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bestbet Jacksonville and Orange Park are two of the State's most successful poker rooms featuring poker games of all limits, easy to learn card games, simulcast racing, delicious food and a full-service bar.
Flutter, the parent company of PokerStars, announced at the end of September that the company settled a lawsuit with the Commonwealth of Kentucky for a combined $300 million.

Flutter, which also owns FanDuel, agreed to pay an additional $200 million on top of the $100 million it was forced to forfeit last April. In return, Kentucky agreed to drop any further actions with the case.

The payment adds closure to a decade-long legal battle that logistically ended at the end of 2020 with the Kentucky Supreme Court ordering PokerStars to pay the state $1.3 billion. The lawsuit was originally filed in 2010 by Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary J. Michael Brown, who now serves as Gov. Andy Beshear's executive cabinet secretary, for $290 million.

The suit argued that between 2007 and 2010, PokerStars was operating in the Bluegrass State illegally and that 34,000 residents deposited and subsequently lost a combined $300 million. None of the money will be directly returned to the gamblers who lost on the site, however, as Beshear plans to use the money for government functions.

"After 10 long years, the commonwealth has not only prevailed but collected dollars that the General Assembly will be able to direct to critical areas, like education, health care, and economic development," said Beshear in a statement.

Franklin Circuit Court Judge Thomas Wingate ruled in favor of the state in 2015. After the state requested trebled damages, Wingate upped the amount that was owed by PokerStars to $870 million.

The Stars Group, which owned the site at the time before it was acquired by Flutter in May 2020, appealed the ruling. The site got a favorable ruling from a Kentucky Court of Appeals, which reversed Wingate's decision from three years earlier. In Kentucky, anyone can sue “winners” to recover lost wages in a game of chance, but the court said that the state itself can’t sue on behalf of its citizens.

The battle didn’t end as state officials re-appealed the case and took it to the state Supreme Court. Last year, the highest court in Kentucky agreed with the original ruling from 2015 and put PokerStars back on the hook for the nearly 10-figure sum. After the state asked for an additional 12% in interest payments, Flutter was staring at a bill of $1.3 billion.

According to a report from the Evening Standard, Flutter tried to take the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court but simultaneously began negotiating with the state while it pursued its legal options. Eventually, the two sides came to an agreement on what was basically the initial sum without any additional interest or damages.

“The Group strongly believes that this agreement is in the best interest of Flutter shareholders,” said the company in a press release. “The Group now considers the matter closed.”

Following Black Friday, PokerStars was forced out of the U.S. Once the country began legalizing online poker on a state-by-state basis, certain legislation that featured “Bad Actor” language kept the company from operating inside its borders.

The closure of this lawsuit could help it gain access to any states that legalize online poker in the future. PokerStars is currently serving the New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Michigan markets.
Las Vegas-based gaming giant MGM Resorts has purchased the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas from Blackstone for $1.625 billion.

In early September, it was reported that the New York-based investment group was seeking to sell the Las Vegas Strip casino at a $5 billion price tag. While this purchase is for considerably less than the asking price, Blackstone will still own the underlying real estate and act as a landlord for MGM.

According to the press release, MGM will enter into a 30-year lease agreement with Blackstone with three, 10-year renewal options. Blackstone will receive $200 million in annual rent payments from MGM. At the end of the 30 years, Blackstone will receive a total of $6 billion in rent payments.

Blackstone already owns the real estate for several of MGM’s other Las Vegas properties and has been collecting rent from the company for nearly two years.

The $1.625 billion purchase price represents eight times EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization), as well as “expected operational synergies and identified revenue growth opportunities.”

“We are proud to add The Cosmopolitan, a luxury resort and casino on the Las Vegas Strip, to our portfolio,” said MGM Resorts CEO & President Bill Hornbuckle in the release. “The Cosmopolitan brand is recognized around the world for its unique customer base and high-quality product and experiences, making it an ideal fit with our portfolio and furthering our vision to be the world’s premier gaming entertainment company. We look forward to welcoming The Cosmopolitan’s guests and employees to the MGM Resorts family.”

MGM’s purchase also falls in line with its recent “asset-light strategy” the company began implementing a few years ago. The idea is that the company will own the casino business, but will not own any underlying real estate, allowing it to have more capital on the balance sheet.

MGM started moving in this direction in October 2019 when it sold Bellagio to Blackstone for $4.25 billion. It then sold MGM Grand and Mandalay Bay to Blackstone and its own real estate investment trust, MGM Growth Properties, for a combined $4.6 billion a few months later. It capped off the strategy by selling Aria and Vdara to none other than Blackstone for $3.89 billion.

The transaction is expected to be finalized in the first half of 2022 and is subject to the approval of Nevada’s regulators. There were no problems with any previous transactions made between the two companies.

With the purchase, MGM owns every casino on the west side of Las Vegas Boulevard from Mandalay Bay through Bellagio. ♠

One of the world’s largest online poker rooms is being forced out of the Dutch market.

As the Netherlands government begins to implement a law passed last April, PokerStars is being temporarily banned from the market beginning Nov. 1.

Earlier this year, Dutch lawmakers passed the Remote Gambling Act to end the unregulated actions of the country’s online gambling market and begin licensing all the operators serving its citizens.

As a result, regulators are forcing all operators who stayed and operated within the country to stop doing business by the start of November. PokerStars is by far the largest operation that is forced to undergo what is being called a “cooling-off period.” Smaller online poker rooms like Unibet and Bwin will also be forced to leave.

While there is no hard date for when these companies will be allowed to return, it’s being reported that it will likely be either late 2022 or early 2023.

If the companies decide to disobey the orders, regulators will levy fines between €150,000 and €600,000. If a company decides to stay and generates more than €15 million in annual revenue, the fine will instead be 4% of the gross revenue.

Companies that have not been serving the Dutch market over the last several years, such as GG Poker and PartyPoker, will be able to obtain one of the country’s 35 online gambling licenses right away. Regulators will begin handing out those licenses at the start of October. GG Poker left the Dutch market two years ago.

After Black Friday, PokerStars’ business model shifted to operate within regulated markets as much as possible. It left the U.S. market entirely before returning to New Jersey in 2015, Pennsylvania in 2019 and Michigan earlier this year to operate in intrastate player pools.

In Europe, it began segregating player pools to comply with regulators. It forced poker players in Portugal and France to play in player pools comprised only of fellow nationals, while continuing to operate a client that serviced the rest of the world.

It seems unlikely that PokerStars would defy the government’s orders. Not only based on its track record, but because it just recently settled a nine-figure bill in the U.S. PokerStars paid Kentucky $300 million after the state sued the now Flutter-owned gambling company for operating within its borders illegally between 2006-2010. ♠
SPORTS BETTING LIKELY TO BE ON THE BALLOT IN CALIFORNIA IN 2022
By Steve Schult

With so many competing interests, legalizing any sort of gambling expansion in California was always a difficult task. But during the next election cycle, there’s a decent chance that voters will get a say in whether sports betting comes to the Golden State.

There are three proposed sports betting-related ballot initiatives, according to a report from JD Supra, with each one spearheaded by a competing group. Any one of these possible pieces of legislation could be on the ballot in November 2022 if it receives roughly 997,000 signatures from registered voters or a two-thirds majority vote in the legislature.

The deadline for either one of those two scenarios to happen is April 26, 2022. Given the multiple political divides around the issue, the only realistic way for one of the proposals to get on the ballot would be through a signature-gathering effort.

The initiative backed by the state’s 18 Indian Tribes already has the required number of signatures, all but guaranteeing it a spot on the 2022 ballot. It would amend the constitution to allow for brick-and-mortar sports betting at both tribal casinos and the state-licensed racetracks. Online betting would not be permitted.

The second initiative was filed by the three major cities. It’s the most inclusive of the three proposals as it essentially allows every gaming entity in the state to offer both online and retail sports betting.

Under this initiative, tribal casinos, card rooms and professional sports franchises would be permitted to run betting operations. It would tax profits at 15% and operators would be allowed to partner with an online betting company to run the company’s mobile or internet-based sportsbook.

The third proposal would only allow for online betting. Not surprisingly, it was filed by seven companies that run online sportsbooks. Under this one, tribes would be permitted to partner with an online betting provider to run an online sportsbook for the tribe it partnered with. It would tax profits at 10%.

Just like the second initiative, the tax revenue collected from the activity would be put into a new fund that would assist in providing affordable housing and the continued treatment and awareness of mental health problems. ♦

EUROPEAN POKER TOUR RETURNS WITH EPT PRAGUE SERIES THIS DECEMBER
By Erik Fast

After a long hiatus, PokerStars has announced that the European Poker Tour is set to return in December with the 2021 EPT Prague. The 59-event series will run from Dec. 8 – 19, 2021 at the Hilton Hotel Prague.

“We’re so excited to welcome our community back to our live poker felt with one of our most famous and well-loved poker tours,” said PokerStars Managing Director of Poker Severin Rasset. “It’s been such a long time coming and we’ve been working tirelessly and monitoring the situation carefully so that no stone is unturned for a safe return to live events and a great experience for our players and staff.”

Regarding safety protocols at the series, the press release from PokerStars offered the following:

“PokerStars are working with the Hilton Hotel Prague in accordance with current governmental and medical guidelines to ensure players and staff feel comfortable and a safe environment is provided. Everyone entering the casino must wear a face mask, have a temperature scan and show proof of vaccination or proof of a negative test. Social distancing will be in place, personal protection equipment (PPE) will be available, sanitization stations will be around the casino and players and staff are asked to sanitize regularly. There will also be enhanced cleaning at the tables and around the casino.

More information about the series, including a full schedule of events, can be found on the PokerStars Live website. ♦
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Nevada Casinos Extend $1 Billion Revenue Streak To Six Months

By Steve Schult

For the sixth consecutive month, Nevada casinos reported 10-figure gross revenue numbers. According to numbers released by the Nevada Gaming Control Board, Silver State casinos won $1.165 billion from gamblers in August.

It’s a slight dip from July’s record-setting $1.35 billion, but August was still one of the best months for casinos in the history of the state’s market. Like July, August’s revenue was driven by the continued resurgence of action on the Las Vegas Strip.

Casinos on the famous stretch of Las Vegas Boulevard won $625.69 million from gamblers, making up about 54% of the state’s total revenue. It represents a whopping 97.22% increase compared to August 2020 but is down from the $793.66 million those same casinos won a month earlier. Compared to the pre-pandemic August 2019, it is a 20% jump.

Strong numbers from the tourist-centric Las Vegas Strip is a key component to continuing Nevada’s rebound. Some analysts believe that the trend will stay intact in the near term.

“I think we’re still in that trajectory of growth,” Michael Lawton, a senior research analyst for the Nevada Gaming Control Board, told Forbes. “I’m not going to guarantee $1 billion again, but the blueprint is there to continue.”

One of the main reasons July was a record-setting month was increased tourism. There were 3.3 million visitors headed to Sin City that month, but in August, the tourism dropped by 9.2%, according to a report released by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor Authority.

Continued fear over the spread of the delta variant could be the force behind the decreased tourism rate. At the end of July, Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak reimposed an indoor mask mandate that forced gamblers to cover their faces while inside casinos. August was the first full month with the edict in effect again.

Lawton also told Forbes that the mandate, the delta variant, and a softening demand for flights to Las Vegas have him concerned about a short-term top in the market.

Aside from the strip, all areas of the state saw year-over-year increases in revenue. Based on year-over-year percentage gains, Downtown Las Vegas saw the second-largest bump in revenue. Downtown operators reported $64.2 million in gross revenue, which represented an 80.54% increase from the same month a year ago.

Based on revenue in nominal terms, casinos on the Boulder Highway did better than any region outside of the Strip as properties won $91.1 million from gamblers. Boulder Highway, Downtown Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Strip are all located in Clark County, which won nearly $1 billion on its own, making up 85% of the state’s total revenue.

If Nevada can record at least $1 billion in gambling revenue in both September and October, it would tie its own record for consecutive 10-figure revenue months. The record is currently seven and was set between November 2006 through May 2007.

