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## \$2,000 MAIN EVENT

**January 27 - February 7**

Date	Time	Event	Buy-in	Chips
Thursday, January 27	12PM	Event #1 NLH Day 1A	\$560	20,000
Friday, January 28	12PM	Event #1 NLH Day 1B	\$560	20,000
Saturday, January 29	12PM	Event #1 NLH Day 1C	\$560	20,000
	3PM	Event #2 H.O.R.S.E	\$260	15,000
Sunday, January 30	12PM	Event #1 Final Day - <i>Live Streamed</i>		
	1PM	Event #3 NLH w/\$100 Bounties	\$360	15,000
Monday, January 31	12PM	Event #4 NLH	\$160	12,000
Tuesday, February 1	12PM	Event #5 NLH Monster Stack	\$360	20,000
Wednesday, February 2	12PM	Event #6 NLH Turbo w/\$50 Bounties	\$260	12,000
	3PM	Event #7 NLH Ladies Event - <i>Live Streamed</i>	\$320	15,000
Thursday, February 3	12PM	Event #8 NLH 6 MAX	\$1,000	20,000
<b>Friday, February 4</b>	<b>12PM</b>	<b>Main Event NLH Day 1A</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Saturday, February 5</b>	<b>12PM</b>	<b>Main Event NLH Day 1B</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
	5PM	Event #9 Pot Limit Omaha	\$360	20,000
<b>Sunday, February 6</b>	<b>12PM</b>	<b>Main Event Day 2</b>		
	1PM	Event #10 The bestbet 500	\$500	20,000
<b>Monday, February 7</b>	<b>4PM</b>	<b>Main Event Final Table - <i>Live Streamed</i></b>		

Event #1 and Main Event will be live reported by PokerNews.com and the final table will be livestreamed on bestbetLIVE



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Management reserves the right to change or cancel this tournament at any time.

## NEWS FROM THE GAMBLING WORLD



# POKER PLAYER REPORTEDLY BREAKS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR LONGEST SESSION

By Steve Schult



Zach Gensler appears to have broken poker pro Phil Laak's Guinness World Record for the longest poker session in history.

In 2010, Laak set the benchmark after playing \$10-\$20 no-limit hold'em at Bellagio for 115 hours. Gensler beat that mark by a decent margin earlier this month after recording a 124-hour session at Resorts World playing \$1-\$3 no-limit hold'em.

"I wanted to be a part of poker history," Gensler told *Card Player* when asked why he wanted to break Laak's record.

Gensler sat down to start his marathon session at 3 p.m. on Oct. 27 and picked up his chips and went to the cage at 7 p.m. on Nov. 1.

While Guinness hasn't officially awarded the record to Gensler just yet, the Resorts World Poker Room staff helped document the session and believes it will be verified by the company soon.

"Not official, but the way we were told was the player could bank 5 minutes of break time for every hour played," the poker room tweeted from its official Twitter account on Nov. 3. "You can rest/sleep on your break. We collected 100's of time in/out player witnesses and logged every dealer."

Gensler admitted to catching some shut-eye a couple of times throughout the session, as Laak did 11 years ago. He said that he slept for two hours and 15 minutes after his 40th hour of play and then took another nap for two hours and 30 minutes after he tied the record at hour no. 115. He returned to the poker room and played for another nine hours before cashing out.

He was down less than a buy-in when he tied Laak's feat but ended up down \$1,200 at the completion of the 124 hours.

Laak was in the red as well towards the end of his session but picked up pocket aces against Antonio Esfandiari's pocket queens to put him in the black. At the end of 115 hours, Laak was up \$6,766. He donated half of that sum to campsunshine.org, an organization that provides retreats for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families through various stages of the child's illness.

Gensler began playing poker after the passing of his mother in 2008. The game served as an outlet for him and after hitting a bad beat jackpot at Golden Gates Casino in 2010, he began taking the game more seriously.

After diving into the game, he found himself playing some long sessions at some of his home casinos in Minnesota. Eventually, he decided to break Laak's record and began training for the accomplishment through healthier eating habits, long bike rides, and of course some longer poker sessions.

In April 2019, he did a "warmup" session at Aria casino where he played for 80 hours straight.

In the days after setting the record, Gensler said that he was doing his best to catch up on sleep but was still feeling sharp.

"I'm still recovering, but getting more energetic every day," said Gensler. ♠



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# AMERICAS CARDROOM SIGNS CHRIS MOORMAN AND KATIE LINDSAY TO SPONSORSHIP DEALS

By Card Player News Team



One of the poker's most successful couples were recently announced as team pros for Americas Cardroom. The American-facing online poker site said that it added Chris Moorman and his wife Katie Lindsay to the Americas Cardroom Team.

"It's a huge compliment to be asked to be part of an online poker site," said Moorman. "Only a handful of sponsorships are available these days so it's an incredible feeling to join the ACR team. It validates all the hard work I've put into poker over the years."

Few players have accomplished as much on the felt over the last 15 years as the 36-year-old British pro. Moorman has \$6.15 million in live tournament earnings, including two *World Series of Poker* bracelets, one of which came in an online event this past summer for \$102,406, and a seven-figure score from a *World Poker Tour* title. The victory at the 2014 *LA Poker Classic* main event added a second seven-figure score to his name following a runner-up finish in the 2011 *WSOP Europe* main event.

He also amassed more than \$19 million in online tournament winnings and was ranked as the top online tournament player multiple times over a dominant 15-year career thus far. Most of his online earnings were accumulated in the pre-Black Friday era of online poker, but his two largest scores from the online felt came within the last year.

Moorman finished runner-up to Ravid Garbi in the \$5,000 no-limit hold'em six-max during the 2020 *WSOP Online* International series on GGPoker for \$398,393 and won the \$525 High Roller Millions event on the same site just a few months later for \$251,828.

While Lindsay doesn't have quite the resume as her spouse, she displayed dominance on the felt as well over the last several years. The Las Vegas resident racked up \$2 million in online earnings, as well as more than \$500,000 in live cashes.

According to the announcement, she still values the social aspect of poker and is excited to represent a company she feels is aligned with those values.

"I started playing poker because I love games and this game especially," said Lindsay. "I want nothing more from poker than to try and do my best every time I play, and of course, to have a few drinks and make some new friends. I feel like ACR is aligned with that mentality."

Last January, the two made history as they became the first married couple to compete for a *WSOP Circuit* ring. In the \$320 no-limit hold'em re-entry during the *WSOP Online Circuit*, the 612-entry field came down to Moorman and Lindsay heads-up.

Ultimately, Moorman earned the victory and \$19,510, while Lindsay added \$14,443 as the runner-up. ♠



## VIRGINIA VOTERS REJECT RICHMOND CASINO PROPOSAL

By Steve Schult

In 2020, Virginia voters approved the construction of casinos in Danville, Portsmouth, Norfolk, and Bristol. The state capital, Richmond, was also eligible to have a referendum on the issue but decided to wait a year before having voters make the choice.

Richmond became the only eligible city in Virginia to have its citizens vote against casino gambling within its city limits.

According to a report from *The Virginian-Pilot*, 51.2% of the voters said 'no' to the initiative, while 48.8% were in favor of the proposal. It was a difference of about 1,200 votes and was a bit of a surprise result given how easily the other cities passed the initiatives a year earlier.

Last March, there were six gambling companies battling for the rights to build a casino in Richmond. Bally's, Golden Nugget, The Cordish Companies, Urban One, and two tribes were all battling for the city's single gaming license.

The city trimmed the field from six to three the following month with just Bally's, Urban One and the Maryland-based Cordish Companies, which owns the LIVE!-branded casinos. Ultimately, the city's casino advisory panel chose Urban One to build ONE Casino + Resort in Richmond.

The property was supposed to create 1,300 jobs, \$25.5 million in immediate revenue to the city government, and was touted as the nation's first and only Black-owned casino and resort. The plans for the casino included a 250-room hotel tower, a 3,000-seat theatre, 100,000 square feet of casino gaming, 15 bars and restaurants, and a 15,000-square-foot soundstage for media productions.

The company was looking to break into the gambling industry and build its first casino. The Maryland-based Urban One currently functions as a media company, owning and operating 55 radio stations and one cable network. It partnered with Peninsula Pacific Entertainment for the project and was supposed to build the property on the city's South Side, just off Interstate 95.

"While extremely disappointed, our entire Urban One family, my mother and business partner, Cathy Hughes, and I accept the will of city of Richmond residents," said Urban One CEO Alfred C. Liggins III in a statement. "For the last two years, we have worked so hard to build a large and inclusive tent with our ONE Casino + Resort project. We had a lot of loyal supporters who worked tirelessly on behalf of this project and for whom we will be eternally grateful. We ran a robust campaign and strongly believe this is a huge missed opportunity for Richmond residents to have a tourist attraction that would have provided the financial resources to improve schools and roads as well as enrich the lives of its citizens." ♠

## CAESARS SPORTSBOOK

### CAESARS SPORTSBOOK PARTNERS WITH MADISON SQUARE GARDEN AS ONLINE BETTING LAUNCH NEARS

By Steve Schult

Caesars Sportsbook inked a partnership with some of New York City's largest sports and entertainment franchises as online and mobile betting is on the cusp of launching in the Empire State.

The entity of Caesars Entertainment announced a multi-year agreement between the online sportsbook and Madison Square Garden Corp., according to a press release. The agreement makes the company the official sports betting partner of the NBA's New York Knicks and the NHL's New York Rangers.

Caesars Sportsbook will have a branded hospitality suite inside the arena that will be open for most events taking place at the arena, including Knicks and Rangers games. The company will also receive prominent advertising space inside Madison Square Garden.

"Caesars Sportsbook is ready for expansion into New York," said Eric Hession, Co-President of Caesars Digital in the press release. "To partner with these legendary New York brands for compelling creative content and branding uniquely positions us to reach the avid sports fans in the region."

The partnership was announced about a week after a group that Caesars was a part of received one of two licenses to operate online sports betting in New York.

According to a report from the *Queens Chronicle*, the New York State Gaming Commission awarded an online sports betting license to a group consisting of Caesars Sportsbook and Wynn Interactive, which teamed up with Resorts World and Rush Street to operate an online betting operation.

The other license was given to a group comprised of the two biggest daily fantasy sports companies FanDuel and DraftKings. Between all the licenses awarded, there will be nine online sportsbooks available to New York gamblers.

Online betting is legal in the three states that are in close proximity to New York City as New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania all legalized online sports betting in the last several years. Pro-gambling lawmakers from the Empire State argue that its citizens are traveling into neighboring states to place bets and that the local government was missing out on tax revenue by not legalizing the activity.

One of the most prominent lawmakers in the state, Sen. Joseph Addabbo told the outlet that he believes the New York mobile sports betting market will launch in time for the 2022 Super Bowl. ♠



## U.S. COMMERCIAL CASINOS HAVE THIRD STRAIGHT QUARTER WITH RECORD REVENUE

By Steve Schult

The third quarter of 2021 was the best quarter in the history of the U.S. casino industry.

According to numbers released by the American Gaming Association, commercial casinos in the country set a quarterly record with \$13.89 billion during the three-month period.

The market is on pace to demolish the annual gross gaming revenue record of \$43.56 billion with non-tribal casinos generating just shy of \$39 billion through the first nine months of the year. It's the third straight quarter with the industry experiencing all-time highs following a \$13.6 billion win in the second quarter and \$11.1 billion during the first three months of 2021.

"Two straight quarters of record gaming revenue is an incredible accomplishment in any context, let alone after the most challenging year in industry history," said AGA president and CEO Bill Miller in a statement. "Our recovery is not a flash in the pan, but rather a sustained result of our leadership in responsible reopening, world-class entertainment offerings, and widespread favorability."

The revenue generated by gamblers through the first three quarters of 2021 has already surpassed the total for 2020, which was plagued by government-mandated shutdowns of the casino industry in response to the pandemic.

As regional markets began to reopen, there were several

CEOs claiming that the market would rebound because of pent-up demand stemming from the lack of live entertainment for gamblers and tourists for most of 2020. Clearly, at least some of the revenue surge is a result of that demand.

Jane Bokunewicz, the director of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality, and Tourism at Stockton University in New Jersey, told the *Associated Press* that she agreed with those CEOs.

"After a year of restrictions and quarantines, people were anxious to get out and enjoy in-person experiences again," said Bokunewicz. "The casino industry responded quickly to implement clean and safe protocols providing a welcoming environment to people seeking safe social activities."

She also said that the growth of internet gaming in the wake of the pandemic also added to the record-setting period between July and September. Online gambling operators set a quarterly record by winning \$938.6 million from gamblers.

A sharp increase in tourism also added to the industry's explosive growth. Las Vegas, one of the nation's biggest gambling markets and most dependent on tourists, saw a 10% increase in tourism in the third quarter compared to the second with 9.2 million people visiting Sin City. ♠



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# Live The Dream With PokerGO's Stairway To Millions

Climb Your Way Into A \$100,000 Buy-In  
Tournament To Play For \$3 Million GTD

By Tim Duckworth and Donnie Peters

There have been many rags-to-riches stories in poker. The biggest of them all is one that everyone in poker knows all too well, and that's the tale of Chris Moneymaker turning an online satellite into \$2.5 million and a gold bracelet when he took down the 2003 *World Series of Poker* main event.

But you too can write your name in poker's history books. PokerGO is keeping the ultimate dream alive with the first-ever *Stairway To Millions* event coming up in January 2022.

PokerGO's inaugural *Stairway to Millions* takes place at the PokerGO Studio at ARIA Resort & Casino in Las Vegas from Jan. 12-20, 2022. The eight-event series features \$3 million in prize pool guarantees and offers players the opportunity of a lifetime to turn a modest \$1,000 buy-in into a massive \$100,000 tournament entry and the chance to compete for a \$1 million prize.

The *Stairway to Millions* has eight different buy-in levels, starting at \$1,000 and going up to the direct buy-in of \$100,000. In each event level prior to the \$100,000 finale, players who finish in the money will automatically qualify

for the next event level. The next level's buy-in will be automatically deducted from a player's payout.

Unlike a standard satellite tournament, each event level is a two-day event that plays down to a winner. After securing the seats into the next tournament, the rest of the prize pool is paid out accordingly.

The conclusion of each event level will be showcased to viewers around the world via the PokerGO.com platform.

Players can directly buy into any of the eight scheduled *Stairway to Millions* events for a chance to ladder up to the next level. Each event boasts a prize pool guarantee, with the guaranteed prize amounts growing as the series goes on. The first three event levels feature \$100,000 guaranteed prize pools. The \$100,000 buy-in finale has a whopping \$1.2 million prize pool guarantee.

The first three events will also share similar structures with 30-minute blind levels. Events 4-7 will have 40-minute blind levels, and the event 8 finale will have 60-minute blind levels. The final four events of the series, events 5-8, will qualify for 2022 PokerGO Tour points as the buy-ins are greater than \$10,000.



### Stairway To Millions Schedule & Details

Jan. 12 at 12 p.m. PT	Event #1: \$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em	\$100,000 GTD
Jan. 13 at 12 p.m. PT	Event #2: \$2,000 No-Limit Hold'em	\$100,000 GTD
Jan. 14 at 12 p.m. PT	Event #3: \$4,000 No-Limit Hold'em	\$100,000 GTD
Jan. 15 at 12 p.m. PT	Event #4: \$8,000 No-Limit Hold'em	\$200,000 GTD
Jan. 16 at 12 p.m. PT	Event #5: \$15,000 No-Limit Hold'em	\$300,000 GTD
Jan. 17 at 12 p.m. PT	Event #6: \$25,000 No-Limit Hold'em	\$500,000 GTD
Jan. 18 at 12 p.m. PT	Event #7: \$50,000 No-Limit Hold'em	\$500,000 GTD
Jan. 19 at 12 p.m. PT	Event #8: \$100,000 No-Limit Hold'em	\$1,200,000 GTD

For the latest schedule and details, check out [PokerGOnews.com](https://www.pokernews.com)

In a similar fashion to all events held inside the PokerGO Studio, each tournament will have a 30-second poker shot clock in play. Players must be in the registration line prior to the 12 p.m. PT start time to qualify for any discounts on entry fees.

