhouse in the area," Brent said. "If you come here you will really enjoy Mr. Lester's."

Since Brent hands out \$5 comps at his discretion, you can also hit up Rikrak (Asian and sushi) and the Bocats Lounge (in the main Cypress Bayou Casino), though \$5 probably goes a lot further at Fresh, their sandwich shop. And what if you want to eat your sushi or po-boy at one of the room's nine poker tables? That's fine, but you'll have to order it and pick it up yourself. Hey, Shorty's can't do everything for you, right?

LOCATION: Charenton

WEBSITE: www.cypressbayou.com

PHONE: 800-284-4386

MANAGER: Deon Brent; **STAFF:** 30 (25 dealers); **TABLES:** nine

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: \$3-\$6-\$12 limit hold'em and \$5-\$5 NLHE.

A \$3-\$6-\$12 Omaha game gets going three times a week.

OF NOTE: All tournaments are rake-free.

PARAGON CASINO

The Who's Roger Daltrey screams, "Meet the new boss! Same as the old boss!" This sums up the situation at Paragon Casino's poker room, only with a slight revision. The old boss is in charge again, and he promises change is coming, something that should sit well with the locals.



Table games manager **Gaston Bordelon** has been with Paragon before Paragon was Paragon, if that makes sense. In April 1994 he joined the company as it prepared to open the casino in June, and he's been there since.

After a recent failed experiment with a dedicated poker room manager, Bordelon has grabbed the reigns again and is looking to improve the state of the eight-table poker room.

"I've been back in charge for about two months," he said, "And we want to make some changes."

But he admits the new features may take a little while because he really wants to do right by his players, and he wants to improve business. Sometimes those two aspects don't dovetail, so he's being patient. In the meantime here's what you can expect if you sit at their purple felts:

Their nightly tournaments begin at 7 (Mondays, \$20, three optional rebuys; Thursdays, \$20, unlimited \$15 rebuys and a \$50 add-on; Fridays, \$60 with \$50 rebuys). Also, there's a one-hour tournament on Tuesday mornings (10:30, \$18).

If you play enough in the nightly events and make a few final tables you might qualify for the Player of the Year prizes.

"We take 1 percent of the buy-ins (of the nightly tournaments) and put it toward Player of the Year," he said. "Top five players earn points from each tournament and whoever has the most points at the end of the year wins the pool. We pay the top three spots."

From Oct. 1-Nov. 13 the Paragon is bringing back its \$20K freeroll event. The first 80 players with 50 hours of live play will qualify to play in the freeroll that pays 11 spots, including \$4,500 for first. It's the second time Paragon is hosting this tournament, and if it's successful you'll be sure to see it again. And here's a helpful hint: If you play Tuesday or Thursday you'll earn double hours.

Just how do they keep track of those hours? Paragon kicks it old school with a hand-written index card, sort of like the Chesterfield in *Rounders*.

"You sign in when you get here," Bordelon said.

Literally. You'll keep the card while you play, but be sure to give the index card back to the brush before you leave.

One of the changes Bordelon has managed to make without hesitation is the bad-beat jackpot. The Paragon used to have the loosest bad beat in the state with aces full of eights; it was a slogan the room embraced. But the jackpot was getting hit so often there was little reason to have it.



LOCATION: Marksville

WEBSITE: www.paragoncasinoresort.com

PHONE: 800-946-1946

MANAGER: Gaston Bordelon; **STAFF:** 14 (10 dealers); **TABLES:** 8

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: \$4-\$8 limit; \$2-\$5 NLHE; \$5-\$10 NLHE.

OF NOTE: Every other Friday is a \$5-\$10 half-half game (half NLHE, half Omaha) and the first five players for the game will have rooms at the hotel set aside for them.

"We couldn't build a pot," Bordelon said. "So now we went to quads. If any quads get beat holding a pair in your hand you'll win the bad-beat."

A promotion *Ante Up* found twice in Louisiana (Paragon and Isle) is the "Hand of the Day." The staff picks a random five-card hand and if you hit it exactly at Paragon you'll win 10 percent of the bad-beat jackpot. On Wednesdays look for the high-hand promotion that pays \$50 every half-hour from noon-3 p.m. and 9-midnight.

If you're hungry, waitresses will take your food order and pick up your meal so you never have to leave the table. Try the catfish dinner from Roxy's Diner, and while you're enjoying that entrée Bordelon says you might just be able to get a massage soon.

"I'm trying to push to get our massage therapists in here on Friday and Saturday nights," he said. "We have a spa here (on site) so we're trying to get that going."

With an eye toward the future, you can be sure the improvements Bordelon will make to an already fine poker room will be player-friendly.

"We know our players better than anyone," he said. "They come here every day. We know their names, their wives' names, where they live and where they're from. It's more family than it is players, the way we talk to them. We spend more time with them than with our families. These guys have been playing here since Day 1. That's 16 years."



AMELIA BELLE

LOCATION: Amelia

WEBSITE: ameliabellecasino.com

PHONE: 985-631-1745

MANAGER: Randy Refeld

STAFF: nine (six dealers)

TABLES: 3

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: \$3-\$6-\$12 limit; \$2-\$5 NLHE

JACKPOT: Bad beat is aces full of 10s, beaten by quads.
OF NOTE: This poker room is not open 24 hours. It will start spreading games at 5 p.m. and will close when the last game breaks up. The casino opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 3 a.m.

ISLE CASINO LAKE CHARLES

The poker room at the Isle Casino Lake Charles is the largest in the Mid-South ... and for the past 16 months it's been striving to become the best poker room, too.

It all started with the hiring of Matthew Dodd as manager in June 2009. Dodd brought a California cardroom background with him and immediately started making changes for the better.

"The first thing I did when I got here was change all of the tables from 10-handed to nine-handed," said Dodd, who started in the business by dealing in a tiny Santa Clara (Calif.) cardroom in 1991. "That was a rough patch to get through. But my feeling about it, not just from a business perspective in getting more hands out, but from a player's perspective, is it's a more comfortable table. You're going to get more decisions and see more hands in an hour than you would at a 10-handed table. Plus I tried to explain to them that in any poker book the starting-hand odds are all based on a nine-handed table. Though they argued with me about that."

He moved the brush podium from the center of the room to the entrance so his staff can greet players as they come in, and he increased the number of tables from 23 to 28. But his biggest contribution has to be the Louisiana State Poker Championships, which he introduced this year in April. It was a modest start, running five events over the course of one week. But the success of the series has inspired Dodd.

"Next year the plan is to move that out to a full three-week series," he said. "This year was sort of a test run. ... I wanted to give the staff an opportunity to see what that was like for a week. See how hectic it can be. ... It went very smoothly and we were very happy with it. The overall response was great. We had almost (\$250K) in prize money and 129 people for the final event, a \$1K buy-in. ... It's looking to run late spring each year, sort of right before the World Series."

Even more impressive might be the turnout for the PLO championship, which drew 103 players for the \$335 event.

"We were excited about that," said Dodd, who admits PLO is his favorite game. "They were all Omaha players, too. It wasn't like there were guys taking a shot. They all knew what they were doing."

And so does the staff at the Isle.

"We don't have any break-in dealers," said Dodd, who once was a union butcher with Safeway. "All of our dealers are experienced and we continue to hire that way. With all of the dealers in this industry I never saw a reason to run a dealing school unless you're opening a new property where there aren't a lot of dealers around. ... I think our staff was pretty good when I got here, but I think we continue to increase the level of customer service and speed and efficiency in dealing a game. I'd rather see a dealer that gets out 15 hands in a half-hour and never make a mistake than get 19 out and there's a card flipped over and this pot got pushed to the wrong person or the side pot's wrong."

So what about amenities? The property has two hotels in case you want to stay there for any of the numerous tournament series the Isle hosts. The poker room is self-contained in that it has a dedicated bar and cashier, restrooms and no smoking. Coming this fall the room will have NFL Sunday Ticket so all of the games will be on the 10 flat-screen TVs (there were six TVs when *Ante Up* was there, but Dodd assures us there will be at least 10 TVs and maybe 12 by the start of football).

As far as promotions there are quite a few:

- Since football has started they have Monday Night Blitz, which pays \$600 throughout the game.
- Exact match involves the staff picking a random hand and posting it on either side of the poker room. If you hit it you'll win the jackpot, which was about \$3K at the writing of this article. It hadn't hit in three weeks and will run for two months. If it never gets hit the money will go back into the promotional fund and get paid out with another special.
- There's always something to be won, as the minor jackpots run



LOCATION: Lake Charles

WEBSITE: lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com

PHONE: 337-430-2407

MANAGER: Matthew Dodd; **STAFF:** 80 (65 dealers); **TABLES:** 28

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: \$4-\$8 limit and \$2-\$5 no-limit, but \$2-\$5 and \$5-\$10 PLO will spread on weekends.

OF NOTE: The \$2-\$5 NLHE game has a \$200-\$500 buy-in, but if there's a stack bigger than \$1K you can sit with half that amount (e.g. If someone has \$3K on the table, you can buy-in for \$1,500). "In an established game I always want a guy to be able to sit down and be competitive," Dodd said.

24/7 (quads: \$25; straight flush: \$50, royal: \$125). The bad beat is quad fives and recently was hit twice within a week's span.

- High hand of the hour, a.k.a. Mid-Week Win a Spin, starts this month. High hand each hour gets a chance to spin the wheel to win between \$25-\$100 or other prizes.

Full table service isn't an option for eating, but you can bring the food in from the casino restaurants. There's a vending machine with snacks and aspirin and on any weekday if you're playing in a live game you can get free hot dog, chips and soda. The waitress cooks them up and brings them right to you at the table.

"We offer a lot more tournaments; we offer promotions the players want," he said. "In various spots I see promotions at certain times of the day and wonder, 'Who is going to take advantage of that?' We try to hear what the players are saying. If they don't like them we don't run them again. There's a fine line between doing what the players say and doing what the players want. I can't let the players run the poker room, but I have to understand what their button is in terms of what gets them in the door."

If you're looking for a lot of action you can find about 25-26 tables running of Friday and Saturday nights at the height of the season. And you'll always find a clean game with no profanity.

"We keep a very strong hold in here on language," he said. "The average person doesn't come in here to hear a bunch of foul language. So we put a quick stop to foul language. The dealer warns and then the floor warns. We've put many people out for 24 hours just to say 'You're having trouble controlling your mouth right now so we'll see you tomorrow.' It's been a very effective tool because lately we haven't had to put anyone out."

Dodd admits he met some resistance when he arrived, but things are running much more smoothly these days, and the players are happier for it.

"I bring a different perspective than what has been seen in the region. Some of that has been met with excitement and some has been met with disgust. I try to bring what I saw and learned when I was out in some of the bigger California casinos (Hollywood Park and Commerce) and try to emulate that here."





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COUSHATTA CASINO

The cold neon signs that hang over the entrances of the Coshatta poker room belie the hearty décor and warm staff residing inside. The rich autumn colors that paint this room's presence proudly come from the seal of the Coshatta Tribe. They're also proud of their Seven Clans Poker Cup, as evidenced by the framed photos of famous pros who attended the series in the past and signed a wall-hung felt to commemorate the occasion.

The most recent Seven Clans ended in September, but the next one should be in late winter or early spring, and will continue to be a semi-annual event.

"Originally we started it in just the poker room, but it got so big that it took two days to run because they didn't have enough tables," manager **Randall Litteral** said. "Eventually we purchased portable folding poker tables and we have an entertainment room that can hold up to about 40 tables. The first time we held it in there we had more than 430 players. It's a three-day event now and everyone starts on the first day. It's player-friendly."



Tournament coordinator **Tom Helo**, who runs the room with Litteral, says the event gets a lot of compliments. "We've had some pros play in it and they've said it was one of the best structures they've ever seen," said Helo, who's been with the poker room since it opened 15 years ago. "(Hall-of-Famer) Barbara Enright played once and was saddened she couldn't make it back."



The room has a bad beat and has used high hands and aces cracked in the past. Right now they're running what's called Big Bonus Hands. "Each week money is put into each hand from quads to a royal," said Litteral, who's been in charge of the room for two years.

Every minute you play you earn an entry into the random generator. It accumulates and can be used for any convenience on the property (gift shop, restaurants, gas station, etc.)

The property also has given out motorcycles, trucks and even a boat. You can eat in the poker room, but if the waitresses are too busy you'll have to get the food. But all of this pales in comparison to how the staff treats you, says Litteral.