COUSHATTA POKER ROOM GIVES BACK TO PLAYERS WITH NUMEROUS PROMOTIONS

By Barbara Rogers

Louisiana’s hottest poker room is at Coushatta Casino Resort thanks to a slew of promotions throughout the month of November and beyond.

In addition to the usual prizes for straight and royal flushes, and a huge bad beat jackpot, there are also bonuses for Omaha players, getting your aces cracked, blackout bingo, pocket jacks, and $100 splashed pots.

On Saturday, Nov. 13, the property will also be Rakin’ In The Money with drawings every half hour. Winners will choose a mystery chip, which contains a mystery cash prize of at least $100 and upwards of $5,000! In order to qualify, all you have to do is be playing in a live cash game or tournament.

The beautiful 10-table card room, now located near Lenny B’s Cocktail bar, is known for its Southern charm and friendly staff. Players are offered food comps, have the convenience of USB chargers at each table, and can enjoy the game with six big-screen TVs.

Coushatta Casino Resort is owned by the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and is located in Kinder, Louisiana. With beautifully appointed hotel rooms, you can stay where you play.

For more information visit the casino’s homepage at CoushattaCasinoResort.com or call 1-800-584-7263.
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Coushatta Casino Resort is owned and operated by the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana.
EAGLE CUP V: GLOBAL POKER’S LEGENDARY TOURNAMENT SERIES RETURNS

By Card Player News Team

The inaugural Eagle Cup saw the light in the fall of 2017. The series was 29 days long.

Global Poker, now one of the world’s leading online free poker sites, hadn’t been up and running for more than a year and there had been a few less successful attempts to create a tournament series that players would take to.

But the Eagle Cup was different. From the very beginning it was clear that Global Poker had found a hit with this inaugural tournament series. Boasting a high frequency of mid to low buy-ins, the Eagle Cup was perfect for both site newcomers and dedicated grinders.

The Eagle Cup was also the first tournament series where Global Poker awarded trophies to event winners. The players loved the fact that their virtual wins were commemo-rated with real, tangible markers of their accomplishment, and the field sizes swelled as a result. Everyone was eager to get their hands on some hardware and share their win, which led to a growing community of players who now share milestones, strategies, and how to get the most out of Global Poker’s wide array of offerings.

Global Poker wanted to frame the first Global Poker tournament series around something quintessentially American and slightly non-traditional in poker iconography. And what’s more American than a bald eagle?

Since then, the site has extended the Global Poker Championships with quarterly series events adding the Grizzly Games, Rattlesnake Cup, and The GOAT to their line-up of poker festivals. Millions of Gold Coin and Sweeps Coin prizes have been won. In fact, the Eagle Cup alone has been responsible for more than GC631 million and SC3.5 million awarded over the years.

“With Global Poker well into its fifth year, we are still just getting into our stride,” said General Manager David Lyons. “We have had another incredible year with the launch of new games and features, and of course the record guarantees set across all of our tournament events. I am most proud of the work we have done to further develop the legacy of the Global Poker Championship Series, and the Eagle Cup that kicks off on Oct. 25 remains a key part of that.”

A Look At The 2021 Eagle Cup

Like all series on the site, Global Poker caters to both Gold Coin and Sweeps Coin players. The three-week sched-ule kicks off with the opening GC2 million and SC5,000...
IF YOU ARE NEW TO GLOBAL POKER AND WOULD LIKE TO GET STARTED, YOU CAN NOW RECEIVE 250,000 GOLD COINS WITH A $20 PURCHASE BY USING THE BONUS CODE CARDPLAYER50 WHEN YOU SIGN UP. YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE A FREE BONUS OF 50 SWEEPS COINS. NOTE THAT THIS OFFER IS ONLY VALID FOR YOUR FIRST SEVEN DAYS POST-REGISTRATION.

freerolls, available to anyone with a Global Poker account. No purchase necessary.

The schedule truly has something for everyone, with each event featuring three or four different buy-in points and starting times. Take event no. 3, no-limit hold’em with rebuys and add-on, for example. On the Gold Coin side, players can buy-in for GC5,500, 22,000, or 55,000, and play at four different times of the day. On the Sweeps Coin side, buy-ins are SC5,50, 22, and 55, with another four starting time options.

And that’s just one event. There are 27 total.

No-limit hold’em players will have their hands full with variations including six-max, rebuys, bounties, progressive bounties, turbos, deep stacks, and ante up events. The schedule also features pot-limit Omaha and pot-limit Omaha eight-or-better events.

The highlight of the series is the main event on Sunday, Nov. 14. The GC220,000 buy-in main event starts at the same time and boasts a total prize guarantee of GC40 million. The SC99 buy-in event kicks off at 5:30 PM and features a total prize guarantee of SC200,000.

“We are seeing more and more players take a shot at the big prizes on offer, so we have decided to make the events even more accessible,” said Lyons. “We will be giving away more free entries than ever for all of the tournaments, and have made the main events even easier to win your way into a GC220,000 and SC99 buy-in, but with no compromise on those juicy guarantees and trophies that our players love.”

Satellites will start running the week before the main event, and Global Poker is juicing the player field with added freerolls and free entries throughout the series. For the first time ever, there will be an ongoing leaderboard to compete on across the Global Poker Championship Series. Finish on the leaderboard and win yourself some exclusive prizes.

Global Poker has listened to player feedback and think it would be fair to reward the players that are the most consistent given the high-frequency nature of the series.

About Global Poker

Global Poker is an online social poker room and is free to play, with over one million registered players. The site is dedicated to its loyal and growing community of players with a mission to bring a greater variety of games, a larger range of bigger prize pools, and more championships and tournaments. Visit GlobalPoker.com to start playing today!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time ET</th>
<th>Tournament Name</th>
<th>SC Buy-In (GTD)</th>
<th>GC Buy-In</th>
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SHANNON SHORR:
HOW HE TOOK HIS GAME TO ANOTHER LEVEL IN 2021
Longtime Grinder Talks About Adjustments That Led To Recent Success
By Steve Schult

Shannon Shorr has been a profitable poker player since the early days of the poker boom. Over the last 15 years, he racked up just shy of $9 million in live tournament earnings and much more from his pre-Black Friday online grind playing under the screen name “BLUFFforRENT.”

In slang terms, he’s an OG poker pro. Somebody who has been around for a long period of time while achieving success at a high level.

But despite his long list of accomplishments in the game, the Alabama native seems to have recently taken his game to another level. On the now-reopened tournament circuit, Shorr has thrived.

Through the first nine months of 2021, the first full year with live tournament poker since the pandemic, Shorr has cashed for $940,505, with three victories and nine final tables.

“Obviously, one of the nice things about winning is it sort of loosens you up down the stretch in these things,” said Shorr about his wildly successful year thus far. “There’s not as much pressure when you’ve been there recently. You can really get into a nice flow state and just try to make the best decision and not worry about the money so much.”

The rhythm he found himself in couldn’t have come at a better time - just before the start of the World Series of Poker. While in theory, past results aren’t necessarily indicative of future success, Shorr is riding high on confidence.

“I definitely think there is something to [momentum],” said Shorr. “You see it so often in the tournament world, a guy just go off for a huge streak. And then often people will just have really bad streaks because, I mean, it’s real. I’ve done a lot of losing in the tournament world as well. I know how it affects you even though you try not to get affected by the swings. Deep down, I feel that you are often affected subconsciously and might not pull the trigger in a big spot when you’re running bad.”

Shorr has had no problem pulling the trigger lately, and is playing at a level he hasn’t been at before. In early September, Shorr was a regular in the high roller Poker Masters events at the Aria, a series that features smaller, elite fields playing buy-ins of no less than $10,000.

He won the first event of the series, a $10,000 no-limit hold’em event for $205,000, defeating his good friend David Peters, a high-stakes legend who sits sixth on poker’s all-time money list, to earn the trophy. A few months earlier, Shorr spent his summer months grinding U.S. Poker Open events with the same caliber of...
players.

To be clear, it's not that Shorr isn't elite. He has clearly found a ton of success playing poker for nearly two decades, but he wasn't a regular in the high rollers either. The timing of his jump in stakes is no accident, however. The nation-wide shutdowns of casinos in response to the virus forced the poker world to play online, and Shorr was forced to go back to his roots.

"I dedicated myself to online poker," said Shorr about what he did during the downtime. "I previously played a bunch online when I first got started playing until Black Friday. Then for 10 years I just played online kind of casually. I consider myself more of a live player."

Since he was forced back onto the virtual felt, it gave him an opportunity to re-evaluate his play. With a little help from one of the best players in the game, Shorr retooled his approach.

"When the pandemic came, I saw it as a great opportunity. All the action was moving online, so I could just grind and study a bunch. I really made it a lifestyle. I had been talking with 'LuckyChewy' [Andrew Lichtenberger]. He's taught me so much. He's so fundamentally sound, and it's been immensely helpful for my game."

With Lichtenberger's guidance, Shorr built a deeper understanding of how to use modern technology to help improve his game.

"A few years ago, I initially got started with Solvers," said Shorr. "I mean, they're so in-depth and there is so much to it that I was probably not using it correctly. But he pointed me in the direction of how to optimize it and be able to view a lot of information very quickly. It just revolutionized my game. When I was playing live, I had a decent feel for odds and ranges and stuff, but seeing how different ranges interact on different boards is absolutely fascinating stuff. The more you know, the more you realize you don't know, basically."

It was the type of studying that wasn't around during online poker's glory days. When Shorr was moving up the ranks, players were in essence just guessing at what the correct strategy was.

"We talked about hands and stuff," said Shorr about the pre-solver era of poker. "And it was just like a lot of trying to figure it out through playing. And there were the forums which I dabbled in a little bit. I was just out there kind of winging it. The game has changed quite a bit since then."

Although he wasn't working with solvers and playing game theory optimal (GTO) poker, Shorr was able to look at how his opponents were playing and find a good enough counter strategy to succeed. And in the live arena, the exploitative strategies combined with above-average focus was more than enough to win the money.

"I think that in live [poker], I really give myself a lot of edge because I am willing to take some exploits," he said. "And I also like to think that I'm very present at the table. I watch all the hands go down and try to get a feel for the energy. Whereas I see a lot of people on their phones or messing around doing other stuff. But for me, playing a live tournament is kind of just like meditation. I can sit there and just absorb as much information as possible to try and make the best decision."

For most of his career, that was more than enough to succeed. Shorr was a feared online player before 2011 and was a consistent winner at mid- and high-stakes poker tournaments. Achieving success at the absolute top tier of poker, however, was eluding him before this year.

"I was playing a lot of [World Poker Tour events] and [European Poker Tour events], and I would play some EPT high rollers when I was over there in Europe," said Shorr of his past experiences. "But honestly, the higher buy-in stuff for the most part didn't go well until recently. I think I wasn't good enough at the time when I was trying to battle with a lot of those top players."

With some studying under his belt and some added money to his bankroll,
Shorr is able to compete against the types of players that would hold over him in the past. In his eyes, the ability to just stay at the highest levels for any significant period gives him the opportunity to improve and succeed.

“I feel like the education that you get from playing in these high rollers is often worth the time spent,” said Shorr. “I know I’m turning some ROI. I don’t know exactly what it is, but I know that it’s positive so I’m happy to get an education. I get to see how some of these sickos like Ali [Imsirovic] and [David] Peters and [Stephen] Chidwick play a lot of spots.”

What he also realized is that these events aren’t all filled with the likes of Imsirovic, Peters, and Chidwick. There are players in the field that he clearly has an edge on.

“I also found that some of these $10,000 buy-in events are actually quite a good value,” he said. “I think it’s just because there’s quite a few recreational players that end up playing those tournaments and pros that are playing that aren’t super elite. They might be around, but they probably haven’t been playing a lot online and getting reps at these shorter stacks that you often face. And with some of the ICM [Independent Chip Model] spots, a lot of people just get it wrong.”