*Stairway to Millions* gives non-high roller players the opportunity to not only play a poker tournament inside the PokerGO Studio, but also do so at a level many can only dream about playing. The PokerGO Studio is one of the most luxurious settings for a poker tournament, and *Stairway To*

*Millions* players will have the chance to reach the final table and be part of the PokerGO.com live stream that airs the following day.

"With so many of our regular events at the PokerGO Studio featuring buy-ins of \$10,000 or more, we are pleased to present the first-ever *Stairway To Millions* and give players at all levels the chance to compete in a six-figure buy-in for a million-dollar prize," said PokerGO President Mori Eskandani. "This uniquely formatted event has several points of entry and culminates with a \$100,000 finale. For those who have dreamt of playing at the highest levels, the *Stairway To Millions* is the perfect opportunity to do so while also winning money as you climb to the top."

"Playing in the PokerGO Studio and competing for millions of dollars is something we hope all players can experience at some point in their career," added PokerGO Director of Programming Brent Hanks. "There's so much untapped talent we have yet to showcase in our events, and it would be incredible to see someone run up the dream from the \$1,000 buy-in level and compete at the \$100,000 price point."

Winners of the first seven events will receive a special trophy to commemorate their victory. The Golden Stairway Trophy will be awarded to the champion of the \$100,000 finale.

In addition to the conclusion of each buy-in level being live-streamed on PokerGO.com, the PokerGO News team will be providing live updates of the entire *Stairway To Millions* series.

Watch all the *Stairway to Millions*' final tables exclusively on [PokerGO.com](https://www.pokergo.com) from Jan. 13-20, 2022. ♠

# The PokerGO Tour To Feature Tons Of High-Stakes Action In Early 2022

By Donnie Peters



The world of high-stakes tournament poker isn't slowing down. The PokerGO Tour had a superb first year of action, and 2022 sets up to be even bigger for the PokerGO Tour. Through the first half of November, the PokerGO Tour awarded more than \$200 million in prize money and attracted more than 15,000 total entries. Already on the schedule are a few high-profile events, and we're here to take a closer look at what players and fans can expect.

Before we dive into what's in store for the early portion of the PokerGO Tour in 2022, let's first remind everyone what the PokerGO Tour is. The PokerGO Tour is the official tour and ranking system celebrating the most elite professional poker players in the world. The PGT aims to be like the ranking systems used in professional sports around the world, ranking the best poker players in the world in tournaments with a buy-in of \$10,000 or more.

## Venetian High Rollers and New Stairway To Millions

Kicking off the year with a bang, the first month of the PokerGO Tour is filled with several big buy-in events. First up, the PokerGO Tour heads to The Venetian Resort Las Vegas for a series of four high roller tournaments from Jan. 5-8. There is one Venetian High Roller per day during that span. The first two will be \$10,000 buy-in tournaments and the third is a \$15,000 competition. The ante is upped once again for the fourth event of the group, a \$25,000 tournament.

After those events at The Venetian Resort Las Vegas, it's time for the first-ever *Stairway To Millions* tournament series. Held at the PokerGO Studio, the eight-event series

allows players the opportunity to compete for \$3 million in total prizes and the chance to run a \$1,000 buy-in up to a \$100,000 buy-in. Those not playing will be pleased to learn that the *Stairway To Millions* will be live streamed for viewing on PokerGO.com.

For more on PokerGO's *Stairway To Millions*, check out the cover story in this issue of *Card Player*.

## PokerGO Cup Is Back

The inaugural *PokerGO Cup* took place in July 2021, with none other than Daniel Negreanu becoming the first-ever *PokerGO Cup* winner. Come 2022, Negreanu will be looking to defend his title as the series returns to the PokerGO Studio in Las Vegas.

In its second installment, the *PokerGO Cup* features eight different tournaments and the buy-ins increase from \$10,000 to \$100,000 as the series goes on. Individual tournament titles will be up for grabs, but so will the overall *PokerGO Cup* title that Negreanu triumphantly claimed in the first edition of the series. The player to earn the most points across the entire series will be crowned the second *PokerGO Cup* champion.

Just as it was in 2021, the *PokerGO Cup* will be live streamed on PokerGO.com.

## Marching To Russia For Super High Roller Bowl

When March rolls around, it's time for another *Super High Roller Series* and *Super High Roller Bowl*. This time, the tournament heads to Casino Sochi in Russia for *Super High Roller Bowl Russia* presented by Luxon Pay. The series includes 11 different events. Among those 11 is the



\$250,000 buy-in *Super High Roller Bowl Russia* that will without a doubt attract some of the biggest and best names in the game.

Also on the schedule for the *Super High Roller Series Russia* are \$25,000, \$50,000, and \$100,000 buy-in events. No event on the schedule has a buy-in of less than \$25,000, so the stakes will be through the roof.

#### U.S. Poker Open Back For A Fourth Time

The *U.S. Poker Open* also returns in 2022. For the fourth time in history, the *U.S. Poker Open* will occupy the PokerGO Studio in Las Vegas. Stephen Chidwick won the first-ever *U.S. Poker Open* in 2018, then it was David Peters winning the series in 2019 and 2021 (the series was not held in 2020 due to the pandemic). Both times that Peters won the series title, Sean Winter finished in second place on the leaderboard.

The 2022 *U.S. Poker Open* is a 12-event series that includes no-limit hold'em, pot-limit Omaha, and eight-game tournaments. The main event is a \$50,000 buy-in tournament. Similar to some of PokerGO's other tournament series, there is a series leaderboard for the *U.S. Poker Open* and the player to earn the most points across all events will be crowned the 2022 *U.S. Poker Open* champion.

To date, Peters has the most *U.S. Poker Open* tournament wins with five of them under his belt. Stephen Chidwick has four, and then Ali Imsirovic and Sean Winter have two each.

Poker fans from around the world can watch live streams of the 2022 *U.S. Poker Open* on PokerGO.com.

#### Debut of PokerGO Heads-Up Championship

A brand new event from PokerGO is the *PokerGO Heads-Up Championship*. This tournament has a \$100,000 buy-in and will feature 32 players competing in a heads-up bracket-style tournament. High-stakes heads-up tournaments tend to

bring out poker's most elite players, and that is what can be expected in the first-ever *PokerGO Heads-Up Championship*.

#### Super High Roller Bowl VII

The *World Series of Poker* is expected to move back to its normal time slot in the summer in 2022, and right before it will be the big and bad *Super High Roller Bowl VII*. With a \$300,000 buy-in, the game's best will definitely be out for this one, and it all takes place in Las Vegas at the famed PokerGO Studio.

The *Super High Roller Bowl* has created some of the most exciting and storied moments in poker, and there is always several millions of dollars up for grabs in addition to the *SHRB* championship ring. In 2021, the *Super High Roller Bowl* was won by Michael Addamo for \$3.4 million. Past winners include Brian Rast, Rainer Kempe, Christoph Vogelsang, Justin Bonomo, and Isaac Haxton.

As always, live coverage of the *Super High Roller Bowl* will be available to viewers around the world on PokerGO.com.

#### 2022 WSOP Action On PokerGO

The 2021 *World Series of Poker* was incredible, and all signs point to the 2022 *WSOP* moving back to the summer time slot that the poker community has known for so many years. PokerGO plans to live stream dozens of events from the 2022 *WSOP*, including several that will count for the PokerGO Tour. Be sure to stay tuned for more information on the 2022 *WSOP*, including PokerGO's live streaming schedule.

The PokerGO Tour schedule will grow as more events are announced. Events such as the *Poker Masters* and *Super High Roller Bowl* have yet to be announced and will be included when they are, as will the plethora of ARIA High Roller tournaments that will be on the schedule once those are scheduled. For current PokerGO Tour information, check out [PokerGOnews.com](https://www.pokergonews.com). ♠

# STAND UP FOR ME, PLEASE:

## Jeff Platt Thrives During WSOP Main Event Broadcast

By Card Player News Team



With every year of the *World Series of Poker* broadcast, PokerGO aims to raise the bar for the viewing audience. For the 2021 series, two big enhancements were made. The first was having daily live streams of the 2021 *WSOP* main event available exclusively on PokerGO. The second was introduced by sideline reporter Jeff Platt, who did several in-play interviews throughout the *WSOP* main event, aiming to bring fans from around the world inside the game like never before.

The Texas-native got his start in sports reporting covering the NBA's Dallas Mavericks for *ESPN Radio* and later worked for a San Antonio station covering the Spurs. His picked up poker during the Moneymaker boom, and took a chance at combining his love of broadcasting with the game he had become quite good at himself.

As a player, Platt has two deep runs in the main event worth a combined

\$158,492, and this fall, he finished fourth in the \$1,000 Double Stack event at the *WSOP* for \$160,662.

But as a reporter, Platt routinely interviewed players in the main event, railbirds watching close by, and other notables around the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino. He even got to track down fellow *WSOP* commentator Norman Chad while Chad was playing the \$1,500 Stud Eight-Or-Better tournament.

We recently caught up with Platt to discuss PokerGO's *WSOP* broadcast and the addition of his in-play interviews.

**Card Player:** The in-play interviews were new to the 2021 broadcast. How did that idea develop?

**Jeff Platt:** Both Norman Chad and PokerGO Executive Producer Dan Gati deserve a ton of credit for developing this idea. They both wanted us to go out into the field and talk

to players during the action. It was very important for us to not actually interfere with the hands that were being dealt, but I think we've done a decent job at accomplishing the goal of getting out there, getting in the mix, giving the viewers a feel for what it's like to be out in the Amazon, Pavilion, or Brasilia room during the *World Series of Poker* main event. I know it's something that Norman has always wanted to do, and I'm glad we were able to put that plan into motion this year.

**CP:** How do you go about deciding who to talk to and about which topics to discuss?

**JP:** It's an overall discussion between Dan Gati and me on who we want to approach, why we want to talk to them, and what we want to talk to them about. Early in the main event, it was the more recognizable names, the celebrities or athletes, or



the top poker players. As the main event moves along, we start to follow certain storylines and we start to meet some people and develop those storylines ourselves and introduce players to the viewers that they are unfamiliar with.

**CP:** There have been some great moments captured in these segments. Which one stands out the most to you?

**JP:** Well, of course, I got to go with the world-famous Pat Lyons and his interview. I approached Pat knowing that we would be entertained, and yet still my expectations were blown out of the water. I mean, he played a hand blind in the *WSOP* main event. He called an all-in while still playing his hand blind. And he scored a knock-out! That's a moment that we certainly will never forget.

But a lot of other interviews stand out to me as well. I talked to Dragana Lim a couple of different times, and we've really enjoyed getting to know her along her journey, along her run. Those storylines that you can develop

by talking to people again and again really stand out to me.

**CP:** How did the approach to these in-play interviews change as the 2021 *WSOP* main event progressed from day 1 through to the final table?

**JP:** We have a lot more flexibility early on in the tournament. Day 1 of the main event brings with it such a friendly, welcoming, light-hearted atmosphere that it's pretty easy for us to dive in and out across so many different tables without really interfering with the action. As the tournament progressed, as we made the money, and as we moved into day 5 and 6, we had to take a step back overall. Even in the in-play interviews we did, I would make sure to bring the player a couple of feet away from the table to try to avoid being any kind of distraction from the significant and serious action that was taking place. Overall, I would say my role changed more from field reporter to being on the sidelines of our feature tables and getting all of our bustout interviews done.

**CP:** Viewers of the broadcast and your followers on Twitter have voiced that these segments have been a highlight of the 2021 broadcast.

**JP:** I would attribute our success to our entire production crew working together with me to pull off these in-play interviews. It takes a lot. It takes Dan trying to set these up while he's running our entire broadcast. It takes Jason Wald, our director, to put this into the broadcast. It takes our amazing camera crew to just follow me around. And then it takes the players being accepting and so unbelievably accommodating of me as a sideline reporter to try to give viewers an inside look at the main event.

**CP:** Do you see a future for these segments in other poker broadcasts like PokerGO's own *U.S. Poker Open* or *Super High Roller Bowl* coverage?

**JP:** I think they have the potential to work very well in other tournaments. You have to judge when appropriate moments are. It would be a little more difficult to have in-play interviews late in a high roller tournament. But I do feel like with that group of players, specifically, if they think it's good for the game, then I think they would be open to some early interviews that are done while they are playing in the tournament, when not every hand matters on such a high level.

**CP:** You played the main event six times, but this year you had to take a back seat to work the broadcast. Was there any part of you that wished someone was tapping you on the shoulder and saying, "Stand up for me, please?"

**JP:** Let's be honest, yes. Going into it, I was just so unbelievably excited to work the main event. I've always said that the only thing better than playing the main event would be working the main event. To have the opportunity to work the biggest tournament in poker is something that I'm incredibly honored with. This is as much fun as I've ever had working. But to walk through the Amazon Room having played it before... sure, you just naturally feel like you're missing out on the greatest poker tournament in the world. And that's all the credit to this event and how prestigious and incredible it is.

*The entire WSOP library can be watched exclusively on PokerGO.com, while 2021 WSOP episodes are now available on CBS Sports Network. ♠*

# ADAM FRIEDMAN INTO THE RECORD BOOKS WITH BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK WSOP TITLES

Ohio Pro Talks Three-Peat, Hellmuth Heads-Up,  
And Staying Focused On The Bottom Line

By Steve Schult



Throughout Adam Friedman's poker career, money was first and foremost. The Ohio native was in it for financial freedom, not the glory of winning tournaments.

Four *World Series of Poker* bracelets later, the 39-year-old still has the same outlook. But his fourth and most recent bracelet made poker history, and even Friedman couldn't ignore the non-monetary aspects of his accomplishment in the 2021 edition of the \$10,000 Dealer's Choice Championship.

"I have waited 28 months to play the Dealer's Choice," tweeted Friedman on Oct. 18, the first day of the event. "For the first and probably last time in my life, I can say it's not about the money. This is the most excited and nervous I've been for a tournament since the first time I played the main event in 2005. Time

to three-peat!"

Friedman defeated Stuart Rutter heads-up to win the tournament at the 2018 *WSOP* for \$293,275 and then defeated Shaun Deeb at the 2019 series for \$312,417. With the absence of a live *WSOP* in 2020, it was more than two years before Friedman had a chance to set poker history.

Nobody in the history of the game ever won the same *WSOP* event three years in a row. Johnny Chan was one of the few players to even come close to the accomplishment in the 1987, 1988, and 1989 \$10,000 no-limit hold'em main event. But after winning titles the first two years, he finished runner-up to the now 16-time bracelet winner Phil Hellmuth in his third attempt.

Like Chan, Friedman also had to battle Hellmuth to make history. Unlike the "Orient Express," Friedman succeeded. He denied his

fellow Midwesterner a record-extending 17<sup>th</sup> career bracelet and made history of his own, while earning \$248,350 in the process.

Despite Friedman's overall money-first attitude, he couldn't ignore the spotlight he was playing under.

"It's severely unlikely that there was going to be any other heads-up match for this entire *World Series*, or maybe even the next year or two to come, that's going to have a bigger headline battle," Friedman told *Card Player*. "On the one end, you've got Phil, who's trying to extend his ridiculous lead in the overall bracelet count to 17, which would be seven more than the next three guys on that list. And then you've got one person who's trying to do something that's never been done in the history of the series."

Luckily for Friedman, he was up for the challenge. He admitted that his



younger self may have been a bit too star struck to make history.

“The fan boy in me from two decades ago was like, ‘Oh my God! I get to play Phil Hellmuth for a bracelet.’ That’s the most amazing thing ever,” said Friedman. “If you would’ve told me that when I was [first starting], I would’ve said, ‘That’s not possible.’ So the fan boy in me was ecstatic, but the 39-year-old version of me knew I needed to take care of business. I needed to treat Phil like everybody. And that’s what I did.”

Friedman caught the poker bug like so many others his age did, as a product of the Moneymaker boom of the early 2000’s. He got his start in no-limit hold’em and really kicked off his career with a 43<sup>rd</sup>-place finish in the 2005 main event for \$235,390.