"We're real friendly and try to be guest-oriented. We try to give you the Southern treatment. You'd have to be from The South to understand I guess, but we try to make you feel at home and make you feel comfortable and make you feel welcome. That's a lot of what I hear from our guests is that's the reason they come here. We go all out for all our guests. We try to do whatever is possible within our means to help them."



LOCATION: Kinder
WEBSITE: coshattacasinoresort.com
PHONE: 800-584-7263
MANAGER: Randall Litteral; **STAFF:** 34; **TABLES:** 22
POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: \$4-\$8 limit, \$2-\$5 NLHE
OF NOTE: The Coshatta Advantage players card allows you to use your points toward any amenity on property, including the gift shop, food and even gas.

According to Helo, one of the more popular amenities is the freeroll tournament schedule. Look for one coming up soon that will reward the most hours played, and those hours are accrued on the Coshatta Advantage players card.

"The players card gets them about \$1.20 per hour," Litteral said, "with hidden cash rewards given through a random generator."

Every minute you play you earn an entry into the random generator. It accumulates and can be used for any convenience on the

property (gift shop, restaurants, gas station, etc.)

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Above, on one wall you can see framed photos of some of the well-known pros who attended the very popular Seven Clans Poker Cup series. ...



... at left are the signatures of the same pros who autographed this felt, which now hangs on wall on the far side of the poker room.

BOOMTOWN NEW ORLEANS

Competition is good; it keeps you on your toes. And when the competition is a Harrah's property just a few miles across town, you practically need to be a prima ballerina.



The best way for Boomtown New Orleans to compete is to give its patrons plenty of promotions and free food. Robert Horvath is following that axiom to the letter in his first few weeks as Boomtown's latest poker room manager.

"Our room has free hot dogs and chips, and on tournament days we have mini po-boys," said Horvath, who's been in the casino business since 1980 when he worked in Atlantic City. "And if you play three hours before any tournament you will receive an extra 1,000 in chips."

On the gulf side of the massive levees that protect the city, Boomtown is a locals joint that really does have a ton of promotions for its seven-table poker room on the third floor:

- Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday the first 10 people who play for an hour get \$30 plus a \$10 deli comp.
- High hands (Monday, noon-10; Wednesday noon-6) win \$50.
- A Tuesday loyalty tournament (\$10 add-on, 11 a.m.)
- Splash the Pot (Tuesday, 2-10 p.m.; Thursday noon-6) wins \$50.
- Mini bad-beat jackpot (aces full of 10s) wins 10 percent of full bad-beat jackpot.
- The Friday and Saturday Hot Seat (noon-6) pays \$50.
- Aces Cracked (Sunday, 3-11 p.m.) wins \$50.
- Sunday and Monday Football Mania drawings pay \$100.
- Player with the most hours over a four-month period gets a \$50 comp to any food outlet.

But Horvath, named manager on Aug. 1, says Boomtown is more than just promotions.

"We have a friendly staff," said Horvath, who went to Tulane for casino management. "We offer no timed rake on no-limit games,



LOCATION: Harvey; **WEBSITE:** boomtownneworleans.com
PHONE: 800-366-7711
MANAGER: Robert Horvath; **STAFF:** 18; **TABLES:** 7
POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: \$3-\$6 limit and \$4-\$8 half-and-half (hold'em-Omaha)
OF NOTE: Horvath says Boomtown spreads the best half-and-half game in the city.

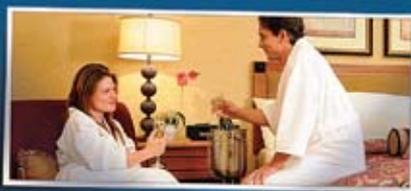
comps for food and we have a family atmosphere. Our players can expect great customer service, different promotions every day and weekly tournaments."

So if you're looking for a lot of ways to win money at the table, other than just beating your opponent, and you're hungry and in the Nawlins area, look up Boomtown.

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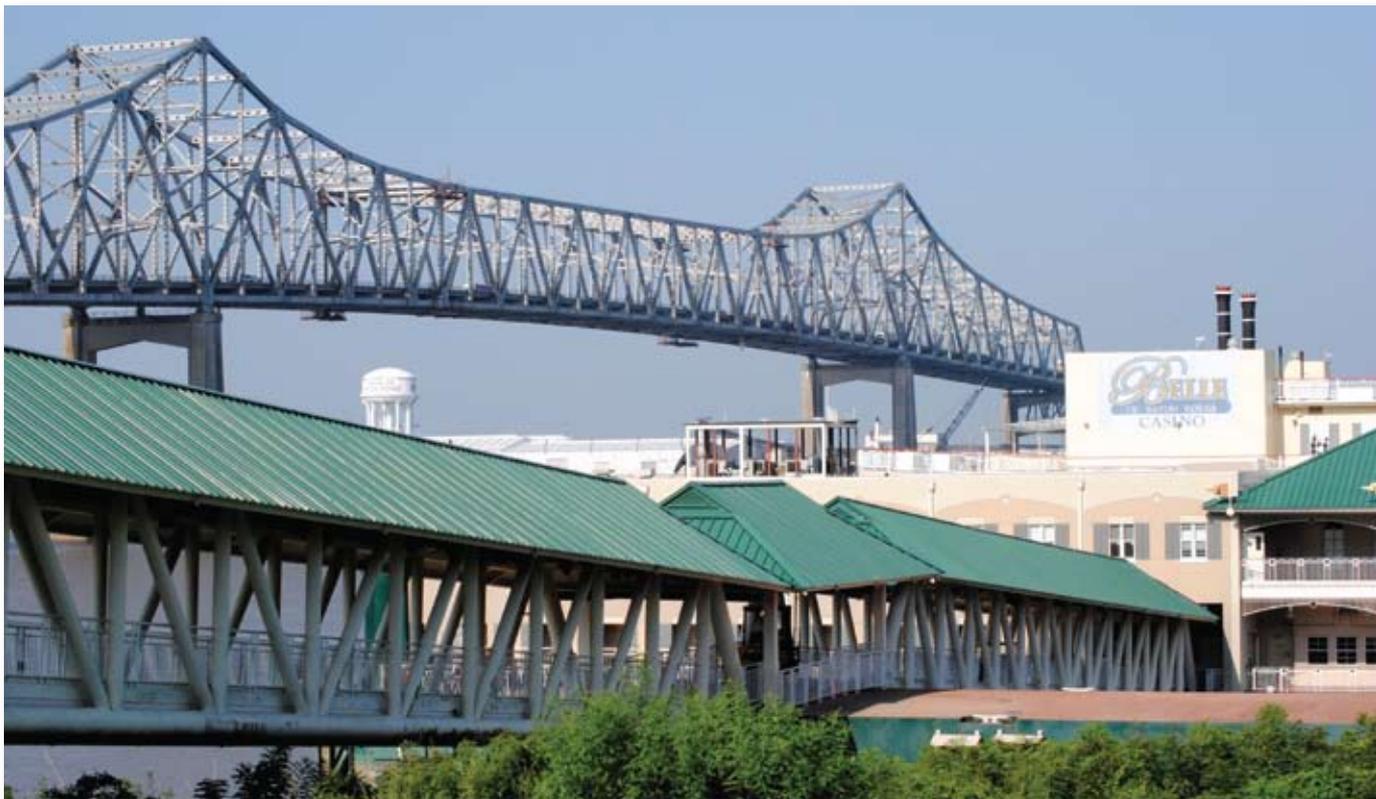
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BELLE OF BATON ROUGE

The Belle of Baton Rouge is a fun place to play poker. It doesn't have a poker room as much as it has a poker area, but that's true for most gambling ships, and it doesn't stop the staff and players from having a great time.

On the third floor among rows and rows of slots, the six poker tables that make up the poker area were teeming with action on the Wednesday night *Ante Up* visited. Perhaps it was the morning tournament that got the players all abuzz (\$50, 10 a.m., 1K chips, 15-minute blinds — this tournament is held on Sundays, too). Or maybe it was the \$2-\$5 no-limit hold'em game that had the same 10 players for hours and hours as thousands of dollars in chips were stacked in front of most of them. Whatever it was, everyone was having a blast.

Certainly having automatic shufflers in the tables contributes to the efficient games being spread, which in turn keeps the patrons satisfied. The dealers were very friendly, more than competent, and the floors were very attentive, watching for empty seats with an eagle's eye, putting new players in as soon as possible and selling chips right from other stacks so you wouldn't miss a hand.

One oddity was the cashier situation. You could buy chips from a cashier's cart, but when you cashed out the cashier colored you up and you had to take the bigger chips downstairs to the casino cashier.



"We're going to look into that," table games manager **Marty Brown** said. "It's not player-friendly and we're going to work on that."

Brown has been with BOBR for 16 years and says his staff is what makes the poker room click.

"Everything I've learned about poker is from the people here," he said. "And my casino shift managers have done the same thing. We have some really strong dual-rates and floor supervisors with a very strong poker background."

Promotions include the bad-beat jackpot (any quads), which was at \$32K when we visited, and on Mondays they have Aces Cracked (9 a.m.-3 p.m., \$100).

Brown said they have a vending machine if you want to snack at the

LOCATION: Baton Rouge

WEBSITE: belleofbatonrouge.com

PHONE: 800-676-4847

MANAGER: Marty Brown

STAFF: 50 (cross-trained in table games)

TABLES: 6

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: \$4-\$8 limit and \$2-\$5 NLHE. On Sundays look for the \$4-\$4-\$8-\$12 half hold'em-half Omaha game).

OF NOTE: You can smoke just past the partitions of the room (if that's your bag) and watch the action so you can scoot back in and play your hand.

table, but tableside dining isn't allowed at this time.

"We have muffalettas from our deli that are very delicious, but they are very messy, so we don't allow it at the table," he said.

As for other amenities, the BOBR, which floats adjacent to the U.S.S. Kidd, has a fine hotel next door (we stayed on the 10th floor and enjoyed the complimentary Club Lounge finger foods and breakfast). The casino's signature restaurant, Shucks On the Levee, is so good that even poker room managers from other local casinos suggested we eat there.

So what can you expect if you play here?

"This is a local poker room," said Brown, who came in to chat with us on his first day of vacation. "We mostly have locals. I would say 90 percent of our players are from the Baton Rouge area. What you can expect is for us to be really friendly. If you've played here a couple of times we're going to call you by your first name, pat you on your back, ask you how you're doing. ... I'm on a first-name basis with over half the people in the room. I'm in the room quite a bit myself even though I'm the director. I have a personal relationship with a lot of those people, and you're going to get that with the employees as well. You're going to have a good time playing poker here and our people are going to have a good time with you."

HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS

If you were asked to dream up the perfect scenario for a poker room you'd be hard-pressed to come up with a better situation than Harrah's New Orleans. For starters it's in New Orleans, mere steps from Bourbon Street, so drunken tourists with money to lose are as common as crawfish in a French Quarter meal.

It's the only land-based Louisiana casino that isn't owned by an Indian tribe, so it isn't constrained by arcane rules and a three-storied ship's construction. Finally, it's Harrah's, so the World Series of Poker branding makes it the most recognizable cardroom in the Bayou. When people think of poker they think of the World Series, and when they think of the WSOP in The South, they immediately think of Harrah's New Orleans. Is it any wonder the room is always packed?

"We have a very diverse group of people, both the local market and the convention market that comes in here," poker room manager Larry Barrett said. "From a local perspective they love the challenge of facing someone they've never met before. ... So that keeps it a fresh, new game for them. I think every poker room, like a lot of sports, requires a hub. And a hub is that player base that's gonna come here, fresh and new. And that's what keeps our locals coming back. ... We're very lucky that we have a tourist trade that supports this room."

Indeed, and when your poker room is packed with tourists and locals, there's really no need to have a lot of promotions.

"We have Aces Cracked pretty much every day," he said. And if you want to get that \$100 for getting your rockets beaten you better have a Total Rewards card. You won't get any comps with it, but you can't win jackpots without it either. And you'll need a valid ID.

When your 20-table room is nearly packed with cash-game players it's hard to justify running tournaments, too, which is why Barrett only has one a week, a \$120 event on Wednesday mornings at 11.

"We get about 70-80 people for that," he said, "but when the busy season returns we'll get close to the 120-player cap."

LOCATION: New Orleans

WEBSITE: harrahsneworleans.com

PHONE: 504-533-6000

MANAGER: Larry Barrett; **STAFF:** 72 dealers; **TABLES:** 20

POPULAR GAMES/LIMITS: \$1-\$2 and \$2-\$5 NLHE, \$4-\$8 limit (plus a \$4-\$8 half-and-half hold'em and Omaha game).

OF NOTE: Harrah's was the only Louisiana room that said \$1-\$2 NLHE was its most popular cash game, likely because of the tourist market.

