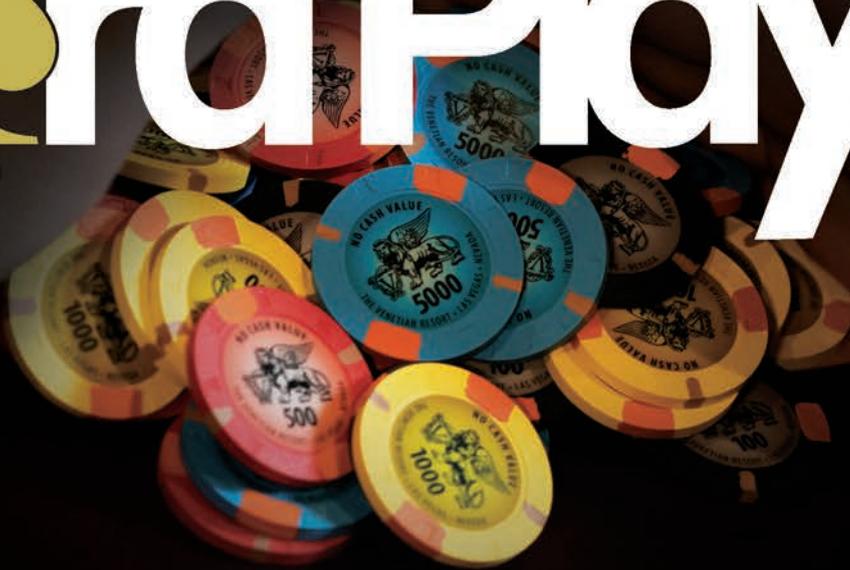


Card Player THE POKER AUTHORITY

www.CardPlayer.com

Vol. 35/No. 26
December 14, 2022



THE VENETIAN® RESORT

POKER ROOM | LAS VEGAS

MORE THAN
\$2.2 MILLION
IN GUARANTEED PRIZE POOLS

DECEMBER 1, 2022-JANUARY 8, 2023

EXTRAVAGANZA POKER SERIES

DeepStack

PLUS

FOUR ADDED TO
WOMEN IN POKER
HALL OF FAME

⋮

JOHN RIORDAN WINS
CPPT VENETIAN
MAIN EVENT

⋮

PHIL IVEY NAMED
WORLD POKER TOUR
BRAND AMBASSADOR

**GO FOR GOLD
THIS SUNDAY!**

**MERCH PACKS
AND MILLIONS
OF GOLD COINS
TO BE WON
EACH WEEK.**

PLAY NOW!



GLOBAL POKER™

GOLDEN SCRIMMAGE

NEW WELCOME OFFER!

GET OVER 50% YOUR FIRST GOLD COIN PURCHASE.
USE PROMO CODE 'CARDPLAYER'.

GLOBALPOKER.COM/CARDPLAYER
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY



PUBLISHERS

Barry Shulman | Jeff Shulman

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Julio Rodriguez

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Julio Rodriguez
TOURNAMENT CONTENT MANAGER Erik Fast
ONLINE CONTENT MANAGER Joe Mattia

ART

ART DIRECTOR Wendy McIntosh

WEBSITE AND INTERNET SERVICES

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER Jaran Hardman
DATA COORDINATOR Morgan Young

SALES

ADVERTISING MANAGER Mary Hurbi
NATIONAL SALES MANAGER Barbara Rogers

CARDPLAYER MEDIA LLC

CHAIRMAN AND CEO Barry Shulman
PRESIDENT AND COO Jeff Shulman
GENERAL COUNSEL Allyn Jaffrey Shulman
VP INTL. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Dominik Karelus
CONTROLLER Mary Hurbi
FACILITIES MANAGER Jody Ivener

CORPORATE OFFICE

6940 O'Bannon Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117
(702) 871-1720
cardplayer@cardplayer.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS/RENEWALS

1-866-LVPOKER
(1-866-587-6537)
PO Box 434
Congers, NY 10920-0434
cardplayer@cambeywest.com

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

sales@cardplayer.com
(702) 856-2206

DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

distribution@cardplayer.com

RESULTS

results@cardplayer.com

SCHEDULES

schedules@cardplayer.com

FOLLOW US

 www.facebook.com/cardplayer

 [@CardPlayerMedia](https://twitter.com/CardPlayerMedia)

Card Player (ISSN 1089-2044) is published biweekly by Card Player Media LLC, 6940 O'Bannon Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89117. Annual subscriptions are \$39.95 U.S. (\$59.95 U.S. for two years), \$59.95 Canada, and \$75.95 International. Remit payment to CUSTOMER SERVICE, CARD PLAYER MAGAZINE, PO BOX 434, CONGERS, NY 10920-0434 or call 1-866-587-6537. Periodicals postage paid at Las Vegas, NV, and additional mailing offices USPS #022-483. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to CARD PLAYER MAGAZINE, PO BOX 434, CONGERS, NY 10920-0434.

Card Player makes no representations as to whether online gaming is legal in your community. Please check with your local authorities.

Reproduction or use in whole or part is prohibited without prior permission from the publisher. Contributors are afforded the opportunity to express themselves to the fullest; however, statements and opinions do not necessarily represent those of the publisher. Information is gathered only from sources considered to be reliable; however, accuracy is not guaranteed.

Publisher does not endorse any of the products or services advertised in this magazine, nor is publisher responsible for the contents of any ad copy.

Published and printed in the United States.

ADVANCED TOURNAMENT COURSE

Join
PokerCoaching
Premium by 12/29
and Get **FREE**
ACCESS
to ATC!

COMING NOVEMBER 2022

ADVANCED TOURNAMENT COURSE FEATURES TRAINING FROM WORLD-CLASS PROS

Advanced Tournament Course (ATC) is going to build on the concepts from the Tournament Masterclass and has all brand new material from:



POKERGO TOUR
CHAMPION
BROCK WILSON

WPT CHAMPION
JONATHAN
JAFFE

2-TIME WPT
CHAMPION
JONATHAN
LITTLE

2-TIME
BRACELET
WINNER
JUSTIN SALIBA

MATT AFFLECK
\$3,568,811
TOTAL LIVE
EARNINGS

POKERGO TOUR
CHAMPION ETHAN
"RAMPAGE"
YAU

ATC will sell for \$997, but you can get **FREE ACCESS** if you
join PokerCoaching Premium no later than December 29, 2022!

Learn more and get the first section of ATC absolutely **FREE!**

PokerCoaching.com/CP-ATC

14



Features

- 14**
John Riordan Wins CPPT Venetian Main Event
By Card Player News Team
- 16**
More Than \$2.2 Million Guaranteed For Venetian DeepStack Extravaganza
By Card Player News Team
- 20**
Jennifer Tilly, Vanessa Selbst, Angelica Hael, And Terry King Added To Women In Poker Hall Of Fame
By Julio Rodriguez

News

- 8**
Phil Ivey Named World Poker Tour Brand Ambassador
By Joe Mattia
- 9**
News From The Gambling World
By Card Player News Team

Tournaments

- 22**
TK Miles Wins Card Player Poker Tour bestbet Jacksonville Main Event
By Erik Fast

34



22



Commentary

- 44**
For Love Of The (No-Limit 2-7 Single Draw) Game
By Bernard Lee
- 46**
TDA Rule Changes: Less Than Meets the Eye
By Scott J. Burnham

Also In This Issue

- 4**
About Us
- 48**
Tournament Schedules
- 50**
PokerCoaching.com Quiz: Turning Middle Pair With A Flush Draw
By Jonathan Little

Poker Hand Matchups

- 38**
Shaun Deeb vs. Ben Heath
- 42**
Eelis Parssinen vs. Shaun Deeb
- 43**
Paul Phua vs. Julien Martini
- 45**
Paul Phua vs. Daniel Negreanu

27

Circuit Update
By Erik Fast

28

Circuit Results
By Morgan Young

32

Player Of The Year
Sponsored By Global Poker

33

Poker Leaderboard: All-Time Venetian Tournament Earnings
By Erik Fast

Strategy

- 34**
Tristan Wade and Matt Waxman: I Wish I Knew Then, What I Know Now
By Craig Tapscott
- 39**
Final Table Takedown: Justin Saliba Wins Second WSOP Bracelet
By Craig Tapscott

42

Poker Déjà Vu: Getting Paid With A Premium Hand
By Jonathan Little

Happy
Holidays!

FROM

 **AMERICAS
CARDROOM**

*Thank you for helping make 2022 our biggest year ever.
And we have even bigger and better things planned for next year.
Stay tuned.*

USE REFERRAL CODE
CPMAG

FOR ACR'S INDUSTRY-LEADING
WELCOME BONUS
(100% UP TO \$2,000)



ACCEPTING U.S. PLAYERS
SINCE 2001



AMERICASCARDROOM.NET



@ACR_POKER



@AMERICASCARDROOM



SUPPORT@AMERICASCARDROOM.EU

Enjoy our free games, and before playing in our real-money games, please check with your local jurisdiction regarding the legality of internet gaming.

PHIL IVEY NAMED WORLD POKER TOUR BRAND AMBASSADOR

By Joe Mattia



Poker legend Phil Ivey is throwing his name behind one of the top gaming brands in the world.

The *World Poker Tour* announced that Ivey, a *WPT* champion, has joined the company as a brand ambassador. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

“As one of the most prominent and transformative players in poker history, Ivey expands his role in the global poker community, and *WPT* continues to evolve during the 20th-anniversary season,” the tour said in a statement.

“*WPT* is one of the most respected brands in poker, and I’m honored to become a *WPT* ambassador,” said Ivey. “My commitment and passion towards poker have never been higher, and I look forward to working with the *WPT* to showcase poker around the world, adding to its continued expansion.”

Ivey has a rich history with the *WPT*, having competed in many significant events throughout the past two decades. Ivey earned his place on the Mike Sexton *WPT* Champions Cup when he won the *WPT L.A. Poker Classic* in 2008. He also has nine other final-table appearances in major *WPT* events.

Outside of the *WPT*, Ivey has been inducted into the Poker Hall of Fame and has won 10 *World Series of Poker* gold bracelets, tied for the second most of all time. The 45-year-old has earned nearly \$40 million in live tournament earnings, placing him in the top 10 on the all-time money list, and has also won untold millions in cash games throughout his career.

“Phil Ivey is one of the greatest ever to have played the game of poker. His career achievements and success as a frequent *WPT* final tablist underscore his deserving legacy as a true poker icon,” said *WPT* CEO Adam Pliska. “As *WPT* celebrates its 20th-anniversary season, we have aligned the brand with talent and events that symbolize the very best in personal achievement. I cannot think of anyone who better represents that more than Phil, and I know players will appreciate the chance to interact with him at upcoming events.”

Ivey is scheduled to participate in several events during the *WPT World Championship* festival at Wynn Las Vegas in December.

“Apart from playing in the \$10,000 *WPT World Championship*, Ivey will be involved in distinctive experiential fan engagement, including an exclusive off-the-felt experience on Dec. 10,” the *WPT* said.

Poker legend Doyle Brunson, also a winner of 10 *World Series of Poker* bracelets, joined the *WPT* as an ambassador earlier this summer.

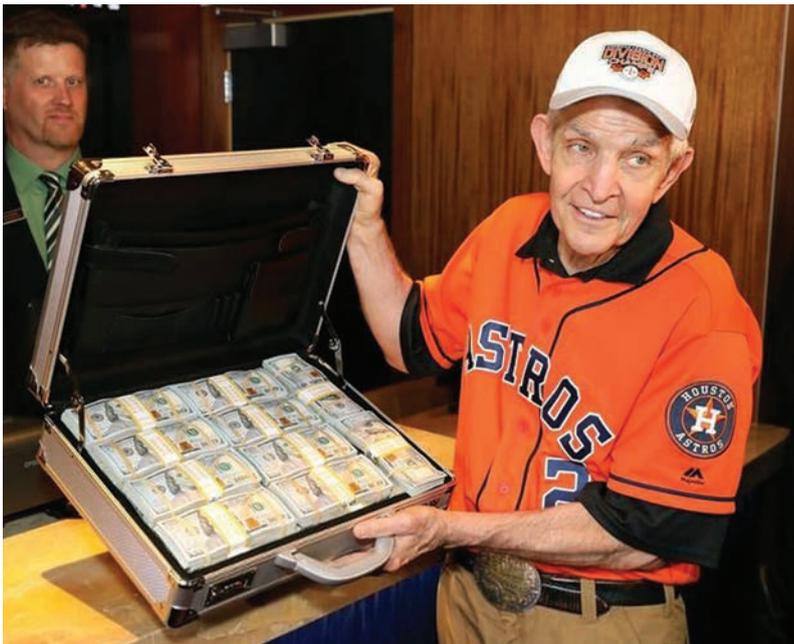
“Doyle has been a part of the *World Poker Tour* from the very beginning,” Pliska said in June. “I was there for his *WPT Legends of Poker* victory in 2004 when he joined the *WPT* Champions Club and being here to welcome him to the *WPT* family after all this time feels surreal.”

The two join a roster of players that include grammy-nominated DJ Steve Aoki, as well as standout poker vloggers Brad Owen and Andrew Neeme. ♠

NEWS FROM THE GAMBLING WORLD

'MATTRESS MACK' WINS RECORD \$75 MILLION SPORTS BET WITH ASTROS WORLD SERIES TITLE

By Joe Mattia



As part of a hedge against a promotion at his Houston furniture store, Jim McIngvale, better known as "Mattress Mack," won a whopping \$75 million on the Houston Astros following their game 6 victory in the 2022 World Series.

The Astros defeated the Philadelphia Phillies in a thrilling back-and-forth battle, picking up their second title in team history.

The 71-year-old McIngvale put down a reported \$10 million combined at various online sportsbooks when the Astros were relative longshots to win the World Series. About \$3 million was placed at Caesars' online betting platform, which paid him about \$30 million getting 10:1 odds.

He opted to collect the winnings in person in Las Vegas.

"What can we say? We just wrote the biggest check in sports betting history to Mattress Mack for \$30 mil-

lion," said Ken Fuchs, chief operating officer for Caesars Digital.

Penn Interactive, which is behind the Barstool Sportsbook, also reportedly was hit with a hefty loss, but there's no official number on its liability.

The \$75 million is the largest sports betting payout publicly recorded.

"This money is heavy," McIngvale said as he used a wheelbarrow to transport his cash to a waiting private jet.

Various other sportsbooks took the rest of his action. McIngvale had placed high-stakes wagers on the Astros in previous seasons as part of similar store promotions.

ESPN reported that Mack's store promo offered to refund customers who spent at least \$3,000 on furniture double their money back if the Astros won the World Series. It's unclear how much Mack will ultimately profit from the Astros' win, with most of his

payout earmarked to cover the losses in the promotion.

"This last week has been especially beyond words," said McIngvale. "From the annual Christmas giveaways, taking pictures daily with fellow Houstonians and Texans at Gallery Furniture North Freeway, refunding tens of millions of dollars since we started these promotions, from Hurricane Harvey to Hurricane Imelda to the winter ice storm and everything in between. You've always been there for me. I love Houston. I love this city."

McIngvale's win will hurt some individual online sportsbooks, but the industry continues to boom. Since 2018, more than \$160 billion has been wagered on sports, though some of that has come through free-play bonuses and promotions designed to entice first-time bettors.

Sportsbooks have retained more than \$12 billion of that \$160 billion in the form of revenue, according to figures from the American Gaming Association.

Sports betting is legal in 31 states plus the District of Columbia. A 2018 U.S. Supreme Court ruling opened the industry to states other than Nevada. The Silver State previously had a monopoly on the industry.

Upcoming sports betting states include Ohio and Maryland, which both have passed laws but haven't launched online wagering. California voters in early November rejected a ballot proposal to legalize sports betting.

There are no official industry figures on the 2022 MLB playoffs or World Series. State regulators have various reporting requirements. Baseball, as a sport, still trails football and basketball in terms of wagering handle. ♠

PETE ROSE TO PLACE FIRST LEGAL BET AT CINCINNATI SPORTSBOOK

By Joe Mattia

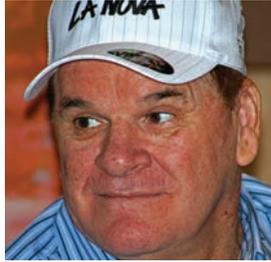
A new sportsbook in Cincinnati, Ohio will feature a ceremonial first bet placed by Pete Rose, MLB's all-time hit king.