But a few years into his journey as a poker pro, he found himself diving into other games besides no-limit hold’em. In 2008, he earned his first non-no-limit hold’em tournament cash at the *WSOP* in the \$10,000 8-game championship. He cashed in that same event the next year, which seemingly spurred a string of tournament mixed game accomplishments over the next 13 years.

Now he’s considered a mixed-game specialist as he makes the majority of

his living playing anywhere between \$100-\$200 and \$300-\$600 limit mixed games. Being able to sit down and play any game proficiently is a skill he is proud of and a major reason why he feels that winning the \$10,000 Dealer’s Choice back-to-back-to-back is more special than almost any other event.

“You really can’t have any weak-

nesses,” said Friedman. “And I do pride myself on the fact that I don’t think I have a game that I suck at. I’m not saying I’m great at all 20, because that’s definitely not the case, but I do put the work in to at least be good at every game. And when a new game gets invented, I’d like to think that I can understand it, regardless of whether it’s a flop, stud, or draw game, and

## Top Tournament Scores

Date	Event	Finish	Payout
June 2019	\$10,000 WSOP Dealer’s Choice	1st	\$312,417
June 2018	\$10,000 WSOP Dealer’s Choice	1st	\$293,275
June 2012	\$5,000 WSOP Stud Eight-Or-Better	1st	\$269,037
Oct. 2021	\$10,000 WSOP Dealer’s Choice	1st	\$248,350
July 2005	\$10,000 WSOP Main Event	43rd	\$235,390
March 2014	\$10,000 WPT L.A. Poker Classic	6th	\$200,440
April 2006	\$5,000 Midwest Regional Championships	1st	\$147,940
June 2016	\$10,000 WSOP H.O.R.S.E.	4th	\$131,519
June 2011	\$1,500 WSOP H.O.R.S.E.	3rd	\$121,437
Aug. 2019	\$1,100 MSPT Ohio Main Event	1st	\$121,405
Feb. 2008	\$2,500 Midwest Regional Championships	1st	\$101,258
March 2009	\$2,500 Midwest Regional Championships	1st	\$91,829
Nov. 2013	\$1,500 HPT Indiana Main Event	1st	\$83,439
June 2016	\$1,500 WSOP Stud	2nd	\$68,666
July 2015	\$10,000 WSOP Dealer’s Choice	5th	\$63,277



This is not the first time that Adam Friedman has achieved a three-peat on the live tournament circuit. In 2006, he won the *Midwest Regional Poker Championships* main event in Indiana. He skipped it in 2007, and then he won it again in both 2008 and 2009.

At the *WSOP*, Michael Mizrachi has won the same event three times, taking down the \$50,000 *Poker Players Championship* in 2010, 2012, and 2018. Thang Luu finished second in the 2007 Omaha eight-or-better event, before winning it in 2008 and 2009.

pot-limit, no-limit, or limit. I like to think that I can adjust pretty quickly to whatever gets [thrown out there], and it makes poker more fun.”

A “more fun” game is what draws Friedman to mixed, but it’s also why he thinks they will increase in popularity as years go on. As no-limit hold’em becomes more solver-based, those looking for games that require more card sense and “feel,” as some old school players would call it, will gravitate towards the mixed arena.

“People that play this tournament, they tend to want to play it year after year just because they see it as such a unique event,” said Friedman. “Most tournaments have the same strategy over and over, regardless of whether its no-limit hold’em or other limit variants that are just strictly one game. Anything can happen in this tournament at any time.”

“There was a much more well-rounded group [this year],” he continued. “And it was nice to see. It wasn’t just the limit players dominating this tournament because it feels like a lot of the players, whether they’re tournament players or not, they start to learn, and start to grasp all the other games. Now, it’ll give other big bet players the idea to take a shot.”

From a strategy perspective, the

Dealer’s Choice event has more intricacies than other mixed tournaments. With more games available than any other tournament, and the lack of a set rotation, choosing the correct game can be one of the most important skills a player can possess for the event.

“Stack sizes can dictate what games are being picked at all times,” Friedman said. “You don’t know what people are going to choose, and it makes it really exciting and a tiny bit nerve wracking, but in a fun way. It makes for a more interesting dynamic.”

His heads-up match with Hellmuth is a perfect example of how things can change so quickly in the format. Hellmuth is, at his core, a no-limit hold’em player. Someone who feels proficient at the big bet games in the rotation. While Friedman is a limit player, albeit with no-limit success of his own.

But Friedman found himself shying away from the games he is most comfortable with, and instead, opted to choose ones that he thought take Hellmuth out of his comfort zone.

“This is the first time I’ve ever picked pot-limit Omaha,” said Friedman, who also finished fifth in the tournament in 2015. “Which actually surprised a couple of my friends. I had a feeling it was the right game

choice to call against Phil. I’m not sure if I want to get into all the reasons why, but he was having a lot of confidence in the games that were my best games, which I think is for the most part Badeucey and Badacey. But sometimes you could feel a guy’s momentum, and sometimes he’s really feeling a specific game in that given moment. Maybe they’re not the better player long term in that game, but maybe for a given stretch, they’re just feeling it.”

He found himself choosing completely different games than his prior heads-up matches against Deeb and Rutter in 2018 and 2019.

“I don’t find pot-limit Omaha to be in my top four or five games, unlike Badeucey,” said Friedman. “But it just felt like a game that Phil was not going to want to play a big pot without the nuts. Don’t get me wrong. I’m not trying to get it in super light by any stretch, but I just felt like I was going to be able to do a couple things heads-up which Phil might not have wanted to do, especially when he had the chip lead.”

One of the distinct advantages Friedman has in the Dealer’s Choice format is his extensive cash game background. Cash game grinders get to experience the new games before anyone else has a chance to play them.



"Any time a new game gets invented, it's going to happen in a cash game before it becomes a tournament game," said Friedman.

While that is an advantage for Friedman, he was quick to downplay the idea that every cash game player will have the same success that he experienced on the tournament side of the poker world.

"Not all cash game players can necessarily adapt to tournaments," said Friedman. "And the good thing is, for predominantly tournament players, they understand certain concepts that they'll be able to apply across multiple games very quickly. Maybe they won't understand all the specific nuances, but it might not necessarily come up in a given tournament."

With his history-making bracelet, Friedman bumped his career tournament earnings to north of \$3.3 million. Despite seven-figures in tournament earnings, a successful career playing high-stakes cash games, and securing a spot in the poker history books, his biggest accomplishment was simply staying in action for the last 16 years.

"Even with the three-peat, I still say the best accomplishment I've ever had in poker is never going broke," said Friedman. "I look at the majority

of professional poker players, and I don't know how high the number is, but the majority of them have gone broke at one point or another. It's just something I never really wanted to happen to me because I was pretty certain if I ever went broke, I would quit poker altogether. I can be very mentally strong in some things within the game that others aren't, but I don't know if I have it in me to go broke and rebuild after that, especially if that were to happen in my thirties. Now, at 39, I could never see that happening."

It goes back to Friedman's money-first attitude on poker. (His father took \$100,000 from his first big score and put it away for him to invest.) In a way, he's like Joey Knish from the classic poker movie *Rounders*. Friedman doesn't play poker for the thrill of victory, the glory, or the chance to be on *ESPN*. He plays professionally to stay out of a traditional office job, and he's not going to let his ego cost him a comfortable lifestyle.

"When you're playing poker for a living, the money has to come first and foremost," he said. "People view poker as an escape from a real job, but at the end of the day, you still need income. You still need to make money. And just because you're not doing a traditional nine-to-five, or anything in

that realm of reality, you still need to make money."

He said that cash game players usually take that mantra to heart. After all, their general swings over shorter time frames will be much smaller than that of a tournament player. But a summer (or fall) full of high-stakes tournament buy-ins can eat up a bankroll if you aren't careful.

The same mindset is what kept Friedman from taking shots at nose-bleed stakes games. While he realizes there is tremendous upside to beating those games, the downside isn't always worth it.

"Do I have this need to play \$2,000-\$4,000? No. Because I think you need to have a tremendous amount of money, and maybe even a little more gamble than I might be willing to have in some of those situations," said Friedman. "Those stakes are just ridiculous. Now, is it possible? I might take a shot eventually when the situation feels right. I've just never felt the need to play that high and I don't think there's anything wrong with that."

Friedman might not be taking gigantic six-figure gambles anytime soon, but that's exactly why you'll likely see him at the poker table for years to come. ♠

# EZEQUIEL ‘EZ’ WAIGEL EARNS CAREER-BEST SCORE WITH CPPT VENETIAN MAIN EVENT VICTORY

Argentinian Poker Pro Defeated 975 Entries To Bank \$417,004 In Las Vegas

By Steve Schult



For the last several years, Ezequiel “EZ” Waigel made the trek from Argentina to Las Vegas to play the *World Series of Poker* and other tournaments around Sin City. His 2021 trip to Vegas is more enjoyable than previous trips for multiple reasons.

For one, Waigel is enjoying the desert’s autumn climate much more than the piping hot summer months thanks to the delay in the traditional summer schedule because of the pandemic. But on top of that, he earned a career-best score in the \$2,500 *Card Player Poker Tour* Venetian main event in mid-November.

“This is a great time of the year to be here, and I’m having a lot of fun,” Waigel said after his victory.

Waigel defeated a massive 975-entry field and Scottsdale, Arizona bar owner Kevin O’Donnell heads-up to take home \$417,004. The score came about a month after he finished runner-up in the \$2,200 no-limit hold’em mystery bounty at the *Wynn Fall Classic* for \$263,627, which at the time was his first six-figure score.

Since Waigel landed in Las Vegas at the beginning of October, he began racking up deep runs. While playing events at the *WSOP*, the Venetian, and the Wynn this fall, Waigel cashed nine times for \$733,303, made two final

tables, and earned his first career live tournament victory.

The win pushed his earnings over the \$1 million mark and moved him into 39<sup>th</sup> place in the *Card Player* Player of the Year race with 2,373 points. His runner-up finish at the Wynn was worth 900 points in that race and the victory at Venetian added an extra 1,368 to his total.

Waigel’s performance over his three days of poker was one of the most dominant in *CPPT* history. He finished the first starting day second in chips, and headed into day 2 third overall of the 163 players remaining. At the end of Day 2, Waigel was once again in third out of the final 15 players.

At the final table, he nearly went wire-to-wire with the chip lead and was never worse than second in chips. He only lost the top spot on the leaderboard for a brief period when eventual fifth-place finisher Donovan Dean held a slight chip advantage over him. By the time the field was down to six-handed play, Waigel held roughly half of the chips in play and never relinquished the lead again.

From the outside looking in, it seemed like it was a foregone conclusion that Waigel would walk away with the title. Even when he thought he was given the wrong seat card during the three-table redraw, he ended picking up a



bunch of big hands and continued to chip up.

"You never know your destiny," said Waigel. "I was supposed to get seat 3 yesterday during the redraw, but they gave me seat 6 instead. That ended up being a good seat."

Aside from O'Donnell, who picked up \$287,247 for his second-place finish, there was tons of top-notch poker talent in the field.

WSOP bracelet winner and WPT champion Keven Stammen finished sixth, and Fabian Gumz, a German pro with seven figures worth of career earnings, finished third. Young up-and-coming pro Michael Rossitto finished eighth and recently crowned *WSOP Online* bracelet winner Justin Saliba made a deep run in the tournament, but busted a few spots shy of the final table in 13th.

Other notable pros to finish in the money included Shankar Pillai (99<sup>th</sup> - \$5,324), Kyle Cartwright (97<sup>th</sup> - \$5,324), Matas Cimbolas (92<sup>nd</sup> - \$5,324), Vojtech Ruzicka (75<sup>th</sup> - \$5,757), Elio Fox (73<sup>rd</sup> - \$5,767), Aaron Massey (70<sup>th</sup> - \$5,989), Jonathan Tamayo (51<sup>st</sup> - \$7,098), Adrian Mateos (49<sup>th</sup> - \$7,098), Martin Jacobson (46<sup>th</sup> - \$7,098), Joe Serock (41<sup>st</sup> - \$7,985), John Phan (24<sup>th</sup> - \$12,200), and Sergio Aido (19<sup>th</sup> - \$13,974).

At the final table, Waigel raced out to a massive chip lead mostly by winning non-showdown pots. The chip distribution allowed him to apply plenty of pressure to mid-dling stacks while the handful of short stacks played very tight because of ICM considerations. Even though he only scored one knockout of the first three players, Alexander Villa in seventh, he was still able to accumulate about half the chips in play six-handed.

After Stammen's A♣ 5♦ couldn't hold up against Dean's Q♥ 6♥, the final five players took a 60-minute dinner break. When they returned, there was a brief period where the action stalled, but it wasn't long before Waigel ran away with the tournament.

Waigel eliminated Dean when he picked up K♠ K♣ on the button and bet all three streets, including a river shove,

on a board of Q♥ 3♠ 2♠ 3♥ J♦. Dean called all three barrels and mucked his hand when Waigel showed his.

A few hands later, a short-stacked Tibor Nagygyoery was out in fourth when he called off his last four big blinds with Q♥ 10♠ from the small blind against a shove from Waigel on the button. Waigel's K♣ 2♥ held up on a A♥ K♥ 2♣ 9♦ Q♦ runout.

Waigel sent Gumz packing in third when he shoved A♠ Q♣ from the small blind and was looked up by Gumz's K♥ 6♥. Neither player flopped anything and Waigel won the pot with unimproved ace high.

Gumz's elimination set the stage for a very lopsided heads-up match. Waigel started heads-up play with 34,000,000 against O'Donnell's 5,000,000. The two were soon playing 150,000-300,000 with a 300,000 big blind ante, which left O'Donnell with an even shallower stack.

It wasn't long after the increase that O'Donnell three-bet shoved with A♣ 4♥ and was looked up by Waigel's A♦ J♣.

The J♠ 7♥ 5♥ all but sealed the tournament for Waigel, and the 7♦ on the turn ended it as O'Donnell was drawing dead to the 5♠ river.

#### Final Table Results

Place	Player	Earnings	POY Points
1	Ezequiel Waigel	\$417,004	1,368
2	Kevin O'Donnell	\$287,247	1,140
3	Fabian Gumz	\$210,722	912
4	Tibor Nagygyoery	\$157,487	684
5	Donovan Dean	\$117,561	570
6	Keven Stammen	\$88,725	456
7	Alexander Villa	\$66,544	342
8	Michael Rossitto	\$48,799	228
9	Marco Bognanni	\$36,821	114



Jon Turner



Javier Gomez



Anthony Zinno



Andrey Pateychuk

## ALL-TIME CARD PLAYER POKER TOUR MONEY LIST

Rank	Player	Career Earnings
1st	Jon Turner	\$737,858
2nd	Javier Gomez	\$599,735
3rd	Anthony Zinno	\$575,075
4th	Andrey Pateychuk	\$558,782
5th	Martin Jacobson	\$454,469
6th	Ankush Mandavia	\$442,179
7th	Stephen Chidwick	\$422,290
8th	Ezequiel Waigel	\$417,004
9th	Paul Hoefer	\$413,427
10th	Ben Jones	\$390,956

The 2021 *Card Player Poker Tour Venetian* main event, won by **Ezequiel 'EZ' Waigel**, marked the tenth time that the *CPPT* has made its way to The Venetian Poker Room. The stop has consistently been one of the largest on the tour each season, thanks to huge turnouts and a higher buy-in than many other stops. As a result, players with success in *CPPT Venetian* events dominate the all-time money list for the tour. In fact, the entire top 10 is composed of players who have either won or otherwise had a big score at this stop.

Waigel earned \$417,004 for defeating a field of 975 entries. This was his first-ever *CPPT* cash, but it alone was enough to catapult him into eighth place on this leaderboard.

**Jon Turner** remains number one, with his \$737,858 being almost entirely comprised of two title runs in *CPPT Venetian* events. He overcame 537 entries in the 2016 \$5,000 buy-in event to secure a career-best payday of \$536,858. Roughly two-and-a-half years later he emerged victorious in the 2018 \$3,500 buy-in event, outlasting 340 opponents to add another \$201,000 to his totals.