You'll get 3,500 chips (a \$10 optional add-on for 1,500 more) and 30-minute blinds. Of course you can't forget its circuit events and WSOP satellites. The WSOP circuit has changed this year, utilizing consistent formats and payouts at every property that hosts a WSOPC series. There will be 11 standard events at each host site (though rooms are encouraged to squeeze in more events, just as long as the core events remain the same price, etc.) Main events start at noon, and at Harrah's New Orleans there are about 65 tables at Barrett's disposal, with 45 in the casino's theatre.

But back to the room itself, which was recently downsized and will be getting some much-needed changes.

"We'll be moving the registration area to the other side of the room," Barrett said of the upcoming reconfiguration. "We'll be adding slots in the poker room to close off the room from the casino and keep the smoke out."

No smoke is always best, especially if you're eating at the table, which is allowed on the little side tables. "But we ask that they don't put food or drink on the tables," Barrett said. "The worst thing you can do is come back to the table and see mustard on the felt from a Lucky Dog (the hot dog stand just outside the poker room)." And if there's enough staff on duty they'll get your food for you.

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ON TILT

Tilt: An event that is experienced in all walks of life. So what can we do about it?

By Michael A. DeDonno Ph. D

As a part-time day trader, I was finding reasonable success in the current market. However, on May 6 the Dow Jones Industrial Average posted its biggest intraday loss in 20 years. This sudden decline put me on an emotional rollercoaster causing me to make poor buying and selling decisions for the remainder of that day. In effect I was on tilt. ¶ In 2006, a French soccer player head-butted his opponent in response to extended taunting. The French player was subsequently ejected from the game and soon after the French team lost the World Cup title to Italy. As poker players, we have all experienced bad beats and sometimes even unexpected big wins. In reality, going on tilt can happen in any competitive situation. It's virtually impossible to eliminate the emotional responses caused by a tilt event. Therefore we must take the time to better understand what's happening within our bodies and develop specific techniques to minimize the emotional effects of the tilt event.

The Mayo Clinic highlights various physiological responses to stress, including increased heart rate, loss of focus, restlessness and irritability. In any competitive situation these factors can have a negative effect on performance. When we think about stress, it's generally thought of as a result of a negative event. For example, stress certainly is felt when we lose a job, struggle with our finances, argue with a loved one or lose a monster hand in a poker game. The latter event is synonymous with "going on tilt." However, research has shown the physiological feelings of stress can be felt during positive events. It's not uncommon to experience increased heart rate and a loss of focus when we get offered a big promotion at work, are welcomed at our own surprise birthday party, or win a monster hand at a poker table. Researchers have demonstrated this change in physiology alters our decision-making strategies. In most competitive situations, a deviation from a planned strategy can have negative consequences.

Tilt is generally limited to poker, and despite its definition consistently being aligned with the game it's never been accepted into mainstream dictionaries or other competitive activities. In *Super System*, Doyle Brunson said tilt is "When a player starts playing bad (loses his composure), usually after losing one or more big pots, he's said to be on tilt." However, tilt can be more generally defined for competitive activity as any unexpected event that causes a significant change in our physiology. This definition also allows tilt to serve as the opposing effect of being "in the zone." Athletes often use the phrase "in the zone" as a mental state whereby they're fully immersed in a zone of focus resulting in optimum performance.

It's no surprise to any poker player that researchers have found negative events cause a change in behavior. After a big loss (or series of losses), individuals have a tendency to become more risk-seeking. This behavior is thought to be due in part to the break-even effect. Individuals who experience a big loss quickly try to regain the lost money hoping to get back to at least a break-even point. Researchers also have found behavior changes after a positive event, such as a big win (or a series of wins). In some instances individuals become more risk-seeking (e.g., more loose or aggressive). This behavior has been termed the "house-money effect." Fundamentally, this effect occurs as the individual views the winnings as house money and becomes looser with the money. Conversely during a big win, individuals may become more conservative. This is due to what A.M. Isen called the "mood maintenance hypothesis" in 1987's *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*. Essentially, individuals become more conservative to maintain the positive feelings from the win. In each of these scenarios, the underlying factor is a change in decision-making. So why does this change occur? The answer in part comes from our physiology.

During a moment of stress, your body signals the adrenal glands, small glands located above each kidney, to release cortisol. Initially, the release of cortisol prepares the body for the stressful event. It dilates your pupils, increases blood flow in the muscles of our limbs and liberates sugar and fat in our body to be used as fuel, to fight an enemy or run from a predator. This is commonly termed the "fight or flight" response. Unfortunately research has shown cortisol to have negative effects on such things as cognitive performance and digestion. As a result of these negative

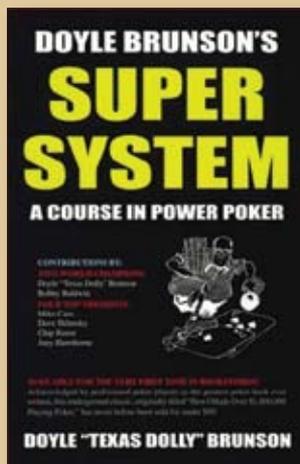
consequences, cortisol has been popularized as the stress hormone. The feelings felt upon the release of cortisol include a heightened state of arousal, anxiety and altered awareness. These feelings are common during a tilt event.

So, after the release of cortisol, how do we bring ourselves back to a comfortable state of mind? There are several techniques that can be performed at the poker table. The first activity is to breathe. We have a tendency to stop breathing during stressful moments. Oxygen aids in blood circulation, which aids in bringing cortisol levels back to normal.

Another effective technique is a form of cognitive therapy. Remind yourself poker's a game of probabilities and any outcome can occur at any time. If you made a bad decision, remind yourself that mistakes will occur and accept it as a lesson learned. This aids in accepting the event and moving forward. Another technique is expressing your immediate emotions. Research has shown suppressing emotions can impair cognitive performance. Expressing your emotions does not mean having a temper tantrum at the table, but a quick release of emotional feelings. This may include a verbal "sigh" or some other action that expels the emotional energy. If these actions do not bring you back to a normalized state, it may be necessary to take a break from the table. Taking a brisk walk will increase circulation and help bring cortisol levels back to

normal. Another technique that can help is throwing cold water on your face. The mammalian diving reflex has shown that cold water on the face optimizes respiration and reduces heart rate 10-25 percent, which can lower anxiety and blood pressure.

In addition to immediate actions, it's important to maintain a stress management program. This ongoing program should include exercise, a healthy diet, reducing caffeine and sugar, avoiding alcohol, cigarettes and drugs and getting enough sleep. Always remember poker players are competitors and as a result need to take a holistic view of their abilities, including mind and body.



After a big loss, individuals have a tendency to become more risk-seeking.
Emotions can impair cognitive performance.

— Lisa C. Elias, DMD,
contributed to this
story. Michael A. DeDonno
is an assistant professor in the
psychology department at Barry
University in Florida.

LEE CHILDS • Learn to play the Acumen Poker way

MATH CAN MAKE YOU THROW AWAY POCKET ACES

Let's begin with starting-hand selection this month, shall we? I'll go out on a limb and say most of us don't regularly play 7-2 under the gun. Why is that? Because we know everyone else at the table is going to have a better hand and we aren't likely to win the pot from out of position with what's known as the worst starting hand in hold'em. We're talking about probability. The odds are against us. The math tells us we're not going to win most of the time, so it becomes a situation we avoid.

The later our position, the more we can widen our starting-hand requirements if we're first into a pot. We're more likely to be in position postflop, more likely to be able to get everyone to fold (since there are fewer players to act) and more likely to win on the flop with a standard continuation bet. Whenever we're more likely to have a bunch of good things happen, we're more likely to succeed and are using the probability (math) to make better decisions and set ourselves up for success.

We must make high-percentage plays. Many players simply play hands in a vacuum, not considering their position, other players and the relative strength of their hands. Suppose you start a hand with two black aces and you raise your standard amount that typically results in taking down the pot preflop. This time, however, you get five callers. Without knowing their cards and without seeing a flop, how likely are you to win this pot? Well, against just one hand, you'd be 80 percent

on average to win. For each additional caller, you can kiss 10 percent of that likelihood goodbye. So do the math! Pretty easy, right? With five callers, you don't even have to know their cards and you don't even have to see the flop. You know you're now the underdog.

Sure, you still have the best starting hand, but you're only 40 percent likely to be the one that wins (half as likely as you would've been if you just had one caller). Get ready to detach yourself from those lovely aces. You held the nuts preflop and now you're about to see a flop with five people. Since you know the math now, you must play for set value, or do your best to get to showdown as cheaply as possible. If any of your opponents shows strength postflop and you haven't flopped a set, just ditch the hand and wait for the next profitable spot.

In this situation there's no need to be mad about it, and here's why: You got five opponents to give you action preflop when you held the stone-cold nuts, and you had the discipline to fold when it was likely to be unprofitable. These are all positive things and you need them to be successful at the tables.

Use the math to make good decisions. Like most math in poker, it's not complicated. The more time you put into the game the more you'll realize there's little difference in the math and pure common sense. If you keep your senses about you, play by mathematical rules and certainties of the game, and just stay disciplined, you'll have a distinct edge on most of your opponents and your bankroll will thank you. Decide to Win!

— Lee Childs is founder and lead instructor of Acumen Poker. He also is an instructor with the WPT Boot Camp. Go to www.acumenpoker.net.



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THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH IN POT-LIMIT OMAHA EVENT

I found myself in a share-worthy situation at this year's World Series of Poker \$5K Pot Limit Omaha event.

Preflop

It was early in the tournament; the blinds were 100-200 and I was dealt 5-5-6-6 (double-suited hearts and spades) in late position. There were three limpers with around 15K chips, including Ted Lawson of Plantation, Fla., who was under the gun. I decided to call, and I had a similar stack. The small blind limped and then Dave "Devilfish" Ulliot potted out of the big blind to 1,200 with roughly 6K chips behind. Everyone called except the small blind.



The Flop

With 6,200 in the middle, the flop came A♥-7♥-5♦ giving me bottom set and a flush draw. Before I could get excited about my drool-worthy flop, Devilfish moved all-in and Lawson called.

Their ranges

With Devilfish potting out of the big blind and then leading all-in into four players on a draw-heavy board, his range is either A-A-x-x or ... A-A-x-x. ... that's not a typo!

Since we're so certain Devilfish has A-A in his hand, and since Lawson still has three players left to act behind him, the chance of him having any sort of two pair is dramatically reduced and his range consists of a nut draw a high percentage of the time.

Our action

We fold. Our set is no good and there's a good chance our flush draw is no good as well. If they both have what we think we're well below 10 percent to win the hand. Even if we misread the hand terribly and they both just have nut draws, we're still roughly only 20 percent to win the hand with our set and we're barely committed.

What happened

Devilfish flipped over A-A-10-7 rainbow and Lawson flips had ... Q-J-10-7 with three hearts. Lawson rivered a heart and won the hand.

Analysis

I played this hand poorly preflop, Devilfish played it worse and Lawson played it like a complete goldfish. What should've happened was Lawson, a WSOP bracelet-winner in Omaha, should've mucked under the gun and Devilfish should've checked out of the big blind. By doing so he would've trapped me and I would've gotten it in with him heads-up and I would've sucked out.

Conclusion

Flopping everything you could hope for in PLO doesn't always work out in your favor, especially multiway. Use preflop action to determine your percentage to win the hand. I know if I was multitableting and I saw this hand come up I would usually just get in and hope for the best, but in fact it would've been a terrible call by me on the flop. But alas, my analysis of the hand saved me some money and I hope it saves you some in the future.

— Jay Houston is a young poker pro and is a sit-n-go specialist. You can email him at editor@anteupmagazine.com

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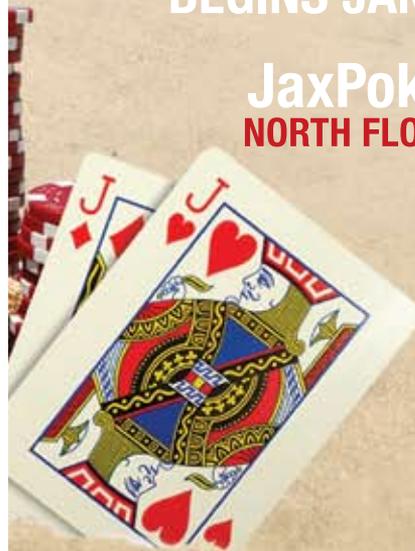


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PATIENCE, GRASSHOPPER

I didn't come here to fold; I came to play. ... This is boring; the pros play lots of hands, why shouldn't I? ... Folding is cowardice and is for wimps; I ain't no nit. ... I've been playing this tournament for six hours, haven't caught a hand. I'm card dead; I'll just go all-in next time I get anything. ... I never get a hand.