At approximately 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2023, Rose will place the first bet for Hard Rock Sportsbook in Cincinnati. Rose, a player and manager for the Reds, was famously banned from baseball decades ago for betting on the game.

Gambling on sports was widely banned during Rose's playing and managing days. However, since 2018, states in the U.S. have been legalizing sports betting. Ohio is one of more than 30 states with legalized sports wagering.

Other local sports stars will be in attendance for the opening of the Queen City book.

In addition to Rose, Hall of Fame Broadcaster Marty Brennaman, Cincinnati Reds legends Tom "Mr. Perfect" Browning and Bronson Arroyo, Olympic Gold Medalist Mary Wineberg, Cincinnati Bengals Hall of Famer Anthony Muñoz, former Cincinnati Bengals players Ickey Woods, Jim Breech, and David Fulcher will all be present.



The Hard Rock Sportsbook will officially open when sports betting becomes legal in the state of Ohio. Hard Rock Sportsbook will be located adjacent to the Hard Rock Cafe and will feature a new lounge area, 33 betting kiosks and betting windows.

Ohioans can also play on the branded online sportsbook.

The Ohio sports betting legislation called for a start date no later than Jan. 1, 2023. While the industry awaits the launch, Ohio sports teams have been busy preparing.

The Cleveland Browns and Bally's Interactive partnered for betting, while the Cleveland Cavaliers forged a relationship with Caesars Entertainment. The Cincinnati Bengals in July announced a partnership with the sports betting brand Betfred.

Rose, now 81 years old, has apologized for betting on sports while in the league numerous times and even penned a letter asking for forgiveness to MLB commissioner Rob Manfred, but he remains barred from the Baseball Hall of Fame. ♠

© Kjinstorm

NEW BESTBET CARDROOM NOW OPEN IN ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

By Card Player News Team

Poker players in North Florida have been eagerly awaiting the opening of bestbet's third cardroom location, but that wait is now over.

bestbet, a gaming operator that spreads simulcast, poker, and other tables games, has unveiled their brand new 40,673-square foot facility in St. Augustine.

"We are very excited to return to St. Johns County with the newest addition to the bestbet portfolio," said Jamie Shelton, bestbet President. "Our Team has done an outstanding job in bringing this project to completion and we couldn't be [prouder]. We would like to thank St. Johns County for its support and for working with us to bring this project home."

The property, which broke ground in July of 2021, boasts 49 gaming tables, a sports bar, a sushi bar, tableside service, simulcast wagering, and more than 70 flat-screen TVs. In addition to poker, bestbet also offers One Card Poker, Three Card Poker, Pai Gow, and Ultimate Texas Hold'em.

While satisfying the demand for poker in the area, bestbet is also creating a number of jobs for those in St. John's County.

"Our new facility will employ over two hundred employees on day one, including but not limited to, information technology, accounting and finance, cardroom operations, servers, dealers, security and surveillance, and



other senior management positions," said Shelton prior to the grand opening. "While the economic impact can never be precisely calculated in connection with a new or relocating business to a community, we are very confident, along with county officials, the positive impact is going to be very significant."

bestbet also operates a poker room in Orange Park, as well as a cardroom in Jacksonville with more than 80 tables, which is the largest in the state. The new location is at 800 Marketplace Dr., St. Augustine, Florida 32084. You can learn more at bestbetjax.com. ♠

Bally's 'Live At The Bike!' Launches TV Series 'Big Bet Poker'

By Joe Mattia



Bally's *Live At The Bike!* has announced that it has launched a brand-new series that will expand its poker action into broadcast television.

The new series, Bally's *Big Bet Poker*, will “offer the big stakes, big thrills, big characters – and the big fun – found on live stream, supercharged with a polished, action-packed television format viewing experience showcasing the absolute best cash game play,” according to a statement.

New episodes premiere every Friday at midnight on Bally Sports West Veteran television network. Showrunners Houston Curtis and Rick Mahr of Outlaw Media Group will serve as series executive producers.

“Bally's *Big Bet Poker* is an exciting addition to our long-term gaming entertainment strategy that will feature the most thrilling high-stakes poker players in the world,” Curtis said in a statement. “Fans can expect to see high stakes poker enthusiasts from all walks of life ranging from celebrities and pro athletes to billionaires and business elite that want to battle at this one-of-a-kind poker table.”

“Whether it's the guts of a big bluff or drama of a big money bet, viewers will experience an action-packed hour of entertaining cash game poker at the highest levels,” added

Mahr.

Big Bet Poker will not impact the live streams over the internet but will initially showcase the popular *LATB* high-stakes no-limit hold'em game.

Season one competitors dueling on the felt with “deep stacks of personal cash on the line” include 16-time *World Series of Poker* gold bracelet winner Phil Hellmuth, Garrett Adelstein, Eric Hicks, Bill Klein, Matt Berkey, Johnny Chan, Chance Kornuth, Eli Elezra, Eric Persson, and *Storage Wars* reality TV personality Rene Nezhoda. More names are expected to be announced in the future.

The series will also feature never-before-seen player interviews, behind-the-scenes access, and special insider segments.

The announcement marks the first TV deal for the *LATB* brand. The web stream airs every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Over the past 17 years, *LATB* has streamed over 3,500 high-stakes cash poker games to a worldwide audience on the internet, amassing over 100 million views on YouTube alone. Each show is filmed live at The Parkwest Bicycle Casino in Bell Gardens, California. ♠

CALIFORNIANS VOTE TO REJECT SPORTS BETTING PROPOSALS

By Joe Mattia

There were two sports betting proposals on the California ballot in November, but neither failed to get enough support to pass.

Prop 27, which would have allowed for online sports betting, was defeated when 84% of voters rejected the measure.

Sportsbooks such as DraftKings, BetMGM, and FanDuel were behind Prop 27, but it was opposed by a broad coalition of more than 50 California Indian tribes, educators, civil rights and public safety leaders, advocates for the homeless and every major newspaper editorial board in California. Even the Governor came out against it.

Prop 26, a proposal for retail-only sports betting, was defeated with 69.4% of voters saying no. The tribes supported Prop 26, which would have given them the upper hand for sports betting offerings.

For the time being, California will have no legal sports betting of any kind. More than 30 states in the country have some form of sports betting.

“We are grateful to California voters who rejected out-of-state gambling corporations’ deceptive measure and once again stood with California Indian tribes,” said Greg Sarris, Tribal Chairman of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

“The corporate operators thought they could waltz into California, throw their money around, mislead voters and score a victory. Big mistake,” said Beth Glasco,

Vice-Chairwoman of the Barona Band of Mission Indians. “Voters are smart. They saw through the false promises in Prop 27. The corporations completely misjudged California voters and the resolve of our tribal nations.”

“Our internal polling has been clear and consistent for years: California voters do not support online sports betting,” said Anthony Roberts, Tribal Chairman of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. “Voters have real and significant concerns about turning every cell phone, laptop and tablet into a gambling device, the resulting addiction and exposure to children.”

“It’s clear voters don’t want a massive expansion of online sports betting, and they trust Indian tribes when it comes to responsible gaming,” said Mark Macarro, Tribal Chairman of the Pechanga Band of Indians. “As tribes, we will analyze these results and collectively have discussions about what the future of sports wagering might look like in California.”

Even with tribal-backed Prop 26 on the ballot, the tribes made it clear that defeating Prop 27 was their top priority.

Prop 26 was originally intended for the 2020 ballot, but the pandemic shutdown in March 2020 halted signature gathering, and the measure subsequently qualified for the 2022 election. Once Prop 27 was filed with the California Attorney General in August 2021, the tribes’ sole focus shifted to defeating Prop 27. ♠

Single Ticket In California Wins \$2 Billion Powerball Drawing

By Joe Mattia



One ticket in California matched all six numbers in November record-setting \$2.04 billion Powerball drawing.

The cash value of the ticket is \$997.6 million. Jackpot winners may choose to receive their prize as an annuity, paid in 30 graduated payments over 29 years, or a lump sum payment. Both prize options are prior to federal and jurisdictional taxes.

Although the winner has not come forward yet as of publishing, they will have to eventually as California law does not have the option of remaining anonymous. Winners have up to a year from the date of the drawing to claim their prize.

The ticket was sold at Joe’s Service Center on 15 West Woodbury Road in Altadena (Los Angeles County).

The lucky winner is the sole winner of the largest jackpot in U.S. Lottery history. The ticket matched the numbers 10-33-41-47-56 and the Powerball number 10.

Joe’s Service Center will receive the maximum bonus of \$1 million for selling the winning ticket.

Three other Californians won \$1 million in the drawing, along with smaller winners elsewhere in the country. To win \$1 million, a ticket must match the five numbers and miss the Powerball number.

California’s schools will receive \$156.3 million from the record jackpot and all the rolls leading up to it. This is the highest contribution to education generated from a single rolling sequence in the lottery’s history.

According to Powerball officials, the Powerball drawing was delayed due to another participating lottery – not California – needing extra time to complete the required security protocols. Powerball has strict security requirements that must be met by all 48 lotteries before a drawing can occur.

The Powerball drawing for the world record \$2.04 billion jackpot was performed at 5:57 a.m. PST at the Florida Lottery draw studio in Tallahassee. Powerball tickets are \$2 per play. Tickets are sold in 45 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The previous jackpot record was a \$1.586 billion Powerball jackpot shared by winners in California, Florida, and Tennessee. The record Mega Millions jackpot was a \$1.537 billion pot won by a single ticket in South Carolina in 2018. ♠

THE VENETIAN® RESORT

POKER ROOM | LAS VEGAS

MORE THAN
\$2.2 MILLION
IN GUARANTEED PRIZE POOLS

DECEMBER 1, 2022-JANUARY 8, 2023



EXTRAVAGANZA POKER SERIES

DeepStack

VIEW COMPLETE SCHEDULE AT VENETIANLASVEGAS.COM/DEEPSTACK
AND FOLLOW ALL THE ACTION ON TWITTER @VENETIANPOKER
AND FACEBOOK AT THE VENETIAN POKER ROOM

The Venetian® Resort Las Vegas management reserves all rights.
The Venetian® and other trademarks are used under license.

John Riordan Takes Down Card Player Poker Tour Venetian Main Event

Barry Shulman, Ben Palmer, And The Moreno Brothers Highlight Stacked Final Table

By Card Player News Team



The Venetian Resort Las Vegas recently played host to the *Card Player Poker Tour* for the 11th time, building upon a history that dates back to 2013. More than \$19 million has been paid out in *CPPT* events at the property, including the \$816,750 prize pool for this latest tournament.

After five days of action, it was longtime poker pro John Riordan who finished with all of the chips, besting a field of 363 and nabbing his eighth career title and the \$176,221 first-place prize.

“I wasn’t expecting much coming into the final table, coming in sixth of nine,” said Riordan. “But I knew if some good things happened it was anybody’s tournament. I’m very happy and fortunate that it turned out to be mine.”

Riordan made his move late in the tournament, battling with a short stack most of the way until a string of good cards vaulted him up the leaderboard.

“The biggest turning point came on [day 2], where I had the starting stack all day long. Then I went from 100,000 to 2,000,000 in two hours, just winning everything, making tons of hands. It was very fun.”

Riordan now has \$2.6 million in total earnings. His biggest score remains the \$210,180 he pocketed for taking down the *WSOP Circuit Palm Beach Kennel Club* main event back in 2011 when he was just 19 years old. It’s where he earned the first of his five *Circuit* rings. The Florida native also won a *U.S. Poker Open* tournament in 2021.

In addition to the title, trophy, and payout, Riordan also picked up 900 *Card Player* Player of the Year points, a race sponsored by Global Poker.

The tournament featured three starting flights and re-entries, allowing players plenty of opportunities to find a bag. The final 82 advanced to day 2, but only 46 would make the money, earning a minimum payout of \$5,430.

Notables with deep runs included *WSOP* main event champ Ryan Riess (40th), five-time bracelet winner Jeremy Ausmus (31st), *WPT* champion and bracelet winner Dylan Linde (22nd), high roller crusher Chance Kornuth (20th), and *WPT* champion James Romero (12th).

Connor Stuewe and David Jackson were just a couple weeks removed from a heads-up showdown in the \$1,600 *MSPT Venetian* main event. The two made a deal that saw each take home about \$155,000. In the *CPPT* event, Jackson took 24th place, while Stuewe’s run ended in 18th.

Jayakrishnan Nair was the day 1C overnight chip leader but lost a huge pot at the final table when he ran A-K into both pocket kings and pocket aces to lose the majority of his stack, ultimately sending him to the rail in ninth place. This was the second final table of the year for Nair, who took second in February’s *L.A. Poker Classic* main event.

It was a cooler that got Ben Palmer as well. The Florida native has made The Venetian a second home of his over the years, racking up 145 cashes and \$1.28 million in earnings at the property alone. (You can read more about Palmer’s stellar results at The Venetian on pg. 33.) Palmer, who won the 2019 *WPT Venetian* main event, had to settle for eighth place this time after he ran his pocket jacks into pocket aces.

Card Player’s very own Barry Shulman was looking to match his wife with a *CPPT Venetian* main event title of his



Barry Shulman



Carl Oman



for McDiarmid, who made a deep run in the 2021 *WSOP* main event for 46th place. This time he took fourth.

Three-handed play took about 90 minutes and featured some big swings on the leaderboard. In the end it was poker vlogger Johnnie “Vibes” Moreno’s turn to fall, ironically losing with two pair to a rivered set, just like his brother Andrew.

Johnnie had joked that he was on the fence about playing in the tournament until he saw Andrew bag the second-biggest stack on day 1A. The two automatically swap 5% of their action with each other in any event they both play. This time, however, it was Johnnie who had to pay out with the larger cash.

Heads-up play was a much shorter affair. Although Riordan and Carl Oman started with nearly identical stacks of 60 big blinds each, it didn’t take too long to determine a champion.

On the final hand, Oman raised the button and Riordan defended his big blind. The flop fell $K♥ 5♣ 2♥$ and Riordan checked. Oman made a continuation bet and Riordan check-raised. Oman called, and the turn was the $3♦$. Riordan bet, and Oman thought it over for a bit before moving all in. Riordan snapped him off with a flopped set of fives, and just needed to fade four outs when Oman showed $A♣ 2♣$ for a wheel draw. The river was the $2♠$, but Oman’s trips weren’t enough.

Oman is having a solid year on the felt. After winning a small event at Venetian in February, he also won the *WPT DeepStacks California* main event for \$301,550, and finished second at the *Venetian DeepStack Championship* senior’s event for another \$138,568. He now has \$720,000 in lifetime earnings.

Final Table Results

PLACE	PLAYER	PAYOUT	POY
1	John Riordan	\$176,221	900
2	Carl Oman	\$120,900	750
3	Johnnie Moreno	\$84,416	600
4	Zach McDiarmid	\$60,004	450
5	Daniel Colpoys	\$43,433	375
6	Andrew Moreno	\$32,026	300
7	Barry Shulman	\$24,065	225
8	Ben Palmer	\$18,434	150
9	Jayakrishnan Nair	\$14,400	75



Johnnie 'Vibes' Moreno And His Brother Andrew

own. (Allyn Shulman won the inaugural *CPPT Venetian* event back in 2013 for \$293,966.) Shulman was cruising to a huge stack when his pocket kings were cracked by A-K late on day 2. He was later sent home in seventh when his pocket sevens were bested by pocket eights. The two-time bracelet winner now has more than \$5.9 million in career earnings.

Former *Card Player* employee turned tournament pro Andrew Moreno was the next to fall, losing most of his stack when his two pair went down to a rivered set. This was Moreno’s fifth final table of the year, which also includes a title he won at the Venetian in February for \$242,293. He now has \$3.5 million in tournament earnings.

Although he had been eliminated, Andrew wasn’t in a hurry to leave the final table area. He had to sweat his brother Johnnie, who was still at the table and playing for a six-figure payday.