Spanish poker pro **Javier Gomez** beat out a massive field of 688 entries to secure the top prize of \$561,349 in the 2017 \$5,000 buy-in event. Gomez has secured another couple cashes on the tour, bringing his total tour earnings to just a few hundred dollars shy of \$600,000.

The following year's \$5,000 buy-in event drew 547 entries. Four-time *World Series of Poker* bracelet winner, three-time *World Poker Tour* champion, and 2015 *Card Player* Player of the Year award winner **Anthony Zinno** secured \$466,670 as the champion. One of Zinno's earliest breakout performances on the live circuit came when he finished fourth in the 2013 *CPPT Venetian* for \$86,964. With \$575,075 in total *CPPT* scores, Zinno is one of just four players to have cashed for more than half a million dollars on the tour.

Rounding out the list is *European Poker Tour* and *WPT* champion **Andrey Pateychuk**, who beat out a field of 564 entries in the 2019 \$5,000 buy-in event to earn \$547,777. It was the third-largest score of his career. With one other smaller cash in a *CPPT Venetian* main event, Pateychuk's lifetime total now sits at \$558,782.

# Card Player

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# DAN 'JUNGLEMAN' CATES WINS WSOP \$50,000 POKER PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

High-Stakes Pro Earned \$954,020 And His First Gold Bracelet

By Erik Fast



Dan 'Jungleman' Cates is renowned in the poker world as a high-stakes cash game crusher, having battled in the nosebleed games in both the online and live arenas. What some fans of the game might not realize, however, is that the 31-year-old poker pro also came into this year's *World Series of Poker* with nearly \$9 million in prior tournament earnings to his name.

Cates added to that total in a major way at the 2021 *WSOP* by taking down the \$50,000 buy-in *Poker Players Championship* nine-game event, defeating an elite field of 63 entries to earn the top prize of \$954,020 and his first gold bracelet. This was the fourth-largest tournament score of Cates' career, which increased his lifetime earnings to \$9,868,264.

"Oh yeah, one of those bracelet things," said Cates, who dyed his hair a shocking shade of neon turquoise and dressed as a video game character for the final table of this event. "It is actually pretty cool and I'm happy to have won one. I think I have one of each now, [with wins in] the *World Poker Tour Alpha8* and I have a *Triton Poker* win. I think that gives me the trifecta, I am not sure how that works. Did I win a *European Poker Tour*? I don't know. But this is pretty cool, especially [to win] a tournament that is named after Chip Reese, who has passed away."

(Editor's Note: The Triple Crown consists of a *WPT*, *EPT*, and *WSOP* win. Only nine players have accomplished this feat.)

For Cates, coming out on top this time around was a forgone conclusion.

"I knew I was going to win. I said I was going to win. So I won," Cates told the gathered poker media after closing out the title after 3 a.m. local time. The final table lasted more than 13 hours.

In addition to the money and the bracelet, Cates was also awarded 612 *Card Player* Player of the Year points and 572 *PokerGO Tour* points after surviving the marathon final table. This was his first qualifying score for either points race.

It took almost three full days of play to reach the money, with 2019 *WSOP* Player of the Year Robert Campbell earning the unwanted distinction of bubble boy.

The final ten players finished in the money, earning a minimum payout of \$82,623. Mike Wattel (10<sup>th</sup>), Daniel Negreanu (9<sup>th</sup>), Nick Schulman (8<sup>th</sup>), Matt Glantz (7<sup>th</sup>), and Josh Arieh (6<sup>th</sup>) all bowed out before the final day.

In fact, because of the day off before the final table, Arieh was able to late-register the \$10,000 pot-limit Omaha eight-or-better event and final table it alongside the \$50,000 event he had just busted. He went on to win his fourth bracelet just 30 feet from the final table he was previously seated at. You can read more about Arieh's accomplishment on pg. 28.

Rising high roller tournament star Chris Brewer began the day just a handful of big blinds short of the lead, but he slid a bit and then doubled up a short stack to fall to the bottom of the chip counts. Brewer soon found himself all-in with pocket

Ryan Leng



sevens against the pocket jacks of three-time bracelet winner Ryan Leng.

Most of the chips went in preflop, and the rest followed on the flop despite both an ace and a queen hitting the board. Brewer was unable to come from behind and was eliminated in fifth place, earning \$211,235 for his first *WSOP* final-table finish.

Despite coming into the day as the leader, Eli Elezra spent several hours as the short stack after Brewer was eliminated. The four-time bracelet winner managed a few comebacks to put himself out of the danger zone, but he was eventually sent to the rail in fourth place.

He got the last of his chips in the middle on fifth street playing razz and was at risk against three-time bracelet winner Paul Volpe. Volpe improved to a 9-6 low on seventh street to best the 10-7 of Elezra, who earned \$286,983 for his fourth-place showing.

Three-handed play lasted more than five hours, with multiple lead changes along the way as Cates and the pair of three-time bracelet winners slugged it out across the nine games included in this event's mix: no-limit hold'em, pot-limit Omaha, no-limit single-draw deuce-to-seven lowball, limit triple draw deuce-to-seven lowball, seven card stud, stud eight-or-better, razz, limit Omaha eight-or-better, and limit hold'em.

Cates was nearly eliminated in third place during a round

of limit hold'em. He raised all-in on an  $A\clubsuit J\spadesuit 7\diamondsuit 9\heartsuit K\clubsuit$  board with  $K\diamondsuit Q\clubsuit$  for 900,000 total after Leng had made a 600,000 value bet with his  $A\heartsuit 5\clubsuit$ . Leng had check-called the flop and checked the turn, and was getting around 11:1 on the call. He laid down his top pair, which he later admitted was a mistake.

In his own words, "It was atrocious, abysmal, absolutely horrendous, bottom line." Cates would have been knocked out had Leng slid in the 300,000 chips more, but instead, Cates took down the sizable pot of 3.3 million to give himself crucial maneuverability as three-handed action continued.

As 2 a.m. approached Cates overtook the lead thanks to a sizable razz pot won against Volpe. He was able to pull further away from the pack, leaving the other two to jockey for position as they tried to survive to heads-up play.

Volpe was ultimately the next to fall. He got the last of his chips in with  $K\spadesuit 6\heartsuit$  in limit hold'em, with the last bets going into the middle after a  $Q\spadesuit 10\clubsuit 2\heartsuit$  flop. Cates called with  $K\diamondsuit 2\clubsuit$  for bottom pair. The  $2\clubsuit$  turn improved Cates to trip deuces to leave Volpe drawing dead. The  $7\clubsuit$  was a mere formality to make Volpe's elimination in third place for \$404,243 official.

Cates took more than a 5:1 chip lead into heads-up play with Leng, who had earned his third bracelet just a few weeks earlier by taking down the \$1,500 eight-game six-max event.

Leng earned an early double-up and closed the gap even further after that, but Cates was able to regain control thanks to a few key wins in no-limit deuce-to-seven lowball and stud eight-or-better. Leng doubled up again, picking up pocket aces against the pocket sixes of Cates in no-limit hold'em. He slid back down the leaderboard after that, however, and was critically short heading into what would be the final game of the tournament, a round of limit hold'em.

On the final hand, Leng had nearly half of his chips posted in the big blind. Cates raised on the button with  $Q\clubsuit 3\diamondsuit$  and Leng defended with  $10\diamondsuit 5\clubsuit$ . The  $A\heartsuit J\heartsuit 10\heartsuit$  flop saw Leng bet his last chip with bottom pair. Cates called with his gut-shot draw and overcard, and hit a pair of queens on the  $Q\heartsuit$  turn to take the lead. The  $3\clubsuit$  on the river improved Cates to two pair, locking up the pot and the title for the man known as 'Jungleman.'

Leng earned \$589,628 for his third top-two finish of the 2021 *WSOP*, having also placed second in the \$1,500 *Monster Stack* event shortly after winning his third career bracelet a few weeks ago. This was the largest cash of his career, and it increased his lifetime earnings to more than \$3.1 million. ♠

#### \$50,000 Poker Players Championship Winners

Year	Entrants	Winner	Payout
2006	143	David 'Chip' Reese	\$1,716,000
2007	148	Freddy Deeb	\$2,276,832
2008	148	Scotty Nguyen	\$1,989,120
2009	95	David Bach	\$1,276,802
2010	116	Michael Mizrachi	\$1,559,046
2011	128	Brian Rast	\$1,720,328
2012	108	Michael Mizrachi	\$1,451,527
2013	132	Matt Ashton	\$1,774,089
2014	102	John Hennigan	\$1,517,767
2015	84	Mike Gorodinsky	\$1,270,086
2016	91	Brian Rast	\$1,296,097
2017	100	Elior Sion	\$1,395,767
2018	87	Michael Mizrachi	\$1,239,126
2019	74	Phil Hui	\$1,099,311
2021	63	Daniel Cates	\$954,020

#### Final Results

Place	Player	Earnings	POY Points	PokerGO Tour
1	Daniel Cates	\$954,020	612	572
2	Ryan Leng	\$589,628	510	354
3	Paul Volpe	\$404,243	408	243
4	Eli Elezra	\$286,983	306	172
5	Chris Brewer	\$211,235	255	127
6	Josh Arie	\$161,422	204	97
7	Matt Glantz	\$128,256	N/A	N/A
8	Nick Schulman	\$106,120	N/A	N/A
9	Daniel Negreanu	\$91,595	N/A	N/A
10	Mike Wattel	\$82,623	N/A	N/A

# JOSH ARIEH LEADS WSOP POY RACE AFTER WINNING SECOND BRACELET OF SERIES

More Than \$125 Million Paid Out Through 77 Completed Events

By Erik Fast



The 2021 *World Series of Poker* is in the home stretch, with less than two weeks of action remaining at the time of publishing. The *WSOP* \$10,000 main event is well on its way to narrowing down its 6,650 entries to a single world champion, which you can read about next issue.

There have been 70 in-person bracelet events at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino and another seven *WSOP Online* bracelet events that have already determined their winners. Those tournaments have collectively attracted 101,253 entries, with more than \$125.7 million in prize money paid out along the way. There are 18 live events yet to finish, including the main event, as well as four more online events.

## Multiple Bracelet Streak Continues

At least one player has won two or more bracelets in a single year since Chris Ferguson kicked off this streak by taking down both a \$2,500 seven-card stud event and the main event at the *WSOP* in 2000. In fact, a whopping four players have achieved this feat so far in 2021, with all of them earning their second bracelet in the 17 events that have wrapped up since our last update.

American poker pro **Kevin Gerhart** won his third career bracelet earlier this fall by taking down the \$10,000 H.O.R.S.E. championship event for \$361,124. He backed up that feat by emerging victorious from a field of 725

entries in the \$1,500 pot-limit Omaha eight-or-better event for his fourth overall bracelet and second of the series, along with a \$186,789 payday.

It's been a fast rise for the mixed-games specialist. Gerhart only secured his first bracelet in 2019, and added another during the 2020 online series. He now has a bracelet in razz, PLO, PLO8, and H.O.R.S.E. He is just the 58th player in poker history to have earned four or more bracelets.

The second player in recent weeks to have won multiple bracelets this year is **Georgios Sotiropoulos**. The Greek player earned his second career bracelet earlier this year by taking down the *WSOP Online* \$200 buy-in Flip & Go, topping a massive field of 6,368 to win \$117,022.

He secured his third career bracelet in one of the final tournaments leading up to the main event, the \$1,000 buy-in 'mini main event' freezeout. For the win he banked \$432,575 and his second bracelet of 2021. All three of Sotiropoulos' bracelets have been won in no-limit hold'em, but he has the distinction of winning a bracelet in three different series: the classic *WSOP* in Las Vegas, the *WSOP Online*, and the *WSOP Europe*.

**Josh Arieh** continued his incredible run at the Rio by taking down the \$10,000 pot-limit Omaha eight-or-better event for \$484,791 and his fourth career bracelet, becoming



Scott Ball

© WSOP/Melissa Haerelti



Cole Ferraro

© WSOP/Rachel Kay Miller



Georgios Sotiropoulos

© WSOP/Hayley Hochstetler



Kevin Gerhart

© WSOP/Danny Kim



Brian Yoon

© WSOP/Melissa Haerelti



Anatolii Zyrin

© WSOP/Rachel Kay Miller

the 59th player to have won as many at the series. The Atlanta, Georgia pro did it in the shadows of the \$50,000 buy-in *Poker Players Championship* final table, an event he had finished sixth in just days earlier for \$161,422.

The 47-year-old is putting together one of the best series of his career, arguably even better than his 2004 main event third-place finish. Arieh had already won the \$1,500 buy-in PLO event just a few weeks earlier for his third bracelet and \$204,766. He also managed a ninth-place showing in the \$10,000 Stud8 event, a fourth-place finish in the \$3,200 online high roller, and a deep run in the main event for an additional combined \$156,000.

Arieh's lifetime tournament earnings have grown to \$8.6 million after his impressive run this fall.

"I really want my kids to be able to say that their dad is a Hall of Fame poker player," Arieh told *Card Player* after his latest win. "I knew that I had to do a lot more than I had already done. Hopefully, this run 25 years into my poker career will give me a chance. Bracelets are cool. Nobody asks you how many [other] tournaments you won. They count bracelets. And we all do too."

**Scott Ball** became the fourth player to win multiple

bracelets this year. Ball, who is credited with helping to promote poker on the Twitch platform, had his breakout live tournament victory in the \$5,000 buy-in six-max no-limit hold'em event for \$562,667 on Oct. 14. Just a month later he backed up that huge victory by securing his second bracelet of the series, topping a massive field of 3,797 total entries to win the \$1,111 *Little One For One Drop* no-limit hold'em event. Ball earned \$396,445 and his second piece of *WSOP* hardware for the win.

#### Zyrin and Yoon Add To Their Bracelet Collections

Russian poker pro **Anatolii Zyrin** won his second bracelet by defeating the second-largest field of the 2021 *WSOP* in Las Vegas. Zyrin topped 9,399 players to win \$314,705 in the \$400 buy-in no-limit hold'em *Colossus* event. The 31-year-old had previously emerged victorious in the \$1,500 mixed Omaha event in 2019 for \$199,838. He now has more than \$2 million in lifetime earnings.

**Brian Yoon** came into the 2021 series with three bracelets to his name. Each of those came in a no-limit hold'em event, with two wins in lower buy-in, large field events (the 2013 \$1,111 *Little One For One Drop* and the 2017 \$1,500 *Monster Stack*), and another coming in a \$5,000 buy-in

## TOURNAMENTS

eight-max event. The 31-year-old poker pro diverged from that pattern with his fourth win at the series, which came in the \$10,000 buy-in deuce-to-seven triple draw lowball championship event. Yoon defeated a field of 90 entries to earn \$240,341.

"It's official, I'm a 'mixed game player,'" said Yoon in a post-win social media post that was accompanied by a pensive-face emoji. His latest victory saw his lifetime tournament earnings grow to more than \$5.4 million.

### Standout Stories Among Recent First-Time Winners

A total of 10 first-time bracelet winners were decided in the past fortnight. However, one of the nine events that minted new bracelet winners actually produced two champions: the \$1,000 buy-in 'tag team' event.

The *WSOP* first introduced the \$1,000 no-limit hold'em tag team event in 2016, 34 years after the 'mixed doubles' tournament was last held in 1982. The fifth running of the modern version of this event was held at this year's series. A total of 641 teams turned out for the event, with 'Team Ruter' coming out on top in the end. **Mike Ruter** and **Samy Dighlawi** both earned their first bracelets and their respective shares of the \$113,366 top prize.

Likely the most noteworthy first-time winner in recent weeks was high-stakes cash game regular **Dan 'Jungleman' Cates**. For a close look at his victory in the \$50,000 *Poker Players Championship*, head to pg. 26.

2021 was the first year that 22-year-old **Cole Ferraro** was able to compete in a live and in-person *WSOP*, having come of age during the live poker shutdown of 2020. Ferraro celebrated his debut by finishing runner-up in the \$1,000 buy-in no-limit freezeout event. He ultimately fell just short of securing his first bracelet, finishing second to earn \$123,142.