As Shorr reaches the peak of poker’s pecking order, he is starting to look at what comes next in his life away from the felt.

“I really love poker and it will always be part of my life,” said the recent transplant to Las Vegas. “Although I am feeling myself longing to not play as much and work as hard. It’s very involved. It’s emotionally taxing. It’s a lot. Ideally, I’d like for some investments to work out and just play enough poker to sustain my lifestyle. I don’t spend a whole lot of money on myself anyway.”

With his first child due soon, Shorr is envisioning a more low-key future centered around his new family.

“That’s going to change things a little bit,” said Shorr about the upcoming birth of his daughter. “I envision having a quiet life in Las Vegas, raising a couple of kids and playing the good stuff that comes through Vegas. I’m hoping that I’ll be traveling less and be able to spend more time discovering some other interests and stuff.”

While family life may be one of the driving factors that ends up with the 36-year-old spending less time in poker rooms, it was also one of the reasons he put so much work into his game in the first place.

“I bought a house earlier this year in Summerlin and my life didn’t have much direction,” said Shorr. “I had my wife Joy, who is amazing, and we were kind of traveling along, but we didn’t exactly have a plan. But then once we went down the parenthood road, I just felt like I can just be here and study poker. Traveling is really intense and exhausting, and instead I can just be here and study and play poker and kind of chill. I have a much clearer head and am able to play better.”

With Vegas as Shorr’s new home, traveling less is much easier for the soon-to-be father. Nevada is one of the handful of states that has a regulated online poker market and there are plenty of tournaments that take place in the city, including the WSOP and several high roller series that call Aria home.

Between the tournaments in Vegas and occasional plane rides to Florida and other big tour stops, Shorr believes he’ll be able to achieve the balance between poker and family life he is striving for.

“I’ll probably play more online and [the series at the Seminole Hard
Rock] is really a can’t-miss stop for me. I really like it there,” said Shorr. “Joy will let me sneak away for those a few times a year, but obviously fatherhood comes first. So I’ll try to manage being home as much as possible. I know some other guys who are parents that are out here doing it. Jeremy Ausmus and Eric Baldwin and a few others. They make it work.”

Luckily for Shorr, he also has a partner that will help make the dream happen.

“I think it takes a very strong woman, who can handle you being out of the house for several hours at a time,” said Shorr. “And I happen to have that. So I am hopeful I can make it work between playing online, playing the stuff that comes through here.”

The transition to high roller family man is a big one from the self-described “20-year-old kid who loved partying and poker” he was when he first started playing at the University of Alabama. But the combination of a knack for the game and some hard work took him down a path that gave him more than what most aspiring pros could even dream of.

“Something drew me to this game. I was always sort of independent and marched to the beat of my own drum a little bit, so poker really appealed to me,” said Shorr. “I can’t say I ever really thought long term about it or where I’d be, but I was just absolutely in love with it and it really opened some doors for me.”

### Top Tournament Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Buy-In</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Payout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 2006</td>
<td>Bellagio Cup II Main Event</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>$960,690</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2012</td>
<td>WSOP Six-Max NLHE</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>$455,362</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2009</td>
<td>WPT Five Star World Poker Classic</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>5th Place</td>
<td>$408,550</td>
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<td>Jan. 2019</td>
<td>WPT Gardens Poker Championship</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>$355,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2008</td>
<td>WSOP NLH</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>$349,141</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2021</td>
<td>Hard Rock Poker Showdown NLH</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>$296,535</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2019</td>
<td>WSOP NLH</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>$273,416</td>
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<td>Bellagio Cup IV NLH</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 2021</td>
<td>Poker Masters NLH</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>$205,000</td>
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<td>Jan. 2006</td>
<td>Aussie Millions Main Event</td>
<td>AUD$10,000</td>
<td>4th Place</td>
<td>$199,129</td>
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<td>Feb. 2014</td>
<td>WPT Lucky Hearts Poker Open</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2018</td>
<td>WSOP Main Event</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>39th Place</td>
<td>$189,165</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 2021</td>
<td>Hard Rock Poker Open NLH</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2019</td>
<td>Borgata Spring Poker Open NLH</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>$171,448</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 2013</td>
<td>PokerStars Caribbean Adventure Turbo NLH</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>$160,610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The World Series of Poker returned for the first live bracelet series in over 800 days on Sept. 30, 2021. This time around, proof of vaccination against COVID-19 is mandatory, and instead of the usual summer timeslot, the series is taking place in the fall (running through Nov. 23). But outside of those notable changes, things are largely back to normal at the WSOP this year.

“We’ve spent the last 26 months dreaming of the return of the WSOP live and in-person to the Rio, and it feels incredible to say, today is that day,” said WSOP Senior Vice President Ty Stewart. “There is nothing like the WSOP live with each day making history — from the unforgettable wins to the overwhelming upsets — it’s an unmatched experience. We are incredibly appreciative of those who have traveled near and far to be back in Las Vegas with us, as well as our team members and partners considering it takes a huge village to pull this event off.”

The first eight live bracelet events to reach their conclusion collectively drew 16,362 entries, building up more than $13.6 million in prize money. Two online bracelet events were also held in the first week of action, adding another 898 entries and $1.2 million that was paid out.

Early Winners At The Series

The first day of play saw plenty of long lines as players waited to officially prove their vaccination status. It also played host to the first three of the 88 planned live events and 11 online bracelet tournaments.

As is tradition, the $500 buy-in Casino Employees event was the very first to get cards in the air, while the $25,000 buy-in HORSE tournament marked the beginning of the high-stakes segment of the schedule in the afternoon. The $1,000 buy-in COVID-19 Relief Charity Event rounded out the evening of day 1. While it started last, the fast-paced charity event was the first to come to a conclusion. Jeremy Ausmus earned the first bracelet of the series, topping a field of 260 total entries to earn his second career bracelet and the first-place prize of $48,681 after just eight hours of play.

“This final table was less than an hour and a half, and last night I registered at 9:00 and played until 3:30, so it was like eight hours to win a tournament,” Ausmus told Card Player. “The turbos are a lot of fun. You just get all-in a lot and try to win, and I won most of my all-ins.”

Caesars Palace poker dealer Jimmy Barnett topped a field of 419 entries to win the $500 buy-in casino employees event, earning a bracelet and $39,013 in prize money. It was the largest score of the 36-year-old’s playing career.

The $25,000 HORSE event was the next to wrap up. The poker world watched on as Phil Hellmuth and several other multi-time WSOP winners battled it out during the final day of the high-stakes mixed game tournament, with each hoping to add to their bracelet collections. In the end, it was Pennsylvania business owner Jesse Klein who came out on top with his first bracelet and $552,182. Hellmuth fell just short in his latest run at a record-furthering 16th bracelet, placing sixth for $95,329.
The first weekend of the series played host to the premiere lower buy-in, large-field event of the series. The $500 buy-in no-limit hold’em event known as the ‘The Reunion’ attracted a massive field of 12,973 to easily surpass the $5 million guarantee, creating a final prize pool of $5,499,500. In the end it was Long Ma who emerged with the lion’s share of that money, earning $513,604 and his first bracelet. The 35-year-old knocked out each and every one of his four remaining opponents on the final day.

Connor Drinan became the second player to win their second bracelet during the early days of this year’s series, following in Ausmus’ footsteps. He came out on top of a field of 607 entries in the $1,500 buy-in Omaha eight-or-better event, locking up $163,252 and his second piece of WSOP hardware. The 32-year-old poker pro now has more than $13 million in total career tournament earnings to his name, including the more than $1.4 million he earned when he took down the final bracelet event of the 2020 WSOP Online.

The $25,000 buy-in no-limit hold’em eight max event was won by Tyler Cornell, who first made his debut on the live tournament circuit over 13 years ago. The 33-year-old San Diego-based poker pro has accumulated more than 200 cashes since then, but remained without a live tournament title heading into this year’s series. The former online specialist finally broke that streak by defeating a field of 135 entries in this prestigious high-stakes event to secure his first gold bracelet and the huge top prize of $833,289.

The $1,500 dealers choice six-max event featured 20 different games for players to choose from. A total of 307 players came out, building a prize pool of $409,845. Canada’s Jaswinder ‘Jesse’ Lally was the last player standing, earning $97,915 and his first gold bracelet for the win. The 58-year-old from Vancouver was down to just 900 in chips on the first day of play, but battled back for the win.

Michael Perrone survived the action-packed $1,000 buy-in no-limit hold’em super turbo bounty event, outlasting a field of 1,640 entries over the course of one mammoth 16-hour day. The recent WPT Choctaw final tablist earned
$152,173 and his first bracelet for his victory in the fast-paced event.

**A Pair of Poker Pros Earn Their Second Bracelets On The Internet**

The first two online bracelet events taking place alongside the in-person WSOP were held on Sunday, Oct. 3. These two events were both hosted on WSOP.com and available to players physically located within the borders of Nevada and New Jersey at the time of play.

The first of these pair of events was the $5,300 buy-in no-limit hold’em freezeout. A 156-player turnout built a prize pool of $780,000 which was paid out among the top 30 finishers. **Martin ‘Bathroomline’ Zamani** was the last man standing, securing his second career bracelet, with both having come in online events. Zamani won his first bracelet in the $888 buy-in pot-limit Omaha event during the WSOP Online earlier this year. In addition to the hardware, Zamani also took home $210,600 for the third-largest payday of his career.

Like Zamani, the winner of the second online event had also previously won a WSOP bracelet on the internet. **Mark ‘NJ_AcesmarkA’ Herm** outlasted a field of 742 entries in the ‘Big 500’ no-limit hold’em event. Herm had made history earlier this year by becoming the first player to ever win a bracelet in his home state of Pennsylvania, having taken down the $500 buy-in ‘Keystone Kickoff’ no-limit hold’em event during the first-ever WSOP Online Pennsylvania series held in August. Pennsylvania had only launched online poker roughly a month prior to that series being held. Herm, who recently appeared on Card Player’s Poker Stories podcast, took home $89,356 for his second online bracelet victory.

For more from the 2021 World Series of Poker, visit CardPlayer.com.
### Event Player Payout (POY)

- **$1,500 Dealers Choice**
  - Oct. 3-5
  - Entries: 307
  - Prizepool: $409,845
  - 1. Jesse Lally $97,915 (480)
  - 2. Andrew Kelsall $60,514 (400)
  - 3. Ray Henson $40,062 (320)
  - 4. Ian O’Hara $27,147 (240)
  - 5. Adam Kipnis $18,839 (200)
  - 6. Christopher Linder $13,396 (160)

- **$1,000 NLHE KO**
  - Oct. 5
  - Entries: 1,640
  - Prizepool: $1,459,600
  - 1. Michael Perrone $152,173 (1080)
  - 2. Pierre Calamusa $94,060 (900)
  - 3. Jeremiah Fitzpatrick $69,454 (720)
  - 4. Scott Podolsky $51,787 (540)
  - 5. Paul Dhaliwal $38,996 (450)
  - 6. John Moss $29,657 (360)
  - 7. Paul Jain $22,783 (270)
  - 8. Badr Imejjane $17,680 (180)
  - 9. Gabe Ramos $13,861 (90)

- **$5,300 Online NLHE**
  - Oct. 3
  - Entries: 156
  - Prizepool: $780,000
  - 1. Martin Zamani $210,600
  - 2. Ankush Mandavia $122,850
  - 3. Brian Altman $70,200
  - 4. Calvin Anderson $54,600
  - 5. Daniel Sepiol $46,800
  - 6. Jason Koon $39,000
  - 7. Joe Kuether $29,640
  - 8. Alex Foxen $18,720
  - 9. Soheb Porbandarwala $13,260

- **$500 Online NLHE**
  - Oct. 3
  - Entries: 742
  - Prizepool: $480,150
  - 1. Mark Herm $89,356
  - 2. Steven Rivero $55,217
  - 3. Matt Zazaian $39,084
  - 4. Karina Jett $28,041
  - 5. Jeremy Pekarek $20,358
  - 6. Jesse Yaginuma $14,981
  - 7. Melissa Hawkins $11,187
  - 8. Giovanni Balistreri $8,451
  - 9. Stephanie Baker $6,482
MICHAEL ADDAMO CONTINUES HOT STREAK, WINS SUPER HIGH ROLLER BOWL FOR $3.4 MILLION
27-Year-Old Earns Three Titles In Two Weeks To Become Australia’s All-Time Money List Leader

By Erik Fast

Michael Addamo is on an unbelievable hot streak, leaving some of the best players in the world in his wake as he secures multiple huge titles and millions upon millions in tournament earnings along the way.