The next player to be eliminated was Dan Colpoys. The *MSPT* champion, who has found recent success in high roller events, found himself grumbling on social media about the tournament’s ultra-deep structure just minutes after sitting down for day 1A. Of course, it’s called the *DeepStack Extravaganza* for a reason, and Colpoys happened to end day 1 as the overall chip leader. His run finally ended in fifth place when he ran his A-J into A-K, bringing him to \$2.8 million in career earnings.

Zach McDiarmid lost the rest of his chips in similar fashion, running A-10 into A-K. This was the third largest score

Card Player Poker Tour Makes Quick Return To Venetian Las Vegas For DeepStack Extravaganza

By Card Player News Team



High stakes, stellar prize pools, and dynamic competition. You can look forward to all that and more at the *DeepStack Extravaganza* poker series this winter. At The Venetian® Resort Las Vegas, the thrills keep coming with action-packed events and luxurious surroundings. As the first and only all-suite resort on the Strip, these suites make every player feel like they're a VIP.

Starting in December and running through Jan. 8, 2023, *DeepStack Extravaganza* takes over with a five-and-a-half-week frenzy of spirited gaming that boasts 58 tournaments and more than \$2.2 million in guaranteed prize pools.

The *DeepStack Extravaganza* series plays out in several options and formats that include bounties plus multi- and single-day tournaments. The no-limit hold'em tournaments are popular events that fill up quickly. Tournament buy-ins begin at \$200 and vary all the way up to \$1,600, ensuring there are accessible and exciting options for everyone.

One of the highlights of the series is the return of the *Card Player Poker Tour*, which has been a long-standing partner with The Venetian® since 2013. The latest edition of the tournament runs from Jan. 5-8, and features a \$1,600 buy-in with a massive \$500,000 guarantee!

This event puts the deep in DeepStack with 40,000 starting stacks and 40-minute levels throughout the three starting flights. Get there on time and you'll have 400 big blinds to work with. In fact, if you sign up at VenetianLasVegas.com/DeepStack before



the end of the first level on any starting day, you'll receive half off the rake of your buy-in!

You can even win your seat with one of four \$200 mega satellites that will be running Jan. 4-7.

Another must-play event on the schedule is the \$300,000 guaranteed \$1,100 buy-in *Mid-States Poker Tour* main event running Dec. 28-30, which has two starting flights. Players will begin with a 25,000 stack and enjoy 40-minute levels.

There will be events running around the clock at the property, including \$800 UltimateStacks, \$600 Monster Bounty Events, \$400 EpicStacks, and \$300 Bounty Survivor Events.

For more information and to book your stay, visit VenetianLasVegas.com or call 877-444-3777. Reference group code CP22DA1 for a special poker room rate, terms and conditions apply and are subject to availability.

About The Venetian Poker Room

For The Venetian, poker is more than just a game. The property takes great care to provide tournaments that run like clockwork, a large variety of cash games, the most spacious and lavishly appointed venue in Las Vegas, and a professional and courteous staff that knows players on a first-name basis.

Desert Companion Magazine affirms that "The Venetian continues to be the top spot" for poker. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 a.m., games spread include limit and no-limit hold'em, Omaha 8, pot-limit Omaha and a number of other mixed games. The smoke-free environment features a comfortable waiting area, large screen plasma televisions, two power charging outlets at each seat, and tableside dining all day long.

The Venetian Resort sets the stage with unparalleled hospitality. With three all-suite towers, award-winning restaurants, and innovative nightlife at The Cocktail Collective, players can compete and indulge all under one roof.

When the cards are dealt and the hands are revealed, there's only one thing left to do—celebrate. Treat yourself to modern Japanese cuisine at WAKUDA and marvel at the talented performers of our newest show: *Freestyle Love Supreme*. Whether you love poker for the fun or the exciting stakes of competing, the *DeepStack Extravaganza* poker series is a must on every player's list. ♠





Connoisseurs of poker know that *DeepStack* tournaments are unmatched, where grit and strategy reveal who has what it takes to win. And the ultimate way to celebrate is to indulge in all The Venetian Resort has to offer. Explore globally inspired restaurants, unparalleled amenities, and legendary entertainment while playing in one of the most dynamic events in poker.

The Venetian Resort brings the soul of Renaissance Venice to Las Vegas. An integrated resort, the property offers all the romance and grandeur of its namesake and more. *USA Today* calls it "the most romantic hotel in Las Vegas."

From moment to moment, no other hotel can deliver the same exciting and rewarding experiences of The Venetian Resort. For those who live for excitement amid luxurious surroundings, The Venetian Resort delivers on every promise it makes and is the premier destination for those who love to live richly. Experience it all at The Venetian Resort, at the heart of the Las Vegas Strip.

Learn more at www.VenetianLasVegas.com.



HOLIDAY SUBSCRIPTION SPECIAL RECEIVE CARD PLAYER FOR ONLY \$1 PER ISSUE!*

OVER 35%
SAVINGS



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Visit www.cardplayer.com/link/subscribe
or call 1-866-587-6537

*Additional shipping costs for Canada and International subscriptions

JENNIFER TILLY, VANESSA SELBST, ANGELICA HAEL, AND TERRY KING NAMED TO WOMEN IN POKER HALL OF FAME

By Julio Rodriguez



There were seven candidates who could have been inducted this year into the Women In Poker Hall of Fame. After tallying the votes, it turns out it was too close to call, and the Hall will be adding four women to the prestigious club of poker standouts.

“Having skipped a year of induction (due to the pandemic) and with very few votes separating the top four women, this year the Hall members chose to make an exception and induct all four amazing women to the class of 2022,” said Committee Chair Lupe Soto.

The 2022 class is made up of Academy Award-nominated actress and *WSOP* bracelet winner Jennifer Tilly, tournament crusher and all-time women’s money list leader Vanessa Selbst, *WPT* Vice President of Global Tour Management Angelica Hael, and longtime industry insider and bracelet winner Terry King.

The four women will be honored at an induction ceremony at 10 a.m. on Dec. 14 at the PokerGO studio in Las Vegas, which will be live streamed globally.

The Women in Poker Hall of Fame was created in 2008 to honor those who have achieved success as players or have made contributions to the poker world off the felt.

The Hall had previously been made up of 21 women, 19 of which are still living and can cast their votes. There is also a panel of eight poker media members. Each member gets 10 votes that they can either give to one candidate, or split among multiple nominees. This year, the public’s collective vote also acted as one voting member.

The women who didn’t quite have enough votes to make it in this year were bracelet winners Kristen Bicknell Foxen and Liv Boeree, as well as poker player and TV reporter Kara Scott. They will rejoin the field of 47 other women who were recognized as candidates for induction this year.

The Women in Poker Hall of Fame

Barbara Enright	2008
Linda Johnson	2008
Marsha Waggoner	2008
Susie Isaacs	2008
Cyndy Violette	2009
Jan Fisher	2009
June Field	2009
Billie Brown	2010
Kathy Liebert	2010
Jennifer Harman	2010
Margie Heintz	2011
Phyllis Caro	2011
Kristy Gazes	2011
J.J. Liu	2012
Kathy Raymond	2012
Deborah Giardina	2014
Allyn Shulman	2014
Debbie Burkhead	2016
Vicky Coren Mitchell	2016
Maria Ho	2018
Lupe Soto	2018
Vanessa Selbst	2022
Jennifer Tilly	2022
Angelica Hael	2022
Terry King	2022



Jennifer Tilly, who starred in films such as *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Bound*, and four of the *Child's Play* movies, was the first celebrity to win a *WSOP* tournament. She won the 2005 ladies event for her bracelet, and followed that up with a *WPT Ladies Night* Invitational win. Tilly and her poker pro life partner Phil Laak frequently compete in Hollywood home games and also poker shows such as *Poker After Dark*, *Celebrity Poker Showdown*, and *Poker Royale*.



Vanessa Selbst has been mostly retired from the game for a few years now, but spent a decade as one of the top-ranked players on the tournament circuit, male or female. Selbst, who has three *WSOP* bracelets in open events, was the first woman to compete and win in high rollers, racking up nearly \$12 million in career earnings. That's \$5 million more than her nearest competitor.



Angelica Hael has been with the *World Poker Tour* for the last 12 years and currently serves as Vice President of Global Tour Management. She has made it her mission to grow the game with the *WPT Women's Poker Initiative*, and was integral for the upcoming first-ever \$200,000 guaranteed and televised *Women's Championship*.



Terry King is a poker pioneer, falling in love with the game in the '70s and becoming one of the first women to deal the *WSOP*. In addition to being a prop player at the Bicycle Club, she also helped to open Hollywood Park Casino and was a shift manager for five years. She won the ladies event in 1978 for her bracelet. The former partner of Chip Reese is also considered a bit of a poker historian, and spent considerable time with some of the best players of all time.

TK MILES WINS CARD PLAYER POKER TOUR BESTBET JACKSONVILLE MAIN EVENT

By Erik Fast



The first-ever *Card Player Poker Tour bestbet Jacksonville* main event, held back in 2013, ended with Florida poker pro **TK Miles** accepting an even split of the remaining prize money with Harvey Vandeven, who had more than a 2.5:1 lead at the time.

It was clear even back then how much of a threat Miles was, and over the years he's proven it in this event alone. He's cashed four times since, including a fourth-place finish in 2015.

Nine years after his first shot at the title, Miles managed to make it back down to heads-up play in another *CPPT bestbet Jacksonville* main event. Once again, a heads-up deal was struck. This time, though, it was Miles who walked away as the winner.

"It feels great. Happy to win," said Miles after coming out on top.

This was the ninth-largest score of Miles' career, and his 16th recorded tournament title. The Tallahassee native now has more than \$4.75 million in lifetime earnings to his name after this victory.

The 2022 running featured a \$3,000 buy-in. With 224 total entries, the prize pool grew to \$604,800.

Miles held the chip lead when the field was narrowed down to the final two, and struck a deal that saw him secure the title and \$121,480 in prize money, while 10-time *World Series of Poker Circuit* gold ring winner Jeff Trudeau took home \$109,321 as the runner-up.

In addition to the title and the money, Miles also earned

576 *Card Player* Player of the Year points for the win. This was his first title and seventh final-table finish of the year. With 1,670 points and \$233,233 year-to-date earnings, he now sits in 189th place in the 2022 POY race standings presented by Global Poker.

This tournament ran over the course of four days. After the two starting flights, day 2 began with 64 players remaining. Only the top 28 made the money, and plenty of notables fell before the bubble burst, including David Tuthill, Nghia Le, and bracelet winner Byron Kaverman.

Plenty of big names made the money but fell short of the final table, including the likes of Toby Boas (27th), Hunter Cichy (26th), Kelly Slay (23rd), 2019 *WPT bestbet Bounty Scramble* champion Josh Adkins (22nd), 2021 third-place finisher of this event Dustin Holladay (17th), two-time *WPT* champion Sam Panzica (15th), Thad McNulty (14th), and Andrew Ostapchenko (12th).

The final day began with Miles in the lead and Trudeau in second chip position of the eight remaining players. The first to hit the rail was Chongyou Chen. The event no. 2 champion and \$1,700 mystery bounty event runner-up got all-in on a $K\spadesuit 4\clubsuit 2\spadesuit 10\heartsuit$ turn and was called by both Miles and John O'Neal. After a $4\heartsuit$ river, Miles bet and sent O'Neal into the tank. O'Neal eventually folded top pair and Miles revealed $A\spadesuit 4\clubsuit$ for the ace-high flush. Chen had $8\spadesuit 7\clubsuit$ for a lower flush and departed with \$17,417 for his eighth-place finish.

A three-way all-in spelled the end for Jacksonville local



Jeff Trudeau



Matthew Leecy



John O'Neal. He got all-in pre flop with $A\clubsuit K\heartsuit$ facing the pocket queens of Dustin Nelson and the pocket tens of Pablo Crump. The board ran out $J\clubsuit 8\heartsuit 6\clubsuit Q\spadesuit 9\clubsuit$ and Crump rivered a straight to scoop the pot. O'Neal took seventh place (\$22,220), while Nelson slid to the bottom of the chip counts. O'Neal increased his career live tournament earnings to more than \$352,000 with this score.

Nelson was the next to fall. He managed one double-up after losing the three-way all-in, but then ran A-10 into the pocket queens of Trudeau and was unable to come from behind. The \$28,749 he earned for his sixth-place showing boosted his earnings to more than \$830,000.

Fred Paradis, who finished as the runner-up in the *World Poker Tour Seminole Hard Rock Tampa* main event for \$441,686 just over two months ago, was knocked out in fifth place when his pocket nines were unable to outdraw the pocket aces of Matthew Leecy. Paradis banked \$37,712 for his deep run in this tournament, surpassing \$1 million in career cashes in the process.

Four-handed play was a marathon affair, with many swings along the way. More than four hours after Paradis was sent to the rail, the resilient Crump's run in this event finally came to an end. Crump was all-in and at risk a handful of times at this final table, and managed to survive each of them up until his pocket nines faced off against the A-Q of Miles. Crump was ahead going into the river, but a queen on the end did him in (\$50,149). This was the largest live tournament score of his career, topping the \$26,249 he earned for winning a *WSOP Circuit* \$600 pot-limit Omaha event at Harrah's Cherokee last winter.

Three-handed play didn't last nearly as long. With the blinds having grown large over the course of the long final table, the action was briskly paced. In what would turn out to be the final hand of the night, Miles raised from the button

with pocket queens and Leecy reraised all in for 2,020,000 from the big blind with $J\diamond 10\heartsuit$.

Miles quickly called and the $6\spadesuit 4\spadesuit 2\spadesuit K\clubsuit 5\diamond$ runoff saw Leecy eliminated in third place (\$67,592). The Kansas native now has more than \$1.1 million in lifetime earnings to his name.

Miles was set to enter heads-up play with 5,660,000 to Trudeau's 3,300,000. Before play began, though, the two agreed to a chop based on ICM. With the \$109,321 he secured in the deal, Trudeau's career earnings grew to \$2,917,485. This was his sixth-largest score to date.

More CPPT bestbet Jacksonville Action

This was the ninth *CPPT festival* to be held at bestbet Jacksonville. It ran from Oct. 27- Nov. 14, with 16 total events. More than 2,400 tournament entries were made throughout the series, with a total of \$1,447,365 in prize money paid out along the way.

The series featured a trio of marquee weekend events that served as the centerpieces of the schedule. The first of these was the opening event. The \$400 buy-in no-limit hold'em tournament ran from Oct. 27-30. A total of 811 entries were made across the six starting flights, building a total prize pool of \$263,575.

In the end, **Donovan Wright** emerged victorious with the title and the top prize of \$45,247. This was Wright's first recorded live tournament title and by far his largest score yet. The Columbia, South Carolina native now has more than \$57,000 in lifetime cashes to his name.

The second event was won by none other than main event eighth-place finisher **Chongyou Chen**. He beat a field of 138 entries in the \$360 no-limit hold'em \$100 bounty tournament, earning from the main prize pool \$4,931 after striking a three-way deal. Chen also finished as the runner-up in the \$1,700 mystery bounty event, earning \$122,000 in total with

TOURNAMENTS



\$40,000 from the prize pool and three large mystery bounty payouts totaling \$82,000.

Thomas Carroll topped a field of 98 total entries in event no. 3, a \$200 no-limit hold'em tournament, for \$4,393 after defeating Robert Terrel heads-up for the win.

A total of 112 entries in the \$360 buy-in no-limit hold'em 'Monster Stack' built a \$33,600 total prize pool that was paid out among the top 15 finishers. The largest share was ultimately awarded to **Lonnie Stevens**, who took home \$6,185 as the champion.

The first mixed-game event on the schedule was a \$260 buy-in H.E.R.O.S. tournament. **Anthony Midolo** beat out 33 players to win \$2,000. The non-NLH action continued with event no. 6, a \$300 buy-in 'Big O' tournament. The event attracted 60 entries to create a prize pool of \$14,700. The final pot was scooped by **Tammer Ilcaffas**, who earned \$4,808 and his fourth career live tournament title.

The \$260 buy-in no-limit hold'em tournament drew 95 entries, building a \$20,425 prize pool, with the largest segment going to eventual champion **Alec Wilson** (\$5,866).