DR. BLOOMFIELD

If you just want to have fun, love the gamble and the adrenaline and don't mind losing then forget patience and discipline. But if you don't like losing and part of your pleasure is winning you will need patience and discipline.

If you read last month's column you know why you play poker (purpose). Now we move on to some of the other more important aspects of the game.

Who would have thought patience would become controversial? But poker is changing. Loose, aggressive players look impatient. The key word there is "look." The better ones are patient and disciplined, but they have a wider range of hands, are willing to take more risk and put more money at stake. But when I interviewed a range of successful players they all thought patience and discipline were essential. Is the future of poker "rush poker" or a more patient way of playing? Don't be fooled. All good players are patient and have discipline. Styles change.

How you handle patience and discipline will define your style of play.

Poker is transforming. The advice used to be you had to be patient and wait for the right hand and the right opportunity. The advice used to be don't play so many hands. Many successful and more aggressive players are turning this advice upside down. How often do we see pros (especially Internet pros) not playing a patient game?

Patience might better be viewed as discipline and situational. Patience really might be a product of control. Controlling your play to meet the situation: patience in play, patience in practice and patience in preparation. So, if you buy the idea that patience and discipline are important here are some tips:

Visualization helps; get into a relaxed state of mind.

- Picture yourself at the table feeling rushed, impatient and edgy.
- Feel yourself performing impatiently.
- Relax by breathing; transform the impatient play to a relaxed state, one where you begin to feel peaceful and in the zone. Feel yourself playing naturally and at your peak, in a state of relaxed activation.

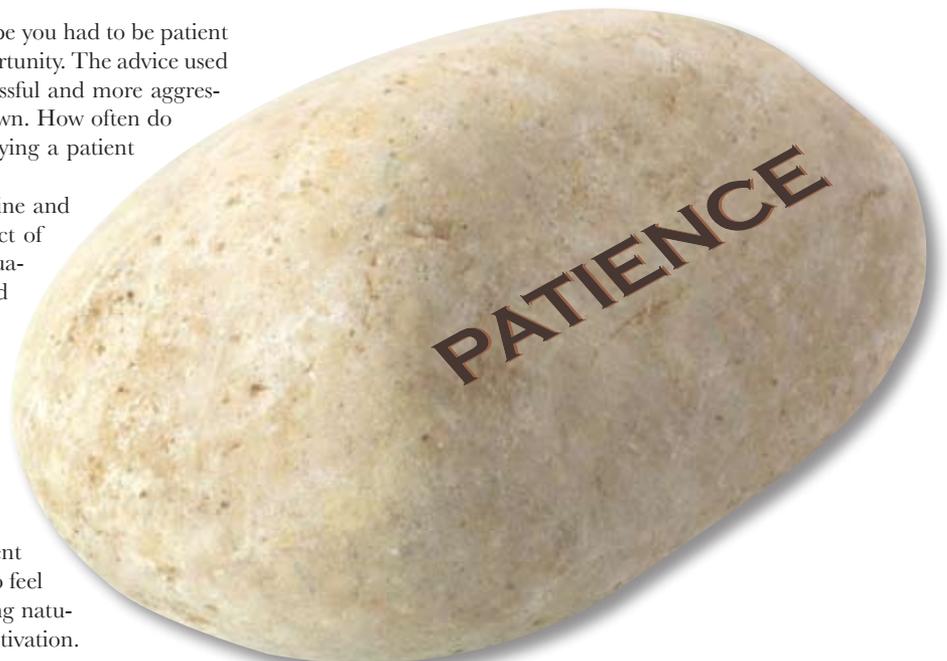
At the table if you lose discipline and become impatient, breath through it and repeat an affirmation. Affirmation is a declaration that something is true. You have to develop a patience affirmation and use it when you get impatient. Here are some from poker players: Patience is power; I love to fold; I am patient and disciplined and can't be bullied into playing badly.

Concentration is the welcomed side product of patience and discipline. Mental preparation is a complex process that incorporates all aspects of self-preparation. Getting yourself ready, learning the game, learning the math, learning how to read other players; these are life-long endeavors.

You can use the basics of psychological preparation to work toward peak performance. One of the reasons I love poker is, it's such a personal and mental skill game. It's a microcosm of our world in so many ways. In poker, you have to have discipline, be patient, take the right opportunities, be aggressive but not reckless, know when to take a chance, know when to bluff and know when you're beat. These are not only good poker skills, but good life skills as well.

So preparing for a poker session is the culmination of how to prepare for any competitive event. And the most important thing: 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.



WANTED: POLITICAL CHAMPIONS

As we move from primary elections to the general election, it's worth looking back on how gambling as an issue is fairing in some of the southern states. Before a brief analysis, keep in mind that in Alabama and Florida, gambling expansions have led to more than 10,000 direct jobs, many of them being filled during the Great Recession. But for the war between the bingo operators and Alabama's governor, many of these jobs would still be in Alabama and the casinos would be in expansion mode.



MARC DUNBAR

Let's just say gambling isn't a popular issue with the politicians or with the voters in The South. Despite the tax revenues and jobs, candidates for office nearly everywhere but in South Florida flee from the issue.

Case in point: Georgia's Republican nominee for governor Nathan Deal was asked his opinion about bringing horse racing to Georgia.

The economic backdrop is nearly \$1 billion in potential economic development and more than 20,000 direct jobs to support the industry. For a rural state where equestrian pursuits are ingrained and backwoods racetracks that cater to illegal horseracing are prevalent, his answer of being "open-minded" to the discussion seems to be based in political pragmatism and common sense.

However, to the conservative wing of the party that nominated him, it was a sacrilege. Criticism was instant and he began the political two-step retreating from his comments like a scalded dog.

In Florida, Republicans from Citrus County "unelected" an incumbent, Rep. Ron Schultz, who shared the same pragmatism as Mr. Deal from Georgia. Dave Aronberg (Democrat) and Holly Benson (Republican), who I featured a couple of months ago for their knowledge of the gambling industry, lost their party nominations for attorney general.

As we approach November's general election and look ahead to 2012, the industry needs to find some champions who will unapologetically trumpet the value of a vibrant, well-regulated gambling industry. The industry has provided stable growth and well-paying jobs often in communities that desperately need them. The tax revenue, direct and indirect, is significant as are the tangential benefits.

The socio-economic costs often trotted out by conservatives in sound bites have never been proved in economies in which a mature

state lottery has preyed upon the citizenry for years. While I agree with the political sentiment that you can't balance a budget on the backs of gambling (one need only look at Nevada and California to see that point being made clearly), a well-regulated industry can provide a nice supplement to a state's economy.

Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi must laugh every day over breakfast as he reads the morning news of southern states whose philosophy on gambling is still based on Prohibition-era fears. And, as he laughs, citizens from Alabama, Florida and Georgia help keep his tax coffers full.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH POKER: Shifting gears a bit, we are three months into the "Great Expansion" in Florida poker rooms. Extended hours and the removal of betting limits were supposed to change our poker rooms into places where real gamblers lurked nightly. A quick look paints a pretty clear picture, the strong rooms are getting stronger and the weak rooms are continuing to slide.

In the Tampa market, rooms are struggling a bit in the shadow of the Tampa Hard Rock. Tampa Bay Downs is the one bright spot showing 20-plus-percent growth while the other rooms try to maintain their market share.

Around the state, rooms that have been in decline continue to do so. Jefferson County, Hamilton and Ft. Pierce are having a tough go of it with regional competitors hurting their ability to take advantage of the new laws.

In South Florida, the extended hours have been a boom for Gulfstream Park, which is leading the state in terms of its growth, up 43 percent over the same period last year. Dania, Calder, Miami and Mardi Gras are struggling to compete under the new laws as players appear to be looking elsewhere for big games.

The next several months as Florida moves through the winter tourist season will be interesting to watch to see how much growth is seen in its poker rooms. If some rooms continue to decline, some level of consolidation may be in the works.

On the flip side, if they reverse the trend, new opportunities for players may begin to pop up around the state. In the meantime, if you have a favorite room make sure you're supporting it and bring a friend next time to get in on the action.

— 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.

DON'T CRACK UNDER PRESSURE!

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

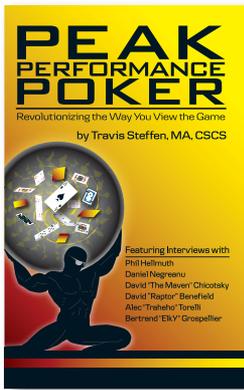


- After five years of playing poker in Florida, Mississippi, Las Vegas, Connecticut and occasionally online, Doc is sharing his skills with Ante Up readers through periodic columns, titled Head Games.
- Doc offers support to some of the region's best professionals and amateur players with one-on-one advising sessions and group workshops.

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO EDITOR@ANTEUPMAGAZINE.COM

Travis Steffen gives us a peek into his new book, *Peak Performance Poker*

WITHOUT RETENTION, KNOWLEDGE IS LOST



When thinking about what goes into being an elite-level competitor, most people think weight training, cardiovascular exercise, nutrition and practice. While these things are important, there is much more that goes into competing at a high level than simply a hard workout.

When preparing for competition, athletes do three things:

- They analyze their play to correct mistakes.
- They analyze the play of their opponents to anticipate their actions.
- They analyze better players to try to learn from their success.

You should be no exception as a poker player.

If you play for fun or as a hobby in your spare time, you may decide you don't have the drive or the motivation to do this. This is fine, but don't wonder why your opponents have an edge over you in tough games. However, if you want to achieve your full potential as a poker player this is *exactly* what you have to do.

Here's the catch:

Elite athletes have multiple coaches and/or a training staff to help them do this. They carry some of the load as far as planning and preparation goes. Most of the time you won't have this luxury. Though this is the case, you can still take steps toward preparing for competition like an athlete.

Athletes analyze game film to plan the specifics of their practice. Sound familiar? Numerous poker training websites allow you to watch top pros play. These websites, in conjunction with other resources such as books, hand-tracking soft-

ware and conversations with better players, are your equivalent of game film.

That being said, you can't simply watch a video or read a book and expect to magically get better. You have to have a plan to help retain the knowledge, and then to help put it into practice. My weapon of choice is a pad of paper and a pen. It sounds simple, but it's deceptively powerful.

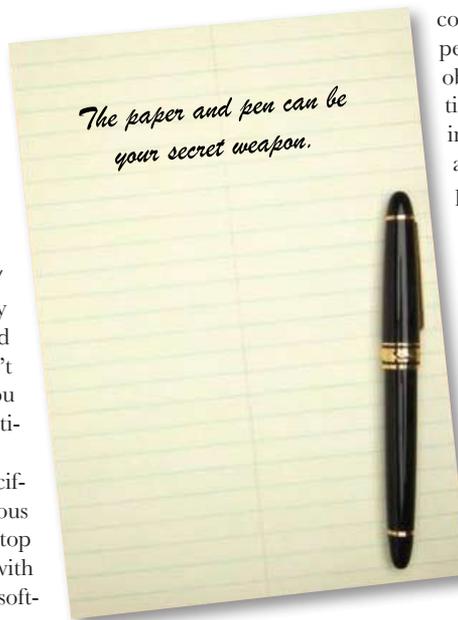
As you watch a video or read a book, don't simply nod and move on. Listen. Try to get inside the pro's head. Rewind it and play it back at interesting spots or highlight sections you think are critical. Do so multiple times if necessary. Just be sure you absorb every piece of information you can, no matter how subtle.

Write it all down. Post it where you can see it and reread it often. Read it until you know it by heart and then look for ways to implement it. Without implementation, that knowledge goes to waste.

In summary, there's a lot more that goes into competing at a high level than just optimizing the performance of the body and brain. These are obviously important, but to be sure you're functioning on all cylinders, you must retain enough information to effectively put it to use. When an athlete "over-learns" a skill, they learn it to the point where they can execute it on instinct and don't second-guess themselves when the time comes.

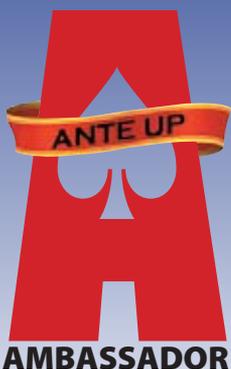
Being the player and the coach takes work, but without time and effort, long-term success is nearly impossible. Poker is played with money, but it's a competition like any other. If you're hell-bent on improving, remember players succeeded before you, players *will* succeed after you and you can succeed, too.