The 27-year-old Australian poker pro took down back-to-back events at the end of the Poker Masters to earn over $1.8 million and secure the Purple Jacket in mid-September. The tournaments he won were the two largest buy-in events of that series, with a $50,000 and $100,000 price tag to enter, respectively.

Just over a week later he finished second in another $50,000 high roller event for an additional $322,000 payday, the smallest of his run. And the very next day, he emerged victorious in the Super High Roller Bowl $300,000 buy-in event, defeating a field of 21 entries to add another $3,402,000.

“It hasn’t really sunk in,” Addamo admitted when asked whether he’s been able to put his high-stakes run into perspective yet. “I think maybe after a week with some good sleep and rest that I’ll be like, ‘All right, that was an insane week.’”

These live scores came after an extended run online, where Addamo has climbed the ranks with multiple high roller titles, including the partypoker MILLIONS Online Super High Roller, two World Poker Tour Online high rollers, and a whopping four GGpoker Super MILLIONS events.

Incredibly, Addamo’s final opponent in this event was none other than three-time Super High Roller Bowl event winner Justin Bonomo, who beat Addamo heads-up to win the 2020 SHRBN Online. This time around Addamo was able to get some revenge and secure his first SHRBN ring.

“I’d say I’m a very competitive person, so I was definitely trying my best and battling hard,” said Addamo when asked about the rematch with Bonomo.

The score brought Addamo’s career tournament earnings to $17,942,679, which includes some online scores in tour events where real names are reported. The cash was also enough to see him surpass 2005 WSOP main event champion Joe Hachem ($12.4 million) to become Australia’s live tournament earnings leader.

Addamo earned 600 PokerGO Tour rankings points for his latest win, bringing his total for the year to 1,601. With three wins and four cashes on the tour, his qualified earnings now exceed $5.5 million for the season. He currently sits in seventh place on the PokerGO Tour leaderboard as a result of his surge in September.

The SHRBN final table began on the bubble with just five...
players battling for the final three spots in the money. With a buy-in of $300,000, there ended up being a seven-figure difference ($1,008,000 to be exact) between finishing fourth in this event and making the money. Addamo held the chip lead, with Bonomo comfortably in second place.

Alex Foxen lost a key pot with his pair of eights beaten by the eights and deuces of Bonomo, leaving the former college football player on just a handful of blinds. Not long after that, he shoved from the small blind for around seven blinds with $A♣ 5♥ and received a call from Bonomo in the big blind with $K♦ 10♥. Bonomo turned a pair of tens and rivered a straight to take down the pot and narrow the field to four.

With that, Bonomo surpassed 80 big blinds to put more distance between himself and short stacks Chris Brewer and Sean Winter who had around 19 and 23 big blinds, respectively. Winter slapped to the bottom for a while, but won a pre flop race with a small pocket pair facing two Broadway cards to take an important 5.5 big-blind lead over Brewer.

The bubble ultimately burst a few hands later, when Brewer called all-in from the big blind for just under 12 big blinds with $A♦ Q♣. Bonomo had raised enough on the button to put Brewer at risk with $10♥ 4♥. The flop came down $Q♥ 7♥ 5♥, giving Brewer top pair and Bonomo a flush draw. The $J♦ on the turn made Brewer a 4:1 favorite to win the hand and leapfrog Winter on the leaderboard. Unfortunately for the former college track star, the $K♥ completed the board, filling Bonomo’s flush to send a devastated Brewer to the rail on the million-dollar bubble.

Winter found a quick double up to nearly 30 big blinds when his pocket deuces beat the $A—$2 suited of Bonomo. Not too long after that, however, he three-bet all-in with $K♣ 7♠ 7♣, giving Brewer top pair and Bonomo a flush draw. The $J♦ on the turn made Brewer a 4:1 favorite to win the hand and leapfrog Winter on the leaderboard. Unfortunately for the former college track star, the $K♥ completed the board, filling Bonomo’s flush to send a devastated Brewer to the rail on the million-dollar bubble.

Winter also earned plenty of rankings points with his deep run in this event. He took home 240 Card Player Player of the Year points for what was his 15th POY-qualified final table of the year. With 3,301 points, Winter now sits in 12th place in the 2021 POY race, which is sponsored by Global Poker. He also earned 400 PokerGO Tour points, moving him into third place on that leaderboard.

Heads-up play began with Addamo holding 3,670,000 to Bonomo’s 2,630,000. Addamo extended that lead in the early going without much fanfare, only to have Bonomo build back to nearly where heads-up started by the time the final hand of the event was dealt.

With blinds of 15,000-30,000 and a big blind ante of 30,000, Bonomo raised to 80,000 from the button with $Q♣ 10♥. Addamo called from the big blind with $7♥ 2♥ and the flop came down $4♥ 3♣ 2♥. Addamo checked, and Bonomo checked behind. The $Q♦ on turn gave Addamo a flush, and he bet 250,000 into the pot of 190,000. Bonomo called with his top pair.

The river brought the $10♣ and Addamo moved all-in into the pot of 690,000. Bonomo went deep into the tank, and after plenty of thought, he announced the call and was shown the bad news. Addamo locked up the pot and the title with his flush, while Bonomo was eliminated in second place.

Bonomo earned $1,890,000 as the runner-up, falling just short of securing his fourth SHRBR title. He won his first in the 2018 SHRBR China, and later that year took down the SHRBR IV in Las Vegas. Those two victories saw him earn $4,823,077 and $5,000,000. He added another $1,775,000 as the 2020 SHRBR Online champion.

He has now cashed in six of the 13 SHRBR events ever held, accumulating $14,595,299. That means approximately 25 percent of his $57,141,422 in career earnings have come in SHRBR events. With this win and some marquee online finishes, Bonomo has surpassed Bryn Kenney ($56,649,561) to move into first place on Card Player’s all-time money list.

Winter’s third seven-figure tournament payday, increasing his lifetime earnings to more than $19.1 million.

Final Table Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
<th>POY Points</th>
<th>PokerGO</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Michael Addamo</td>
<td>$3,402,000</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Justin Bonomo</td>
<td>$1,890,000</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sean Winter</td>
<td>$1,008,000</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>400</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ALI IMSIROVIC, ALEX FOXEN STAY HOT WITH ARIA HIGH ROLLER SCORES

Three high roller events were held at the PokerGO Studio at ARIA Las Vegas in the days leading up to and following the 2021 Super High Roller Bowl, and some very familiar faces ended up in the winner’s circle.

Despite suffering a humanizing mini slump at the Poker Masters with just one cash, Ali Imsirovic bounced back in his usual way by cashing in all three Aria events, coming away with the title in two. He added $769,500 in earnings and 634 Card Player Player of the Year points with his performance. The high roller phenom now has 12 titles and a whopping 26 final-table finishes in POY-qualified tournaments on his résumé so far this year. His year-to-date POY earnings now exceed $4.7 million.

Imsirovic was already the leader in the POY race, but this trio of scores extended the points cushion between him and second-ranked Sean Perry. Imsirovic is now 1,903 points ahead of his nearest competitor. To put that in perspective, a player with that many points to their name would currently be ranked 44th in the overall standings.

Alex Foxen also made moves inside the top 20 as a result of these events. Foxen finished third in the $50,000 buy-in event won by Imsirovic on Sept. 26, earning $184,000 and 634 Card Player Player of the Year points with his performance. The high roller phenom now has 12 titles and a whopping 26 final-table finishes in POY-qualified tournaments on his résumé so far this year. His year-to-date POY earnings now exceed $4.7 million.

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Alex Foxen also made moves inside the top 20 as a result of these events. Foxen finished third in the $50,000 buy-in event won by Imsirovic on Sept. 26, earning $184,000 and 204 points. A few days later he added a runner-up finish to Imsirovic, pocketing another $82,500 and 140 points.

Foxen now occupies the fifth-place spot on the leaderboard. Although he is a threat to win the POY race, he’ll have fewer opportunities to add points to his total after publicly declaring that he was boycotting the live WSOP this fall because of the vaccine mandate. The former Boston College football player did, however, play in WSOP online events. So far he has cashed twice, including an eighth-place finish in a $5,000 no-limit hold’em event for $18,720.
CHAD EVESLAGE CONTINUES BREAKOUT YEAR

Chad Eveslage put himself in POY contention with a trio of tournament wins through the first half of the year, including marquee victories in the $25,000 buy-in high roller at the Seminole Hard Rock Poker Showdown for $767,576 and the World Poker Tour Venetian $5,000 buy-in main event for another $910,370.

Eveslage’s breakout year on the live tournament circuit has continued into the fall, with a pair of final-table finishes at the Poker Masters helping to keep him near the top of the POY rankings. He took fourth in the $10,000 no-limit event for $73,000 and added another $78,000 for his runner-up showing in the $10,000 eight-game event.

He closed the gap on a couple of contenders even further when he final tabled the second event at the WSOP, placing fourth in the $25,000 buy-in HORSE event for $169,218 and 294 points. With his three titles, seven final-table finishes and more than $2.1 million in POY earnings, the 29-year-old currently sits in third place in the POY race with just a few months remaining in 2021.

WINTER SECURES 15TH FINAL-TABLE FINISH WITH DEEP RUN AT SHRB

Sean Winter survived one of the most treacherous money bubbles in poker history to finish third in the Super High Roller Bowl for $1,008,000 and 240 POY points. (Read more about this event on pg. 28) This was the Florida poker pro’s 15th final table of the year, with two titles won along the way.

Winter took down a $25,000 high roller at ARIA in March for $408,000 and 420 points, and won the $50,000 event at the conclusion of the U.S. Poker Open for $756,000 and 510 points. Winter made two final tables at the PokerGO Cup and added another at the Poker Masters. He also has four final-table finishes in Venetian High Rollers this year. Winter has won more than $3.6 million in POY tournaments, the fourth most of any player in 2021. With 3,301 points, he has climbed into 12th place for the time being.

With $19.1 million in career tournament earnings, the 31-year-old sits 33rd on poker’s all-time money list just behind the likes of Nick Petrangelo, Jason Mercier, and the aforementioned Alex Foxen.

GIORGIY SKHULUKHIYA SURGES INTO 16TH PLACE

Giorgiy Skhulukhiya took down the 2021 partypoker LIVE MILLIONS North Cyprus $5,300 buy-in no-limit hold’em main event, outlasting a field of 839 entries to earn the title, the first-place prize of $683,285, and a whopping 1,824 POY points.

This was the Georgian poker pro’s second title of the year, having won a R53,900 ($737 USD) buy-in event at the Sochi Casino & Resort’s Autumn Poker Festival for $58,424 and 360 points. With four other POY-qualified final tables under his belt so far in 2021, including two on the Eurasian Poker Tour and a runner-up finish at EPT Sochi for $104,705, Skhulukhiya has surged up the rankings and into 16th place on the leaderboard. He currently has 2,888 points.

Skhulukhiya’s previous best score was the $220,643 he pocketed for winning the Merit Poker Western main event in January of 2020. He also has wins at EPT Prague, and the Sochi Autumn Poker Festival. He now has $1.67 million in career tournament earnings.

MICHAEL LIANG MOVES INTO 20TH PLACE

The 2021 WSOP $25,000 no-limit hold’em high roller event attracted a field of 135 entries, with Tyler Cornell earning his first bracelet, the $833,289 top prize, and 924 points as the eventual champion. (Read more about this event on pg. 24) Michael Liang finished as the runner-up, taking home $515,014 and 770 points for his third final-table finish of the year.