The second big weekend event was the previously mentioned \$1,700 no-limit hold'em mystery bounty event. With 238 entries, resulting in a main prize pool of \$242,760 and another \$119,000 allotted for mystery bounty payouts ranging from \$500 up to \$50,000. The tournament had three starting flights. The 31 players who moved on to day 2 all had a shot at the mystery bounty prizes when the final day of play began on Nov. 6. After a full day of poker and bounty drawing action, **Scott Risi** took home the title and the top prize pool payout of \$49,762.

The main prize pool of event no. 9, the \$360 buy-in no-limit hold'em event with \$100 bounties, grew to \$24,600 thanks to a turnout of 123 entries. The top prize of \$6,407 was ultimately captured by Jacksonville resident **Alfred Miller**.

Next up was a \$260 buy-in no-limit hold'em tournament. With a total of 84 entries, the prize pool grew to \$18,060. **Fred Evans** came away with the title and the top prize of \$4,308.

The \$360 no-limit hold'em 'Monster Stack' event drew a field of 117 entries, building a prize pool of \$35,100. **Daniel Zuheir** captured the largest chunk, adding \$9,344 and the trophy.

Starr Valdez topped a field of 56 entries in the \$320 buy-in ladies event. Valdez earned \$5,044 as the champion, the fifth-largest live tournament score on her résumé. She now has almost \$100,000 in recorded tournament earnings to her name.

The \$500 pot-limit Omaha event drew 26 entries. The \$11,180 prize pool was paid out between the top four finishers, with the lion's share going to **Mark Eisenfeld**. This \$4,488 payday was Eisenfeld's largest recorded live tournament cash.

Sebastian De Jonge took down the \$1,000 buy-in no-limit hold'em six-max event, overcoming a field of 69 entries to lock up \$18,978 and the title. This was the German player's third career live tournament title. The win increased his lifetime recorded earnings to more than \$425,000.

Third-place finisher Le Tieu was at his third final table of the series, with a runner-up and third-place finish under his belt before this deep run. Kelley Slay finished seventh. This was his fifth cash of the series.

The 'bestbet 500' saw 124 entries generate a prize pool of \$53,320. **Phillip Napier** walked away with \$11,582 and the trophy after striking a heads-up deal with Joseph Crowley while the main event was busy playing down to a final table.

When TK Miles and Jeff Trudeau shook hands to agree to their ICM chop, the 2022 CPPT bestbet Jacksonville officially came to a close. Thanks to all the bestbet Jacksonville management, staff, and players for making this great series possible. ♠

CPPT bestbet Jacksonville Series Results

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$400 NLHE Oct. 27-30 Entries: 811 Prizepool: \$263,575	1 Donovan Wright	\$45,247 (365)
	2 Adel Jo	\$35,000 (304)
	3 William Farnan	\$23,678 (243)
	4 David Trager	\$17,658 (182)
	5 Stephanie Napier	\$13,314 (152)
	6 Daniel Williams	\$10,151 (122)
	7 Volodymr Tamarovych	\$7,826 (91)
	8 David Salisbury	\$6,103 (61)
	9 Lisa Buck	\$4,815 (30)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$360 NLHE KO Oct. 30 Entries: 138 Prizepool: \$27,600	1 Chongyou Chen	\$4,931 (106)
	2 Antoinette Fiorenza	\$4,930 (88)
	3 Mark Matt	\$4,930 (70)
	4 Lap Kee Ng	\$2,321 (53)
	5 Steve Zhang	\$1,716 (44)
	6 Chad Buzinski	\$1,306 (35)
	7 Cameron Carroll	\$1,025 (26)
	8 Casey Coner	\$8,30 (18)
	9 Michael Carter	\$694 (9)

Event	Player	Payout
\$200 NLHE Oct. 31 Entries: 98 Prizepool: \$15,680	1 Thomas Carroll	\$4,393
	2 Robert Terrel	\$2,928
	3 Brian Fortelka	\$1,987
	4 Mervan Kizgin	\$1,399
	5 Michael Robilotto	\$1,022
	6 Kevin Hazzard	\$777
	7 David Trager	\$615
	8 Carl Mcleod	\$509
	9 Lap Kee Ng	\$439

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$360 NLHE Nov. 1 Entries: 112 Prizepool: \$33,600	1 Lonnie Stevens	\$6,185 (96)
	2 Dimas Martinez	\$5,909 (80)
	3 Samuel Ick	\$5,059 (64)
	4 John Hackney	\$4,889 (48)
	5 Jaymie Virtusio	\$2,143 (40)
	6 Daniel Williams	\$1,629 (32)
	7 Lunique Petiote	\$1,290 (24)
	8 Tyler Flickinger	\$1,065 (16)
	9 Brian Washington	\$919 (8)

Event	Player	Payout
\$260 HEROS Nov. 1 Entries: 33 Prizepool: \$7,095	1 Anthony Midolo	\$2,000
	2 Daniel Zuheir	\$1,487
	3 Jamil Fakhouri	\$1,487
	4 Anthony Arone	\$1,486
	5 Le Teiu	\$635

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$300 Big O Nov. 2 Entries: 60 Prizepool: \$14,700	1 Tammer Ilcaffas	\$4,808 (58)
	2 Le Tieu	\$3,204 (48)
	3 James Slattery	\$2,136 (38)
	4 Jason Lipesilvero	\$1,483 (29)
	5 Jeff Borg	\$1,074 (24)
	6 Bartolo Hernandez	\$813 (19)
	7 Hollie Harmon	\$645 (14)
	8 Anthony Midolo	\$537 (10)

Event	Player	Payout
\$260 NLHE Nov. 2 Entries: 95 Prizepool: \$20,425	1 Alec Wilson	\$5,866
	2 Justin Fawbush	\$3,911
	3 John Bellote	\$2,651
	4 Trace Henderson	\$1,865
	5 Carson Williams	\$1,362
	6 Karl Manning	\$1,036
	7 Michelle Hull	\$820
	8 Thomas Carroll	\$678
	9 Mariusz Burnat	\$587

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$1,700 NLHE KO Nov. 3-6 Entries: 238 Prizepool: \$242,760	1 Scott Risi	\$49,762 (384)
	2 Chongyou Chen	\$40,000 (320)
	3 Le Tieu	\$26,120 (256)
	4 Trace Henderson	\$19,297 (192)
	5 Timothy Miles	\$14,478 (160)
	6 Richard Malone	\$11,036 (128)
	7 Mark Shulla	\$8,547 (96)
	8 Billy Cashwell	\$6,729 (64)
	9 Jeremy Joseph	\$5,385 (32)



TOURNAMENTS

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$360 NLHE KO Nov. 6 Entries: 123 Prizepool: \$24,600	1 Alfred Miller	\$6,407 (106)
	2 Pablo Valdivieso	\$4,280 (88)
	3 Tammer Ilcaffas	\$2,969 (70)
	4 Kenneth Brosnahan	\$2,122 (53)
	5 Talesh Patel	\$1,565 (44)
	6 Michael Hazelton	\$1,190 (35)
	7 Hai Nguyen	\$936 (26)
	8 Conrad Lau	\$761 (18)
	9 Michael Goodwin	\$641 (9)

Event	Player	Payout
\$260 NLHE Nov. 7 Entries: 84 Prizepool: \$18,060	1 Fred Evans	\$4,308
	2 Michael Williams	\$4,307
	3 Gerard Okonsky	\$2,407
	4 Guy Marcot	\$1,693
	5 Robert Searles	\$1,237
	6 Kelley Slay	\$940
	7 Willard Cutler	\$745
	8 Albert Pozek	\$616
	9 Bill Haskins	\$533

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$360 NLHE Nov. 8 Entries: 117 Prizepool: \$35,100	1 Daniel Zuheir	\$9,344 (96)
	2 Angel Boas	\$6,229 (80)
	3 Steve Zhang	\$4,299 (64)
	4 Roy Vazquez	\$3,061 (48)
	5 David Wade	\$2,252 (40)
	6 Kam Razavian	\$1,714 (32)
	7 Edward Mroczkowski	\$1,350 (24)
	8 Maximiliano Mazariegos	\$1,102 (16)
	9 Chongyou Chen	\$934 (8)

Event	Player	Payout
\$320 NLHE Ladies Nov. 9 Entries: 56 Prizepool: \$14,840	1 Starr Valdez	\$5,044
	2 Aja Owens	\$3,362
	3 Joy Pozek	\$2,242
	4 Turkan Martin	\$1,554
	5 Lori Shulte	\$1,123
	6 Lisa Buck	\$847
	7 Stephanie Napier	\$668

Event	Player	Payout
\$500 PLO Nov. 9 Entries: 26 Prizepool: \$11,180	1 Mark Eisenfeld	\$4,488
	2 Dale North	\$2,992
	3 Mark Mcgarity	\$2,109
	4 Nghia Hong Le	\$1,591

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$1,000 NLHE 6-Max Nov. 10 Entries: 69 Prizepool: \$60,030	1 Sebastiaan De Jonge	\$18,978 (144)
	2 William Davis	\$12,652 (120)
	3 Le Tieu	\$8,434 (96)
	4 Andrew Ostapchenko	\$5,861 (72)
	5 Caleb Larson	\$4,254 (60)
	6 John O'Neal	\$3,230 (48)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$3,000 NLHE Nov. 11-14 Entries: 224 Prizepool: \$604,800	1 TK Miles	\$121,480 (576)
	2 Jeff Trudeau	\$109,321 (480)
	3 Matthew Leecy	\$67,592 (384)
	4 Pablo Crump	\$50,149 (288)
	5 Fred Paradis	\$37,712 (240)
	6 Dustin Nelson	\$28,749 (192)
	7 John O'Neal	\$22,220 (144)
	8 Chongyou Chen	\$17,417 (96)
	9 Lunique Petiote	\$13,848 (48)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$500 NLHE Nov. 13 Entries: 124 Prizepool: \$53,320	1 Phillip Napier	\$11,582 (132)
	2 Joseph Crowley	\$11,582 (110)
	3 Eugene Davis	\$6,436 (88)
	4 David Dejoie	\$4,600 (66)
	5 Dale North	\$3,391 (55)
	6 Joseph Burns	\$2,580 (44)
	7 Jermaine Gerlin	\$2,028 (33)
	8 Alan Franco	\$1,649 (22)
	9 Jerry Nackashi	\$1,388 (11)



FRENCH POKER DEALER SAMI BECHAHED WINS WSOP CIRCUIT CHOCTAW

Sami Bechahed started playing poker over a decade ago online in France. Then seven years ago he moved to America to be with his now wife, Nicole. He started dealing poker on Los Angeles live streams, starting at Live at the Bike! before moving to Hustler Casino Live.

He has recently begun playing more live tournament poker and has found great success off the bat. With just 23 cashes, he has accumulated more than \$650,000 in total earnings, including two *WSOP Circuit* rings.

In his biggest victory yet, Bechahed defeated a field of 1,076 entries in the *WSOP Circuit Choctaw* \$1,700 main event, earning that second ring and \$274,916.

“I came [to the US] with just a few thousand dollars to my name, and it has honestly been the best decision of my life. I’m definitely living the American dream,” Bechahed said.

In addition to the title and the money, Bechahed also nabbed 960 *Card Player* Player of the Year points for the win. With 1,000 total points, he now sits in 506th place in the 2022 POY race sponsored by Global Poker.

This event played out over the course of four days. The top 161 finishers made the money, including notables like poker vlogger Cedric ‘Poker Traveler’ Trevino (11th), ten-time ring winner Daniel Lowery (9th), Angela Jordison (4th), and ring winner Arthur Morris (2nd).

Morris earned \$169,906 as the runner-up. With 1,868 POY



points, most of which came from his two big scores in *WSOPC* events, Morris now sits in 151st place in the POY ranks.

Final Table Results

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Sami Bechahed	\$274,916 (960)
2 Arthur Morris	\$169,906 (800)
3 Rami Jradeh	\$127,513 (640)
4 Angela Jordison	\$96,595 (480)
5 Chad Hicks	\$73,876 (400)
6 Nathanael Kogel	\$57,027 (320)
7 Jackson Holtgraves	\$44,451 (240)
8 William Wolf	\$34,986 (160)
9 Daniel Lowery	\$27,808 (80)

JAROD MINGHINI DEDICATES WSOP CIRCUIT LAKE TAHOE WIN TO LATE BROTHER

Not too long ago, professional snowboarder Bobby Minghini passed away in a car accident. The 36-year-old, who competed for the U.S. national team, left behind a grieving fiancé and family, including his brother Jarod.

Just weeks removed from Bobby’s death, Jarod decided to enter the *WSOP Circuit Harvey’s Lake Tahoe* \$1,700 main event with the hopes of winning it in the memory of his late brother. Incredibly, he achieved his goal, topping a field of 513 entries for the top prize of \$153,368.

“As dumb as it sounds, I expected to win this tournament,” Minghini told *WSOP* reporters. “This tournament was the least worried I’ve ever been about busting and just knew I was going to get there. I knew I was going to win hands and hold when I needed to, and my brother was with me the whole way.”

Jarod plans to donate nearly one-third of his winnings to the newly-formed Bobby Minghini Foundation, which he helped establish after his brother’s passing with the goal of providing funding for young snowboarders pursuing a career in the expensive sport.

This was the largest live tournament score ever for Minghini, himself a high-level snowboarder who has competed in notable contests like the *Winter X-Games*. Although he did come into this event with three prior *WSOPC* gold rings to his name. With this latest victory, he increased his lifetime live earnings to more than \$460,000.

Minghini entered the final day as the chip leader with



seven remaining. He then knocked out five of his six opponents on the final day, including Andreas ‘Rayo’ Kniep (7th – \$21,829) and Scott Stewart (6th – \$28,419), to lock up the victory.

Final Table Results

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Jarod Minghini	\$153,368 (840)
2 Jonathon Smith	\$94,782 (700)
3 Jesse Tinsley	\$68,615 (560)
4 Taylor Hart	\$50,396 (420)
5 Casey McCarrel	\$37,564 (350)
6 Scott Stewart	\$28,419 (280)
7 Rayo Kniep	\$21,829 (210)
8 John Soares	\$17,027 (140)
9 Brandon Zuidema	\$13,490 (70)

CIRCUIT RESULTS

All payouts in USD.