— **Travis Steffen is a poker player, strength coach, entrepreneur and mind-set consultant. His new book, *Peak Performance Poker: Revolutionizing the Way You View the Game*, is on shelves now. Contact him at workoutbox.com.**



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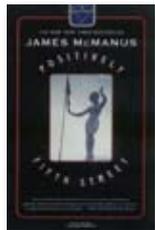
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POKER LITERATURE

An occasional look at classic poker books • By Steve Washick

POSITIVELY WORTH READING

Written by poet, author and avid amateur poker player Jim McManus, the title for *Positively Fifth Street* was inspired by the Bob Dylan song, *Positively 4th Street*. The book originated from a 2000 article McManus wrote for *Harper's Magazine* about the Las Vegas murder trial of Binion's Horseshoe casino executive Ted Binion, as well as the 31st annual World Series of Poker.



McManus interweaves the story with the history of poker and the WSOP, tournament and cash-game strategy, the history of the Binion family, and the concern McManus' wife has over his poker "hobby."

While in Vegas, McManus used the \$4,000 advance Harper's gave him for the article to play in the lucrative cash games, as well as satellites for the \$10,000 main event. Despite his success in the cash games, it took McManus several attempts to win a seat.

McManus' coverage of the Binion murder trial is a fascinating sex and narcotic-fueled narrative about Ted Binion, the son of Vegas pioneer Benny Binion.

During the WSOP main event, lady luck was on McManus' side as he twice drew out on the river against poker legend T.J. Cloutier to stay alive in the tournament, and eventually made it to the final table. McManus finished fifth (out of a then-record 512 entrants) for a payday of \$247,760.

It has been reported that *Positively Fifth Street* will be made into a movie with a screen play written by John Ridley, who will also direct the film.

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

IGNORING SLEEP CAN BE WORSE THAN SMOKING

In my fantasy, the Grinder and I are heads-up at the final table for the Big One. This epic battle has lasted far too long. The sun has risen and begun to bake the dirty desert horizon as the poker gods finally offer me the kill shot. Grinder seems interested in the flop and unaware that my two-gapper hit a well-disguised straight. All of the money goes in and just like that, it's over. Groans arise from legions of Grinder supporters while cheers erupt from my tiny band of railbirds consisting of my mom and my two publishers. I am, of course, wearing an Ante Up logo patch.



FRANK TOSCANO M.D.

The reality, of course, is any member of Grinder's family, including dear sweet Mama Grinder, could probably slap me silly on the poker table and, anyway, I'm too old and set in my ways to stay up playing poker till dawn. All the caffeine, Provigil and Adderall in Nevada couldn't keep me focused later than a Leno monologue.

This wasn't always true for me. As a 30-year emergency medicine veteran, I've earned a gray hair for every night shift I've worked. Thankfully, I don't work many nights now, but it used to be a brutal necessity for me to stay focused at 5 a.m. when heart attacks rolled in.

Many poker players fight the clock in the very same way. Tournaments drag on too long; the cash game is too good to leave; just a few thousand more online hands and you'll be a PokerStars Supernova. So you push yourself to stay alert just a few hours longer, trying to focus.

It turns out ignoring your body's natural sleep cycle is amazingly unhealthy. There are some alarming new studies out that are changing the way ER groups schedule their docs and should make you think twice about those late-night poker sessions.

Hormones that keep us alert fluctuate in a cycle of about 24 hours. When they peak, you find it easy to stay alert. You calculate pot odds easily and notice your opponents' subtle betting patterns. When these hormones plummet, so do you. Just staying awake is a challenge. Playing poker well is nearly impossible.

I notice my alertness peak at about 10-11 a.m. and my deepest trough occurs very predictably at 5 a.m. I can feel my body temperature and blood sugar plummet and I have to fight to stay awake. By 6:15 I'm beginning to recover and by 7 I'm ready to drive home. Your timing may vary a few hours.

If on rare occasions, say once or twice a month, you ignore your sleep cycle and force yourself to stay awake and focused all night long, you probably don't do too much damage to your body. Also, if you completely switch your cycle around so that you stay up every night and sleep every day, you body can adapt in about four or five days. The

real problem comes from changing your cycle back and forth. If you spend three or four days sleeping all day and playing sessions all night and then switch back to "normal" time for a few days and then back again, that's when the trouble starts.

There's good evidence now that switching your sleep cycle back and forth has deleterious effects on cholesterol, insulin, testosterone and a host of other hormones that can lead to an increased risk for diabetes, hypertension, obesity, depression and heart disease. One study suggests those who frequently switch may increase their risk of heart disease by as much as 40 percent. Forty percent! That's almost as much as smoking a pack a day.

So, here are a few tricks to get in some late-night sessions without killing yourself. First, if you can anticipate an upcoming series of late-night sessions, switch your body over to nights gradually by staying up later and later each night and sleeping later and later each day. That's called a "clockwise" rotation.

Second, don't switch back and forth. Sleeping every day during this time is a must. Sleep in a room that's cool, quiet and dark. Turn off the phone and put a sign on the doorbell. Make sure your family and friends understand and respect your sleep time.

When you're nearing the last four hours of your late-night session, avoid caffeine completely. Instead, a high-protein snack will give you some temporary energy that will wear off quicker than caffeine. Before bed, a few complex carbs will help you get warm and sleepy. When you awaken, have proteins again and expose yourself to bright lights. Eat healthy foods. Drink plenty of water and be sure to exercise. Don't use drugs to stay awake or fall asleep.

Pay close attention to your sleep cycles. Notice what time, during an all-night session, you find it most difficult to stay awake. That's your "anchor sleep" time, the most important time for you to be tucked in bed. If possible, don't force yourself to stay awake while your hormones are plunging. If you must work or play through your anchor sleep time, try to take a break, close your eyes, rest your brain or even nap for 20-30 minutes until your hormones start waking you up again.

Once you've been through a change in your sleep cycle, allow your body about a week to recover and switch back to normal time. In my view, one of the best reasons for delaying the final table of the WSOP Main Event is to allow the players to recuperate from weeks of grueling late night poker in July so they can play their best in November.

Grinder, I may not be sitting across the table from you in November, but I'll be watching closely. Get plenty of sleep. I expect to see some awesome poker.

— 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@redbamboomedspa.com

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BRYAN OULTON • Learning poker etiquette

Learn to adapt to change

By Bryan Oulton

No matter what level of poker you play, you must learn to adapt to the environment around you. In our league, every season we try to introduce a different twist that will teach our players something new.

Two seasons ago we allowed re-entries into our tournaments during the first four levels of play, with a cap of two per game. Immediately some players hated it and swore they'd never play again. More often than not, they still played. This encouraged aggressive play in the events and was designed to bring players up to speed on what's often happening in casinos, especially bigger buy-in events.

This season we limited players to two per game max, and only four for the entire evening. We run four tournaments at each location nightly, so this brought strategy into play as to when and how often a player could re-enter. The complaints still came, but with less gusto, leading us to feel the lessons were starting to take.

Whether you're playing in a casino, online or in a bar league, you constantly have to adapt to changes. If you have a new player at the table who's a maniac, how do you adjust? If you're moved to a table of deep stacks while you're slightly below average, how do you adjust? When antes come into play, when the money bubble is approaching, when the re-entry or rebuy portion of the tournament is coming to a close, what do you do?

Be aware of your opponents' play. Are they getting tighter? More aggressive? Recognizing these factors in your opponents is vital to tournament success. Also, minimizing your pattern changes while still making the changes you want is key to confusing your opponents and giving them less information.

Recently, I was playing at the Isle Casino at Pompano Park, Fla., and as the re-entry period was coming to a close, I saw the shortest stacks started to play more than they had earlier. I used this to try to pick off some easy chips. Recognizing the adjustments of others allowed me to increase my stack substantially and make a deep in the event.

You must adjust to changes in poker, just as in life. Adapt or perish.

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

WHAT EVERY "BODY" IS SAYING

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

Verbal tells are just as important



JOE NAVARRO

How do you loosen up someone who is using techniques to hide tells, for example, the Navarro Perch? — Zorag, asked on the Ante Up PokerCast

The best way is to say things to them. To question them. Ask them what they have. "Are you going to hurt me if I call you?"

I think we miss a lot of opportunities by not challenging players. Just by asking them, "Is this going to hurt me? Do you want me to call?"

Just to get them to react or talking about a subject that maybe arouses their interest in conversation. We

know that when we lack confidence our voice has more hesitation and we even speak louder and have a higher pitch. Mike Matusow uses this quite a bit.

— Ex-FBI counterintelligence officer Joe Navarro of Tampa specialized in behavioral analysis for 25 years. He's a star lecturer with the WSOP Academy. Email him at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

POKER HAS GONE TO THE DOGS

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LET THESE STORIES INSPIRE YOU ON THE FELT

This month I thought I'd let some ladies tell their stories, on and off the felt. The women featured all have varying ranges of poker skill. Hopefully these excerpts will give you a small glimpse of what's on the mind of women in poker today.



Playing in a poker room

By Cynthia Albert

For many people, and not just women, the thought of entering a poker room is very unnerving. Just the sight of all those players hunched over their cards at the table, looking so serious, riffling their chips, doing their best Phil Ivey impression, is enough to send some back to the comforts of the blackjack tables or slot machines.

Years ago, before any one knew who Chris MoneyMaker was, I remember standing with my father, who was not an easily intimidated man, watching the poker action at the Grand Hotel in Biloxi, Miss. We enjoyed playing poker at home with friends, but neither of us had ever played in a casino with a bunch of strangers. He seemed interested though, so I asked him if he wanted to give it a try. I can still hear his voice so clearly as he replied, "No, Baby. Those people would eat me alive."

However, after the MoneyMaker Effect, I became very interested in Texas Hold'em, watching it on television and playing online every chance I got. It wasn't long before I decided to give live poker a try. Coincidentally I played my first live game at the Grand in the spring of 2004, when I went with my mother to Biloxi. I entered the poker room by myself and asked to get into the lowest limit game available. The staff was very helpful answering my questions and explaining the different game structures to me. Before I knew it, I was seated at a \$2-\$4 limit table. I was a little nervous, but I survived. Afterward I had more confidence and a better understanding of the game.

During the first couple of years I made many errors and breached many rules of poker etiquette that clearly identified me as a novice. Some mistakes even incurred the wrath of other players at the table. Those are the worst! Being readily identified as a novice leaves you at a clear disadvantage. So play live as soon (and as often) as you can. I promise the experience won't be as scary as you might imagine, and the confidence and knowledge you'll gain will be worth the effort.

My Happy Place

By Michele Katz

Often, therapists tell people to go to their "Happy Place." When a client or a child is feeling frustrated or disturbed, we teach them to change their thinking, to go somewhere peaceful and joyous. We encourage them to retrieve a memory of a serene place.

There are many happy places. Mine include the beaches of Florida, my bedroom and the dog park. My most recent one is the World Series of Poker women's tournament of June 2010.

I arrived at the Rio in Las Vegas on June 9, and upon entering this enormous room, I experienced a sudden burst of WOW at the sheer size of this seemingly endless layout of tables, lights, chairs and high energy. It was overwhelming to me to see the room I've seen on TV really does exist, though in person, it was different. This room offered a chance for dreams to be realized and bracelets to be won.

After a complete inspection, and several touristy pictures, I went registered for my tournament, which wouldn't start for two days. I had

planned all year to do this. It was on my "Bucket List" to just play this one tournament, one time

After registering, the most amazing thing happened: I walked down the hallway and discovered the High Heels Poker Tour's hospitality room. Most experiences meeting women in groups haven't always been positive for me. But not here. Women, including professional players, approached me! Did you ever just have so much energy being exuded from your being that you felt you could not lose? That's what happened to me.

For the first two hours in the ladies event I was winning every hand I played. This was not usual for me, but very exciting. I made it to the first break. My next goal was to make the lunch break, and I did. Upon returning to the table, I transcended from someone who "played poker" to being a "poker player." It was a life-altering moment for me.

No one tells you how flooded with emotions you are during this event and that you have to hide them all day. And when you're done you go into the restroom (or somewhere safe) and finally release all of the pent-up tension, excitement, disappointment and ecstasy of the day (by hysterically crying, of course, in a good way).

I finished 177th out of 1,054 players and far exceeded all of my goals. I lasted longer than most of the professionals I've seen on TV. In my mind I was a champion that day, and I added a new Happy Place to my repertoire.

Who really has the emotional advantage?