Liang started out by taking down the $10,000 buy-in L.A. Poker Classic main event for $175,300 and 360 points back in March. In July he finished second to Chad Eveslage in the WPT Venetian main event, adding another $606,890 and 1,600 points. With his latest podium finish at the Rio, Liang has edged inside the top 20 in the rankings, with 2,771 points and more than $1.3 million in POY earnings on the year.

Five of Liang’s top six scores have all come in 2021. Previously, the California pro’s best finish was a win at the WSOP Circuit in Baltimore in 2016. Liang defeated a massive field of 3,641 players in the $365 buy-in event to win a WSOP Circuit ring and $182,920. ♠
## CIRCUIT RESULTS

### Event: DeepStack Extravaganza III
- **Venue:** Venetian, Las Vegas, NV
- **Format:** $400 NLHE
- **Duration:** Sept. 13-18
- **Guaranteed:** $250,000
- **Entries:** 769
- **Prizepool:** $256,077

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Chang</td>
<td>$39,573 (365)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Van Alstyne</td>
<td>$35,204 (304)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Anderson</td>
<td>$22,000 (243)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liran Betito</td>
<td>$16,000 (182)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margie Dacko</td>
<td>$11,250 (152)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Wright</td>
<td>$8,500 (122)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Pitts</td>
<td>$6,500 (91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renato Spahiu</td>
<td>$5,100 (61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sai Pinninti</td>
<td>$4,300 (30)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Event: DeepStack Extravaganza III
- **Venue:** Venetian, Las Vegas, NV
- **Format:** $600 NLHE
- **Duration:** Sept. 23-26
- **Guaranteed:** $200,000
- **Entries:** 538
- **Prizepool:** $271,690

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rahul Deevara</td>
<td>$58,414 (420)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qing Liu</td>
<td>$37,059 (350)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Castro</td>
<td>$26,218 (280)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henok Sellasie</td>
<td>$19,833 (210)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liran Betito</td>
<td>$15,079 (175)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Farrell</td>
<td>$11,275 (140)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Bailey</td>
<td>$8,422 (105)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberto Marin</td>
<td>$6,385 (70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keegan Westover</td>
<td>$4,972 (35)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Event: Super Stack Series
- **Venue:** Hard Rock, Tampa, FL
- **Format:** $1,700 NLHE
- **Duration:** Sept. 16-19
- **Guaranteed:** $150,000
- **Entries:** 323
- **Prizepool:** $484,500

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Elder</td>
<td>$101,865 (480)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Palma</td>
<td>$67,900 (400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likang Berninger</td>
<td>$49,815 (320)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maurice Hawkins</td>
<td>$37,010 (240)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Woodbery</td>
<td>$27,850 (200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Astarita</td>
<td>$21,235 (160)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl Manouchakian</td>
<td>$16,400 (120)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hal Rotholz</td>
<td>$12,840 (80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Mccray</td>
<td>$10,185 (40)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Event: High Roller Series
- **Venue:** Aria, Las Vegas, NV
- **Format:** $50,000 NLHE
- **Duration:** Sept. 26
- **Guaranteed:** $150,000
- **Entries:** 23
- **Prizepool:** $1,150,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ali Imsirovic</td>
<td>$529,000 (306)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Addamo</td>
<td>$322,000 (255)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Foxen</td>
<td>$184,000 (204)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mikita Badziakouski</td>
<td>$115,000 (153)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Event: High Roller Series
- **Venue:** Aria, Las Vegas, NV
- **Format:** $25,000 NLHE
- **Duration:** Sept. 29
- **Guaranteed:** $225,000
- **Entries:** 23
- **Prizepool:** $1,150,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ali Imsirovic</td>
<td>$192,500 (168)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Foxen</td>
<td>$82,500 (140)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Event: High Roller Series
- **Venue:** Aria, Las Vegas, NV
- **Format:** $10,000 NLHE
- **Duration:** Oct. 1
- **Guaranteed:** $30,000
- **Entries:** 30
- **Prizepool:** $300,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Mateos</td>
<td>$113,199 (240)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergi Reixach</td>
<td>$84,801 (200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Imsirovic</td>
<td>$48,000 (160)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giuseppe Iadiszernia</td>
<td>$33,000 (120)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry Hutter</td>
<td>$21,000 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Event: U.S. Poker Championship
- **Venue:** Sycuan Casino, El Cajon, CA
- **Format:** $1,110 NLHE
- **Duration:** Sept. 23-26
- **Guaranteed:** $300,000
- **Entries:** 456
- **Prizepool:** $440,820

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Paten</td>
<td>$94,776 (720)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan McGowan</td>
<td>$58,238 (600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Rosado</td>
<td>$41,966 (480)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Hansen</td>
<td>$31,739 (360)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pej Niyati</td>
<td>$23,804 (300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Hargett</td>
<td>$18,074 (240)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubin Chappelli</td>
<td>$14,106 (180)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vladimir Medvinsky</td>
<td>$11,021 (120)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Galutera</td>
<td>$8,376 (60)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Tournaments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MILLIONS North Cyprus</strong></td>
<td>1. Giorgyi Skhulukhiya</td>
<td>$683,285 (1824)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Robert Reidorn</td>
<td>$494,810 (1520)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Harpreet Gill</td>
<td>$307,295 (1216)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Vytautas Semaska</td>
<td>$226,635 (912)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Fabian Bernhauser</td>
<td>$168,745 (760)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Majid Kamarei</td>
<td>$135,940 (608)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Halli Baybars</td>
<td>$115,010 (456)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. Angelos Michael</td>
<td>$91,470 (304)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9. Hadi Khadra</td>
<td>$68,695 (152)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Classic</td>
<td>1. Maziar Keshavarzi</td>
<td>$71,281 (480)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Nicolas Vayssieres</td>
<td>$44,542 (400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wynn Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td>3. Roman Hrabel</td>
<td>$29,253 (320)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Derek Bowers</td>
<td>$20,492 (240)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. David Trager</td>
<td>$14,994 (200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Bella Iamdina</td>
<td>$11,613 (160)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Joseph Jackson</td>
<td>$9,349 (120)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. Michael Azzaro</td>
<td>$7,762 (80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9. Donny Rubinstein</td>
<td>$6,586 (40)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Classic</td>
<td>1. Bin Weng</td>
<td>$65,136 (432)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wynn Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td>2. Michael Dentale</td>
<td>$40,207 (360)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Daniel Mingins</td>
<td>$26,418 (288)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. William Timoco</td>
<td>$18,300 (216)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Eric Salazar</td>
<td>$13,480 (180)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Peter Dailey</td>
<td>$10,387 (144)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Clement Richez</td>
<td>$8,351 (108)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. Allan Dagio</td>
<td>$6,933 (72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9. Monte Littlefield</td>
<td>$5,902 (36)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Payout (POY)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RunGood Poker Series</td>
<td>1. Sasha Sabbaghian</td>
<td>$40,485 (420)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Valley Lincoln, CA</td>
<td>2. Zihan Men</td>
<td>$37,891 (350)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Jerez Mercado</td>
<td>$36,619 (280)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Shahin Shojaeyan</td>
<td>$17,240 (210)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Victor Villanueva</td>
<td>$13,235 (175)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Randy Gil</td>
<td>$10,890 (140)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Kevin Weimann</td>
<td>$9,088 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. David Ong</td>
<td>$7,180 (70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9. Kevin Nguyen</td>
<td>$5,385 (35)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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HEAD GAMES: ESSENTIAL TOOLS TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME
Three Poker Pros Share Their Different Approaches

By Craig Tapscott

The Pros: Michael Acevedo, Alex Rocha, and Ryan Hohner

Craig Tapscott: What are some of the tools you have used to expand your poker knowledge away from the table, and how did they benefit you?

Michael Acevedo: It really depends on what I’m trying to do. My choice for preflop study was the Monker Solver, but it is by far the most difficult Solver to use. The learning curve is very high, and even for an expert setting up a new GTO (Game Theory Optimal) simulation, it’s very hard and time consuming.

Now I only use FLOP GTO, which is a tool I personally designed and was developed in conjunction with Patrik Antonius. It covers all possible GTO situations for MTTs, Cash Games, and much more. For now, it only has preflop GTO solutions, but post-flop solutions are coming soon. You can download FLOP for free in your app store.

The idea of a tool like this is to offer instant access to any poker situation over the cloud with no need for powerful computers, or any technical knowledge at all with just a few clicks. Preflop is the backbone of poker. If you get preflop right, postflop play becomes much easier.

For post-flop study I use Pio Solver, and custom software I also designed (which will be commercially available soon). There are several solvers in the market. I’ve tried all of them. I also get contacted all the time by people developing new tools who want my opinion. All GTO solvers require some level of technical knowledge, powerful enough hardware, and time to run the solutions. They also have the advantage of being very flexible and allow to be able to solve almost any imaginable poker situation, but the output is only as good as the parameters entered by the user.

There is still a long way to go in poker study tools. As it is right now, there are many things that need to be improved as most poker software looks like it was designed using windows 95 and completely ignored UX design. I do know 100 percent that poker study tools are here to stay, just the same as it happened in chess strategy over the years. They will become a key part of the learning experience for both old and new players alike. Soon people will realize that poker study has to be approached more seriously and technological advances like neural networks and cloud computing will revolutionize the way we study the game forever.

Alex Rocha: Studying the game away from the table is essential if you want to be a successful professional poker player in 2021. There’s a ton of great free content on the internet as well as paid training sites. Even watching poker on TV can help your game.

One of my favorite ways to grow my game has always been talking hands through with my friends and discussing the game and different concepts and scenarios. There really is no other greater way to improve your results and success at the tables.

Also, it’s always a great learning experience to coach other players with less experience than you. At the moment, I coach my girlfriend and her mother. I believe that this experience has helped me immensely and I’m a better player for it. I will do hand history reviews with them and go over ranges in different spots. In turn, this helps me fine tune my own ranges and keeps me from spewing chips in spots I otherwise would have in the past.
Ryan Hohner: The vast majority of my poker knowledge is pure rote memorization. However, there are programs I have invested time and energy in. Using a HUD (Heads Up Display) is essential. If you think I’m going to shill a major software here, well I got three words, “Where’s my patch?” But seriously, the ability to replay and review every hand played is invaluable. Even more important, is HUDs allow the superpower to see my opponent’s hole cards (in the muck). Studying individuals in my player pool and general population at large has proved to be very advantageous. In addition, it’s elicited honesty in my play which has been essential to my game’s growth and progression. PokerGO/YouTube is another source. Watch the final tables streamed on that platform. I’ve watched many in order to consume the game at the highest level and in the most pivotal scenarios. I watch most on mute to avoid any distractions and to think deeply through the lenses of each player. My major takeaways include: 

- ICM (Independent Chip Model), 
- Short stack play, table dynamics, and blind defense.

Preflop Solutions. Before you can build a house, you lay the foundation. Preflop is arguably the most underrated aspect of poker. Knowing what hands are profitable to open, call, three-bet etc. from various positions and stack sizes goes a long way towards simplifying the game for the next stage, post flop. The things I used to do with K-8 offsuit under-the-gun eight-handed with 50 big blinds effective should be illegal in most states. Safe to say, it’s helped my opens improve just a tad.

Poker Training Sites and Masterclasses. I’ve invested in a couple multi-table tournament and cash training courses. But admittedly, I’ve used many of such videos and courses as a bedtime story, because I have issues engaging and focusing for extended periods of time. A few of the courses available are definitely thought-provoking, but it’s important to always take things a step further and put in the work.

Craig Tapscott: What are some of the key strategy tips you learned from your fellow professional players that took your game to the next level?

Michael Acevedo: You don’t have to play poker perfectly or be a wizard to be successful, all you need is to be better than the people you play against. The key is putting some conscious effort into studying regularly and getting better at the game. That will get you ahead of most other players in your games.