Less than three weeks after that close call, however, Ferraro managed to make it through an even larger field of 3,916 entries and back to heads-up play with a bracelet on the line. This time around, Ferraro came out on top to secure the hardware and the top prize of \$252,491 in the \$600 buy-in no-limit hold'em deepstack championship event. The victory increased the newcomer's lifetime earnings to \$397,441.

**Eelis Parssinen** is a regular on the high-stakes online poker scene, where he is best known by the screen name 'EEE27.' The Finnish pot-limit Omaha legend emerged victorious from a field of 579 entries in the inaugural running of the \$5,000 no-limit hold'em and PLO mixed event, earning \$545,616 and his first gold bracelet for the win.

Parssinen overcame a stacked final table that included several other top online stars from Scandinavia, such as PocketFives' second-ranked all-time online tournament earner Niklas 'Iena900' Astedt from Sweden and fellow top Finnish player Joni Jouhkimainen.

Two online bracelet event winners were also decided in recent weeks. **John 'Relevancy' Ripnick** defeated a field of 720 entries in the \$666 buy-in no-limit hold'em online event to earn \$114,898 and his first bracelet. **Jacob 'incel4life' Neff** topped 319 entries in the \$3,200 buy-in online high roller event to earn \$318,889 and his first piece of *WSOP* hardware.

The other first-time bracelet winners decided in the past two weeks included **Jean-Luc Adam** (\$1,000 Super Seniors NLH - \$255,623), **Eric Zhang** (\$500 Salute to Warriors NLH - \$102,465), **Jermaine Reid** (\$1,500 stud eight-or-better - \$113,459), **Mourad Amokrane** (\$1,500 pot-limit Omaha bounty - \$132,844), and **Motoyoshi Okamura** (\$1,500 NLH / PLO mix - \$209,716).

## WSOP - RIO ALL-SUITE HOTEL & CASINO - LAS VEGAS, NV

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$400 Colossus  Oct. 29-Nov. 1  Entries: 9,399 Prizepool: \$3,101,670	1. Anatolii Zyrin	\$341,705 (528)
	2. Michael Lee	\$194,450 (440)
	3. Kevin Rand	\$147,595 (352)
	4. Phuoc Nguyen	\$112,730 (264)
	5. David Ripley	\$86,650 (220)
	6. Eric Kim	\$67,025 (176)
	7. Martin Gavaszi	\$52,180 (132)
	8. Vincas Tamasauskas	\$40,885 (88)
	9. Penh Lo	\$32,240 (44)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,000 Triple Draw  Oct. 30-Nov. 1  Entries: 90 Prizepool: \$839,350	1. Brian Yoon	\$240,341 (540)
	2. Danny Wong	\$148,341 (450)
	3. Wil Wilkinson	\$104,381 (360)
	4. Don Nguyen	\$74,939 (270)
	5. Joao Vieira	\$54,993 (225)
	6. Brandon Shack-Harris	\$41,270 (180)
	7. Jordan Siegel	\$31,690 (135)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$1,000 Super Seniors  Oct. 31-Nov. 2  Entries: 1,893 Prizepool: \$1,684,770	1. Jean Luc Adam	\$255,623
	2. Eugene Solomon	\$157,986
	3. Scott Sukstorf	\$117,181
	4. Bill Stabler	\$87,722
	5. Alex Katsman	\$66,284
	6. Joseph Richards	\$50,559
	7. Girish Apte	\$38,932
	8. Reg Powell	\$30,569
	9. Gary Pagel	\$23,762

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$1,000 Tag Team  Oct. 31-Nov. 2  Entries: 641 Prizepool: \$590,490	1. Sami Dighlawi	\$56,683
	1. Mike Ruter	\$56,683
	2. David Lander	\$35,037
	2. Tomer Wolf	\$35,037
	3. David Botfeld	\$24,756
	3. Amanda Botfeld	\$24,756
	4. Michael Newman	\$17,771
	4. Robert Ormont	\$17,771

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$50,000 PPC Oct. 31-Nov. 4 Entries: 63 Prizepool: \$3,016,125	1. Daniel Cates	\$954,020 (612)
	2. Ryan Leng	\$589,628 (510)
	3. Paul Volpe	\$404,243 (408)
	4. Eli Elezra	\$286,983 (306)
	5. Chris Brewer	\$211,235 (255)
	6. Josh Arie	\$161,422 (204)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$600 NLHE Nov. 1-3 Entries: 3,916 Prizepool: \$1,997,160	1. Cole Ferraro	\$252,491 (660)
	2. Sami Rustom	\$156,056 (550)
	3. Sean Dunleavy	\$117,822 (440)
	4. Bart Lybaert	\$89,587 (330)
	5. Richard Dixon	\$68,604 (275)
	6. Edgardo Rosario	\$52,914 (220)
	7. Xiangdong Huang	\$41,108 (165)
	8. Rubin Chappell	\$32,169 (110)
	9. Ronald Slucker	\$25,359 (55)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$1,500 PLO 8 Nov. 1-3 Entries: 725 Prizepool: \$967,875	1. Kevin Gerhart	\$186,789 (912)
	2. Dustin Dirksen	\$115,440 (760)
	3. Matthew Kaplan	\$81,696 (608)
	4. Sterling Lopez	\$58,695 (456)
	5. Alexander Orlov	\$42,823 (380)
	6. Roman Hrabec	\$31,733 (304)
	7. Michael Trivett	\$23,891 (228)
	8. Dylan Wilkerson	\$18,278 (152)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$500 NLHE Nov. 2-4 Entries: 1,738 Prizepool: \$782,100	1. Eric Zhang	\$102,465 (540)
	2. Guy Hadas	\$63,344 (450)
	3. Bradley Rogoff	\$47,125 (360)
	4. Choi Chulhan	\$35,406 (270)
	5. Mitch Garshofsky	\$26,866 (225)
	6. Marty Zabib	\$20,592 (180)
	7. Hlib Kovtunov	\$15,943 (135)
	8. Christopher Corbo	\$12,471 (90)
	9. Anthony McCurdy	\$9,857 (45)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$5,000 NLHE/PLO Nov. 2-3 Entries: 579 Prizepool: \$2,670,638	1. Eelis Parssinen	\$545,616 (1680)
	2. Noah Bronstein	\$337,216 (1400)
	3. Ezra Abu Gazal	\$239,321 (1120)
	4. David Prociak	\$172,332 (840)
	5. Joni Jouhkimainen	\$125,940 (700)
	6. Kyle Arora	\$93,425 (560)
	7. Niklas Astedt	\$70,367 (420)
	8. Vikranth Anga	\$53,824 (280)



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$1,000 NLHE Nov. 3-4 Entries: 3,821 Prizepool: \$3,400,690	1. Georgios Sotiropoulos	\$432,575 (1320)
	2. Wataru Miyashita	\$267,328 (1100)
	3. Jordan Meltzer	\$202,695 (880)
	4. James Patterson	\$154,720 (660)
	5. James Rubinski	\$118,898 (550)
	6. Matthew Jewett	\$91,991 (440)
	7. David Tuthill	\$71,661 (330)
	8. James Morgan	\$56,208 (220)
	9. Erkut Yilmaz	\$44,394 (110)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,000 PLO 8 Nov. 3-5 Entries: 208 Prizepool: \$1,809,050	1. Josh Arie	\$484,791 (900)
	2. Danny Chang	\$299,627 (750)
	3. Anatolii Zyrin	\$207,369 (600)
	4. Daniel Colpoys	\$146,817 (450)
	5. Jeff Gross	\$106,391 (375)
	6. Adam Owen	\$78,955 (300)
	7. Aaron Kupin	\$60,040 (225)
	8. Matt Woodward	\$46,813 (150)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$1,111 One Drop Nov. 8-13 Entries: 3,797 Prizepool: \$3,800,797	1. Scott Ball	\$396,445 (1320)
	2. Michael Shanahan	\$245,068 (1100)
	3. Sorel Mizzi	\$186,824 (880)
	4. Sebastian Echavarria	\$143,399 (660)
	5. David Jackson	\$110,827 (550)
	6. Ronnie Ballantyne	\$86,249 (440)
	7. Petro Zakusilov	\$67,592 (330)
	8. Seth Fischer	\$53,343 (220)
	9. Frank Marasco	\$42,398 (110)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$1,500 Stud 8 Nov. 10-12 Entries: 372 Prizepool: \$496,620	1. Jermaine Reid	\$113,459 (600)
	2. Peder Berge	\$70,126 (500)
	3. John Hoang	\$48,138 (400)
	4. John Monnette	\$33,734 (300)
	5. Esther Taylor	\$24,145 (250)
	6. Carol Fuchs	\$17,658 (200)
	7. Espen Sandvik	\$13,202 (150)
	8. John Racener	\$10,095 (100)

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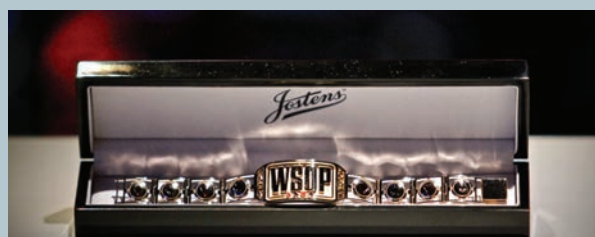
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## TOURNAMENTS



Event	Player	Payout (POV)
\$1,500 PLO KO Nov. 11-13 Entries: 860 Prizepool: \$1,148,100	1. Mourad Amokrane	\$132,844 (912)
	2. Matt Mayima	\$82,100 (760)
	3. Matthew Humphrey	\$58,733 (608)
	4. Matthew Mlsna	\$42,604 (456)
	5. Dustin Nelson	\$31,344 (380)
	6. Paulo Villena-Porto	\$23,392 (304)
	7. Jeff Gross	\$17,712 (228)
	8. Kao Saechao	\$13,610 (152)

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
\$1,500 NLHE/PLO Nov. 12-14 Entries: 846 Prizepool: \$1,129,410	1. Motoyoshi Okamura	\$209,716 (912)
	2. Rafael Mota	\$129,621 (760)
	3. Nick Yunis	\$91,989 (608)
	4. Leon Yanovsky	\$66,249 (456)
	5. Mike Takayama	\$48,428 (380)
	6. Jordan Spurlin	\$35,942 (304)
	7. Marc Lange	\$27,088 (228)
	8. Tim Grau	\$20,737 (152)

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Online \$666 NLHE Oct. 31 Entries: 720 Prizepool: \$617,420	1. John Ripnick	\$114,898
	2. Matthew Gillingham	\$71,001
	3. Tommy Le	\$50,256
	4. Michael Lech	\$36,056
	5. Mario Mosbock	\$26,178
	6. Paul Richardson	\$19,263
	7. Justin McGhee	\$14,385
	8. William Romaine	\$10,866
	9. Jesse Kertland	\$8,335

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Online \$3,200 NLHE Nov. 7 Entries: 319 Prizepool: \$1,319,360	1. Jacob Neff	\$318,889
	2. Chad Eveslage	\$198,959
	3. Dylan Linde	\$134,575
	4. Josh Arie	\$96,049
	5. Kevin Garosshen	\$65,308
	6. Paul Richardson	\$46,969
	7. Elliott Kampen	\$34,435
	8. Dimitar Danchev	\$25,859
	9. Pierce McKellar	\$19,922

## CIRCUIT RESULTS



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Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Fall Classic  Wynn Las Vegas  \$1,600 NLHE Oct. 19-22 \$1,500,000 GTD Entries: 1,441 Prizepool: \$2,089,450	1. Sergio Aido	\$270,000 (960)
	2. Joseph Spanne	\$234,226 (800)
	3. Frank Weigel	\$150,556 (640)
	4. Diego Chunga	\$101,861 (480)
	5. Jared Koppel	\$75,220 (400)
	6. Javid Javani	\$56,546 (320)
	7. Alfie Poetra	\$47,117 (240)
	8. Marco D'amico	\$39,073 (160)
	9. Zachary Donovan	\$33,013 (80)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
High Roller Series  Aria Las Vegas, NV  \$10,000 NLHE Nov. 4 Entries: 41 Prizepool: \$410,000	1. Ren Lin	\$147,600 (300)
	2. Orpen Kisacikoglu	\$98,400 (250)
	3. Alex Foxen	\$65,600 (200)
	4. Motoyoshi Okamura	\$45,100 (150)
	5. Michael Lang	\$32,800 (125)
	6. Juan Pardo	\$20,500 (100)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Fall Classic  Wynn Las Vegas  \$1,100 NLHE Nov. 8 \$200,000 GTD Entries: 544 Prizepool: \$533,120	1. Jacob Naumann	\$100,000 (840)
	2. Luther Tran	\$80,209 (700)
	3. Gregory Kolo	\$48,072 (560)
	4. Michael Youngman	\$33,925 (420)
	5. Ran Shahrar	\$24,963 (350)
	6. Paul Freedman	\$19,217 (280)
	7. Adam Pepper	\$15,411 (210)
	8. Armando Figueroa	\$12,768 (140)
	9. Douglas Tascarella	\$10,793 (70)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
DeepStack II  Venetian Las Vegas, NV  \$1,100 NLHE Oct. 31 \$150,000 GTD Entries: 358 Prizepool: \$347,260	1. Joakim Beaupre	\$79,867 (600)
	2. Billy Papadopoulos	\$52,089 (500)
	3. Jun Obara	\$35,768 (400)
	4. Sheldon Gross	\$26,045 (300)
	5. Jason Emanuel	\$19,099 (250)
	6. Victor Ramdin	\$14,585 (200)
	7. Roger Hammond	\$11,460 (150)
	8. John Gilchrist	\$9,029 (100)
	9. Aleksandr Merzhvinskii	\$7,119 (50)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
High Roller Series  Aria Las Vegas, NV  \$10,000 NLHE Nov. 5 Entries: 30 Prizepool: \$300,000	1. Ali Imsirovic	\$120,000 (240)
	2. Mo Rahim	\$78,000 (200)
	3. Seth Davies	\$48,000 (160)
	4. Ben Yu	\$33,000 (120)
	5. John Andress	\$21,000 (100)



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Event	Player	Payout (POY)
DeepStack II  Venetian Las Vegas, NV  \$1,100 NLHE Oct. 26-28 \$400,000 GTD Entries: 1,408 Prizepool: \$1,351,680	1. Jordan Meltzer	\$193,781 (960)
	2. Justin Zaki	\$172,786 (800)
	3. Garik Tamasian	\$105,431 (640)
	4. Phillip Wright	\$79,749 (480)
	5. Anthony Dalpra	\$60,826 (400)
	6. Arnaldo Gordon	\$45,957 (320)
	7. Korolis Sereika	\$35,820 (240)
	8. Jonathan Currle	\$28,385 (160)
	9. Andrew Hedley	\$22,303 (80)

## TOURNAMENTS



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Event	Player	Payout (POV)
DeepStack II  Venetian Las Vegas, NV  \$1,100 NLHE Nov. 1-5 \$1,00,000 GTD Entries: 1,950 Prizepool: \$1,872,000	1. Bhaves Patel	\$238,233 (1080)
	2. Brett Murray	\$176,000 (900)
	3. Andre Butler	\$176,000 (720)
	4. Gennaro Proscia	\$102,960 (540)
	5. Matthew Lambrecht	\$78,624 (450)
	6. William Firebaugh	\$60,840 (360)
	7. Sertac Turker	\$46,800 (270)
	8. Donovan Dean	\$36,504 (180)
	9. Jimmy Lee	\$29,390 (90)

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
High Roller Series  Aria Las Vegas, NV  \$10,000 NLHE Nov. 6 Entries: 57 Prizepool: \$570,000	1. Justin Bonomo	\$171,000 (300)
	2. David Coleman	\$114,000 (250)
	3. Thomas Boivin	\$79,800 (200)
	4. Nick Petrangelo	\$57,000 (150)
	5. David Lewis	\$45,600 (125)
	6. Chris Brewer	\$34,200 (100)
	7. Sergi Reixach	\$28,500 (75)
	8. Daniel Rezaei	\$22,800 (50)