© The Lodge

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
October Monster	1 Ari Rahmani	\$93,930 (456)
	2 Caitlin Comeskey	\$55,328 (380)
The Lodge Round Rock, TX	3 Victor Leone	\$40,755 (304)
	4 Phillip Pope	\$30,875 (228)
\$500 NLHE Oct. 26-30 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 916 Prizepool: \$494,000	5 Chad Garyet	\$23,218 (190)
	6 Henry Porcaro	\$17,784 (152)
	7 Ian Rosi	\$13,832 (114)
	8 Sandeep Vasudevan	\$10,621 (76)
	9 Agustin Jaimes	\$8,645 (38)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Poker Palooza	1 Paul Sampson	\$60,000 (300)
	2 Jennifer Bernard	\$42,000 (250)
Peppermill Reno, NV	3 Teng Vang	\$30,000 (200)
	4 Dustin Fox	\$21,000 (150)
\$880 NLHE Oct. 28-31 \$300,000 GTD Entries: 378 Prizepool: \$302,400	5 Molly Mossey	\$15,000 (125)
	6 Jonathan Cockey	\$11,000 (100)
	7 Jordan Nieves	\$8,000 (75)
	8 Michael Wilklow	\$6,000 (50)
	9 Charles Varner	\$4,600 (25)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
DeepStack	1 Nghia Nguyen	\$90,215 (720)
	2 Dylan Linde	\$61,274 (600)
Venetian Las Vegas, NV	3 Noam Muallem	\$43,209 (480)
	4 Kfir Nahum	\$30,895 (360)
\$1,100 NLHE Nov. 1-3 \$250,000 GTD Entries: 464 Prizepool: \$447,670	5 Jared Kingery	\$23,284 (300)
	6 Eric Siegel	\$17,463 (240)
	7 Saad Ghanem	\$12,985 (180)
	8 Jeff Madsen	\$9,851 (120)
	9 Eric Salazar	\$8,060 (60)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
DeepStack	1 Brian Borst	\$24,590 (180)
	2 Bobby Sanoubane	\$20,000 (150)
Venetian Las Vegas, NV	3 Landon Tice	\$12,268 (120)
	4 Joseph Marchal	\$8,071 (90)
\$600 NLHE Nov. 6 \$40,000 GTD Entries: 211 Prizepool: \$107,610	5 Jackson Holtgraves	\$5,951 (75)
	6 Samuel Bekerian	\$4,444 (60)
	7 Shawn Nelson	\$3,487 (45)
	8 Bin Weng	\$2,712 (30)
	9 Elvis Toomas	\$2,314 (15)



© MSPT / Venetian

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
DeepStack	1 Connor Stuewe	\$156,520 (912)
	2 David Jackson	\$154,589 (760)
Venetian Las Vegas, NV	3 Aaron Massey	\$139,852 (608)
	4 Nicholas Pupillo	\$75,017 (456)
\$1,600 NLHE Nov. 3-6 \$750,000 GTD Entries: 808 Prizepool: \$1,151,400	5 Jared Jaffee	\$55,052 (380)
	6 Peter Lynn	\$41,135 (304)
	7 Carlton Peake	\$30,973 (228)
	8 Jared Strauss	\$24,079 (152)
	9 Errol Samuel	\$19,203 (76)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
DeepStack	1 Victor Holanda	\$32,373 (336)
	2 Tuan Mai	\$24,000 (280)
Venetian Las Vegas, NV	3 Martin Storozum	\$21,247 (224)
	4 Kim Lam	\$12,373 (168)
\$400 NLHE Nov. 7-9 \$100,000 GTD Entries: 547 Prizepool: \$180,510	5 Jouke Sjaardema	\$9,370 (140)
	6 Andrew Mosey	\$7,006 (112)
	7 Patrick Truong	\$5,186 (84)
	8 Jerry Dababneh	\$4,003 (56)
	9 Lu Wang	\$3,184 (28)

TOURNAMENTS

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Fall Round Up Wildhorse Casino Pendleton, OR	1 David Wolfe	\$30,850 (240)
	2 Joe Becker	\$23,377 (200)
	3 Brandon Scotton	\$17,162 (160)
	4 Steve Moy	\$12,205 (120)
\$440 NLHE Nov. 5 Entries: 375 Prizepool: \$146,500	5 Frank Ballardo	\$8,506 (100)
	6 Jason Giles	\$6,065 (80)
	7 Timmy Lee	\$4,882 (60)
	8 James Tercek	\$3,699 (40)
	9 Marcus McKimmy	\$2,769 (20)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
RGPS	1 Maria Scardaville	\$20,664 (144)
Card Player Cruises Caribbean	2 Chip Jett	\$12,771 (120)
	3 Timothy Krisher	\$9,193 (96)
	4 Terriane Taylor	\$6,738 (72)
\$600 NLHE Nov. 3-5 Entries: 155 Prizepool: \$76,539	5 Debora Brooke	\$5,026 (60)
	6 Sean Greenough	\$3,814 (48)
	7 Jim Taylor	\$2,944 (36)
	8 Liping Zhang	\$2,309 (24)
	9 Bernie Koerner	\$1,842 (12)



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Fall Classic Wynn Las Vegas, NV	1 Amir Hamzehali	\$140,462 (912)
	2 Sverko Gregor	\$92,322 (760)
	3 Rambo Halpern	\$62,717 (608)
	4 Kenneth Neyerlin	\$45,141 (456)
\$1,600 Mystery Bounty Oct. 27-30 \$1,000,000 GTD Entries: 847 Prizepool: \$1,228,150	5 Patrick Eskandar	\$33,232 (380)
	6 Evan Sandberg	\$25,910 (304)
	7 Jeff Madsen	\$20,840 (228)
	8 Harutyun Gevorgyan	\$17,300 (152)
	9 Brandon Mulcrone	\$14,586 (76)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit	1 Jacob Seale	\$55,253 (384)
	2 Vu Le	\$34,156 (320)
Choctaw Durant, OK	3 Robert Champion	\$25,073 (256)
	4 Eddie Cummings	\$18,650 (192)
\$400 NLHE Nov. 3-6 \$200,000 GTD Entries: 1,025 Prizepool: \$282,830	5 Cammie Allen	\$14,059 (160)
	6 Donte King	\$10,743 (128)
	7 Kristi Roberts	\$8,322 (96)
	8 Sung Keem	\$6,537 (64)
	9 Max Allen	\$5,208 (32)



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit	1 Tyler Storment	\$64,073 (456)
	2 Anthony Bogard	\$39,599 (380)
Choctaw Durant, OK	3 Bill Pappas	\$28,121 (304)
	4 Nicholas Pupillo	\$20,322 (228)
\$1,100 NLHE Nov. 10 \$100,000 GTD Entries: 287 Prizepool: \$279,825	5 Nathanael Kogel	\$14,950 (190)
	6 Chezz Romero	\$11,200 (152)
	7 Thomas Olivias	\$8,547 (114)
	8 Karen Norman	\$6,646 (76)
	9 Alejandro Madrigal	\$5,269 (38)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
GUKPT	1 Robbie Bull	\$45,890 (240)
Grosvenor Casino Blackpool, United Kingdom	2 Andrew Hulme	\$38,268 (200)
	3 Leo Worthington- Leese	\$37,598 (160)
	4 Andrew Bak	\$35,798 (120)
£2,000 NLHE Nov. 9 Entries: 108 Prizepool: \$222,052	5 Matthew Davenport	\$14,280 (100)
	6 Jonathan McCann	\$9,996 (80)
	7 Dovydas Tarvydas	\$7,497 (60)
	8 Trevor Reardon	\$6,545 (40)
	9 Nicholas Fellone	\$5,950 (20)

© Wynn

© Choctaw

TOURNAMENTS



© GUKPT

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
GUKPT Grosvenor Casino Blackpool, United Kingdom £1,250 NLHE Nov. 10-13 Entries: 543 Prizepool: \$682,358	1 Jamie Clossick	\$129,710 (840)
	2 Maxim Fana	\$126,485 (700)
	3 Tom Arovaara	\$101,650 (560)
	4 Euan McNicholas	\$45,030 (420)
	5 Joshua Musson	\$28,667 (350)
	6 Louis Leeth-Lambert	\$20,813 (280)
	7 Richard Trigg	\$14,661 (210)
	8 Alex Montgomery	\$12,626 (140)
	9 Mark Dyson	\$10,579 (70)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
GUKPT Grosvenor Casino Blackpool, United Kingdom £550 NLHE Nov. 12 Entrants: 320 Prizepool: \$182,784	1 Matthew Davenport	\$47,600 (240)
	2 Tan Le	\$32,999 (200)
	3 Charles Chattha	\$20,480 (160)
	4 Barry Grime	\$12,971 (120)
	5 Neil Raine	\$8,592 (100)
	6 Ben Teague	\$6,402 (80)
	7 Daniel Plumb	\$4,748 (60)
	8 Navas Robles	\$3,927 (40)
	9 Neil Woolfrey	\$3,380 (20)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit Grand Victoria Casino Elgin, IL \$400 NLHE Nov. 10 Entries: 725 Prizepool: \$239,250	1 Jason Mangold	\$43,221 (365)
	2 Kestutis Ziulys	\$26,718 (304)
	3 Patrick Novak	\$19,811 (243)
	4 Todd Siadek	\$14,855 (182)
	5 Richard Rosas	\$11,266 (152)
	6 Joan Sandoval	\$8,643 (122)
	7 Mariano Cefalu	\$6,707 (91)
	8 Roman Lacoste	\$5,267 (61)
	9 Adam Andres	\$4,185 (30)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit Grand Victoria Casino Elgin, IL \$600 NLHE Nov. 10-13 \$300,000 GTD Entries: 1,815 Prizepool: \$748,875	1 Dennis Laurence	\$138,084 (540)
	2 Don Sarubbi	\$85,341 (450)
	3 Luka Savic	\$63,037 (360)
	4 Avery Amores	\$47,109 (270)
	5 Joshua Benavidez	\$35,624 (225)
	6 Thomas Negrón	\$27,264 (180)
	7 Adam Murphy	\$21,119 (135)
	8 William Haner	\$16,562 (90)
	9 Bill Brudenell	\$13,149 (45)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit Grand Victoria Casino Elgin, IL \$400 NLHE Nov. 12 Entries: 448 Prizepool: \$147,840	1 Anwar Baig	\$29,340 (288)
	2 Arlan Goldberg	\$18,134 (240)
	3 Trevor Lewis	\$13,266 (192)
	4 Danny Jamros	\$9,838 (144)
	5 Marlos Vasquez	\$7,398 (120)
	6 Stefan Cvetkovski	\$5,642 (96)
	7 Boris Alfaro	\$4,365 (72)
	8 Nemesio Alegado	\$3,426 (48)
	9 Eric Adelstein	\$2,729 (24)



Alexander Puchalski

© APPT

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
APPT NagaWorld Resort Phnom Penh, Cambodia \$1,500 NLHE Nov. 10-13 Entries: 378 Prizepool: \$494,991	1 Alexander Puchalski	\$96,028 (600)
	2 Akshay Kapoor	\$60,884 (500)
	3 Renniell Galvez	\$44,005 (400)
	4 Yu Chung Chang	\$35,590 (300)
	5 Dinh Nguyen	\$28,165 (250)
	6 Chris Backhouse	\$21,681 (200)
	7 Markus Garberg	\$16,137 (150)
	8 Quoc Phan	\$11,682 (100)
	9 Michael Soyza	\$9,454 (50)

Poker Tools | 'pōkər toōls |

- 1 • Poker Odds Calculator :** *Learn your exact chances of winning in any given hand*
- 2 • Stats Tracker :** *Track your online and live poker results for free*
- 3 • Hand Matchups :** *The biggest pots and most interesting hands from the world's largest poker tournaments*



Card Player THE POKER AUTHORITY

Improve your poker game. Visit www.CardPlayer.com/poker-tools

2022 Card Player Player of the Year

Sponsored by Global Poker

**GLOBAL
POKER™**

Place	Player	Points	Titles	Final Tables	POY Earnings
1	Stephen Chidwick	6,499	5	25	\$6,207,739
2	Alex Foxen	5,389	4	19	\$6,752,309
3	Farid Jattin	5,233	3	12	\$1,330,090
4	Sean Winter	5,198	3	16	\$3,417,569
5	Jeremy Ausmus	5,176	5	20	\$2,459,067
6	Stephen Song	4,910	1	15	\$1,352,851
7	Erik Seidel	4,892	1	16	\$3,536,035
8	Chris Brewer	4,723	3	15	\$2,635,840
9	Ali Imsirovic	4,683	6	20	\$3,566,356
10	Chance Kornuth	4,485	4	9	\$2,169,072
11	Adam Hendrix	4,469	3	10	\$1,264,863
12	Mikita Badziakouski	4,394	3	11	\$6,844,034
13	Jake Schindler	4,322	4	10	\$7,052,283
14	Michael Watson	4,281	1	12	\$4,186,942
15	Chad Eveslage	4,222	2	6	\$2,663,688
16	Yuri Dzivielevski	4,220	1	10	\$3,334,014
17	Daniel Dvoress	4,127	2	16	\$5,405,296
18	Jason Koon	4,104	2	15	\$5,985,705
19	Steve O'Dwyer	4,085	3	10	\$1,815,586
20	Joao Simao	4,014	1	4	\$1,442,743
21	Michael Duek	3,992	0	4	\$4,846,832
22	Danny Tang	3,948	1	14	\$3,889,320
23	Phil Ivey	3,934	3	12	\$5,651,804
24	Brock Wilson	3,928	0	13	\$1,668,581
25	Jack Sinclair	3,740	0	4	\$947,887
26	Jonathan Pastore	3,724	1	2	\$1,624,714
27	Alexander Livingston	3,641	1	9	\$1,499,176
28	Omar Eljach	3,640	2	3	\$1,666,671
29	Espen Jorstad	3,590	1	4	\$10,145,916
30	Pavel Plesuv	3,550	1	4	\$920,100



ALL-TIME VENETIAN LAS VEGAS EARNINGS LEADERS

Rank	Player	Venetian Earnings
1	Eric Baldwin	\$1.48 Million
2	Qing Liu	\$1.47 Million
3	Ben Palmer	\$1.28 Million
4	Javier Zarco	\$1.04 Million
5	Chad Eveslage	\$1.02 Million
6	Ali Imsirovic	\$985,000
7	Joe Kuether	\$957,000
8	Pavel Plesuv	\$917,000
9	Robert Mizrachi	\$954,000
10	Tom Marchese	\$914,000

The Venetian Resort has awarded the third-most tournament prize money of any casino in the world, with more than \$530 million paid out to date. Overall there have been five players who have managed to cash for seven figures in events at Las Vegas property.

The player with the most money won at the venue is two-time *WSOP* bracelet winner **Eric Baldwin**. Of his \$7.5 million in career cashes, \$1.48 million have been made at Venetian. His largest score at the venue came when he finished third in an *MSPT* main event for \$209,194. He has 114 recorded cashes there, the fourth-highest tally of any player. The former collegiate baseball champion has 12 outright wins and another half dozen runner-up finishes at the venue.

Qing Liu is hot on Baldwin's heels with \$1.47 million of his career \$2.48 million in winnings coming at Venetian. His largest cash came when he took down the \$5,000 buy-in *WPT Venetian* main event in 2021 for \$752,880. Two of his four six-figure scores came at Venetian, with the second being a \$110,890 payday for a win in a \$600 buy-in event during the DeepStack Extravaganza I last February.

Rounding out the top three is another *WPT Venetian* main event winner in **Ben Palmer**. The Florida native earned \$431,655 as the winner of the 2019 event, which then sported a \$3,500 buy-in. While he's third on this list, Palmer is also the all-time leader when it comes to poker tournament cashes made at Venetian with 145. He most recently made the final table of the *CPPT Venetian* main event, adding \$18,434 to his totals. You can read more about that tournament on pg. 14.

The two other players on this list with more than a million in earnings are Javier Zarco, who won a \$3,500 buy-in event with a \$3 million guarantee in 2017, and 2021 *WPT Venetian* main event winner Chad Eveslage. ♠

I WISH I KNEW THEN, WHAT I KNOW NOW

Top Poker Pros Tristan Wade And Matt Waxman Share Their Thoughts

By Craig Tapscott



Tristan Wade



Matt Waxman

The Pros: Tristan Wade and Matt Waxman

Tristan Wade is a professional poker player, coach, writer, and businessman residing in Las Vegas. He has amassed over \$4 million in tournament earnings, including a *World Series of Poker* bracelet from the shootout event at the 2011 Europe series, and a *WSOP Circuit* main event title at the Palm Beach Kennel Club in 2014. The Florida native creates content for PokerCoaching.com and also offers private training through his business, Cre8iveCoaching.com. Be on the lookout for his upcoming book based on poker fundamentals being released in 2023. Connect with Tristan through his website or [@TristanCre8ive](https://twitter.com/TristanCre8ive) on social media.

Matt Waxman has over \$4.3 million in live tournament cashes. He's won numerous major titles throughout his career including the *WPT Grand Prix de Paris* at the Aviation Club in 2011, a *WSOP* bracelet from 2013, and the 2018 *WPT Tournament of Champions*. The fellow PokerCoaching.com contributor's recent focus has shifted towards entrepreneurship by creating an online platform where players compete for free and get ranked by an algorithm. They can win prizes and perhaps even qualify for a spot in a professional poker league where they join teams and face off against each other in a unique, patented format. Check out the details at POKERithm.com. Follow Matt on Twitter [@matthew_waxman](https://twitter.com/matthew_waxman).

Craig Tapscott: If you could look back to when you started playing poker, what would be a few things you wish you had done differently and why?

Tristan Wade: Early on in my poker career I was a very quick learner and ingested as much information as was available at the time. This was great because I could leapfrog most of the people playing in the same games or at the stakes with me. The only problem with this approach was that it was based more

© WPT



“I was offered an opportunity for backing. I thought it would be a good thing for me to move up in stakes. I was successful, but I was playing the toughest opponents on the planet. The opportunities were there, but they also came with steeper falls, bigger losses, makeup, and expectations.”