The purpose of GTO study isn’t to try to play like a robot, but instead to learn the game mechanics so you can make better decisions at the table. Over the long run the players who make on average better decisions will be making more money. It really is as simple as that.

Even though poker is played individually, I believe it is in many ways a team game. I suggest that you find some poker friends whom you can study and review hands with. But don’t focus on bad beat stories, instead focus on discussing difficult spots. And if possible, get some coaching. You can hire a top coach to give your crew private lessons and raise your game.

Finally, don’t forget that poker is a game. The most important thing is to always have fun. If you don’t enjoy it, you can’t expect to be successful or have longevity in it.

Alex Rocha: The main key for me was talking through hands with my friends over the years. That has been extremely beneficial for the growth of my game and success.

I also pay attention to great players at my tables in every event. It is another way to take your game to the next level. Whether it’s a continuation bet they make or don’t make, a bet sizing they use on a particular board texture, or maybe just an aggressive stare down. There is a goldmine of information to learn at the table by simply paying attention.

My peers and fellow professionals have also helped me away from the table. They’ve helped me to learn that meditating and having a strong mental game is just as important as anything else. Also having a healthy balance between the poker life and outside of poker in my day-to-day life is always important for me and my overall well-being.

Ryan Hohner: I was very fortunate early in my tournament poker career to be surrounded by two of my best friends and mentors, Yong Kwon and Mike Lavenburg. They provided me with confidence, honesty, and criticism that shaped my game. For several years, I was stuck in a false reality that every hand I played was perfect. It was an ugly cycle that I was only
"You don’t have to play poker perfectly or be a wizard to be successful, all you need is to be better than the people you play against. The key is putting some conscious effort into studying regularly and getting better at the game. That will get you ahead of most other players in your games."

able to overcome with their guidance. They gave birth to a newfound hunger for knowledge and improvement that pushed me to breakthroughs.

Kwon and Lavenburg shifted my approach with countless hand history reviews and critiques. They taught me to increase my aggression preflop, size up wet boards post-flop, don’t check brick turns out of position, increase my three-bet frequency big blind versus the burton, fold small pairs shallow in early position, and the list goes on and on.

Most notably, one of the biggest strategy tips I’ve learned from Kwon is MTT poker re-entry strategies and how to set money on fire. Literally. Hockey great Wayne Gretzky said, “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” And that’s great and all but losing 15-20 buy-ins on a Sunday is one thing, and the Taco Bell drive thru at 12:53 a.m. and arguing about their closing time is another. The self-control to cut losses and remove one’s ego from the equation is important and one of my most recent improvements. Especially considering my first five-figure score took not one, not two, but seven tries! 🙁

Michael Acevedo is a leading poker theorist and has racked up more than $2 million in online earnings during his seven-year poker career. The Costa Rica native has coached hundreds of players from all over the world, including superstars such as Patrik Antonius, Brandon Adams, and Jonathan Little. His book ‘Modern Poker Theory’ is available wherever books are sold. Find Acevedo on Twitter @THE_ALEX_ROCHA.

Ryan Hohner is a poker pro with nearly $4 million in combined earnings between live and online play. In 2019, he was ranked no. 1 in the United States among online players on PocketFives.com. He also has two WSOP Circuit rings and earlier this year finished runner-up in a WSOP Online event, narrowly missing out on his first bracelet. Find Hohner on Twitter @RohnerR.

Michael Addamo came in for just the final few events of the Poker Masters, and won the purple jacket going away. The 27-year-old two-time WSOP bracelet winner came into the 2021 Super High Roller Bowl as the hottest player on the live tournament circuit. He demonstrated why in this hand, in which he takes an interesting line to win a big pot without showdown. The hand started with Jake Schindler making a standard size raise with pocket queens as the first to act. It folded to Addamo and he opted to make a notably large three-bet, making it seven times the size of Schindler’s open with 8-7 suited. Schindler called and the flop brought an overcard to Schindler’s pair. Addamo flopped middle pair and backdoor flush straight possibilities. He made a small continuation bet and Schindler called. The turn gave Addamo straight and flush draws to go with his pair. He checked and Schindler checked behind. The K on the river drew another check from Addamo. Schindler decided to go for value with his large pocket pair, firing $5,000 into the pot of 96,500. Addamo seemed to have a good read on the type of hand Schindler might have taken this line with, as he unleashed a check-raise all-in, turning his flopped middle pair into a bluff to apply maximum pressure on just the type of hand that Schindler held. “The guy is just really clicking on all cylinders,” said three-time bracelet winner and WPT champion Nick Schulman, who was commentating on the final table for PokerGO. Schulman noted that Addamo’s hand was well suited for bluffing, as his cards block seven full of kings and 9-8 for the straight. Schindler ultimately folded his pocket queens and Addamo took down the sizable pot with his well-timed move.

ANALYSIS

Michael Addamo came in for just the final few events of the Poker Masters, and won the purple jacket going away. The 27-year-old two-time WSOP bracelet winner came into the 2021 Super High Roller Bowl as the hottest player on the live tournament circuit. He demonstrated why in this hand, in which he takes an interesting line to win a big pot without showdown. The hand started with Jake Schindler making a standard size raise with pocket queens as the first to act. It folded to Addamo and he opted to make a notably large three-bet, making it seven times the size of Schindler’s open with 8-7 suited. Schindler called and the flop brought an overcard to Schindler’s pair. Addamo flopped middle pair and backdoor flush straight possibilities. He made a small continuation bet and Schindler called. The turn gave Addamo straight and flush draws to go with his pair. He checked and Schindler checked behind. The K on the river drew another check from Addamo. Schindler decided to go for value with his large pocket pair, firing $5,000 into the pot of 96,500. Addamo seemed to have a good read on the type of hand Schindler might have taken this line with, as he unleashed a check-raise all-in, turning his flopped middle pair into a bluff to apply maximum pressure on just the type of hand that Schindler held. “The guy is just really clicking on all cylinders,” said three-time bracelet winner and WPT champion Nick Schulman, who was commentating on the final table for PokerGO. Schulman noted that Addamo’s hand was well suited for bluffing, as his cards block seven full of kings and 9-8 for the straight. Schindler ultimately folded his pocket queens and Addamo took down the sizable pot with his well-timed move.

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2021 Super High Roller Bowl
$300,000 Buy-In No-Limit Hold’em

With seven players at the table and blinds of 1,000-1,500 and a big blind ante of 1,500, Jake Schindler raised to 4,000 from under the gun. Michael Addamo three-bet to 28,000 from the big blind and Schindler called.

PREFLOP

FLOP

Addamo bet 19,000, and Schindler called.

TURN

Addamo checked, and Schindler checked behind.

RIVER

Addamo checked, and Schindler bet 55,000. Addamo check-raised all-in, and Schindler folded.

NOTE: WINNING PERCENTAGES DO NOT INCLUDE TIES. ODDS PROVIDED BY CARDPLAYER.COM/Poker.Tools/ODDS-CALCULATOR/TEXAS-HOLD’EM
OMAHA EIGHT-OR-BETTER: PLAYING TWO-WAY HANDS

By Kevin Haney

Limit Omaha Eight-or-Better (O8) is probably the third-most popular poker variant in the world (behind Hold’em and Pot-Limit Omaha) and is fundamental to learn if you ever want to start playing mixed games. As a community card flop game, it helps break up the draw and stud variants that otherwise tend to dominate many rotations.

For those of you who have not been exposed to O8, it is a split-pot game in which everyone is dealt four cards and the object is to make the best high hand along with the best ace-to-five low. A qualifying low must be an eight or better and if a low is not possible or none of the players make one, the high hand will scoop the entire pot.

The best hands to play are low oriented holdings that also have high potential and thus a greater ability to scoop the pot. For example, suppose you have A♥ 2♥ 3♥ 9♦ on a board of 4♥ 5♥ 7♥ 10♣. Against an opponent holding A♠ 4♥ 6♥ 8♠ who currently has the nut straight, you are a 60% equity favorite since you have the low side locked up and are freerolling for the high with your flush draw.

Low hands also have playability advantages on low flops (those with two or more low cards) and can often get better high hands to fold. In other words, low hands will tend to over-realize their equity relative to their opponents.

For example, suppose from early position you open-raise A♥ 2♥ 3♥ 9♦ and an opponent calls from the big blind with K♣ Q♣ Q♦ 10♣. With four cards ten or higher and suited at least once, this is a clear defend, however any high holding will be greatly devalued whenever two or more low cards show up on the flop.

If the flop comes down as 3♥ 7♥ 8♥ the K♣ Q♥ Q♦ 10♣ is all but forced to fold a high hand that is often currently best since a low is usually already made. The A♥ 2♥ 3♥ 9♦ only has a pair of threes; however, in this particular matchup this holding has a 43% chance of ending up with the best high hand and 72% equity overall. You probably won’t have to worry about making the best high as the big blind’s holding will often hit the muck, but you would also be delighted to see him call down with such hands.

In O8, any hand with an A-2 combination with some other good low cards is typically a strong starting hand. But what about a hand such as A♣ J♣ 4♠ 7♣ that has very limited high potential; how much value does this holding have?

The A♣ 2♥ 4♠ 7♣ is playable from any position in a full ring “Berry Patch,” a loose passive game where there is little raising and five or more players typically see the flop. In these games, any holding with an ace-deuce is often profitable.
able, even if the rest of the hand isn’t that hot. The lack of high potential is offset by the fact that the other players play too many hands and will often incorrectly draw to non-nut hands, including non-nut lows.

These fun and relaxing games still exist in many card rooms but have become relatively rare online. Back in the glory days of full ring O8 online, you could have a family pot with the flop somehow coming down A-A-2. With so many key cards showing up on board, it’s obvious people were coming in with all types of hands and the action was great.

Nowadays, most of the action online is six-handed or less and the players are generally more skilled and play a tight aggressive style. Live mixed games typically seat six or seven players and are often populated by competent poker players. In games where our opponents are more selective in their starting hands and don’t always chase weak one way draws, a low holding with very little in the way of high potential can be overrated.

Suppose we are playing in an online six-max game and open-raise A♠ 2♥ 4♣ 7♦ from under-the-gun, otherwise known as the lojack position. The big blind calls and for the purpose of this example we will assume he is defending 75% of his hands and due to our early position open, has chosen to flat his entire range.

It may be somewhat surprising that against this relatively wide range we are actually a 49% equity underdog, and what hurts us most is that A♠ 2♥ 4♣ 7♦ only has a 40% chance to win the high side. That said, this is still a decent situation for us since we have position and the A-2 with counterfeit protection will allow us to safely barrel low boards and get our opponent off of some hands that may ultimately beat us for high.

We are, however, in a relatively shaky spot the times we get raised and isolated by a strong hand. Against a top 15% holding we only have 41% equity, mostly due to the fact that we only have a 33% chance to win the high.

So, what are the takeaways from all of this? There are a few, the first being that a one-way low hand loses value in a tight aggressive six-handed game. While A♠ 2♥ 4♣ 7♦ is probably still playable from any position, it may actually be on the border, and lesser versions such as A♠ 2♥ 6♣ 9♦ and A♠ 2♥ 2♣ 8♦ should be mucked with many players left to act. In O8, not having any flush potential really hurts the value of a holding, middling cards (sixes through nines) are bad, and small pairs are a handicap.

One can make a case for limping in with the weaker low hands in attempt to pull others into the pot; however, that’s not my style. While we could also limp pure high hands, our opponents will mostly envision our holding to be exactly what it is and will usually play well against us. In addition, we will more often end up in a three-way pot which is not a good result with hands with limited high potential. Others may disagree, but six-handed or fewer; my preference is to be a little more selective from early position but open-raise any hand we choose to play.

The A♥ 4♥ Q♣ J♠ isn’t a hand that you would be excited to play seven ways in a loose game, but has a lot more value at shorthanded and aggressive tables. While it’s true that in a loose game this hand is often better than what most everyone else is playing, you still can’t draw to non-nut A-4 low draws or queen high flush draws against a large field. On the button in a limped pot we can take a flyer and hope for a big flop; otherwise this hand should typically be folded.