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
High Roller Series  Aria Las Vegas, NV  \$10,000 NLHE Nov. 7 Entries: 53 Prizepool: \$530,000	1. Alex Foxen	\$150,845 (300)
	2. Sean Winter	\$130,055 (250)
	3. Eelis Parssinen	\$74,200 (200)
	4. Ali Imsirovic	\$53,000 (150)
	5. Cary Katz	\$42,400 (125)
	6. Daniel Montagnolli	\$31,800 (100)
	7. Thomas Boivin	\$26,500 (75)
	8. Chris Brewer	\$21,200 (50)

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
High Roller Series  Aria Las Vegas, NV  \$10,000 NLHE Nov. 8 Entries: 61 Prizepool: \$610,000	1. Barry Hutter	\$183,000 (360)
	2. Motoyoshi Okamura	\$122,000 (300)
	3. Sam Soverel	\$85,400 (240)
	4. Brandon Wilson	\$61,000 (180)
	5. Stephen Chidwick	\$48,800 (150)
	6. Orpen Kisacikoglu	\$36,600 (120)
	7. Alex Foxen	\$30,500 (90)
	8. Eelis Parssinen	\$24,400 (60)

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
High Roller Series  Aria Las Vegas, NV  \$10,000 NLHE Nov. 9 Entries: 41 Prizepool: \$410,000	1. Rok Gostisa	\$147,600 (300)
	2. Daniel Smiljkovic	\$98,400 (250)
	3. Stanley Tang	\$65,600 (200)
	4. Barry Hutter	\$45,100 (150)
	5. Jake Schindler	\$32,800 (125)
	6. Cary Katz	\$20,500 (100)



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Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Fall Classic  Wynn Las Vegas  \$1,100 NLHE Nov. 4-6 \$400,000 GTD Entries: 1,438 Prizepool: \$1,402,050	1. Milos Ivanovic	\$201,898 (960)
	2. Arthur Conan	\$140,205 (800)
	3. Anonymous	NA
	4. Paul Ross	\$68,350 (480)
	5. Yiannis Liperis	\$50,474 (400)
	6. Alemu Makonen	\$39,285 (320)
	7. Valentyn Shabelnyk	\$31,616 (240)
	8. Ren Lin	\$26,218 (160)
	9. Vladimir Bozinovic	\$20,506 (80)

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## TOURNAMENTS

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
High Roller Series Aria Las Vegas, NV \$10,000 NLHE Nov. 10 Entries: 54 Prizepool: \$540,000	1. Sergi Reixach	\$172,800 (300)
	2. Nikita Kuznetsov	\$113,400 (250)
	3. Juan Pardo	\$75,600 (200)
	4. Matthew Ploof	\$54,000 (150)
	5. Thomas Boivin	\$43,200 (125)
	6. Chris Brewer	\$32,400 (100)
	7. Bill Klein	\$27,000 (75)
	8. Joe McKeen	\$21,600 (50)



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
DeepStack II Venetian Las Vegas, NV \$800 NLHE SENIORS Oct. 29-31 \$300,000 GTD Entries: 969 Prizepool: \$670,548	1. Robert Wein	\$93,191
	2. Craig Schauer	\$79,403
	3. George Bronstein	\$77,808
	4. Timothy Little	\$73,820
	5. Breyer Calvert	\$35,539
	6. Nick Blackburn	\$26,822
	7. Stephen Nussrallah	\$20,116
	8. Rambo Halpern	\$14,752
	9. David Berger	\$11,131

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
High Roller Series Aria Las Vegas, NV \$10,000 NLHE Nov. 11 Entries: 42 Prizepool: \$420,000	1. Vikenty Shegal	\$151,200 (300)
	2. Sergi Reixach	\$100,800 (250)
	3. Cary Katz	\$67,200 (200)
	4. Aleksejs Ponakovs	\$46,200 (150)
	5. Orpen Kisacikoglu	\$33,600 (125)
	6. Thomas Winters	\$21,000 (100)



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Poker Classic Choctaw Durant, OK \$1,100 NLHE Nov. 5-7 Entries: 545 Prizepool: \$528,650	1. Jared Ward	\$102,200 (840)
	2. Marc Maxey	\$66,100 (700)
	3. Nicholas Pupillo	\$48,660 (560)
	4. Sayed-Mo Khan	\$36,240 (420)
	5. Andreas Halikias	\$27,305 (350)
	6. Shawn Ramsey	\$20,815 (280)
	7. Tony Nguyen	\$16,060 (210)
	8. Patrick Lenihan	\$12,540 (140)
	9. Thomas Santin	\$9,915 (70)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
High Roller Series Aria Las Vegas, NV \$10,000 NLHE Nov. 12 Entries: 45 Prizepool: \$450,000	1. Leonard Maue	\$153,000 (300)
	2. Johan Guilbert	\$99,000 (250)
	3. Rainer Kempe	\$67,500 (200)
	4. Sam Soverel	\$49,500 (150)
	5. Thomas Boivin	\$36,000 (125)
	6. Stefan Schillhabel	\$27,000 (100)
	7. Alex Foxen	\$18,000 (75)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
High Roller Series Aria Las Vegas, NV \$10,000 NLHE Nov. 13 Entries: 69 Prizepool: \$690,000	1. Timothy Capretta	\$186,300 (360)
	2. Roland Shen	\$138,000 (300)
	3. Ioannis Angelou-Konstas	\$89,700 (240)
	4. Johan Guilbert	\$69,000 (180)
	5. Sergi Reixach	\$55,200 (150)
	6. Stanley Tang	\$41,400 (120)
	7. Rainer Kemp	\$34,500 (90)
	8. Aleksejs Ponakovs	\$27,600 (60)

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# 2021 Card Player Player of the Year

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Place	Player	Points	Final Tables	POY Earnings
1	Ali Imsirovic	6,878	28	\$4,934,960
2	Qing Liu	5,080	13	\$1,291,440
3	Sean Perry	4,585	19	\$3,061,578
4	Chad Eveslage	4,535	7	\$2,164,921
5 ↑	Alex Foxen	4,228	22	\$2,420,952
6	Sam Soverel	4,038	18	\$2,723,081
7 ↑	Chris Brewer	3,990	21	\$2,717,355
8 ↑	Sergi Reixach	3,932	18	\$1,566,121
9 ↓	Brian Altman	3,878	6	\$1,144,525
10 ↑	Cary Katz	3,621	20	\$2,794,690
11 ↓	David Peters	3,609	11	\$4,503,685
12 ↑	Sean Winter	3,551	16	\$3,796,925
13 ↓	Andrew Moreno	3,547	3	\$1,626,754
14 ↓	Joe McKeen	3,546	6	\$1,590,850
15 ↓	Matas Cimbalas	3,530	6	\$1,174,728
16 ↓	Viet Vo	3,310	5	\$1,208,975
17 ↓	Chance Kornuth	3,210	4	\$1,155,732
18 ↓	Ilyas Muradi	3,160	6	\$869,743
19 ↑	Scott Ball	3,050	3	\$987,232
20 ↑	Nick Pupillo	2,980	12	\$293,588

## IMSIROVIC AND OTHER HIGH ROLLER REGULARS BATTLE IT OUT AT ARIA

While the final few weeks of the 2021 *World Series of Poker* raged on over at the Rio, many players from the high-stakes tournament scene made their way to the Strip for the *ARIA November High Roller Series*. A total of ten \$10,000 buy-in no-limit hold'em events have come to a conclusion so far in the series, with plenty of top contenders in the Player of the Year race adding to their annual totals with deep runs.

Current runaway POY race leader Ali Imsirovic added to his advantage with a pair of final-table finishes. Imsirovic first took down *ARIA High Roller 30*, defeating a field of 30 entries to earn \$120,000 and 240 points. A couple of days later he finished fourth for another \$53,000 and 150 points in a 53-entry field.

The 26-year-old poker pro now has 13 POY-qualified titles in 2021, giving him a six-title lead over his nearest competition in that category. He also has 28 final tables under his belt this year, while no other player on the circuit has yet to surpass 22. As a





Alex Foxen

result of his incredible consistency, he now has a 1,798-point lead over second-ranked Qing Liu.

Imsirovic's second final-table finish of the series came in *ARIA High Roller 32*, which was ultimately won by Alex Foxen for \$150,845 and 300 points. Although Foxen is boycotting the *WSOP*, he has managed to stay busy at other venues around Las Vegas.

This was the former Boston College football player's second title, and with the three other final tables he's made so far at this high roller series, he now has 22 final-table finishes on his 2021 record. Foxen climbed to fifth place in the overall standings after his recent spree, with 4,228 points and \$2,420,952 in year-to-date POY earnings.

Sam Soverel maintained his hold on the sixth-place spot with a pair of final table finishes during this series, with fourth and third-place showings. Chris

Brewer moved into seventh place thanks to his three final table finishes.

Spanish poker pro Sergi Reixach went off at this series, making four final tables and emerging victorious in *ARIA High Roller 35*. All told, Reixach cashed for \$357,300 while accruing 775 points. He surged into eighth place, with 3,932 total points and more than \$1.5 million in earnings.

Cary Katz climbed into 10th place with three final-table finishes, bringing his total in that category to 20 on the year. Sean Winter recorded one deep run, finishing second to Foxen for \$130,055 and 250 points. Winter now sits in 12th place on the leaderboard as a result.

## SCOTT BALL WINS TWO BRACELETS TO PUT HIMSELF IN CONTENTION

Scott Ball defeated a field of 3,797 total entries to win the *WSOP \$1,111 Little One For One Drop* no-limit hold'em event, earning \$396,445 and 1,320 points as the champion.

This win came roughly a month after he took down the *WSOP \$5,000 buy-in six-max no-limit hold'em* event for \$562,667 and 1,680 points. With these two bracelet wins alone, Ball has increased his yearly total to 3,050 points, enough to see him lay claim to the 19th-place spot in the 2021 POY race standings.

Ball also finished 11<sup>th</sup> in the \$50,000 high roller event for \$87,500, making him one of the bigger winners of the series overall. The \$987,232 he has earned this fall makes up the vast majority of his career live tournament earnings.



Scott Ball

## NICK PUPILLO MAKES 12TH FINAL TABLE TO JOIN TOP 20



Nick Pupillo

Nick Pupillo has been one of the most consistent performers on the live tournament circuit at the 'mid-major' buy-in levels. The Illinois native has made 12 final tables this year, all coming in events with buy-ins below \$1,600, with two titles won along the way.

His most recent deep run saw him finish third from a field of 545 total entries in a \$1,100 buy-in event at the *Choctaw Poker Classic*. Pupillo earned \$48,660 and 560 points, increasing his yearly totals to 2,980 and \$293,588 in POY earnings.

The month before he finished runner-up in a \$1,100 buy-in event at the Wynn Fall Classic, putting another \$56,377 in his pocket, along with 600 POY points. His largest score this year came in January, when he took second in the \$1,100 buy-in event at the Lucky Hearts Poker Open for \$67,735. The upshot of it all is that he now occupies the 20th-place spot in the rankings.



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# HEAD GAMES: HOW TO APPROACH THE EARLY LEVELS OF TOURNAMENTS

By Craig Tapscott



**The Pros:** Kevin Garosshen, Ashley Frank, and Brian Yoon

**Craig Tapscott:** How do you approach the early levels of a tournament? Are you hyper aggressive with your deep stack to accumulate more chips, or do you tend to feel out the table and look for better spots?

**Kevin Garosshen:** Coming from a cash game background, playing deep is one of my biggest edges. I play very loose pre flop in the early stages of tournaments, playing suited gappers and other marginal holdings. I know that I can outmaneuver players post-flop and get many of the chips in versus players who cannot fold top pair or other medium holdings when I hit the strong two pairs or flushes.

When I first sit down, I look to see if the table is playing passive or aggressive, and if aggressive, I will start to tighten up. This is often the case in larger buy-ins when it is more pro player heavy. The best tables are when there are many weak-passive players. I aggressively isolate these kinds of players and look to play many pots in position versus them.

I bet small on the majority of flops, because these players won't correctly call the marginal hands with backdoors

that haven't improved yet. I am looking to see early showdowns and catch any mistakes players may be making such as bet sizing issues or calling very lightly. If a player bets small, I am always priced in to chase draws. This further incentivizes me to play loose.

Another important thing I try to look for with the amateur players is observing various tells. Is there a big size that they only do when they have a big hand? I just keep watching players play hands and keep track of anything useful. One of the easiest things to tell is a player acting super disinterested in the hand, but then as soon as it's on them they ask, "How much is it? Oh, I raise." This is a strong indication of the nuts, or a strong hand, and it gets easy to fold good hands when these types of players are playing their hands face up. You should be constantly watching the other players even when not in a hand.

**Ashley Frank:** In the early stages of the tournament, I look for a number of things. First, I start to observe the player types at my table, as well as the table dynamics that are developing. For example, if there's two players battling to be "table captain" or if someone shows a bluff and tilts another player;

those players might start to develop some dynamics that I can exploit.

Secondly, I start to look for the opponents whose chips are "up for grabs." Since it's the beginning of the tournament, the weakest players are still in. Many recreational players lack the patience to "stick it out" till the end so they will end up making crucial mistakes and punt their chips. Therefore, I look to see what players are there to give away their chips.

I tend to three-bet less and try to see flops with hands that can stack opponents. I'm not incentivized to three-bet unless I have a premium hand, because people don't like to fold during early stages. Three-betting and getting multiple callers post-flop is just lighting big blinds on fire in most cases.

Most recreational players don't see things in regard to number of big blinds and call raises with very marginal hands. They're thinking "oh, it's only 600 to call," even though they probably don't have the correct odds. This can also be taken advantage of by raising bigger with strong hands early.

I do, however, raise in position a lot if it folds to me, and I will usually play fairly aggressive, but still contain

Kevin Garosshen



Ashley Frank



Brian Yoon



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reasonable hands in my range. And depending on the player types at my table, sometimes I will try to create a loose aggressive image early, so I will get called lighter later on when I “have it.”

The best players in the world don’t have a specific style because they are able to adapt to any play style that is most profitable in most situations. I try my best to adapt and change as necessary. In most cases, I feel my play style is extremely exploitative based on player types, live reads, and dynamics. I will always deviate from what’s “standard” if I feel I can exploit a certain read.

**Brian Yoon:** The early stages of a tournament will mostly be about deeper stacked play. Fortunately, this also combines with a generally weaker playing field, since all recreational players obviously remain in the tournament.

I don’t shy away from playing large pots. But I also understand that whenever a lot of money is going into the middle, my opponents will generally have quite strong holdings. There is really no secret to playing these early stages, you simply treat it like a cash game and take profitable spots as they arise.

The biggest thing you want to look out for is any opponent who is playing hands particularly poorly. Keep an eye out for showdowns and if you see someone turn over a hand that really doesn’t make sense, you may want to try and get involved with them as much as possible when you have a reasonable holding.

For example, if I see someone three-bet preflop the button versus cutoff and bet all three streets on an A-7-5-K-3 board. Then they proceed to turn over pocket tens, you can assume they aren’t too sure what to do with hands post-flop, but they like to bet. Pocket tens

is a hand here that you would want to check at some point, since your hand has reasonable showdown value, and you’re essentially bluffing with it if you decide to continuously bet.

I would look to play more hands versus this kind of opponent with the understanding that they are probably betting too much randomly during hands. As you progress in a tournament, these types of opponents will tend to find themselves eliminated and you will not have as many of these types of opportunities. So, try to capitalize, but be careful! You do not want to go too excessively out of your way to play hands against these players, as other people can also enter the pot. Ultimately, you still need to make a decent hand yourself or have a good spot to bluff.

**Craig Tapscott:** How does your strategy change once the antes kick in? What adjustments do you make and why?

**Kevin Garosshen:** I think most tournaments I play at this point start with antes, but antes allow you to play more hands and you can open smaller than pre-ante. I generally change my sizing from 2x to 2.2x for when I am 50 big blinds effective or less and go up to 2.5x if I am 100+ big blinds deep.