By Teri Savage

We've heard it all our lives, "Girls are more emotional than boys." Is this good or bad? The last time I played live I felt an overwhelming contradiction to this myth. I was the only woman at this \$1-\$2 NLHE table. I started catching playable hands in position and won a few nice pots. But it didn't stop there as I took out two of the guys shortly after that. I then found myself in a heads-up battle, faced with some aggressive betting as two eights were on the board. He bet big to get me off my hand but I called all the way. Why? I wasn't proud of my kicker but my instincts told me he was weak. When my nine kicker beat his six kicker (we both showed eights in our hands) he exploded, yelling to the floor, "This girl needs to be banned!"

The night continued with every man trying to take me out with some trash talk along the way. But their fears and disgusts coupled with their overly aggressive plays worked against them. I had one of my best cash sessions for 2010. Their tilt became my advantage.

Here's some positive news for the ladies. According to a new study published in the journal, *Neuropsychologia*, an article in *Science Daily* had this headline: "Women Outperform Men When Identifying Emotions." Why? The study demonstrated that women are better than men at processing auditory, visual and audiovisual emotions.

While women usually are considered the more emotional gender, believe it or not infant boys are more emotionally reactive and expressive than infant girls, researchers have found. Interestingly, adult men have slightly stronger reactions, too, but only before they are aware of their feelings, found a study published in the *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology* that closely monitored facial expressions. In men, once the emotion reaches consciousness, that's when men adopt a poker face.

Evolutionary psychologists have suggested women, because of their role as primary caretakers, are wired to quickly and accurately detect distress in infants or threatening signals from other adults to enhance their chances of survival.

CALL THE FLOOR

Expert advice from poker room manager Jody Russell

FLOOR PERSON LIKELY FORGOT ABOUT THE OTHER CHIPS

At the final table of a live tournament, Player 1 moves all-in preflop, and Players 2 and 3 call. On the flop and turn, Players 2 and 3 check. On the river, Player 2 moves all-in. Player 3 calls and has Player 2 covered.

The dealer asks Players 2 and 3 to turn over their cards for showdown. Player 2 turns over ace-high and Player 3 mucks his cards facedown into the side pot. The dealer pushes Player 2 the sidepot. The dealer then asks Player 1 to turn his cards over (small pair), and at the same time, the dealer picks up the mucked cards from Player 3 and turns them over. Player 3 misread Player 2's cards and Player 3 actually had the best hand with two pair. The floor's ruling was, to prevent collusion, all hands at showdown will be evaluated and a losing hand is not eligible to collect any chips. Player 3 was not awarded the main pot since the hand was mucked before the dealer could evaluate the hand. Player 2 was beat by Player 1, so Player 2 would not get the main pot. Player 1 was beat by the mucked hand of Player 3, so Player 1 would not get the main pot. The chips were taken out of play and Player 1 was eliminated from the tournament. But using the logic, why did Player 2 get the side pot? — Marty Grinstead, via e-mail

JODY: It seems to me the floor person didn't realize the chips had been pushed to Player 2. He seems to have a handle on the ruling, which explains why he didn't let Player 1 have the main pot. Perhaps he was preoccupied with that situation and forgot about the other chips. Player 2 definitely should not have been awarded those chips. If the decision is to take the chips out of play they should all be taken out of play.

— Jody Russell is a veteran poker room manager in Nevada who also runs the Ante Up Poker Room. Email him at editor@anteupmagazine.com.

TDA Rules

Each month Jody Russell will interpret one rule from the TDA.

CHIP RACE: When it is time to color-up chips, they will be raced off with a maximum of one chip going to any player. The chip race will always start in the No. 1 seat. A player cannot be raced out of a tournament: a player who loses his or her remaining chip(s) in a chip race will be given one chip of the smallest denomination still in play. Players are encouraged to witness the chip race.

JODY'S TAKE: Chip races tend to confuse people at first, but quickly become old news. It's important to know a player who only has a few chips left in his stack that are all going to be raced off cannot be knocked out of the tournament via the race. If the player in jeopardy of being "raced out" of the tournament does not win a chip the tournament director will add a chip to the tournament and award it to that player. This way the player is not raced out of the tournament and the rightful winners of the race each receive their chip as well. This is a very rare occurrence. I think I've had to add the extra chip into action fewer than five times in 10 years.



MORE ON TDA RULES: Go to www.pokertda.com to see all 44 TDA rules.



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FLORIDA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
CALDER CASINO Phone: (305) 625-1311 www.calderracecourse.com/poker	Two guaranteed tournaments every day (11a, 7p; \$40-\$150). Grinder Classic (Oct. 23, 1p, \$225) is a \$25K guar. Ask about the Oct. 30 \$10K freeroll.	Flopped straight flushes have different payouts per suit. Mega Bad Beat was \$55K at press time.	DeepStacks power poker course with Grinder, Oct. 22 (1p, \$500). See ad on Page 15.
DANIA JAI-ALAI Phone: (954) 927-2841 www.dania-jai-alai.com	Daily (12:30p and 6:30p), including a \$15K guarantee every Friday (\$105, 6:30p).	Hold'em tournaments are included in the bad-beat jackpot. A \$5 jackpot fee will be added to buy-ins.	Halloween \$40K guarantee (Oct. 30, noon, \$250)
DAYTONA BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (386) 252-6484 www.daytonagreyhound.com/pokerroom	Daily, including Friday Night Lights (\$120, 7p); Sat. deepstack (\$225, 2p). See ad on Page 27 for details to the International Series in November.	Bad beats in limit, no-limit (\$194K) and Omaha. Daily high hands paid every two hours.	Cracked Aces (Mon.-Tue., 4-10p) pays \$50 for limit hold'em and \$100 for NLHE.
DERBY LANE Phone: (727) 812-3339 ext. 7 www.derbylanepoker.com	Daily (buy-ins vary); \$220 Mega Stack, last Saturday of the month (\$12K, 2p, 30-minute blinds). See ad on Page 25 for Halloween bounty event.	Daily royal flushes and mini bad beats. Full calendar of jackpots varying day-to-day. See website.	Mega-Sundays mean hourly high hands on Sunday (1p-1a) will win entry into Saturday mega event.
EBRO GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (850) 234-3943 www.ebrogreyhoundpark.com	Daily, except Friday (\$20-\$330), including Mega Stack (last Sunday of month, \$330, 2p, 10K chips).	Ultimate Big Easy Bad Beat; mini bad beat is \$2K.	Emerald Coast Poker Championships, Oct. 4-10; see ad on Pages 8-9 for schedule and details.
FT. PIERCE JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (772) 464-7500 www.jaijai.net/poker.php	Mon. (\$75, 7p); Wed. (\$100, 6:30p); Sat. (\$100, 1:30p); Sun. (\$55, 4p). \$150 Deepstack (Oct. 16) SNGs: Thurs.-Sat., \$65-\$110.	All new bad beats in hold'em, stud and Omaha. Call for details.	Deepstack event is the third Saturday every month (\$150, 3p).
GULFSTREAM PARK Phone: (954) 457-6336 www.gulfstreampark.com	Daily, (\$40-\$60, 6:30p), including bounties M-W-F, plus Sat. rebuy, (\$40); PLO freeroll (Tue., 6:30, \$1K prize pool). SNGs: \$60 hold'em or \$45 PLO.	Bad beat: quad deuces; hourly high hands (11a-1a), \$100 (but \$300 at 11a, noon, 1p, 2p, 4p, 7p and mid.).	Royals pay \$500. Free drinks after midnight. See ad on Page 17.
HAMILTON JAI-ALAI & POKER Phone: (800) 941-4841 www.hamiltondownsjaijai.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 units).	Spades royal pays \$3,364 (mini royal is 10% of main, and in any suit).	Aces/kings cracked (Wed.), Win with Quads (Fri.), Splash the Pot (Mon.). See website for details.
ISLE CASINO AT POMPANO PARK Phone: (954) 972-2000 x5123 www.theislepompnopark.com	Daily (\$40-\$720), including \$15K guarantee on Tuesdays (\$230, 2p, 13K chips, 30-min. blinds). SNGs: \$60-\$225.	Bad beat was \$90K at press time.	\$400K Isle Open, Oct. 31-Nov. 8 (See ad on Pages 10-11).
JEFFERSON COUNTY KENNEL CLUB Phone: (850) 997-2561 www.jckcpokerroom.com	Fridays, 7:30 p.m., \$50 (2K chips and 15-minute blinds)	Royal flushes win jackpot.	Call for promotions.
MAGIC CITY CASINO Phone: (305) 649-3000 www.flaglerdogs.com	Sundays, low-rake bounty event (\$40, 1p), bounties are \$5. SNGs: \$65-\$800.	High hands (\$150); non-heart royals win \$1K, heart royals pay \$2,500; Big Slick Royal progressive.	\$500 progressive hot table paid at 2p & 2a.
MARDI GRAS CASINO Phone: (877) 557-5687 x3167 www.playbigeasyypoker.com	\$15K guar. deepstack (\$250, Sundays, 2p); Super 7 Shootout (\$177, Mondays, 7p), 7 tables, 7-handed, win your table and advance to the final table.	Two high hands hourly 11a-4a (\$75 limit; \$150 no-limit); \$75 4a-10a. \$500 at noon, 3p, 6p, 9p, mid., 3a.	Home of the Fat Tuesday \$1K High Hands. See ad on Pages 4-5.
MELBOURNE GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (321) 259-9800 www.mgpark.com	Daily, (\$65-\$120), including Sat. Super Stack (\$120, 2p, 10K chips, winner gets Ante Up cruise for two); Sunday (\$65, 1p, 3K chips, free sandwich buffet).	Bad beat (\$53K) is in hold'em (aces full of jacks beaten by quads or better).	Quads win \$50, straight flush \$100, royals \$500. Spin to Win Saturdays.
MIAMI JAI-ALAI Phone: (305) 633-6400 www.miamijaijai.net	Daily (\$20-\$165).	Progressive royals and rolling quads of the day progressive; see website for more information.	Hourly \$100 high hands plus tickets for Sunday raffle.
MICCOSUKEE RESORT Phone: (877) 242-6464 www.miccosukee.com	Fridays (\$60, 8p). Super Saturday no-limit hold'em tournament (\$60, 8p) gets you 3K chips. Free buffet for all tournament players.	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. (\$40, noon); Tue. (\$50, 7p); Wed., (\$65, 7p); Thurs. (\$65, noon & \$50, 7p); Fri. (\$115, 6p).	Big Slick Royal Progressive was \$110K at press time; all other royals pay \$1K.	High hands pay \$100 every two hours.
OCALA POKER AND JAI-ALAI Phone: (352) 591-2345 www.ocalapoker.com	Daily (\$30-\$500). SNGs: (\$45-\$500). See ad on Page 54.	See website for numerous jackpots and other cash giveaway promotions.	Super Saturday High Hands pay \$300 (NLHE) and \$150 (limit) hourly from 8p-1a.
ORANGE PARK KENNEL CLUB Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$225), including \$225 MegaStack event (Oct. 16, 20K chips).	Royals and Steel Wheels \$250 (spades \$500); Super High Hand, \$150 Tournament Ticket Giveaways.	Ante Up Cruise event, Oct. 1 (one guaranteed cruise package); \$150 PCA satellite Oct. 17.
PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB Phone: (561) 683-2222 www.pbkennelclub.com	Daily (\$30-\$120), noon & 6:30p. Super Satellites to Florida Million qualifiers \$30 (\$20 rebuy) Tuesdays at noon and Wednesdays and Sundays at 6:30p.	Visit website or call for information on daily high hands and bad-beat payouts and qualifications.	H.O.R.S.E event, Oct. 21 (\$120). This will be every third Thursday of each month at noon.
PENSACOLA GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (850) 455-8595 www.pensacolagreyhoundpark.com	Daily (\$45-\$120), including Mon. (\$65, 7p); Sat. (\$65, 4p) and Sun. (\$120, 4p) will be a \$5K guar.	Hold'em and stud bad beats (any quads) and in Omaha (quad jacks).	Splash the Pot duing late NFL football games (Sun. & Mon.) up until Super Bowl. Call for details.