In tight aggressive games where pots are often contested by only two or three players, having the ability to make the nuts is less important than having better two-way potential. There’s always a high hand awarded, but not always a low, therefore having two-way potential is important against tougher opponents. In the next issue, we will take a detailed look at the features we are looking for in our starting hands.

Kevin Haney is a former actuary of MetLife but left the corporate job to focus on his passions for poker and fitness. He is co-owner of Elite Fitness Club in Oceanport, NJ and is a certified personal trainer. With regards to poker he got his start way back in 2003 and particularly enjoys taking new players interested in mixed games under his wing and quickly making them proficient in all variants. If interested in learning more playing mixed games online, or just saying hello he can be reached at haneyk612@gmail.com

Push Them Around At The Final Table

By Jonathan Little

I recently witnessed an interesting hand from a $1,000 buy-in final table that illustrates how you can use a big stack to push around your opponents. It also shows why middle stacks should actively avoid playing significant pots against the big stack when there are numerous shallow stacks at the table.

Here were the stack sizes at the final table. As you can see, the button had a big chip advantage and was in a good position to apply pressure as players tried to ladder up the payouts.

Hijack: 50 big blinds
Cutoff: 10 big blinds
Button: 80 big blinds
Small Blind: 15 big blinds
Big Blind: 20 big blinds

The player in the hijack (HJ) seat, who just happened to be one of the best players in the world, raised to two big blinds out of his 50-bb stack with A-Q offsuit.
When you are at the final table as the big stack, look to apply pressure, and as the middle stack, look to avoid playing big pots.

A-Q offsuit is a perfectly fine hand that should be raised in essentially all normal circumstances. Folding it, fearing aggression from the big stack or an all-in from a short stack (which A-Q would call) would be much too tight.

The cutoff folded, and the generally loose, aggressive big stack on the button three-bet to seven bbs with K♣ 3♣.

This is a great spot for the button to three-bet with a wide range, including many bluffs, because the initial raiser has to make a point to not go broke before the short stacks. As the big stack, you should actively look to apply immense pressure to the middle stacks who have an extra incentive to wait until the shorter stacks have been eliminated.

The best hands to three-bet with as a bluff are the hands that are not quite good enough to call that also contain an ace, king, or queen blocker. When you have a blocker in your hand, it makes it more difficult for your opponent to have a premium hand due to there being one less strong card available. While K-3 suited is nowhere near good enough to call, it is a fine choice to use as a bluff due to the stack dynamics and the blocker.

Everyone folded back to the initial raiser, who thought for a bit and then folded.

This fold initially seemed quite tight to me, and it might seem that way to you as well, but after thinking it through, it makes sense. If the hijack calls, the pot will be about 16 bbs with 43 bbs remaining in the effective stacks.

This means that if the big stack makes reasonable bets on the flop, turn, and river, all the money will eventually be in the pot. Even if the flop comes A-X-X or Q-X-X, the hijack cannot be thrilled to put all his money in because he could easily be crushed by a premium made hand.

Sometimes it makes sense to take the cautious approach. So, when you are at the final table as the big stack, look to apply pressure, and as the middle stack, look to avoid playing big pots.

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**TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP**

2021 Super High Roller Bowl
$300,000 Buy-In No-Limit Hold’em

**Michael Addamo**

2,790,000 Chips

**Alex Foxen**

790,000 Chips

**Winning Percentage**

Before Flop: 65.0%
After Flop: 71.0%
After Turn: 77.0%

**PREFLOP**

With five players remaining and blinds of 10,000-20,000 and a big blind ante of 20,000, Michael Addamo raised to 40,000 from under the gun. Alex Foxen three-bet to 120,000 from the cutoff and Addamo called.

**FLOP**

Addamo checked, and Foxen bet 65,000. Addamo raised to 195,000. Foxen called.

**TURN**

Addamo checked, and Foxen bet 140,000. Addamo called.

**RIVER**

Addamo checked, and Foxen checked behind.

**NOTE:** Winning percentages do not include ties. Odds provided by CardPlayer.com/poker-tools/odds-calculator/texas-holdem

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**ANALYSIS**

While this wasn’t the largest pot of the final table, it did feature some interesting moves from both players involved. With the seven-figure money bubble now just two eliminations away, a front-running Addamo opened with A-J as the first to act. Medium-stacked Alex Foxen looked down at A-10 suited, facing a raise from the aggressive leader who essentially has the greenlight to raise quite a wide range given the chip dynamic and the looming bubble. Foxen opted to three-bet, and Addamo made the call. An ace-high flop gave both players top pair. Addamo checked and Foxen made a small continuation bet of roughly 22 percent of the size of the pot. Foxen might have felt fairly comfortable with his ten kicker. If he believed that Addamo would four-bet all-in pre flop with hands like A-K and A-Q, then A-J would be the only superior top pair to be wary of. Addamo made an interesting move at this point, unleashing a check-raise with a hand that might often be played with a check-call approach. Foxen made the call and the turn paired the middle card from the flop. Addamo now checked, and Foxen opted for another bet despite having just faced a check-raise. Addamo called and the river changed nothing. Both players checked and Addamo showed his pair of aces with a slightly better kicker to take down the pot. Foxen was left with less than 17 big blinds after the hand. He went on to finish fifth, falling just a couple spots short of the money. Despite bubbling, the WPT main event winner still has 18 final tables in events that qualify for CardPlayer Player of the Year points in 2021, accumulating more than $2.1 million in earnings.

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Jonathan Little is a two-time WPT champion with more than $7 million in live tournament earnings, best-selling author of 15 educational poker books, and 2019 GPI Poker Personality of the Year. If you want to increase your poker skills and learn to crush the games, check out his training site at PokerCoaching.com/cardplayer.
If you don’t know who Padraig Parkinson is, you need to find out. The Irish poker legend is a great follow on Twitter (@padraigpoker), and even better to hang out with in person. I met him soon after having the great fortune to run good at just the right time in 2004, and win that big tournament. I remember doing a fun interview with him at his vacation rental during the World Series of Poker one summer and getting challenged on his indoor putting green. (As I recall, I made the putt!)

While any time spent with Padraig is certain to result in a good story, I wanted to share my favorite. It was around 2005 and I was playing in a European Poker Tour series in Dublin. It was being held in a conference room at a hotel, kind of far from the city center. There was not much near the hotel, but it did have a bar, so that is where most of the “hanging out” was taking place.

I was in there having some “craic” with Padraig and a fun group of blokes. Everyone but me was drinking (I’m allergic to alcohol), a few were drunk, and Padraig was rather well toasted. A young guy approached the group of us with a napkin in his hand, and politely asked for my autograph.

Now, I was happy to give the kid my autograph, but a napkin is really hard to write on. Plus, you just know it is never going to be kept for long. I suggested he get out some cash, as that is easier to sign, looks better, and he might actually keep and display it.

He smiled and agreed, pulling out his wallet and taking out a 5 euro note. As he started to hand it to me, however, Padraig pushed his hand away and started laying into the poor guy. I’m putting the rest in quotes, although these are not necessarily his exact words. But they certainly are accurate with regard to conveying the gist of this story.

“What the fawk is this? FIVE euros? Are you fawking kidding me?! This is the fawking World Champion! Five euros is a fawking insult!”

Now looking at the rest of the group, Padraig continued, “Would you believe this fawk! Five fawking euro note, and he wants the autograph of the World Champ, for fawks sake!”

Looking back to the poor kid, he continued, “Here’s how you do it!”

With that, Padraig pulled out his wallet, and removed from it a 50 euro note. He handed it to me, and said, “Sign this for the kid.” I made sure he was serious, and signed the bill, handing it to the young man.

Before he could start to thank me, Padraig pulled another 50 from his wallet, and grabbed the pen from my hand. After scribbling something down, he then handed it to me, saying, “Here Champ, this one is special, and it’s for you. It might be worth something someday.”

I look down and was totally gob-smacked. Padraig had autographed the note, and under that, he had added “1957-2009.” Now, keep it mind it was 2005, and it seemed as if Padraig had just indicated he expected to die in four years. I was floored, and refused to accept the note.

He insisted, and as I’ve made clear, he was quite drunk. Finally, I relented. I told him I will accept it on one condition. I would hold onto it until 2010, at which point he will still be alive and spreading joy, and he will accept it back from me. He drunkenly agreed.

Time marched on to 2010. I was at the WSOP in Las Vegas, and ran into Padraig, so I pulled the 50 from my wallet and handed it to him. He asked me what it was, since he didn’t think I owed him any money. I told him to look at it, assuming it would jog his memory. He got a quizzical look on his face, indicating he had zero recollection of the entire incident!
I laughed, he laughed, and I told him the whole story. He seemed rather sheepish about it, but said, “Yeah, back then, that sounds like me,” while putting the cash in his pocket. In addition to being a top poker player (he finished third in the WSOP main event in 1999), Padraig is a great character, and a kind-hearted man. If you get the chance, spend some time with him, and just listen to his stories. I guarantee you will be better and happier for doing so. Cheers, my friend! I hope your prediction is off by at least another 30 years!

Have fun, and play smart! ♠

Greg Raymer is the 2004 WSOP world champion, winner of numerous major titles, and has more than $2 million in earnings. He recently authored “FossilMan’s Winning Tournament Strategies,” available from D&B Publishing, Amazon and other retailers. He is sponsored by Blue Shark Optics, YouStake, and ShareMyPair. To contact Greg please tweet at him using @FossilMan or go to www.FossilManPoker.com.

A controversy recently erupted over an outfit called PokerPaint, which takes photographs from the world of poker and manipulates them so they look very cool. The problem is that PokerPaint apparently neglected to get permission to use the underlying photographs. Was it necessary to get permission? This question gets us into the world of copyright law.

I often ask people if they have ever obtained copyright protection for anything, and they almost always answer, “No.” But they are wrong. Copyright attaches to our literary, artistic, and musical expressions as soon as they are fixed in a tangible or machine-readable form. So, when you write an email, scribble a sketch, or record a tune, then boom – copyright protection falls from the sky!

Nor does anyone judge the artistic worthiness of the expression. When you write a letter to your mom or when you point and click your phone to take a photo, copyright protection attaches to these mundane works as long as the expression is original. “Original” in this context means only that the work originates with you; it does not mean it has to be artistically original.

If I stand in the same place as you and take a photo of the same scene, I am also entitled to copyright protection for my original work even though it looks a lot like yours.

Therefore, when you see creative works such as photographs posted on the internet, unless they are very old (likely prior to 1926), they are probably protected by copyright. But you don’t see any copyright notice on them, you say. In fact, since 1978 it has not been necessary to put notice on a work to secure copyright protection. There are some benefits to doing so, but it is not necessary.

That gets us to registration. When I asked if you had ever obtained copyright protection, you probably thought, “No, I have never registered anything with the Copyright Office.” But that step is not necessary to obtain copyright protection, as described above.

However, you do have to register it in order to bring a suit for copyright infringement. The office is way behind, so that will take a while to do. And once it is registered, that does not guarantee that you have a valid copyright. Unlike the Patent and Trademark Office, the Copyright Office does not compare the work to past works to determine whether the work is entitled to copyright protection. All you are registering is a “claim” to copyright, so the defendant can still argue that your work was not entitled to copyright protection.

If you register your work before the infringement takes place, then you are entitled to what are called “statutory damages” – damages as laid out in the Copyright Act. Sometimes a person innocently posts a photo or a poem on their web page and then gets a demand letter from the owner of the copyright in that work claiming that they owe $200 – that is the minimum statutory damage for an unintentional infringement. So, if the work you created has commercial value, it may well be worth springing for the $45 to register it in order to get statutory damages if it is infringed.

Once copyright attaches, the copyright owner has the exclusive right to make use of the work. This includes not only the right to make copies, but the right to make “derivative works” – which the Copyright Act defines as “a work based upon one or more pre-existing works, such as a translation, musical arrangement, dramatization, fictionalization, motion picture version, sound recording, art reproduction, abridgment, condensation, or any other form in which a work may be recast, transformed, or adapted.” That last bit sounds a lot like the works that PokerPaint is making from the photographs.