- Tristan Wade

on logic and psychology, rather than rooted in the deep fundamentals that exist in no-limit hold'em. Combinations of hands, pot odds, and range exploration are just some of the things that can make or break your decision-making in any given hand. The fundamentals give you a complete understanding of the array of hands an opponent will get to the river with, and pot odds (along with assumptions on the range) usually give a clear answer as to what you should do in the final decision point.

The second thing I would have done differently was avoid backing. I was doing very well on my own playing online mid-stakes MTTs/cash and live cash games. After befriending a well-known poker pro, I was offered an opportunity for backing. I thought it would be a good thing for me to move up in stakes. I was successful, but I was playing the toughest opponents on the planet. The opportunities were there, but they

also came with steeper falls, bigger losses, makeup, and expectations. I wonder what would have happened had I stayed on my own. No regrets though, as those early experiences made me who I am today.

The third thing I would have done differently is put more time into cash games rather than MTTs. In the beginning I always loved playing cash because it provided freedom and flexibility. The atmosphere was more comfortable, fun, friendly, and enjoyable. When it comes to MTTs, they are a mixed bag. Navigating a huge field is difficult. You have to avoid being destroyed by a cooler or running a big bluff that is looked up. There is usually only one chance to perform and so much pressure. I love the end goal of winning, and being the last remaining survivor among many.

Unfortunately, this isn't always good for building a bankroll or making money. The upside of MTTs

is you can win a lot of money in a short span, but you can also lose a lot too. The variance is out of this world and can be much more controlled through playing cash. Plainly speaking, cash games are a more comfortable lifestyle, whereas MTTs are made for masochists. You have to enjoy and appreciate the pain to get knocked down in tournaments then sign up for the next one.

Matt Waxman: First, I would take more chances and force myself to play more. Getting older comes with additional responsibilities, which require more prudent (and often boring) life choices - you have a lot more to lose, so you can't risk as much. But you truly have a tremendous amount of freedom if you're a professional poker player in your twenties with a decent bankroll, so it's well worth taking advantage of that opportunity.

I've always performed my best in poker when it was fun for me,



© WPT

“Tournaments are a lot more fun. But if your goal in poker is to accumulate wealth, I think that’s best done by playing in big, private cash games. Poker is more about finding your edges and consistently pressing them.”
- Matt Waxman

so when I wasn’t feeling it, I just wouldn’t play. But after realizing how quickly the average field sizes have improved at the game, I regret not playing more back when my edge was a lot more significant than the average player.

Second, consider cash games versus tournaments. I got into poker by watching the first season of the *WPT* on the travel channel every Wednesday night. I’d stay up late watching Gus Hansen and Phil Ivey play in those high-pressure situations with huge prize pools on the line. The ability to win a title along with so much money at once from tournaments was so exciting to me and I wanted to do the same. But now I realize the most successful people in poker are more skilled interpersonally with networking and managing those connections as opposed to actually being the absolute best at the game itself.

Poker is more about finding your edges and consistently pressing

them. The best way to do that is to have a consistent game with “fun” players instead of constantly battling the warriors in these high-stakes tournaments. I also struggle with the predatory nature of seeing the same people every day and trying to take their money. Because you have to juggle a certain ruthlessness inside while smiling and staying friendly with the guys paying for your living, and I’m honestly not sure if I could manage that. Besides, tournaments are a lot more fun. But if your goal in poker is to accumulate wealth, I think that’s best done by playing in big, private cash games.

Third, make sure you travel and experience the world. Maybe even live in another country for a while. I’ve been a lot better than most of my friends in prioritizing the chance to discover a new place instead of playing poker. I’d usually explore whichever area was hosting a tournament series. Nonetheless, I’d double down even more on the abil-

ity to experience some culture over locking myself away in a card room. A juicy tournament series is a good justification to take a “work trip” and go to a new place.

Craig Tapscott: What have you learned regarding bankroll management compared to when you first started the game?

Tristan Wade: I believe I’ve had pretty good bankroll management throughout my career. I understood that it takes money to make money, however, I never was willing to risk it all. This is crucial when it comes to managing your capital.

With that said, it’s okay to risk a decent portion of your bankroll, say 10-15 percent at one time, if you are willing to grind it back over the long term. I don’t advocate this strategy often, because those numbers are pretty high when dealing with great variance, but there are times it can be a good investment and a healthy “shot.” Your money might all disappear one day and you’ll be looking

© WPT

around for whatever scraps are left. The risk it all or bust strategy is usually one that ends in ruin.

I think one of the biggest mistakes people make is not being organized with their expenses and results while tracking their performance. We have to be honest with ourselves. If you don't know what you're spending money on, how much money you're spending, then you are operating in the dark without a flashlight.

Matt Waxman: I didn't have any real breakthrough poker success until I became more aware of my bankroll. In my early twenties, I was in for way too much of my bankroll a few times. Twice in *WPT* main events (Tunica and Commerce) and once for my first time playing the *WSOP* main event. I learned a lot during this period.

In Tunica, I had a ridiculously tough day one table. I had just turned 21 and it was my first *WPT* ever. I ended up busting the tournament relatively close to the bubble, which hurt because it was a \$10,000 buy-in, and being stuck in Mississippi without a dollar to your name ranks up there with some of

my worst poker experiences.

For the [*Los Angeles Poker Classic* at Commerce] I was short of the main event buy-in, so I put my last \$8,000 on a \$20-\$40 table at the Commerce the night before. I doubled up with quad eights and then won a nice pot with aces, and then folded for one to two hours until the guy I doubled up off of left the game. I played cash at Commerce a lot at the time and didn't want to be thought of as some hit 'n-run scumbag.

The next morning, I registered for the main event with a lot of excitement and absolute certainty that I was going to win the tournament. And before the first break, I managed to bluff off 90 percent of my chips. I had to play the rest of the day with under 20 big blinds but somehow found a bag only to take a rough beat to bust early day two. So be very mindful of how much of your roll you are risking at any given time.

Craig Tapscott: How has your approach to studying the game changed since you first began playing?

Tristan Wade: Things have changed



drastically since I first started playing. There was hardly any technology surrounding the studying aspect of the game. Back then, I would review my hands, read literature, and constantly think through spots and situations on my own, and sometimes amongst friends. I would try to understand what people were doing and why they were doing it,



Welcome to Freedom

CHUMASH
CASINO RESORT

Always game responsibly. Call 1-800-Gambler if you can't.
Must be 21 years of age or older. Copyright ©2022 Chumash Casino Resort



ing for answers per se, I'm looking for insight.

Since there are so many changing variables and infinite possibilities, given your opponents and what they decide to do, I don't know if we will ever solve this game. Nonetheless, there is a plethora of information out there to take in and help shape your game now that wasn't there before. And another thing I remind myself of is that I know nothing. Even though I believe I am a seasoned, experienced, and knowledgeable pro. I have so much to learn still. Never lose your wonder if you want to be great. At anything.

Matt Waxman: My poker career started as sort of a trial by fire. I'd buy into cash games and tournaments over and over again, stare some people in the face and act accordingly. I think I put way too much emphasis on live tells when I was starting out. One of the best adjustments I've made as a professional is to rely on live tells to push my close decisions one way or the other instead of basing my entire thought process and strategy around a live tell that I may think I've

picked up.

The best resources for improving were talking strategy with your friends. I think a lot of young players learned the game through posting on [forums], but that was never really my style. The best thing I had going for me when I started was simply being obsessed with poker. I think a lot of pros have this in common. When I was done playing all day, I'd still be driven to rethink every spot in my head and consider the value of different ways of playing each hand. And I'm grateful to have learned in this type of way because it's given me a unique style, which I hope is harder for my opponents to predict.

Today, I would say that my approach to learning the game is the complete opposite. I'm not chasing poker success anymore and the strategic components of the game don't occupy my mind anymore when I'm off the felt. I've begun teaching a few students lately, and despite earning some modest wages for the service, it's also motivated me to learn and relearn a lot of strategies to teach them, which I believe has in return made me play better at the tables. ♠

then figure out my counters to that. It was very primitive.

Now I can use computer simulators to study so many different spots. Preflop, post-flop, final table, whatever. The beauty in this is that they don't always give me the appropriate answer, but it helps me understand the game at a deeper level through the outputs I receive. I'm not search-

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2022 WSOP Europe

€25,000 No-Limit Hold'em High Roller



Shaun Deeb
1,800,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 75%
After Flop: 12%
After Turn: 6%



Ben Heath
4,960,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 25%
After Flop: 88%
After Turn: 94%



PREFLOP

With 15 players remaining, an eight-handed table, and blinds of 40,000-80,000 with a big blind ante of 80,000, Shaun Deeb raised to 160,000 from under the gun. Ben Heath called from the big blind.



Heath checked, and Deeb bet 125,000. Heath check-raised to 315,000, and Deeb called.



Both players checked.



Heath bet 270,000, and Deeb called.

COMMENTARY:

This hand took place four players away from the money, with a \$40,098 difference between cashing and hitting the rail outside of the top 11. Among the final 15 was five-time bracelet winner Shaun Deeb, who looked down at a premium hand as the first to act preflop and min-raised. Bracelet winner Ben Heath defended his big blind with a suited K-8 and flopped top pair with a flush draw. Heath checked from out of position and Deeb made a continuation bet of 125,000 into the pot of 440,000. Heath unleashed a check-raise of just more than 2.5x and Deeb came along, likely deciding that Heath could have enough bluffs and semi-bluffs in his check-raising range to make the call profitable. After his check-raise was met with a call, Heath opted to pump the brakes a bit with a check after the board paired on the turn. Deeb checked behind and the river double-paired the board. With 1,070,000 in the pot, Heath made a smaller bet of 270,000, likely trying to target calls from any A-X hands and any pocket pairs below his kings, like the queens that Deeb in fact held in this instance. Those queens, considered a monster before the flop, were now firmly in bluff-catcher territory. Deeb made the call relatively quickly and was shown the bad news, losing a sizable chunk of his stack in the hand. Meanwhile Heath dragged in the sizable pot to continue to pull away from the rest of the pack with the money bubble looming. Heath went on to finish sixth in this event, earning \$82,104 for yet another strong showing. Earlier this year, he took second in the WSOP \$250,000 buy-in high roller and third in the \$100,000 event for a combined \$2.82 million. He now has nearly \$14 million in earnings overall.

© King's Resort / WSOP

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

Final Table Takedown: Justin Saliba Wins Second WSOP Bracelet

By Craig Tapscott



Event: 2022 WSOP Online Event

Buy-In: \$10,000 • Entrants: 52 • Prize Pool: \$499,276 • First Place Prize: \$154,752

Justin Saliba has been on an absolute tear since winning his first bracelet back in the 2021 *World Series of Poker Online* series. The former University of Dayton soccer standout took down the \$5,000 buy-in no-limit hold'em event for not only his first piece of gold, but also the \$253,800 prize.

In the time since, he's made final tables at the *Stairway To Millions*, *Lucky Hearts Poker Open*, *PokerGO Cup*, *Texas Poker Championship*, and *Aria High Rollers*. This summer at the *WSOP*, he cashed 11 times, including a fourth-place finish in the \$3,000 no-limit event for \$194,525.

The 27-year-old added to his collection in a big way in October, winning the \$10,000 buy-in *WSOP Online* no-limit hold'em event for his second bracelet and the \$154,752 first-place prize. *Card Player* caught up with the *PokerCoaching.com* instructor to break down a couple interesting hands from his latest victory.

POKER STRATEGY

Craig Tapscott: You've really put up some results this past year or so. To what do you attribute the biggest growth in your game?

Justin Saliba: I would say experience and consistency. When I first started taking shots and moving up in stakes in 2020, I felt strong theoretically, but I think I lacked experience and clarity around my strategies. Through all of the highs and the lows in the past few years though, I'm happy that my process has stayed consistent and I've always tried to improve every day. I think I needed the experience to really start playing at a high level.

CT: Set this first final table hand up.

HAND
NO. 1

Stacks: Justin Saliba – 178,000 (30 BB)
Brian Hastings – 284,000 (47 BB)

Blinds: 3,000-6,000 with a 600 ante

Players Remaining: 7



JS: I'm currently fourth of seven left with a 30-big blind stack. This is a spot where I'm not all that incentivized to try and play tons of hands against people. I want to play a tight and very aggressive preflop strategy in general and stay out of trouble, letting other players collide and trying to ladder up the pay jumps as a middling stack.

CT: Unless you get dealt a great hand, of course.

JS: Of course. With that said, I did get dealt a premium hand. I was very happy to play this one.

Action: Saliba raised to 14,000 from UTG holding Q♦ Q♥, Hastings called on the button.

CT: Brian could be calling pretty wide in that position with a larger stack, correct?

JS: Yes, I definitely thought he could be wide as the covering stack there, but also I thought he would have some stronger hands in his calling range. I think he understands that my range is quite tight there, so although he can peel a wide range, I think he also has some very strong hands that don't want to three-bet and call off to a jam.

Flop: 10♣ 7♥ 6♣

CT: Was this flop an automatic continuation bet for your perceived range?

JS: In the early stages of a tournament, developing some amount of continuation bets at this stack depth seems very reasonable. But with the ICM (Independent Chip Model) considerations, it makes my overall strategy want to be much more passive. Playing out-of-position versus a player that's covering me at the final table is not a situation you would often want to pile money into the pot. I decided that I was going to just start by checking flops like this with my entire range and go from there.

Saliba checked, and Hastings bet 12,000.

CT: What now? Your hand was pretty disguised to say the least.

JS: I know. This is where my first interesting decision came in. I quickly needed to try and figure out if I should check-raise or just call here. On one hand, I don't love playing a huge pot, so calling and keeping the pot small seems

viable. On the other hand, we're only playing a 4:1 stack-to-pot ratio, and pocket queens are strong here. If I raise, I get to limit my positional disadvantage and also get protection from tons of hands. I think both a small raise or a call are reasonable, and in this spot I decided to raise.

Saliba raised to 44,600, and Hastings called.

Turn: 7♦

JS: I have to admit that this spot, much like the flop, is tricky to navigate. The pot is now 130,000, and I only have 120,000 behind. I think many people at this point just want to end the hand and pray they have the best hand here, so they jam. But I think the only two viable options are to bet with a small size or check.

I thought a check seemed great to me here. After Brian called the flop check-raise, his range is quite constricted around good hands now. The 7♦ does bring new nutted hands that Brian could have here that I can't really have, the 8-7 suited, 9-7 suited, and A-7 suited all being somewhat viable.

Saliba checked, and Hastings checked behind.

River: 9♠

CT: Can you value bet thin in this spot? Or do you have to slow down?

JS: After this runout, I have a very marginal hand. I'm looking to show it down here, so I start with a check again on the river.

Saliba checked, and Hastings shoved all-in.

JS: Unfortunately, he quickly put me all-in. The seven improved some of his weaker bet/calls on the turn and the nine improved many more, mainly the 10-8 suited, pocket eights, pocket nines hands that I think are very prevalent here. After a bit of a tank, I decided to fold, and although it was an unfortunate hand, I only went from fourth to fifth place, and still had 20 big blinds to be dangerous with.

Saliba folded. Hastings won the pot of 130,400.

CT: What did we learn from this hand?

JS: I liked this hand because it's a spot where I was happy with the way I navigated it. Flopping an over-pair and going



for a check-raise on the flop, then finding a river fold, all off of 30 big blinds isn't all that common. I'm happy I didn't get married to my hand, and was able to take every decision for what it was without following a strict plan from the flop action taken.

CT: Did Brian ever reveal to you what he shoved with there?

JS: No, we never chatted after about it. Maybe at some point.



Stacks: Justin Saliba – 281,000 (17.5 BB) Matt Wantman – 497,000 (31 BB)
Blinds: 8,000–16,000 with a 1,600 ante
Players Remaining: 3

CT: What were the pay jumps? And what was your plan of attack sitting on the short stack?

JS: The pay jumps were third: \$72,000, second: \$108,000, first: \$155,000. With the stacks at 32, 31, and 17.5 big blinds, there was a lot of ICM pressure on all three of us. In a dynamic like this, as the short stack, I needed to play a very tight, aggressive strategy in general. I was looking to re-jam versus opens a lot and accumulate chips in spots where they won't want to risk their advantage and have the roles switched where they move into last place.