* 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.	Progressive jackpots in all games. Bad beat is quad threes (\$10K).	High hands pay \$599/\$299 on Fridays & Saturdays. See ad on Page 23 for more details.
SEMINOLE CASINO BRIGHTON Phone: (866) 222-7466 ext. 121 www.seminolecasinobrighton.com	Mon. & Wed., (\$20, 6:30p) with optional add-on. SNGs: \$25, \$65, \$110.	Quad aces (\$50, Fridays); any quads (\$50, Sundays); straight flushes (\$100, Tuesdays); Mega-Bad Beat.	Wednesday high hands pay out \$500 (\$300, \$100 and \$100, noon to midnight). Royals pay \$1K.
SEMINOLE CASINO COCONUT CREEK Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolecoconutcreekcasino.com	SNGs: \$55, \$85, \$135.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$295K at press time).	See website for details or call poker room for current offers.
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOLLYWOOD Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com	Mon. (\$300, 6:30p, \$20K guar.); Tue. (\$150, \$12K, 6:30p guar.); Fri. (\$150, 11a, \$12K guar.); Sat. (\$100, 11a, \$10K guar.); WPT satellites (See ad Page 15).	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$295K at press time). High hands (limit and no-limit) of the hour every day.	Hourly high hands and Bonus High Hands (See ad on Page 15 for details).
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK TAMPA Phone: (866) 502-7529 www.seminolehardrocktampa.com	Daily (\$40-\$550), including Night Owl every Wednesday (\$40, with \$40 add-on, 12:30a). SNGs: \$50-\$1,075.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$295K at press time).	Royals pay \$500. See ad on back page for tournament schedule.
SEMINOLE HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC Phone: (866) 222-7466 www.seminolehollywoodcasino.com	SNGs: \$50-\$100 and are now jackpot eligible.	Mega-Bad Beat (quad 10s, \$295K at press time).	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. (NL O/8, \$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 players get \$100 if Mega hits at any Seminole room. \$10K mini bad beats.	See ad on Page 24 for details on free tournaments in the Zig Zag Lounge.
ST. JOHNS GREYHOUND PARK Phone: (904) 646-0002 www.jaxpokerroom.com	Daily (\$30-\$225), including \$225 MegaStack event (Oct. 8-10, 20K chips. Rebuys available, call for details).	Royals and Steel Wheels \$250 (spades \$500); Super High Hand, \$150 Tournament Ticket Giveaways.	Ante Up Cruise event, Oct. 8 (one guaranteed cruise package); \$150 PCA satellite Oct. 23.
TAMPA BAY DOWNS Phone: (813) 298-1798 www.tampabaydowns.com	Daily, starting at \$30. SNGs: \$100 and up, starts with as few as four players, all day and at any buy-in. See ad on Page 21 for Halloween event.	Quads or better win cash all the time in jackpot eligible games.	Check for new events and promotions online, such as Rays Rack Attack and aces cracked.
TAMPA GREYHOUND TRACK Phone: (813) 932-4313 www.luckycards.com	Daily 1p & 6:30p (\$30-\$60) but 7:30p Fri. & Sat.). Ask about \$115 Sunday Challenge (1p, 14K chips). SNGs: \$65-\$410.	Quads (\$75), straight flushes (\$200) and royals (\$599). Tournament spade royal progressive.	Aces cracked (11:30-2p & 8-10p, \$100). Charity event, Oct. 8 (6p), \$440 w/\$200 rebuys (ad Page 33).

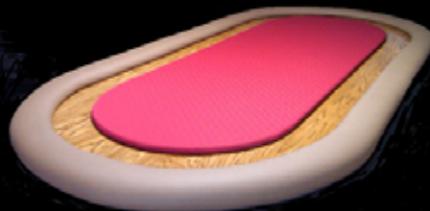


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LOUISIANA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
AMELIA BELLE CASINO Phone: (985) 631-1745 www.ameliabellecasino.com	No tournaments until further notice.	Bad beat is quads over aces full of 10s (\$11K at press time).	Call for information.
BELLE OF BATON ROUGE Phone: (800) 266-2692 www.belleofbatonrouge.com	Wednesdays and Sundays, (10a, \$50, 1K chips, 15-minute blinds).	Bad beat (any quads) was \$57K at press time.	Aces Cracked on Mondays (9a-3p) pays \$100. See Road Trip story on Page 50.
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. Mini (aces full of 10s) wins 10 percent of main jackpot.	High hands (Mon., noon-10; Wed. noon-6) win \$50. See story on Page 49 for much more.
COUSHATTA CASINO Phone: (800) 584-7263 www.coushattacasinoresort.com	Daily (\$15-\$230), including Tue. (\$15, 6:30p) with rebuys & add-ons; Thurs. (\$75, 7p); Fri. (\$20, 7:30p) with rebuys; Sat. (\$220, 2p, 7K chips).	Bad beat was \$76K at press time.	Big Bonus Hands are progressive; see Road Trip story on Page 48 for more details.
CYPRESS BAYOU/SHORTY'S CASINO Phone: (800) 284-4386 www.cypressbayou.com	All tournaments are rake-free. Wed. (\$40, 6:30p, two rebuys, two add-ons); \$22 single-table satellites for end-of-the-month \$200 freezeout.	Bad beat: quads (\$76K at press time).	Aces cracked, 1st & 3rd Thursday, 2nd & 4th Monday. See Road Trip story on Page 44.
ELDORADO CASINO SHREVEPORT Phone: (318) 220-5274 www.eldoradoshreveport.com	Sat.-Tue. (\$75-\$150), including a new \$2K guarantee tournament (Mon., 11a, \$130) and a ladies rebuy event 2nd Friday of month (\$50, \$20 rb).	Bad beat: quads (\$116K); mini bad beat is aces full of 10s beaten by quads. Royals pay \$250.	Aces Cracked Fridays (4a-4p), pays \$100. High hands (Mon. 8a-8p) pay \$100.
HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS Phone: (504) 533-6000 www.harrahsneworleans.com	Wednesdays (\$120, 11a).	Bad beat: quads.	Aces cracked almost every day. See Road Trip story on Page 51 for more details.
HORSESHOE CASINO BOSSIER CITY Phone: (800) 895-0711 www.horseshoebossiercity.com	Daily (\$100-\$400), including last Sunday of the month (\$400, 2p, 10K chips, 30-minute levels).	Bad beat: quads; plus mini-bad beat pays 10% (aces full of 10s). Aces cracked (7a-noon).	Numerous promotions that change daily, including Splash the Cash.
ISLE OF CAPRI LAKE CHARLES Phone: (337) 430-2407 www.lake-charles.isleofcapricasinos.com	Weekdays at 6:30p, including a noon event on Fridays (\$60) & Saturdays (\$115), plus a Sunday Bounty event (\$60, 2p).	Bad beat is \$40K; "Minor Jackpots" pays quads (\$25), straight flush (\$50) and royals (\$125), 24/7. Call for details.	Exact Match Hand of the Day and Monday Night Blitz. See Road Trip story on Page 46 for details.
PARAGON CASINO Phone: (800) 946-1946 x1975 www.paragoncasinoresort.com	Mondays (\$20, 7p, three rebuys); Thursdays (\$20, 7p, unlimited \$15 rebuys and a \$50 add-on); Fridays (\$60, 7p, \$50 rebuys). Tuesday (10:30a, \$18).	Bad beat: quads. In Omaha straight flush must be beaten. See story on Page 45 for more details.	High hand Wednesdays, \$50 every 30 minutes (noon-2:30p and 9-11:30p)

ARKANSAS

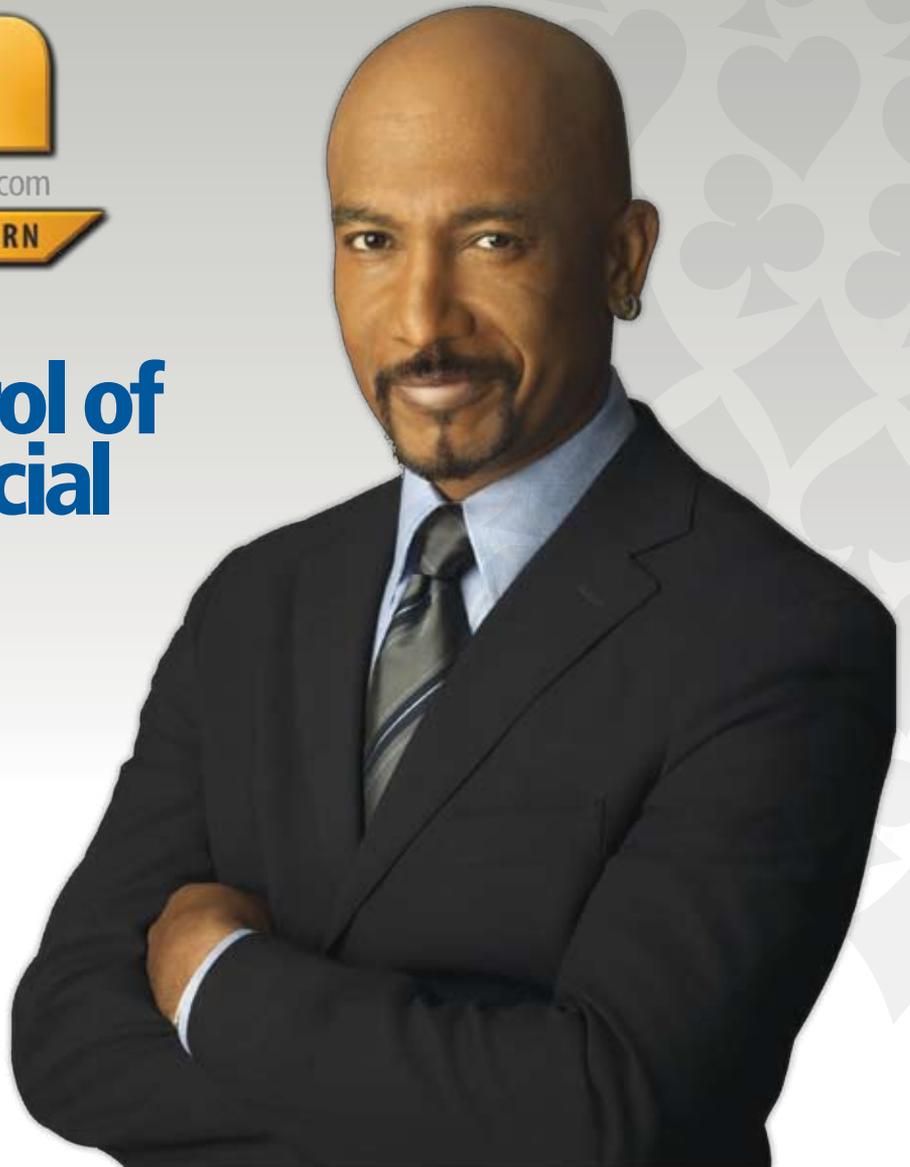
OAKLAWN RACING & GAMING Phone: (501) 623-4411 www.oaklawn.com	Daily, including SNGs (\$30), on PokerPro tables.	Bad beat paid in all hold'em cash games. Call for details. Daily \$100 high hands.	\$50 Splash the Pot Tue. and Fri. (7p-midnight). \$5 MTT (Sundays, 10a, \$500 guarantee).
SOUTHLAND PARK GAMING & RACING Phone: (870) 735-3670 www.southlandgreyhound.com	Mon., Tue., Wed. & Sat. (\$20, 2p), 3K chips and 15-minute blinds (on PokerPro tables).	Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	Player Rewards cards offer comps based on play.

DELAWARE

DELAWARE PARK Phone: (302) 355-1050 www.delawarepark.com	Monday-Friday (\$65, 10a, 5K chips). They now have a 25-table tournament room. Call for more details. Ask about the monthly \$40K freeroll.	Bad beat with descending qualifier (quad nines) was \$67K at press time. Mini is aces full of kings (\$7K).	Royal flushes win a jacket.
DOVER DOWNS Phone: (302) 674-4600 www.doverdowns.com	Twice daily (Sun.-Fri., 11a, \$55, 6K chips and \$80, 7p, 8K chips) Look for a deepstack Saturday event coming soon. SNGs running around the clock.	Bad beat (aces full of jacks) was \$51K at press time.	Royal flushes win a Crown Royal shirt.
HARRINGTON RACEWAY Phone: (888) 887-5687 www.harringtonraceway.com	Room offers \$60 NLHE tournaments, but call for details.	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was \$57K at press time.	High hands, aces cracked and football promotions on the horizon, call for details.

GEORGIA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

DIAMOND CASINO SAVANNAH (GA.) Phone: (912) 897-3005 www.diamondcasinosavannah.com	Call for information.	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
EMERALD PRINCESS II (GA.); Phone: (912) 265-3558 www.emeraldprincesscasino.com	\$125 NLHE event every Saturday night. Please see ad on Page 61.	Call for information.	Call for any promotions.
HARRAH'S CHEROKEE (N.C.) 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.
SUNCRUZ AQUASINO (S.C.) Phone: (843) 280-2933 www.suncruzaquasino.com	Mon. cruise (7p, \$110) and Fri. cruise (11a, \$110). SNGs: \$60	Quads (\$50), straight flush (\$100) royals (\$200). Bad beat is aces full of jacks beaten by quads.	World Offshore \$50K No-Limit Hold'em Championship, Oct. 24, \$500 + \$50 (See ad on Page 40).