The owner of PokerPaint apologized and said that in the future he would get permission from the photographer. It is not as simple as that, however. It is necessary to get permission from the copyright owner, who may or may not be the photographer. When I write a book, I obtain copyright as soon as the words enter my word processor. However, when I contact a publisher, the publisher may ask me to enter into a contract in which I assign the copyright to the publisher. After I have done that, I can’t give you permission to quote from my book – only the publisher can.

If the photographer is an independent contractor, then copyright belongs to the photographer even if she was paid to take the photograph. In that case, the hiring party often gets the photographer to assign the
ANALYSIS & COMMENTARY

When Shouldn’t You Make Tournament Deals?

By Alan Schoonmaker

My previous column explained why timing is so important when you’re making final table deals. Your EV and power can change very quickly, so it’s important to strike when the time is right.

This column will address the opposite, and help you identify the times when it is NOT ideal to make a deal.

Some reasons for why you should refuse a deal include…

• Your Expected Value is higher than the proposed deal.
• Your Expected Value will probably go up soon.
  “Keep playing” doesn’t mean you will play until there is only one winner. The delay can be much shorter, perhaps just one more hand.

The specific recommendations you’ll read here are not absolute. If someone makes a great offer, grab it (or try for more). But don’t act too quickly. Take a few minutes and ask yourself a few questions.

• Why are they offering this deal?
• How much do they want it? If they are hungry for a deal, you can probably get more.
• Is the deal as good as it looks?
• Should you try for a better deal?
• Should you keep playing?

Sometimes, you will learn that it’s not as good a deal as you first thought. Or you’ll see that you can probably get a better one. Or you will realize that you should just keep playing. Several factors should make you less willing to make a deal.

You’re A Better Player

The bigger your edge, the more you are likely to gain by playing. But never forget that you probably overestimate yourself and underestimate them.

Even if you’re usually better, you may not have an edge now. If you’re sleepy, have a headache, or want to quit for any reason, your playing EV is smaller than usual.

You’re The Chip Leader

There are at least three reasons to keep playing.

1. You have a good chance to take first place, and it pays much more than second.

2. You make deals to end the risk of busting out. As the chip leader, it’s unlikely to happen soon.

3. Some opponents may be so afraid of busting out that they play too cautiously. You can run over them and build your stack, EV, and chances to win it all.

The Blinds Aren’t Too Big

The more big blinds everyone has, the more important your skill edge becomes. If you have a significant playing edge and enough time to exploit it, keep playing.

Opponent(s) Are Very Short-Stacked

Short-stacked players naturally want a deal, but you shouldn’t necessarily give them one. Don’t be rude. Just say something like, “Not now,” or “Maybe later.”

These columns about deals are taken from a book I’m writing with “Miami” John Cernuto and Jan Siroky. Jan is a highly respected tournament coach, and John has cashed in more tournaments than any player in history.

I asked John why he doesn’t negotiate when one or more opponents are short-stacked:

“Let’s say there are five players left, and you have 20 big blinds,” said John. “You’re comfortable. One player has six BB, and another has three. Wait for them to go bust. If you do a deal here, a lot of the money that you could get will go to the shorter stacks.”

John also admitted that he and others sometimes made a careless mistake.

“Another mistake I made, but it wasn’t just me…it was everybody at the table. We decided to do some sort of chip chop. I don’t remember the exact details. But one guy only had two bigs left, and his big blind was next. Nobody caught it, and he went along with the deal, of course, because he would probably go bust. It was a small tournament, a daily. Because we were unobservant, myself included, he got away with one. All we had to do was wait, and we could have chipped up a few extra bucks.”

There are two lessons for you:

1. Never stop studying your opponents and their stacks. If John could make that mistake, so can you.

2. Admit and learn from your mistakes. It’s one of our book’s main lessons and a foundation of John’s success.

In a later column, we will look at trademark, which is a related but distinguishable form of intellectual property.

Boom! I just got copyright protection for this column.
**TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP**

2021 Super High Roller Bowl $300,000 Buy-In No-Limit Hold’em

With two players remaining and blinds of 15,000-30,000 and a big blind ante of 30,000, Justin Bonomo raised to 80,000 from the button, and Addamo called from the big blind.

**FLOP**

Addamo checked, and Bonomo checked behind.

**KING**

Addamo bet 250,000, and Bonomo called.

**RIVER**

Addamo moved all-in. Bonomo called all-in for 2,065,000.

**ANALYSIS**

The 2021 Super High Roller Bowl ended with fireworks, as top two players ran into a flush in the wild final hand of the event. The hand began with Bonomo choosing a 2.67 big blind raise size from the button with Q-10 suited. Even when facing more than a min-raise, Addamo had no problem defending his big blind with 7-2 suited. Addamo flopped bottom pair and a flush draw and checked. Bonomo checked behind, perhaps thinking that this flop was more likely to have hit Addamo’s perceived range as the big blind defender than his opening range. The turn brought the Q giving Addamo a flush and Bonomo top pair. Addamo sized up on this turn, making an overbet of 250,000 into the pot of just 190,000. “Addamo has a habit of identifying the perfect play for the perfect time,” noted PokerGO commentator Nick Schulman. Bonomo made the call and the 10 on the end gave him top two pair. The pot now sat at 690,000. Addamo moved all-in, picking an incredible time to go for the home run play. Bonomo had just shy of 2.1 million remaining in his stack, and a brutal decision on his hands. He went deep into the tank. His opponent had already shown the ability to unleash all-in river bluffs in this event, having done so on the live-streamed feature table back on day 1. You can read more about that hand on pg. 36. Bonomo eventually made the call and was shown the bad news. He took home $1.89 million as the runner-up finisher, while Addamo took down the top prize of more than $3.4 million.
**SCHEDULES**

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<td><strong>OCT.</strong></td>
<td>Fall Poker Series</td>
<td>Orleans Hotel &amp; Casino • Las Vegas, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1-Nov. 5</td>
<td>Autumn at ARIA Poker Series</td>
<td>Aria Resort &amp; Casino • Las Vegas, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5-Nov. 14</td>
<td>WPT Rock 'n' Roll Poker Open</td>
<td>Seminole Hard Rock Hotel &amp; Casino • Hollywood, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NOV.</strong></td>
<td>Wynn Fall Classic</td>
<td>Wynn • Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 17-Dec. 1</td>
<td>World Series of Poker Europe</td>
<td>Kings Casino • Rozvadov, Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Nov. 19-Dec. 8</td>
<td>Bike Poker Series</td>
<td>The Bicycle Casino • Bell Gardens, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 26-Dec. 23</td>
<td>DeepStack Extravaganza (NYE)</td>
<td>Venetian Hotel &amp; Casino • Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEC.</strong></td>
<td>WPT Five Diamond Poker Classic</td>
<td>Bellagio Hotel Casino • Las Vegas, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2-19</td>
<td>WPT Five Diamond Poker Classic</td>
<td>Bellagio Hotel Casino • Las Vegas, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 20-22</td>
<td>PokerGO Tour Championship</td>
<td>Aria Resort &amp; Casino • Las Vegas, NV</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Game</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARIZONA</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $200</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $125</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $145</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $125</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CALIFORNIA</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $80</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $60</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $60</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARIANTRY</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $125 AO $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $125 AO $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $250 ($25K Guarantee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLORIDA</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $230 AO $5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>NLH, $150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PLAYER_44_Schedules.indd 44**
### MGM National Harbor - Oxon Hill

**Monday**
- 11:15 a.m.: NLH, $220
- 7:15 p.m.: NLH, $320 KO $75

**Sunday**
- 6:15 p.m.: NLH, $130

### MGM National Harbor - Oxon Hill

**Monday**
- 11:15 a.m.: NLH, $140 ($5K Guarantee)
- 7:15 p.m.: NLH, $240 ($10K Guarantee)

**Tuesday**
- 11:15 a.m.: NLH, $165 KO $25 ($5K Guarantee)
- 7:15 p.m.: NLH, $240 KO $50 ($5K Guarantee)

**Wednesday**
- 11:15 a.m.: NLH, $140 ($5K Guarantee)
- 7:15 p.m.: NLH/PLO, $240 ($6K Guarantee)

**Thursday**
- 11:15 a.m.: NLH, $360 ($20K Guarantee)

### Sahara - Las Vegas

**Daily**
- 12:00 p.m.: NLH, $60 RB $20 AO $20 ($750 Guarantee)
- 11:00 a.m.: O H/L / SH/L, $80 ($750 Guarantee)

### South Point Casino - Las Vegas

**Monday**
- 10:05 a.m.: NLH, $80 ($5K Guarantee)
- 2:05 p.m.: NLH, $80 ($2.5K Guarantee)
- 6:05 p.m.: NLH, $150 ($12K Guarantee)

### North Carolina

**Harrington’s - Cherokee**

**Monday-Thursday**
- 7:00 p.m.: NLH, $140

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**Welcome to Freedom**

Chumash Casino Resort
After major disruptions in 2020 due to the global pandemic and resulting live poker shutdown, the World Poker Tour has returned strong with 14 main tour events coming to a conclusion so far in 2021. The tour’s 18th season wrapped up in April, with season XIX getting straight underway in May.

The WPT has featured both live and online main events this year. Rok Gostisa added his name to the Mike Sexton Champions Cup in late September, defeating a field of 1,177 entries to win the WPT World Online Championships $5,300 buy-in no-limit hold’em main event. Gostisa overcame three-time WSOP bracelet winner David Peters heads-up to secure the title and the top payday of $959,493. This was his second cash in a WPT online main event, having placed 21st in the WPT Montreal Online that was ultimately won by Jack Hardcastle. Gostisa has surged into fourth place on the 2021 WPT earnings leaderboard as a result of his title run.

Brek Schutten is the current leader thanks to the massive $1,261,095 payday he secured as the champion of the WPT Seminole Hard Rock Poker Showdown main event, which drew a record-setting field of 2,482 entries back in April. Balakrishna Patur is the only other player to have surpassed the million-dollar mark in WPT earnings this year. Patur took down the long-delayed 2020 WPT L.A. Poker Classic main event for $1,015,000 to secure the second-place spot on this leaderboard.

Brian Altman finished third in the 2020 WPT Borgata Winter Poker Open main event, which had been postponed for more than a year, earning $533,012 for his deep run. Just over a month later he took down the 2021 WPT Seminole Hard Rock Tampa main event for another $613,225 and his third WPT main event title. With seven final tables and 30 cashes on the tour overall for a total of $2.8 million, the Boston pro sits in 37th place on the WPT all-time money list.

The tour’s next live stop will be the WPT Seminole Rock ‘N’ Roll Poker Open running from Nov. 26 through Dec. 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>2021 WPT Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Brek Schutten</td>
<td>$1.26 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Balakrishna Patur</td>
<td>$1.04 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Brian Altman</td>
<td>$995k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rok Gostisa</td>
<td>$978k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Viet Vo</td>
<td>$966k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chad Eveslage</td>
<td>$910k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Steven Snyder</td>
<td>$906k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Qing Liu</td>
<td>$874k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jack Hardcastle</td>
<td>$719k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Veerab Zakarian</td>
<td>$675k</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2021 WORLD POKER TOUR EARNINGS LEADERBOARD

POKER LEADERBOARD
FOOTBALL FRENZY

MONDAY & THURSDAY NIGHTS
& SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

$25,000 END OF SEASON DRAWINGS

GUESS THE FINAL SCORE WIN $2,500

GAME SCORE DRAWINGS

$200 EVERY TOUCHDOWN // $100 EVERY FIELD GOAL

SUNDAYS 12PM - 7:30PM // MONDAYS & THURSDAYS 5PM - 7:30PM

$2 DRAFT BEER // $1 STADIUM FOOD

RACING FOR DOLLARS

PLAY LIVE POKER

20 HOURS = $40

100 HOURS = $400

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NOV. 26 – DEC. 23

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