Action: Wantman completed the small blind. Saliba looked down at A♥ 6♠ in the big blind.

CT: Would this always be a no brainer to raise in this spot?

JS: Well, I had a very interesting preflop decision at this stack depth. I think a lot of players would just take an easy option and go all-in here. But three-handed online strategy plays a bit different than three-handed live games where there is a big blind ante. So, I decided to...

Saliba checked.

CT: Why check?

JS: With only 0.3 of a big blind ante in the pot, I felt less incentivized to steal the pot right away. I like to play a bit

more passively. A couple other benefits to checking here are that I avoid getting all-in with some of his traps like 10-10 or A-K suited or A-Q suited, that may limp and try to induce me to jam all-in. Checking here also allowed me to play a deeper stack-to-pot ratio (SPR) in position post-flop, which is a great spot to be in. So, although I think a ton of my off-suit A-x hands will be all-in preflop, I think I have the perfect hand to check and see a flop.

Flop: K♥ 10♥ 8♠

Wantman checked. Saliba bet 16,000.

JS: I decided to bet one big blind (16,000) on the flop. Checking here is totally reasonable, but I like to bet for value/protection sometimes. Having the A♥ 6♠ combo exactly is blocking a lot of continues, and folding him off any equity here is pretty beneficial. It also gives me some board coverage across different runouts that I typically would struggle on anyway, due to my preflop strategy losing a ton of A-x.

Wantman called.

Turn: 7♥

Wantman checked.

CT: That was a great turn for you.

JS: Definitely. At this point I had a ton of equity versus his possible holdings, but I really didn't want to have to bet and face an all-in, especially because I perceived the 7♥ turn to interact pretty well with his check/call range.

Saliba checked.

River: 8♥

Wantman bet 21,000.

JS: At this point, I was very fortunate to get there and make a premium hand in a situation where it's very difficult for me to have a premium hand. If I 'always' jammed A-x preflop, and 'always' checked back the flop, what hands do I have that can raise here? I certainly have some combos of boats, but I think my raises here are mostly going to come from the Q♥ going for thin value.

Since it's difficult for me to have a nutted hand here, and much easier for Wantman to have a nutted hand, I wanted to only use a medium raise size. Something where I can match the general strength of the range I'm representing, and also give him some room to three-bet bluff the river.

Wantman is a great player. And if he has an inclination that your line doesn't make logical sense, he'll look to pull the trigger and put you in miserable spots. So, I decided to...

Saliba raised to 85,000. Wantman tanked and called with 9♣ 8♠. Saliba won the pot of 238,800.

CT: That was very well played.

JS: Thank you. Overall, I'm certainly very happy to have run hot in that spot, but it's a spot where I think the value of playing complex strategies in 'simple' spots really paid off. I went from 281,000 to 403,000 and continued to run hot and take down the tournament.

You can learn from Justin Saliba directly at [PokerCoaching.com/CardPlayer](https://www.pokercoaching.com/CardPlayer). Be sure to check out his courses on six-max online cash games or high-stakes GTO tournament strategies. ♠

POKER DÉJÀ VU: GETTING PAID WITH A PREMIUM HAND

By Jonathan Little

How do you make sure that you get paid off when you have a premium hand?

The following two hands from a \$3,500 buy-in main event illustrate the table image that I constantly strive to develop that gives me the best possible chance of earning the max when I happen to make a big hand.

The blinds were 200-400 with a 400 big blind ante and I was sitting on a 40,000 stack. Everyone folded to me on the button and I raised to 1,000 with Q♣ 9♣. A tight, aggressive kid in the small blind three-bet to 2,600.

Calling three-bets from in position with a wide range of hands that flop well is an excellent strategy when deep stacked and getting great pot odds because you risk very little to potentially win a lot. I am pretty much never folding Q♣ 9♣ in this situation, especially against a tiny three-bet.

I called. The flop came J♥ 8♠ 4♣ and the small blind bet 3,100 into the 6,000 pot.

With a gutshot straight draw, a back door flush draw, and an overcard, am definitely going to stick around. Perhaps more importantly, I am in position, which gives

me a reasonable chance to steal the pot on the turn if my opponent checks.

I called and the turn was the 5♥. The small blind now checked, and I bet 5,300 into the 12,200 pot. He folded.

Success!

One orbit later, everyone folded to me, again on the button, and I raised to 1,000 out of my 50,000 stack with 7♦ 7♣. The same tight, aggressive kid once again three-bet to 2,600 from the small blind. Once again, I called.

The flop came K♠ 8♦ 7♠, giving me bottom set. And once again, he bet 3,100 into the 6,000 pot!

Now, I would normally raise in this situation some portion of the time because the board is extremely dynamic. That means it is likely that the current “strong” hands will be downgraded substantially on the turn or river.

But since I called in a similar situation one orbit earlier, calling makes a lot of sense to induce my opponent to either two-barrel bluff or look to check-call down with any made hand. I did not think my opponent would give up in the same manner as the previous hand. After all, nobody likes to get run over twice!

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2022 WSOP Europe

€25,000 No-Limit Hold'em High Roller



Eelis Parssinen
4,200,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 37%
After Flop: 16%
After Turn: 14%



Shaun Deeb
1,050,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 63%
After Flop: 84%
After Turn: 86%

PREFLOP

With 15 players remaining, an eight-handed table, and blinds of 40,000-80,000 with a big blind ante of 80,000, Eelis Parssinen raised to 160,000 from the cutoff. Shaun Deeb called from the big blind.



Deeb checked, and Parssinen bet 80,000. Deeb called.



Both players checked.



Deeb moved all in for 730,000, and Parssinen folded.

COMMENTARY:

Shaun Deeb lost a good portion of his chips a few eliminations from the money bubble in the hand discussed on page 38. It didn't take long for the tournament legend with more than \$11.1 million in prior live tournament earnings to his name, to get back in the mix. In fact, the very next hand he ended up going all-in on the river with a full house on the board with the hopes of moving his opponent off of a chop. That opponent was bracelet winner Eelis Parssinen. The Finnish pro opened with K-10 after it folded to him in the cutoff. Deeb defended his big blind with A-7 and the flop brought a pair of eights and a low card. Deeb checked from out of position with his ace high and then called Parssinen's small continuation bet of 80,000 into the pot of 440,000. The turn double-paired the board, and Deeb checked again. Parssinen checked behind, perhaps with the thought that Deeb's defending range from the big blind should be more likely to have meaningfully connected with this type of board than his raising range would be. The river put fours full of eights on the board. Deeb had just 730,000 remaining in his stack, with 600,000 already in the pot. Unless Parssinen has somehow made it to the river with an under-represented pair of nines or higher or had the overfull, the pot would be chopped. Deeb decided to shove with the hopes of forcing Parssinen out and claiming the whole pot for himself. Parssinen seemed to crack a grin after Deeb shoved. He was likely suspicious that Deeb was making just this type of maneuver, but calling this large of a bet just with the hopes of chopping when his opponent could have eights full or quads was not a very attractive proposition. He ultimately folded and Deeb took down the much-needed pot. Parssinen ultimately finished eighth for \$53,129, while Deeb added \$205,566 as the third-place finisher.

© King's Resort / WSOP

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



Join more than 120,000 players who have used PokerCoaching to increase their win rate through active learning from elite coaches. Start your FREE membership today at PokerCoaching.com/CardPlayer

I called. The turn was the 3♣, and just like last hand, he checked.

Sticking with the plan, if I make exactly the same bet as the previous pot, I imagine my opponent will call a lot. When my opponent calls, he will probably have a decently strong bluff catcher that will call again on the river or some sort of draw. It is important that you narrow your opponent's range as the hand progresses so you can make smart decisions on the river.

I bet the same 5,300 into the 12,200 pot and this time he called. The river was the 4♦ and he checked.

Given my opponent's range on the turn and the fact that the river is essentially a blank, I assumed he would fold all of his busted draws and call with all his bluff catchers.

You will find that most players do not enjoy the feeling of being pushed around. Since I do not think my opponent would fold any made hand, a large bet size makes sense, especially given he may be thinking that I am trying to steal the pot.

I bet 27,000 into the 22,800 pot. He quickly called and then disgustingly mucked when I turned up my set, awarding me a significant pot early on in the tournament. ♠



Jonathan Little is a two-time WPT champion with more than \$7 million in live tournament earnings, best-selling author of 15 educational poker books, and 2019 GPI Poker Personality of the Year. If you want to increase your poker skills and learn to crush the games, check out his training site at PokerCoaching.com/cardplayer.

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2022 WSOP Europe

€25,000 No-Limit Hold'em High Roller



Paul Phua
6,100,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 63%
After Flop: 81%
After Turn: 89%



Julien Martini
5,100,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 37%
After Flop: 19%
After Turn: 11%

PREFLOP

With five players remaining and blinds of 150,000-300,000 and a big blind ante of 300,000, Paul Phua raised to 600,000 from the button. Julien Martini called from the big blind.



Martini checked, and Phua bet 300,000. Martini check-raised to 800,000, and Phua called.



Martini checked, and Phua bet 1,000,000. Martini folded.

COMMENTARY:

This hand features a button-versus-big-blind battle with super high roller regular and *Triton Poker* founder Paul Phua, who had more than \$26 million in prior tournament cashes under his belt coming into this event, and four-time bracelet winner Julien Martini. The clash began when Phua looked down at K-5 suited and opened with a min-raise when it folded to him on the button. Martini defended his big blind with Q-10 suited and together they saw a low, paired flop. Martini checked with his queen high and Phua opted to back up his preflop aggression with a min-bet on the flop. Martini, knowing that Phua could raise the button and continuation bet a very wide range of hands, decided to check-raise with the hopes of taking down this pot on the flop. His check-raise, meant to target folds from the weakest portion of Phua's range, was met with a float from Phua, who indeed was weak with just king high and some backdoor possibilities. The turn helped neither player and Martini checked. Phua must have interpreted the move as the proverbial waving of the white flag, because he seized the chance to take another stab despite having been check-raised on the flop. He bet just under a third of the pot and Martini, with no draw and no real showdown value to speak of, quickly released his hand. With that Phua won a crucial pot as five-handed play continued. Martini ended up finishing fifth for \$107,752 after losing a preflop cooler against Phua later on, bringing the Frenchman to \$5.6 million in career earnings.

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

FOR LOVE OF THE (NO-LIMIT 2-7 SINGLE DRAW) GAME

By Bernard Lee



Those people who listen to my podcast, *The Bernard Lee Poker Show*, are well aware of my love for deuce-to-seven (2-7) lowball, especially the no-limit single-draw version. (Although I have been studying and playing a lot of triple draw in the past few years as well). It's a game that I've written about in columns and even been interviewed for.

Over the years, many poker players have read these articles, sending me comments and expressing interest in the game. These intrigued players all wished that there would be a nearby home game or casino that would spread the game.

However, one gentleman from Connecticut took his interest to the next level. After numerous years of playing no-limit hold'em, Bill Potter wanted to give this new game a try.

"I read one of your columns about 2-7 no-limit and I just fell in love with the game right away. I loved the strategy and the unique aspects of the game. I decided that I wanted to try to run a no-limit 2-7 single draw tournament," recalled the 52-year-old from Naugatuck, Connecticut.

It was a tough sell. Most players had never tried this "weird" game, that is usually only spread at the highest limits and played by professionals at events such as the *World Series of Poker*.

"The hardest thing was to convince people to try something new," Potter continued. "All they knew was no-limit hold'em from television. I tried to recruit players from all the local games and practically begged people to try this other game. Finally, on Oct. 27, 2015, we had 16 people show up to the first 2-7 no-limit tournament. Everybody loved it. We have been playing it steadily ever since. Some players have actually stopped playing hold'em and only come to play 2-7."

Although the COVID pandemic put the game into a temporary forced hiatus, the eager 2-7 players wanted to resume. About a year after the initial lockdown, the East Coast Lowballers, as they called themselves, were back in business. They even had shirts made up that read "I Was Dealt The Nutz" with the cards 2-3-4-5-7.

For those who don't know, aces are considered only high and straights (and flushes) count against you. Therefore, 2-3-4-5-7 is the lowest or best possible hand, sometimes called the wheel or no. 1. In fact, in lieu of the common last longer bet, this group adopted a "first to get the wheel" bet.

Recently, the 2-7 enthusiasts have had a bi-weekly \$25 buy-in game with a \$250 championship event, which was held in November of 2022. I had played in their tournaments in the past but not since the beginning of the pandemic, so I was eager to drive down from Massachusetts to play.

For the championship, the field consisted of 19 players and also had three re-buys. Since this game has been going on a while, the players fully understand the rules. But perhaps some of you reading at home do not.

The game is similar to no-limit hold'em in that there is a small blind, a big blind (who also adds the big blind ante), and there is a moving button. The one major difference is you can't limp in to the pot predraw, you have to raise.

Each player gets five cards, and a round of betting commences. Any who sticks around then has the option to draw anywhere from one to five cards. Players can also "pat," which means you don't take a card and keep what you already have.

Generally speaking, you don't want to draw more than one or two cards. Sometimes three. I actually saw a player draw four three times in one day, which is ridiculous, but we'll let that go for now.

After the draw is another round of betting. Since the game is played no-limit, you can bet anywhere from one big blind to everything in your stack. Anybody left gets to show down, where the lowest hand drags the pot.

Of the 16 players who came to the first tournament, seven of the "OG" crew were at the championship game, including Bill Potter, Kenny Lasky, Sean and Cheranne Carlson, John Olson, and Karl Steiner.

I spoke with a couple of the players before the "shuffle up and deal" announcement to get their thoughts on this unique poker club.

"2-7 is fantastic," said Sean Carlson from Manchester. "Like most people, no-limit hold'em was my primary game and this was my first introduction to mixed games. I grew up playing poker because of the Moneymaker era having watched poker on *ESPN*. But I had been playing hold'em for so long that I wanted to try a new game. Now, I would never miss a 2-7 tournament and even played it at the 2022 *WSOP*."

"I have been playing Texas hold'em for 20 years, but I really like the draw aspect of 2-7," said Kenny Lasky from Waterbury. "When I was younger, the first game my dad introduced me and my brother was five-card draw poker. 2-7 brings me back to those younger days and always puts a smile on my face."

"I believed in 2-7 ever since I read your column and I knew people would enjoy it," added Potter. "It just took a long time to get them here."

As for the future of this specific tournament and group of East Coast Lowballers, Potter envisions it continuing and growing. He also hopes the game grows big enough that someday we'll see it regularly in local card clubs and casinos.

"I think our group has a solid core and will continue to



grow. We will evolve with the times and incorporate the new TDA rule which has discarded the “must raise” rule and now allows players to limp.”

As for the tournament, the cards did not go my way as 8-7 was the best hand I could muster all day (I never had a 7 low). Nevertheless, I was able to use my experience, execute a couple of moves and make the final table, bowing out in sixth place (they only paid the top three). Unfortunately, my day concluded when I got short stacked and couldn't complete my draw to a 10.

In the end, Frank Estes took home the title. On the final hand, Estes raised and his opponent, Brandon Sweet shoved his shorter stack. Estes snapped called and rapped the table, indicating he was staying pat. Sweet took one card to a nine, but was already drawing dead as Estes was dealt a pat eight.

Overall, I think Estes summed it up best after his victory. “I just love this game!” ♠



Bernard Lee broke into the poker world after a deep run in the 2005 WSOP main event. He has two WSOP Circuit rings, and is an author, having written for Card Player, the Boston Herald, Metrowest Daily News, and ESPN, where he was a host of the show *The Inside Deal*.

His radio show and podcast, *The Bernard Lee Poker Show*, recently celebrated its 15th anniversary, and his latest book, *Poker Satellite Success: Turn Affordable Buy-Ins Into Shots At Winning Millions*, is now available on Amazon as well as D&B Publishing. Follow him on Twitter @BernardLeePoker or visit his website at BernardLeePoker.com or YouTube channel at Youtube.com/BernardLeePoker.