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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 (\$335, noon, 4K chips, but 2K more for \$10 add-on).	Aces cracked all day Mon.-Fri. (\$100). Also, weekly \$10K cash giveaways (Monday-Friday).	Southern Poker Championships coming in January. Ask about Pro Football Squares.
BOOMTOWN CASINO BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-8999 www.boomtownbiloxi.com	No tournaments scheduled unless there is enough interest.	Bad beat is aces full of kings (More than \$50K). Mini pays 10% (aces full of jacks).	Aces cracked enters you into a drawing where you can win \$100.
GOLD STRIKE CASINO AND RESORT Phone: (662) 357-1136 www.goldstrikemississippi.com	Daily (\$35-\$340). \$5K guarantee first Sun. of the month (\$230, 1p), 10K chips, 30-minute blinds. Third Sat. is \$5K guarantee (\$100, 7p, 8K chips)	Call for bad beat and royal flush totals. Cash drawings (\$100 hourly) Tuesdays (1-10p).	Win \$50 hourly in \$4-\$8 Omaha/8 cash games. Ask about MNF \$1K cash drawings.
HARD ROCK BILOXI Phone: (228) 374-7625 www.hardrockbiloxi.com	Daily at 3p (\$25-\$55). Chip stacks, bonus chip offers and blinds vary. Website has all details. SNGs: \$75, \$125, \$235, \$550.	Bad beat is aces full of queens beaten by quads (\$17K). Ask about Hard Rock Jackpot hands.	Ask about Aces Cracked, Are you Ready For Some Football and Splash the Pot promotions.
HARLOW'S CASINO Phone: (662) 335-9797 x144 www.harlowscasino.com	Tuesday & Saturday (\$60, \$5 add-on, 7:30p). SNGs: Thursday & Friday (\$40, 6p).	Bad beat is aces full of 10s beaten by quads or better.	Hourly high hands on Wed.; Friday Flat Screen Frenzy (Tickets to raffle on 1st Friday of every month)
HARRAH'S TUNICA Phone: (800) 946-4946, x33760 www.harahstunica.com	Daily at 1p (\$50-\$110) and first-place guarantees ranging from \$500-\$1,200 set with a min. of 20 players. Plus events at 6p (Thurs.-Sun.).	Bad beats in hold'em, Omaha and stud. Progressive Royal Flush pays jackpot.	Call about the \$150K WSOP Fantasy Freeroll and the nightly Spin to Win promotions.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO BAY ST. LOUIS Phone: (866) 758-2591 x4026 www.hollywoodcasinobsl.com	Monday and Wednesday (\$30, 6:30p).	High hands win \$50 Wed., plus Thurs. lucky table progressive \$50, \$100 or \$150. (10a-10p).	Ask about the \$20K Monday Night Football Frenzy. Aces cracked is \$100, \$200 and \$500 on Tuesdays.
HOLLYWOOD CASINO TUNICA Phone: (800) 871-0711 x5005 www.hollywoodtunica.com	Daily (\$10-\$70).	Hold'em bad beat (quads or better) must be in \$3-\$6 or higher and there's a new Omaha jackpot.	Sunday \$1K guar. (\$10 gets 500 chips, \$5 token gets 1,500, \$10 rebuys & \$20 add-on for 10K, 2p)
HORSESHOE CASINO TUNICA Phone: (662) 357-5608 www.horseshoetunica.com	Daily (\$65-\$160), including Sat. \$10K guarantee (\$150, 4p) with 10K chips (2K more for \$10 add-on); Sun (\$100, 2p) Super Deep Stack (15K chips).	Bad beat (quads) in hold'em. Flush Frenzy (\$100) if you make a flush in every suit during your session.	Magnolia Fall Classic presented by Ante Up, Nov. 15-21. See ad on Page 29 for details.
IP CASINO RESORT & SPA Phone: (888) 946-2847 x8554 www.ipbiloxi.com	Noon (\$60, 4K chips). Play Your Way: Play at least 4 hours (9a-9p on Mon., Tue. or Sat. and the house pays \$50 of a \$60 buy-in for the next day's event.	High hands pay \$75 hourly Wednesday (8a-4p). Poker Squares Sun & Mon. (\$1K up for grabs daily)	Aces cracked pays \$100 (Tuesdays). WSOP circuit event (Oct. 28-Nov.10), call for details.
ISLE CASINO BILOXI Phone: (228) 436-7967 www.biloxi.isleofcapricasinos.com	Daily (\$40-\$60), including bounty-rebuy event on Saturdays (\$60, 3p), featuring 3K chips, 20-minute blinds, \$20 rebuys, \$25 add-on and \$20 bounties.	Bad beat available in numerous games, but hold'em is aces full of queens.	Ask about the Aces Full or Better. Royals and straight flushes win \$150.
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. Ask about the Live Action Bonus (Mon. & Tue., 8a-2p)	Aces cracked on Tuesdays (\$100, midnight-8a) and Spin-N-Win Wed.-Fri (10a-10p).
SILVER SLIPPER CASINO Phone: (866) 775-4773 x3766 www.silverflipper-ms.com	SNGs: \$45, \$65 (2K chips, 10 players).	Bad beat is \$75K in hold'em, \$2,300 for Omaha. Mini is aces full of deuces (\$550 to loser).	Aces cracked (Mon.-Fri., amounts vary). Sunday is Player Appreciation with \$100 hourly drawings.
SILVER STAR CASINO (PEARL RIVER) Phone: (601) 650-1234 www.pearlriverresort.com	Daily, (\$35-\$60), including a \$2,500 guarantee on Saturdays (\$60, 2p). Events M-T-W-Th start at 7p; F-S-Su start at 2p.	Bad beat in hold'em (quads), Omaha (quad 7s) and stud (quads). Diamond royals (\$500).	\$3,500 freeroll is last Sunday of every month (5p). Call for details. 4 aces pay \$50; high hands (\$100).

WEST VIRGINIA

HOLLYWOOD AT CHARLES TOWN Phone: (800) 795-7001 www.ctowntables.com	Room hours: 1p-4a daily, and no tournaments yet.	None at this time.	None at this time.
MOUNTAINEER RIVER POKER ROOM Phone: (304) 387-8458 www.mountaineerpoker.com	Daily at 12:15p and 7:30p (\$50-\$225), plus Sundays (\$65, 2p). Autumn Classic (Oct. 18-24), main event is Oct. 23 (\$1,120, 11a). See story Page 32.	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was \$50K at press time, and ask about new payouts.	\$10K Freeroll, Oct. 2 & 16 (12:15p), though players can buy-in for \$250. Call for more details.
MARDI GRAS CASINO AT TRI-STATE Phone: (800) 224-9683 www.tristateracetrack.com	Generally events are Sun. (2p), Mon. (1p), Tue. (7p) & Wed. (7p) and buy-ins vary (\$40-\$125).	Bad beat totals vary by game, but hold'em (aces full of jacks) was \$141K at press time.	Ask about the Monday Football Specials.
WHEELING ISLAND CASINO Phone: (304) 232-5050 www.wheelingisland.com	Sun-Fri. (\$40, 10a); Sat. (\$150, 3p, 6K chips), plus events every night (\$40-\$65, 7p). Heartland Poker League begins Oct. 2 (Sat., \$60, 5K in chips 10:45a).	Bad beat was \$58K at press time. Making quads (using both hole cards) lets you spin the wheel.	Pick of the Litter, Monday-Friday at 12:30, one player chosen for chance at \$1K.
THE GREENBRIER Phone: (304) 536-7806 www.greenbrier.com	The poker room open only to guests; call for information.	Call for details.	Call for details.

PENNSYLVANIA

LOCATION	TOURNAMENTS	JACKPOTS	EVENTS/PROMOTIONS
HARRAH'S CHESTER Phone: (800) 480-8020 www.harrahschester.com	Call for information.	Bad beat (quad deuces) was \$44K at press time.	None at this time.
HOLLYWOOD PENN NATIONAL Phone: (717) 469-2211 www.hcpn.com	None at this time.	None at this time.	None at this time.
MEADOWS CASINO Phone: (724) 503-1200 www.meadowsgaming.com	Daily, including a \$40 event every morning at 10:30 and a deepstack bounty event on Saturdays (\$225, 3p, bounties worth \$25).	Call for information.	Call for information.
MOHEGAN SUN/POCONO DOWNS Phone: (570) 831-2100 www.mohegansunpocono.com	New tournament area coming soon. Call for information.	Bad beat or high hands coming soon.	Players card can earn between 50 cents and \$1 an hour toward comps.
MOUNT AIRY CASINO Phone: (570) 243-5184 www.mtairycasino.com	Pending state approval, planning MTTs and SNGs.	Bad beat (aces full of kings) was at \$172K at press time.	None at this time, though high hands may be coming.
PARX CASINO Phone: (215) 639-9000 www.parxcasino.com	Poker room opens in the fall.	N/A	N/A
PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS Phone: (866) ERIE-FUN www.presqueisledowns.com	No poker room as of press time.	N/A	N/A
RIVERS CASINO Phone: (412) 231-7777 www.riverscasino.com	Call for information.	Bad beat available soon, call for details.	Call for information.
SANDS CASINO BETHLEHEM Phone: (877) SANDS-77 www.sandsbethworks.com	Likely coming between January and March 2011.	Bad beat (quads) was \$25K at press time and is a one-table winner.	None at this time.

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

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Q&A

WITH FREDDY DEEB

Kaseem "Freddy" Deeb wandered the halls of the Rio eating a banana during his dinner break of Day 1 of the main event. *Ante Up's* Chris Cosenza stopped him for a quick chat about everything from his crowning achievement to his poker dream.

What's your favorite poker game and why? I really like all of the poker games as long as there's some dead money in there. That's what I look for.

What's the biggest pot you've won? The largest pot I ever won? I would say close to half a million dollars at the Bellagio a couple of years ago in PLO.

Your greatest poker moment? Definitely winning the (WSOP \$50K) H.O.R.S.E. title. It's almost all the games and when you win a title like that it means you're good at all the games.

Who's the best poker player in the world? There is no such thing as the best player in the world. Every day it changes. Whoever is more fresh, more rested, more relaxed that day will play the best. I don't care if it's Doyle (Brunson) Howard (Lederer) or Daniel (Negreanu). If they aren't well-rested and in the right frame of mind and physically rested they aren't going to play their best poker.

So really there's no such thing as a best player. There are a lot of good players, but who's the best player that day? It all depends on those factors.

What's the best poker advice you've received? I've always been told things I already know. So it's just about whether you discipline yourself or

not. I mean, we all make mistakes and sometimes we know for sure we are wrong, that we're not supposed to do it but we still do it because we are not in the right frame of mind. Or maybe we're not smart enough to avoid it. Then you look around and say, "Where did I f*ck up?" Excuse my language. I already know that I'm not supposed to do that but I still do it.

What does poker need? There is nothing that poker needs. All you need is two guys to play and that's a poker game. There's nothing that can stop a poker game from going on, because people will still play.

If you weren't a poker player you'd be a ... I came here to study as a mechanical engineer and I went broke and started looking for a job, and I'm still looking for one (laughs). So I can be a mechanical engineer or maybe a businessman.

Who's is your hero? There's a lot of heroes that I got and nobody's special, nobody's different from the other. I try to pick up all the good qualities the good poker players have.

What's your poker dream? Win the main event of the World Series of Poker.

How much money do you have on you right now? How much money do I have on me? I think I have about six or seven thousand.

"I came here to study as a mechanical engineer and I went broke and started looking for a job, and I'm still looking for one."

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Wednesdays 10/6 & 10/20 12:30PM • 10/13 & 10/27 7:30PM • \$85 + \$15

Fridays 10/1, 10/8 & 10/22 12:30PM & 7:30PM • \$100 + \$20

10/15 & 10/29 12:30PM • \$85 + \$15

Saturdays 10AM • \$85 + \$15

Sundays 12:30PM • \$100 + \$20

Deep Stack Multi-Table No Limit Hold'em

Wednesdays 10/6 & 10/20 7:30PM • 10/13 & 10/27 12:30PM • \$200 + \$40

Fridays 10/15 7:30PM • \$355 + \$45 • 10/29 7:30PM • \$500 + \$50

Night Owl No Limit Hold'em

Wednesdays 12:30AM • \$40 + \$40 Add On

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