The ante puts more chips in the pot to play for, so I often start three-betting hands I might have flatted before. The hands I tend to use are suited Broadways, suited aces, and even some suited kings, depending on positions and the type of player I’m facing. Then, small continuation bets work wonders in these three-bet pots. Once a player calls a reraise preflop and bet on the flop, their ranges are defined, and I play accordingly. If a scare card comes, it is easy to barrel them off middling pairs. Otherwise, if I believe they have a

strong top pair or overpair I just give up unless I have a stronger overpair.

Stacks also start to get shallower in relation to antes coming into play, which means players will value their stacks more. This opens the door for playing aggressive in the majority of pots. The best time to build up a stack through antes come into play around when the bubble hits. Because I often build up stacks in early stages, it is not uncommon for me to have a big stack on a bubble. You can open insanely wide and keep picking up the blinds and antes almost uncontested every hand. This style of play further cements you in the lead and often lets you coast until the final table.

In almost all parts of tournaments, I play a wider range of hands when the table is more passive and recreational. Playing aggressively for antes allows me to build up a chip lead to close out the win.

**Ashley Frank:** In these stages, three-betting becomes one of our biggest weapons to accumulate chips. I tend to look for the player types that play “fit or fold” post-flop. Meaning, these players will only continue post-flop if they connect with the board or flop a draw. We can apply pressure to these player types post-flop and take the pot on future streets.

I will three-bet these players relentlessly until they fight back. However, most players don’t know how to adapt to aggression and won’t fight back as much as they should. Or instead, they end up making a huge mistake by trying to adjust to our aggression.

Opening up our range from the hijack, cutoff, and button is crucial for picking up pots when the ante kicks in. This will force the big blind to call our raises preflop with a wide range of

## POKER STRATEGY

marginal or bad hands, thus we can take the pot post-flop. This is important because every big blind we can pick up matters.

It's also important to note who is on our left. Do they three-bet light? Do they defend their button a lot? When I'm in the hijack, cutoff, or button, does the big blind call a lot protecting their blinds? If not, we should be opening a very wide range of hands. If the button fights back a lot, then we can start opening a tighter range of hands looking to create some four-bet bluff candidates in our range to re-exploit them.

Once the antes kick-in, most of my play style really depends on how many chips I have and the table dynamics. Sometimes I'm able to raise very liberally in position. Other times, if I'm at a more aggressive table, I have to pick my spots more carefully. Overall, timely aggression is a huge key to accumulating chips when the antes kick in.

**Brian Yoon:** These days, most tournaments start right away with antes, so there is no more strategy shift to be made from its introduction. (Unless you're playing online.) But in general, as a tournament progresses on, you will notice most people start to

take things much more seriously. While many players don't mind splashing around early or bluff-catching the river when it costs them five percent of their starting stack, many people will tighten up considerably as you get closer to the more serious parts of the tournament.

This allows you to take advantage of situations where people may not want to risk their tournament life in a marginal situation. It's up to you to determine which of your opponents fit this category, and which of your opponents are more hardened professionals who aren't afraid of being eliminated and will simply play their hands as they see fit.

At the end of the day, any given poker hand will generally have an optimal way to be played and it's your job to try and find that answer, even if it means it doesn't work out sometimes. I am never afraid to bluff in a situation if I believe my hand is appropriate to do so and I can see it being successful based on the overall situation.

Many of your opponents will not have this approach and will virtually never bluff. They will rely entirely on the luck of the cards and making good hands. And while this may work out

sometimes, their chances of winning diminish greatly because they simply won't make enough good hands for this strategy to be sustainable long-term. ♠

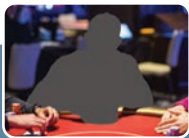
*Kevin Garosshen took down the 2020 Heartland Poker Tour St. Louis \$1,650 main event for more than \$130,000 last year right before the pandemic halted live play. Most recently, he finished fifth in the WSOP Online \$3,200 high roller event for \$65,308. The Connecticut native has more than \$850,000 in career tournament cashes and can be found on Twitter @KevinGarosshen.*

*Ashley 'PokerfaceAsh' Frank is a popular poker vlogger that has already been featured in meetup games at casinos all over the USA. The Scottsdale, Arizona based player learned the game while playing on her college basketball team. Check out Ashley's YouTube page, or Instagram and Twitter pages @pokerface\_ash.*

*Brian Yoon has won four WSOP bracelets, including the 2013 Little One For One Drop, the 2014 \$5,000 no-limit hold'em, and the 2017 Monster Stack. Most recently, he took home bracelet no. 4 in the Triple Draw event. The Los Angeles-based pro now has more than \$5.4 million in career tournament cashes. You can follow Brian on Twitter @byoonz.*

## TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2021 World Series of Poker  
\$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



**Chau Nguyen**  
77,100 Chips

Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 35%  
After Flop: 10%  
After Turn: 5%



**Doyle Brunson**  
88,900 Chips

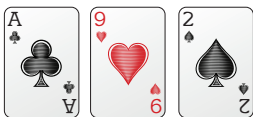


Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 34%  
After Flop: 66%  
After Turn: 95%

### PREFLOP

With nine players at the table and blinds of 300-500 and a big blind ante of 500, Chau Nguyen limped in from early position. Doyle Brunson limped in from the cutoff, Eliran Yamin limped from the small blind, and David Lolis checked the big blind.

**FLOP**



Yamin bet 1,000, and Lolis folded. Nguyen and Brunson called.

**TURN**



Yamin and Nguyen checked. Brunson bet 3,500. Yamin folded, and Nguyen called.

**RIVER**



Nguyen checked, and Brunson bet 12,000. Nguyen check-raised to 30,000, and Brunson folded.

## COMMENTARY

The 2021 *World Series of Poker* main event, which was still ongoing when this magazine went to press, has already provided plenty of exciting and interesting tournament hands. Several featured 10-time bracelet winner and two-time world champion Doyle Brunson, who said in 2018 that he might be done at the series. The living poker legend decided to play at least one more main event this year, taking a seat on the first of six starting flights. Brunson demonstrated how he became a Hall of Fame player in this hand, which started with an unorthodox limp from Chau Nguyen and his pocket tens. Brunson also made an unusual move, limping behind with A-K. These two non-standard plays allowed two other players to join in on the fun with suited hands: Eliran Yamin with 4♣ 2♣ in the small blind and David Lolis with Q♣ 3♣ from the big blind. Yamin flopped bottom pair and decided to seize the betting lead. Nguyen called with his pocket pair, and Brunson came along with his flopped pair of aces. The turn brought another ace and Yamin shut down. Brunson value bet his trips with a king kicker and only Nguyen called. Nguyen spiked a two outer on the river, hitting a ten for a full house. He checked and Brunson went for more value, this time firing 12,000 for nearly a pot-sized bet. Nguyen check-raised to 30,000 and Brunson went into the tank. Given that his opponent had limped in as the first player to voluntarily put chips in the pot, a set or something like aces full of deuces could make a lot of sense. Doyle might not have suspected tens full as the most likely full house, but either way, he correctly realized that his trips with the best kicker were unlikely to beat the value-betting portion of Nguyen's river check-raising range. Doyle laid his hand down and preserved 28,000 chips as day 1A action continued.

**NOTE: WINNING PERCENTAGES DO NOT INCLUDE TIES. ODDS PROVIDED BY CARDPLAYER.COM/POKER-TOOLS/ODDS-CALCULATOR/TEXAS-HOLDEM**

# Seven Card Stud Eight-Or-Better: Chasing The Low

By Kevin Haney

In Seven Card Stud Eight-or-Better (Stud 8), as in all split pot games, the object of the game is to scoop! Our initial focus should be on seeking out situations where we hold the advantage, and avoiding those where we don't.

However, occasionally things don't work out exactly as hoped and we can get stuck with only a low draw against what appears to be a strong high hand.

When this occurs, do we have the odds to chase the low even when it appears as if we have very little or non-existent scooping chances? While there are many issues to consider, this is primarily a math problem. Let's begin by tak-

ing a look at some numbers.

Suppose we are in a six-handed \$40-\$80 game with a high \$10 ante, and on fifth street, two players hold the following hands:

(K♣ K♥) K♠ 9♥ K♦  
(A♠ 7♥) 4♣ 3♦ 10♣

Only one bet went in on both third and fourth street, so there is \$220 in the middle after the first two streets. If the player holding quads bets, exposes his hand (assuming this in a card room where this is allowed), and then tells us we need to fold as we are only drawing to half, is this a correct statement? Is he being nice,

or he is trying to coerce us to do something that benefits him?

The money that's currently in the pot is no longer ours, therefore the expectation of folding is simply zero. If we call both fifth and sixth street, we are risking \$160 to win \$110, half of the \$220 in the middle at our fifth street decision point. Theoretically, if the expectation of calling is positive by a penny, then that is what we should do.

Assuming no knowledge of the other up-cards, there are 16 cards out of the 42 left that will complete our low, and this draw will come in around 62% of the time. So is this a large enough probability where calling has a positive expectation?

## TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2021 World Series of Poker  
\$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Steve Zolotow  
57,400 Chips



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 37%  
After Flop: 6%  
After Turn: Folded



Perry Friedman  
209,700 Chips



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 45%  
After Flop: 89%  
After Turn: 98%



JJ Liu  
176,000 Chips



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 18%  
After Flop: 5%  
After Turn: 2%

### PREFLOP

There were nine players at the table and blinds of 300-500 and a big blind ante of 500. Preflop action was not recorded, but Perry Friedman was in the lojack, while JJ Liu was in the cutoff and Steve Zolotow was in the big blind.



Zolotow bet 6,000. Friedman raised to 22,000, and Liu called. Zolotow folded.



Friedman bet 183,000, and Liu folded.

### COMMENTARY

Women in Poker Hall of Fame member JJ Liu made a disciplined laydown of a set during day 1A of the main event, getting away from what was in fact the second-best hand. Two-time bracelet winner and *Card Player* columnist Steve Zolotow made an impressive laydown of his own, having flopped top pair, top kicker. Zolotow bet as the first to act post-flop, and Perry Friedman raised with middle set on the king-high flop that featured two diamonds. Liu made the call with her bottom set and Zolotow, after careful consideration, got away from his hand. "I'm gonna be embarrassed when I see the replay," said Zolotow, who is hopefully proud to see how good of a fold it turned out to be. The turn brought a brick, and Friedman bet enough to put Liu all-in. The bet amounted to 152,000 into a pot of just 59,200. Friedman might have assumed that his opponent had an incredibly strong hand that would call his home-run shove, but he also might have been worried about the flush draw from the flop. Whatever his true motivation for the huge bet, he did admit to the table that he held a set of eights and commented, "I wasn't going to let a flush get there." Liu might have still been able to get away from her set at some point if Friedman had taken a different line, but his massive bet made her tough decision a bit easier. Liu folded to save her remaining chips and went on to bag up a healthy stack, just a few spots behind Friedman on the end-of-day leaderboard.

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“Chasing the low will often work out slightly better than folding against a pure high hand, but we must tread very carefully in ambiguous situations where our opponent often has a two-way hand. We must be selective and only draw to the low when there is sufficient dead money in the middle, the exposed cards are either neutral or advantageous to us, and reverse implied odds are not a big concern.”

A simple equation will provide the answer:

$$\text{Expectation of Calling} = (62\%)(\$110) + (100-62\%)(-\$160) = \$8.08$$

Under the assumptions above, calling does approximately \$8.08 better than folding, so in theory we should call. However there are certain situations where we may want to fold anyway. After all, we are putting two big bets at risk where the net gain is only around one-tenth of a big bet.

In tournaments, we should tend to fold, as the chips that you lose are worth more than you win. And in some bubble situations, the chips that you could potentially lose may be very damaging to your stack position.

You may also want to fold in a cash game if you are taking a shot at a higher limit and don't want to take the variance.

Exposed cards can make a difference and should always be taken into account. For example, if in the above example you have seen five other cards and three of them were low cards that you need, the prob-

## TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

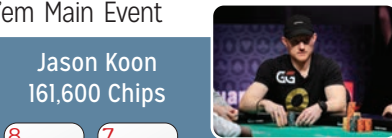
2021 World Series of Poker  
\$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Doyle Brunson  
132,700 Chips



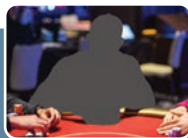
Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 61%  
After Flop: 58%  
After Turn: 16%



Jason Koon  
161,600 Chips



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 5%  
After Flop: 31%  
After Turn: 84%



Ardit Kurshumi  
232,500 Chips



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 6%  
After Flop: 0%  
After Turn: Folded

### PREFLOP

With nine players at the table and blinds of 800-1,600 and a big blind ante of 1,600, Doyle Brunson raised to 3,500. Jason Koon called from the button, and Ardit Kurshumi called from the small blind.



Kurshumi checked, and Brunson bet 7,000. Koon called, and Kurshumi folded.



Brunson bet 15,500, and Koon called.



Brunson checked, and Koon bet 41,000. Brunson folded.

### COMMENTARY

Not content to make one viral-video-worthy lay-down during his stint at the feature table on day 1A, Brunson clashed with one of the top tournament players in the modern game and again managed to make a world-class fold. Brunson opened with a raise holding A-J and Jason Koon called in position with 8♥ 7♥. Ardit Kurshumi, the chip leader at the table, called with a different 8-7 suited and the trio saw a king-high flop that included two hearts. Brunson made a continuation bet when checked to, with an overcard and a gutshot straight draw. Koon called with the flush draw and Kurshumi got out of the way. The turn was an action card, giving Koon the flush while Brunson hit the Broadway straight with a jack-high flush redraw. He bet 15,500 into a pot of 27,700 and Koon cannily called. The river brought a blank and Brunson tapped the brakes with a check. Koon went for the big value bet, firing 41,000 into the pot of 58,700. The bet represented roughly 38 percent of Brunson's remaining stack. The seasoned veteran went into the tank. He soon began to think out loud. "It's hard to throw a straight away here. Guess I don't beat anything but a bluff," said Brunson as he pondered his predicament. He ultimately opted to fold his nut straight, once again saving a sizable chunk of his stack thanks to a good read. Ultimately, it didn't help him get to the money as he was eliminated on day 2, while Koon went on to finish 194th for \$44,200. The 2021 WSOP bracelet winner now has more than \$34 million in recorded tournament earnings to his name.

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ability of hitting drops to 59%. Calling down would then have a negative expectation and it would be incorrect to chase the low. It may also be wrong to chase if there was less dead money in the middle, which would be the case with a lower ante and/or with fewer players initially dealt into the hand.

This example is unique in that we know we are drawing dead for the high side. That, however, is not always the case and even a small probability of winning the high will greatly add to our expected value.

Having the ability to hit runner-runner for a low straight is nice because even if the straight isn't good for the high, we will almost always at least take the low. Other sources of high equity, such as making two small pair or trips that we may feel compelled to call with on seventh street can add a dose of reverse implied odds. However, in general we would welcome these extra possibilities, especially if we have a good read on our opponent and can make good river laydowns.

One situation that we must be

very particularly wary of is when our opponent has a high hand that will be very difficult to overcome, and may also end up with a better low than us.

For example, suppose the following hands are out on fifth street:

(X X) A♠ A♥ 6♦  
(2♠ 3♥) 5♠ 8♦ Q♦

This spot is bad news and our hand should hit the muck. Our opponent is a big favorite on the high side and often also has the ability to beat us out for low. If we continue and on the river we can beat what we can see for high or make any low, we have to showdown on seventh street, and this has some reverse implied odds.

Assuming our opponent has any two low cards in the hole, we only have around 27% equity, which is less than the 31% equity (half of the 62% low probability) we had in the first example where we were completely locked out of the high side of the pot. And in the first example, we also had perfect clarity

that any low we made would be good for one half of the pot.

Chasing the low will often work out slightly better than folding against a pure high hand, but we must tread very carefully in ambiguous situations where our opponent often has a two-way hand. We must be selective and only draw to the low when there is sufficient dead money in the middle, the exposed cards are either neutral or advantageous to us, and reverse implied odds are not a big concern. ♠



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](mailto:haneyk612@gmail.com).

## TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2021 World Series of Poker  
\$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event



Ronald Jensen  
5,105,000 Chips



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 85.0%  
After Flop: 84.0%  
After Turn: N/A



Nicholas Rigby  
9,850,000 Chips



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 14.0%  
After Flop: 15.0%  
After Turn: N/A

### PREFLOP

With nine players at the table and blinds of 60,000-120,000 and a big blind ante of 120,000, Ronald Jensen raised to 325,000 from the small blind. Nicholas Rigby three-bet to 920,000 from the big blind. Jensen four-bet to 2,100,000, and Rigby called.



Jensen checked, Rigby moved all-in, and Jensen folded.

### COMMENTARY

Nicholas Rigby caught the attention of the poker-playing world with a number of wild hands in which he made moves with 3-2 offsuit during his deep run in the main event. It turned out that the hand is known as the 'dirty diaper' in his local games, and that it functions much like 2-7 offsuit does in other games that have been played in televised cash games and in card rooms around the world. If a player wins a hand with the predetermined bad holding, the rest of the table has to ship them a chip. With plenty of experience stepping out of line with 3-2 under his belt, Rigby was ready to step up under the bright lights. His opponent, Ronald Jensen, picked up the second-best starting hand in hold'em and raised. Rigby started selling his story of a strong holding with a three-bet. Jensen four-bet with his monster holding and Rigby decided to call with one of the very worst starting hands one could be dealt, surely with the intention of trying to bluff his way to victory later on in the hand. The flop provided a strong opportunity for Rigby, bringing an ace that he could attempt to represent to draw folds from Jensen's big pair holdings like pocket kings and queens. Who knows if Rigby would have pulled the trigger if Jensen led out as the first to act, but in this instance, he checked and gave Rigby the green light. Rigby quickly announced all-in, effectively betting 3,010,000 into the pot of 4,310,000. Jensen went into the tank, but eventually folded his pocket kings. Rigby flipped over the 'dirty diaper' and dragged the massive pot. Both players were eliminated later on day 6, with Rigby finishing 52nd (\$136,100) while Jensen took 50th place (\$136,100).

NOTE: WINNING PERCENTAGES DO NOT INCLUDE TIES. ODDS PROVIDED BY [CARDPLAYER.COM/POKER-TOOLS/ODDS-CALCULATOR/TEXAS-HOLDEM](http://CARDPLAYER.COM/POKER-TOOLS/ODDS-CALCULATOR/TEXAS-HOLDEM)

## SCHEDULES

FOR COMPLETE TOURNAMENT RESULTS AND LISTINGS, VISIT [CARDPLAYER.COM](http://CARDPLAYER.COM)

NOV.	Nov. 26-Dec. 23	WSOP Circuit - Bike Poker Series	The Bicycle Casino ■ Bell Gardens, CA
	Nov. 29-Jan. 9	DeepStack Extravaganza (NYE)	Venetian Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
DEC.	Dec. 2-19	WPT Five Diamond Poker Classic	Bellagio Hotel Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Dec. 9-19	WSOP Circuit - Aruba	Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort ■ Noord, Aruba
	Dec. 22-23	PokerGO Tour Championship	Aria Resort & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
JAN.	Jan. 5-17	Maryland State Poker Championship	Live! Casino & Hotel ■ Hanover, MD
	Jan. 6-17	WSOP Circuit - Oklahoma	Choctaw Casino Resort ■ Durant, OK
	Jan. 7-12	Moose International Poker Series	Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Jan. 12-23	WSOP Circuit - Canada	Deerfoot Inn & Casino ■ Calgary, Canada
	Jan. 13-20	Stairway to Millions	Aria Resort & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Jan. 13-24	WSOP Circuit - California	Thunder Valley Casino Resort ■ Lincoln, CA
	Jan. 20-31	WSOP Circuit - Mississippi	Horseshoe Casino & Hotel Tunica ■ Robinsonville, MS
	Jan. 27-Feb. 7	Winter Open	bestbet Jacksonville ■ Jacksonville, FL
	Feb. 2-9	PokerGO Cup	Aria Resort & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Feb. 3-14	WSOP Circuit - Florida	Isle Casino Pompano Park ■ Pompano Beach, FL

**AO**-Add On **B**-Bonus **CP**-Crazy Pineapple **H.O.R.S.E.**-Hold'em, Omaha Eight-or-Better, Razz, Seven-Card Stud, Seven-Card Stud Eight-or-Better **R.O.S.E.**-Razz, Omaha Eight-or-Better, Seven-Card Stud, Seven-Card Stud Eight-or-Better **KO**- Knock Out or Bounty **LH**-Limit Hold'em **MP**-Mexican Poker **NLH**-No-Limit Hold'em **O H/L**-Omaha Eight-or-Better **PLO**-Pot-Limit Omaha **RB**-Rebuy **SH/L**-Seven-Card Stud Eight-or-Better **SLH**-Spread-Limit Hold'em

### ARIZONA

#### TALKING STICK RESORT - SCOTTSDALE

##### MONDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$125

##### TUESDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$125

7:15 p.m. NLH, \$200

##### WEDNESDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$125

7:15 p.m. NLH, \$145

##### THURSDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$125

7:15 p.m. NLH, \$145

##### FRIDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$125

7:15 p.m. NLH, \$200

##### SATURDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$200

### CALIFORNIA

#### COMMERCE CASINO - COMMERCE

##### MONDAY-THURSDAY

5:00 p.m. NLH, \$125 AO \$100

##### FRIDAY-SUNDAY

1:00 p.m. NLH, \$250 (\$25K Guarantee)

### OCEAN'S ELEVEN - OCEANSIDE

##### MONDAY-FRIDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$75 AO \$5

##### SATURDAY-SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$230 AO \$10

### FLORIDA

#### BESTBET - JACKSONVILLE

##### MONDAY

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$60

##### WEDNESDAY

12:00 p.m. NLH, \$60

##### FRIDAY

12:00 p.m. NLH, \$160

##### SUNDAY

12:00 p.m. NLH, \$160

#### PALM BEACH KENNEL CLUB - W. PALM BEACH

##### MONDAY

12:15 p.m. NLH, \$125 KO \$25

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$100

##### TUESDAY

12:15 p.m. NLH, \$130

##### WEDNESDAY

12:15 p.m. NLH, \$100

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$125 KO \$25

##### THURSDAY

12:15 p.m. NLH, \$100

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$130

##### FRIDAY

12:15 p.m. NLH, \$130  
6:00 p.m. NLH, \$50 AO \$20

## SATURDAY

12:15 p.m. NLH, \$250 KO \$50  
6:00 p.m. NLH, \$100

## MARYLAND

### LIVE! CASINO & HOTEL - HANOVER

#### MONDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$120 KO \$25  
7:15 p.m. NLH, \$150

#### TUESDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$130  
7:15 p.m. NLH, \$200 KO \$50 (\$10K Guarantee)

#### WEDNESDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$160  
7:15 p.m. NLH, \$130

#### THURSDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$160  
7:15 p.m. NLH, \$160 KO \$50

#### FRIDAY

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 (\$8K Guarantee)

#### WEDNESDAY

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

#### SUNDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$360 (\$20K Guarantee)

## NEVADA

### SAHARA - LAS VEGAS

#### MONDAY-SATURDAY

12:00 p.m. NLH, \$60 RB \$20 AO \$20 (\$750 Guarantee)

#### SUNDAY

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, \$80 (\$5K Guarantee)  
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)

#### TUESDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$80 (\$5K Guarantee)  
2:05 p.m. O H/L, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)  
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$5K Guarantee)  
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)

#### WEDNESDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$80 (\$5K Guarantee)  
2:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)  
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$150 (\$18K Guarantee)  
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)

#### THURSDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$80 (\$5K Guarantee)  
2:05 p.m. O H/L, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)  
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$5K Guarantee)  
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)

#### FRIDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$80 (\$5K Guarantee)  
2:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)

6:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$5K Guarantee)  
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)

## SATURDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$150 (\$12K Guarantee)  
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$150 (\$18K Guarantee)  
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)

## SUNDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$80 (\$5K Guarantee)  
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$150 (\$18K Guarantee)  
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$80 (\$2.5K Guarantee)

## NORTH CAROLINA

### HARRAH'S - CHEROKEE

#### MONDAY-THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$140  
10:00 p.m. NLH, \$80

#### FRIDAY

8:00 p.m. NLH, \$250

#### SUNDAY

2:00 p.m. NLH, \$250

## TEXAS

### PRIME SOCIAL CLUB - HOUSTON

#### MONDAY-FRIDAY

12:00 p.m. NLH, \$140 RB \$100 AO \$100 (\$5K Guarantee)

#### SATURDAY

1:00 p.m. NLH, \$300 (\$20K Guarantee)

#### SUNDAY

1:00 p.m. NLH, \$250 (\$5K Guarantee)

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Card Player Poker School

## POKERCOACHING – HAND QUIZ

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### A Tough Turn For Big Slick



You are eight-handed, playing in a \$5,000 buy-in online tournament. You are the biggest stack at the table holding roughly 100,000 in chips with blinds of 700-1,400, with the next largest stack having 75,000. It folds around to you in the cutoff and you look down at A♣ K♣.

**Question 1:** Should you fold, call, raise to 2,800, or raise to 3,200?

**Answer:** Obviously you should never fold, and calling invites problems. While you will definitely raise in this spot, 2,800 is the preferred amount because a min-raise has a higher likelihood of attracting out-of-position callers that you have crushed. A raise of 3,200 is also fine as long as you know that the larger bet will still attract callers.

**You make the min-raise to 2,800 and it folds to the big blind who calls. The flop comes 5♦ 3♥ 2♥, and the big blind checks to you.**

**Question 2:** Do you check, bet 2,000, bet 4,800, or bet 7,200?

**Answer:** This flop completely misses your range, and while you may still be ahead, you must recognize how disastrous getting check-raised would be.

When trying to find marginal hands to check, ask yourself, 'If I bet this hand and get raised, is it terrible?' In this spot it is because you have a reasonable draw with your gutshot and overcards which has decent equity, but plays poorly if raised. If you did decide on a bet, it should at least be for a small amount.

**You check behind on the flop and the turn is the 7♥. First to act, your opponent bets 6,237.**

**Question 3:** Do you fold, call, raise to 15,000, or raise to 22,000?

**Answer:** With your A♣ K♣, you should call a turn bet on almost any card... other than a heart. The 7♥ greatly benefits the big blind's range which will contain a lot of low cards. And while you started with a great hand, when a really bad card hits the board and you face aggression, you simply must fold.

Don't make a small mistake which can turn into a big one.

**You make the disciplined fold and live to fight another day. Nice laydown!**

For access to more than 1,200 interactive poker hand quizzes just like this, but in video format, visit [PokerCoaching.com/CardPlayer](http://PokerCoaching.com/CardPlayer).



# **FOOTBALL FRENZY**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12TH**

# **\$25,000**

## **END OF SEASON DRAWINGS**

### **\$1,000 DRAWINGS**

### **EVERY 30 MINUTES**

### **FROM 11:00AM TO 11:00PM**

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NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 23, 2021

NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM TURBO: Nightly | 7:00pm | \$150 Buy-In

#	DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	GUARANTEED	BUY-IN	#	DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	GUARANTEED	BUY-IN
1	Fri	11/26	11am	NLHE (1 day event)	\$40,000	\$400	18	Fri	12/10	10am	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM*		\$400
2	Fri	11/26	4pm	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM Top 10% get \$5,000 cash		\$560		Fri	12/10	1pm	MEGA SATELLITE	3 WSOPC ME Seats	\$300
3	Sat	11/27	11am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1A 15k, 10% Adv	<b>QUANTUM</b> \$200,000	\$300	19	Fri	12/10	3pm	LIMIT HOLD 'EM FT @Liveatthebike with trophy	\$50,000	\$1,100
	Sun	11/28	11am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1B		\$300	20A	Sat	12/11	12pm	WSOPC MAIN EVENT DAY 1A Single re-entry per day		\$1,700
	Mon	11/29	11am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1C	Advance to Day 2 get paid \$550 cash. If you qualify more than once, you will receive \$2,000 cash	\$300		Sat	12/11	4pm & 8pm	MEGA SATELLITE FOR WSOPC ME TURBO	5 WSOPC ME SEATS	\$300
	Tue	11/30	11am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1D 30k, 20% Adv		\$550	20B	Sun	12/12	12pm	WSOPC MAIN EVENT DAY 1B Single re-entry per day		\$1,700
	Tue	11/30	8pm	MEGA SATELLITE	5 (\$2,000) SEATS	\$240	21	Sun	12/12	3pm	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM SURVIVOR Top 10% get \$3,300 cash		\$400
	Wed	12/1	1pm	DAY 2 - Single re-entry first 2 levels 150k chips, blinds 1000-2500		\$2,000		Mon	12/13	12pm	WSOPC MAIN EVENT DAY 2 FT is on Tuesday, 12/14 @Liveatthebike		\$0
4	Wed	12/1	4pm	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM Top 10% get \$5,000 cash		\$560	22A	Mon	12/13	2pm	NLHE HIGH ROLLER No \$250 Juice if register first 2 levels	\$200,000	\$3,250
5	Thu	12/2	11am	NLHE BOUNTY \$100 bounty included		\$400	23	Mon	12/13	4pm	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM Top 10% get \$5,000 cash		\$560
6	Thu	12/2	3pm	LIMIT HOLD 'EM	\$20,000	\$400	24	Tue	12/14	10am	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM*		\$1,125
7	Fri	12/3	11am	NLHE (1 day event)	\$40,000	\$400	22B	Tue	12/14	12pm	NLHE HIGH ROLLER No late registration		\$3,250
8	Fri	12/3	4pm	POT LIMIT OMAHA / BIG "O" HIGH 1 opt add-on	\$15,000	\$400	25	Tue	12/14	3pm	POT LIMIT OMAHA		\$2,200
9	Sat	12/4	10am	NLHE DOUBLE STACK*	\$50,000	\$400	26	Wed	12/15	10am	NLHE* (1 day event)	\$30,000	\$250
10	Sat	12/4	3pm	NLHE TURBO (1 day event)		\$600	27	Wed	12/15	3pm	NLHE DAY 1A 15k, 10% Adv	<b>QUANTUM</b> \$300,000	\$300
11	Sun	12/5	10am	NLHE* (1 day event)	\$40,000	\$250		Thu	12/16	11am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1B		\$300
12	Sun	12/5	3pm	OMAHA 8 OR BETTER		\$400		Fri	12/17	11am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1C		\$300
13	Mon	12/6	10am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1A MONSTER STACK 30k, 15% Adv (3 day event)	<b>QUANTUM</b> \$200,000	\$400		Sat	12/18	11am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1D 30k, 20% Adv	Advance to Day 2 get paid \$550 If you qualify more than once, you will receive \$2,000 cash	\$550
	Tue	12/7	10am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1B		\$400		Sun	12/19	11am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1E 30k, 20% Adv		\$550
	Tue	12/7	8pm	MEGA SATELLITE	3 (\$2,400) SEATS	\$280		Mon	12/20	11am & 4pm	NLHE DAY 1F 30k, 20% Adv		\$550
	Wed	12/8	12pm	DAY 2 - Single re-entry first 2 levels 200k chips blinds 2000-3000		\$2,400		Mon	12/20	8pm	MEGA SATELLITE	3 (\$2,000) Seats	\$240
14	Wed	12/8	10am	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM		\$400		Tue	12/21	1pm	NLHE DAY 2 - Single re-entry first 2 levels 150k chips blinds 1000-2500 Final is on Wednesday, 12/22 at 6pm		\$2,000
15	Wed	12/8	2pm	OMAHA 8 / BIG "O" 8	\$15,000	\$400	28	Tue	12/21	3pm	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM Top 20% get \$5,000 cash		\$1,100
16	Thu	12/9	10am	NO LIMIT HOLD 'EM		\$400	29	Wed	12/22	11am	NLHE (1 day event)	\$30,000	\$250
	Thu	12/9	12pm	FINAL DAY OF MONSTER STACK	\$200,000	\$0							
17	Thu	12/9	3pm	NLHE* (1 day event)		\$400							
17B	Thu	12/9	7pm	NLHE SURVIVOR TURBO Top 10% get \$5,000 cash		\$560							

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