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2022 WSOP Europe

€25,000 No-Limit Hold'em High Roller



Paul Phua
6,150,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 69%
After Flop: 13%
After Turn: 100%



Daniel Negreanu
9,300,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 31%
After Flop: 87%
After Turn: 0%



PREFLOP

With five players remaining and blinds of 150,000-300,000 and a big blind ante of 300,000, Paul Phua raised to 1,000,000 from the small blind. Daniel Negreanu called from the big blind.



Phua bet 600,000, and Negreanu called.



Both players checked.



Phua bet 2,800,000, and Negreanu called.

COMMENTARY:

Roughly a month before making this final table, Daniel Negreanu secured his biggest tournament win in quite some time by taking down the *Super High Roller Bowl VII* for \$3.3 million. With that confidence boost, he made his way to the *WSOP Europe* with the hopes of adding to his collection of six gold bracelets. He made it down to the final five in this high-profile event, and was in second chip position when this hand began. It folded to Paul Phua, who picked up pocket jacks in the small blind and went with a larger raise size of 3.33 big blinds. Negreanu called with A-3 and took the lead on an ace-high flop. With his tiny kicker in a raised pot, Negreanu likely figured to be in a ‘way-ahead or way-behind’ scenario. He opted to just call in position when Phua made a continuation bet of two big blinds. Negreanu was indeed way ahead, but Phua’s pocket pair caught up in hurry when the turn brought another jack to give him a set while also putting a second flush draw on the board. Phua decided to check and Negreanu stuck to the pot-control playbook and checked behind. The river completed both backdoor hearts and a couple of possible gutshots from the flop. Given the action, though, Phua was still interested in going for a healthy value bet of around four-fifths the size of the pot. Negreanu’s top pair was a bit under-represented, which might have factored into his decision to make the call after about 15 seconds of consideration before seeing the bad news. Negreanu managed to outlast one more player before finishing fourth in this event for \$146,370, putting him over \$49 million in winnings. Phua went on to win the title, earning his first bracelet and \$482,433, taking his total to \$26.7 million.

© King's Resort / WSOP

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

TDA Rule Changes: Less Than Meets the Eye

By Scott J. Burnham

A tournament is down to the final four tables. At two tables there are eight players and at two tables there are six players. Do the Tournament Directors Association (TDA) Rules require the Tournament Director (TD) to balance the tables?

A few years ago, I wrote that if I could change one rule in the TDA Rules, it would be the rule on balancing the tables. The 2022 meeting of the TDA rewrote that rule, but the result is disappointing.

The wording in Rule 11 that the TD “may” balance the tables has been changed to state that the TD “should” balance the tables. This is a slight improvement – *may* merely suggests that they have the power to do it, while *should* suggests that they ought to exercise that power – but neither is as strong as stating that they *shall* do it or *must* do it; if that sounds too much like they get a penalty if they don’t do it, then make it *will* do it or *is to* do it. And the language that balancing is “at TD’s discretion” remains in the rule, undermining any pressure on the TD to do it.

Unbalanced tables can be hard on a player at the short-handed table. In my example, players at the table of six are posting 33 percent more blinds than players at the table of eight.

The situation is exacerbated by the big blind ante. Even if the situation lasts only eight hands, players at the table of eight have each posted the big blind ante once, while two players at the table of six have posted it twice. At the late stages of a tournament when the blinds are high, this loss of chips can be significant. Frequent blinds also increases variance, which benefits less-skilled players.

A player at the short-handed table might well feel justified in slowing down play so that the orbits of the each table take the same amount of time. But another change in the rules states that it is a player’s responsibility to “play in a timely manner.” This rule change is welcome, as players often unnecessarily waste time, but in this case a player could be penalized for slowing the game down in an attempt to make things fairer.

The rule on balancing begins by providing that “play will halt on tables three or more players short” and only at the end of the rule does it state that “at TD’s discretion tables should be more tightly balanced.” I think this wording misleads dealers and TDs into thinking that there is a balancing problem only if one table has three players more than another table. The rule should first emphasize that the TD shall balance tables.

Furthermore, the use of the passive voice as in “play will halt” evades responsibility (like saying “my drinking really needs to get under control.”) Play does not halt itself – someone has to do it, and who is that someone?

While in theory this power could be exercised by



a dealer, I have rarely seen a dealer exercise it. If my table is down to six when another table has nine and I protest that the dealer should halt play, the dealer will usually say that they are waiting for instructions from the TD. This makes some practical sense, as it can be difficult for a dealer to determine how many players there are at another table, while the TD can more easily make this

determination.

Perhaps the rule should address this situation by stating that if the dealer believes his or her table has three fewer players than another table, the dealer shall hold up play while they ask the floor if they should continue to deal.

So, what is the answer to the question posed at the beginning of this column? The TD has discretion to do something about it, and should do it, but good luck actually seeing that it is done.

There is less than meets the eye with other changes to the rules as well. For example, it has been reported that solvers may no longer be used at the table. But this has been the rule for a long time. Rule 5 continues to state that “betting apps and charts may not be used by players with live hands.” Note that a player may use a chart when not in the hand.

The only thing added to the rule is a sentence stating, “Violations of this paragraph may be subject to penalties in Rule 71.” But this has always been the case. The TDA has a bunch of rules and enumerates the penalties for violations of the rules. It doesn’t have to state in a rule that violation of that rule is subject to a penalty. In fact, by doing that, it may suggest that there is not a penalty when that language does not appear in a rule.

When I read the changes to Rule 2 and saw that “Players should ... verify they’re dealt the correct number of cards before SA occurs,” I must admit I was ignorant as to what “SA” is. The previous clause in that rule refers to “seat assignments,” but that can’t logically be the SA. I finally found in Rule 36 that “SA” means “Substantial Action.” It might be helpful if the rules stated the definition the first time a defined term is used.

I don’t have any problem with the changes in Rule 2 that tell players they should “play in a timely manner ... inform the house if they see or experience discriminatory or offensive behavior, and generally contribute to an orderly event where all players feel welcome.” These things would indeed improve the game. The big question is whether poker rooms will enforce them. ♠



Scott J. Burnham is Professor Emeritus at Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, Washington. He can be reached at profburnham@yahoo.com.

Card Player

POKER STORIES PODCAST

Poker Stories is a long-form audio podcast series that features casual interviews with some of the game's best players and personalities. Each episode highlights a well-known member of the poker world and dives deep into their favorite tales both on and off the felt.

Download it directly to your device from any number of mobile apps, such as Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Google Play, or Spotify. Catch up on past episodes featuring notables such as Doyle Brunson, Antonio Esfandiari, Daniel Negreanu, Jennifer Harman, Justin Bonomo, Nick Schulman, Patrik Antonius, Fedor Holz, Barry Greenstein, Michael Mizrachi, Scotty Nguyen, Mike Sexton, Maria Ho, and many more.



www.CardPlayer.com/poker-podcasts

SCHEDULES

FOR COMPLETE TOURNAMENT RESULTS AND LISTINGS, VISIT CARDPLAYER.COM

DECEMBER	Dec. 1-20	WPT World Championship	Wynn ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Dec. 1-Jan. 8	Card Player Poker Tour	Venetian Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Dec. 21	PGT Championship	Aria PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
JANUARY	Jan. 2	New Year Tournament	Ocean's Eleven Casino ■ Oceanside, CA
	Jan. 4-15	WSOP Circuit Choctaw	Choctaw Casino & Resort ■ Durant, OK
	Jan. 4-16	Mid-Atlantic Poker Open	Live! Casino & Hotel ■ Hanover, MD
	Jan. 9-Feb. 12	DeepStack Showdown	Venetian Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Jan. 11-20	PokerGO Cup	Aria PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Jan. 12-23	WSOP Circuit California	Thunder Valley Casino Resort ■ Lincoln, CA
	Jan. 12-25	Lucky Hearts Poker Open	Seminole Hard Rock ■ Hollywood, FL
	Jan. 13-March 5	Los Angeles Poker Classic	Commerce Casino ■ Commerce, CA
	Jan. 19-30	WSOP Circuit Mississippi	Horseshoe Casino ■ Robinsonville, MS
	FEBRUARY	Feb. 2-13	WSOP Circuit Florida
Feb. 9-20		WSOP Circuit Las Vegas	Horseshoe Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
Feb. 16-27		WSOP Circuit North Carolina	Harrah's Casino ■ Cherokee, NC
Feb. 23-March 6		WSOP Circuit Chicago	Horseshoe Casino ■ Hammond, IN
MARCH	March 4-15	WSOP Circuit Los Angeles	Parkwest Bicycle Casino ■ Bell Gardens, CA
	March 8-20	WSOP Circuit Tulsa	Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ■ Catoosa, OK
	March 16-27	WSOP Circuit New York	Turning Stone Casino & Resort ■ Verona, NY

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

CALIFORNIA

CHUMASH - SANTA YNEZ

THURSDAY

7:10 p.m. NLH, \$40

SATURDAY

12:15 p.m. NLH, \$120

GRATON - ROHNERT PARK

MONDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$135

TUESDAY

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$165

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$135

THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$165

FRIDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$135

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$250

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, \$100

WEDNESDAY

12:00 p.m. NLH, \$100

FRIDAY

12:00 p.m. NLH, \$200

SUNDAY

12:00 p.m. NLH, \$200

BESTBET - ORANGE PARK

TUESDAY

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

THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$100

SUNDAY

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

BESTBET - ST. AUGUSTINE

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

2:00 p.m. NLH, \$60

SATURDAY

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

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, \$150
7:15 p.m. NLH, \$130

THURSDAY

11:15 a.m. NLH, \$140
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

SOUTH POINT CASINO - LAS VEGAS

MONDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$60 (\$3K Guarantee)
2:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$3K Guarantee)
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)

TUESDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$60 (\$3K Guarantee)
2:05 p.m. O H/L, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$3K Guarantee)
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)

WEDNESDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$60 (\$3K Guarantee)
2:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$150 (\$15K Guarantee)
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)

THURSDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$60 (\$3K Guarantee)
2:05 p.m. O H/L, \$150 (\$5K Guarantee)
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$3K Guarantee)
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)

FRIDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$60 (\$3K Guarantee)
2:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$150 KO \$50 (\$5K Guarantee)
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)

SATURDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$60 (\$3K Guarantee)
2:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$150 (\$15K Guarantee)
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K Guarantee)

SUNDAY

10:05 a.m. NLH, \$60 (\$3K Guarantee)
6:05 p.m. NLH, \$150 (\$15K Guarantee)
10:05 p.m. NLH, \$60 (\$1.5K 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

WILDHORSE - PENDLETON

TUESDAY

6:30 p.m. NLH, \$35 AO \$5

THURSDAY

6:30 p.m. NLH, \$55 AO \$5

OREGON

FRIDAY

6:30 p.m. NLH, \$80 AO \$5

SATURDAY

1:00 p.m. NLH, \$115 AO \$5

SUNDAY

1:00 p.m. NLH, \$35 AO \$5

TEXAS

PRIME SOCIAL CLUB - HOUSTON

MONDAY-FRIDAY

12:00 p.m. NLH, \$130 (\$5K Guarantee)

SATURDAY

2:00 p.m. NLH, \$300 (\$20K Guarantee)

SUNDAY

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

ROUNDERS CARD CLUB - SAN ANTONIO

MONDAY

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$160 RB \$125 (\$10K Guarantee)

TUESDAY

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$25 RB \$20 AO \$20 (\$5K Guarantee)

WEDNESDAY

6:30 p.m. NLH, \$180 (\$10K Guarantee)
8:30 p.m. CP, \$25 RB \$20 AO \$20 (\$1K Guarantee)

THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$25 RB \$20 AO \$20 (\$1K Guarantee)
8:15 p.m. PLO, \$25 RB \$20 AO \$20 (\$2K Guarantee)

FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$25 RB \$20 AO \$20 (\$5K Guarantee)
9:00 p.m. CP, \$25 RB \$20 AO \$20 (\$1K Guarantee)

SATURDAY

3:00 p.m. NLH, \$130 KO \$50 (\$4K Guarantee)
6:00 p.m. NLH, \$110 (\$2K Guarantee)

SUNDAY

3:00 p.m. NLH, \$45 RB \$20 AO \$20 (\$2K Guarantee)
6:00 p.m. NLH, \$25 RB \$20 AO \$20 (\$1K Guarantee)

the Odds of becoming President of the U.S.A.
10,000,000 to 1

Define your own odds.
Cardplayer.com/poker-tools

CardPlayer

Turning Middle Pair With A Flush Draw

Join more than 120,000 players worldwide who have taken their game to the next level. To develop your poker skills and learn how to crush games, check out PokerCoaching.com/CardPlayer.



You are eight-handed in a \$2,000 buy-in poker tournament. You have a stack of 25,050 and the blinds are at 75-150 with a big blind ante. A loose, aggressive player in the lojack raises to 400 and it folds to you on the button holding 8♥ 6♥.

Question 1: Should you fold, call, reraise to 1,200, or reraise to 1,800?

Answer: If you are going to play this hand, it is better to raise than call. While 8♥ 7♥ is strong enough to call with, 8♥ 6♥ is a bit weaker and thus should be played as a three-bet bluff. Even if you are met with a four-bet, you can still call and see the flop as long as the four-bet is not too large.

You three-bet to 1,200 and your opponent calls. The flop comes 10♥ 4♣ 2♥ and your opponent checks.

Question 2: Should you check, bet 1,000, bet 2,000, or bet 3,000?

Answer: On an uncoordinated board, you want to bet small with your entire range due to your range and nut advantage. If the board was more coordinated, say A♣ K♥ J♥, you would want to bet with a larger size since your opponent's range connects better with the board, despite you having all the nut hands.

You bet 1,000 and your opponent calls. The turn is the 8♦ and your opponent checks.

Question 3: Should you check, bet 2,000, bet 4,000, or bet 6,000?

Answer: Betting large, especially as a semi-bluff, does not make sense because any better made hand will call. If the turn card was anything other than an eight or a six, you would usually continue betting with your decent equity but lack of showdown value. Your new middle pair has now given you a marginal made hand, better suited for checking rather than betting.

When holding a pair with a draw, a marginal pair should be checked because when checked down, it will win a decent amount of the time. Additionally, checking keeps flush draws in your range, thus balancing and keeping you unpredictable.

You check, the river is the 7♠ and your opponent bets 1,250 (26% pot).

Question 4: Should you fold, call, raise to 7,000, or go all-in?

Answer: Raising the river with a decently strong marginal made hand as a bluff is rarely the correct play. Despite the fact you will lose a decent amount of the time when you call, this is an easy call because you only need to win 20% of the time due to your pot odds.

You make the call and your opponent flips over A♣ 10♣. Despite losing the hand, your cautious check on the turn saved you a lot of money. ♠

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



NEW YEAR TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, JANUARY 2ND AT 10:00AM

\$100 BUY-IN \$25 ENTRY \$25 BOUNTY
\$10 OPTIONAL STAFF ADD-ON

ENTRIES LIMITED TO 150

VISIT WWW.OCEANS11.COM FOR DETAILS

760-439-6988 121 BROOKS STREET OCEANSIDE CA 92054 WWW.OCEANS11.COM

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY ON ALL PROMOTIONS. MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY OR CANCEL ANY PROMOTION AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION.

PLEASE GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY. 1-800-GAMBLER. GEGA-000542

12 DAYS *of* CHRISTMAS

\$268,000

in **HIGH** *Hands*...

**DEC
12**

\$1,200

12:00pm - 10:00pm
Every 60 Minutes

**DEC
16**

\$1,600

12:00pm - 12:00am
Every 60 Minutes

**DEC
20**

\$2,000

+\$100 Table Share
12:00pm - 10:00pm
Every 60 Minutes

**DEC
13**

\$1,300

+\$100 Table Share
12:00pm - 10:00pm
Every 60 Minutes

**DEC
17**

\$1,700

12:00pm - 12:00am
Every 60 Minutes

**DEC
21**

\$2,100

12:00pm - 12:00am
Every 60 Minutes
JAX - OP - St. Aug *

**DEC
14**

\$1,400

12:00pm - 10:00pm
Every 60 Minutes

**DEC
18**

\$1,800

12:00pm - 12:00am
Every 60 Minutes

**DEC
22**

\$2,200

12:00pm - 12:00am
Every 60 Minutes
JAX - OP - St. Aug *

**DEC
15**

\$1,500

12:00pm - 10:00pm
Every 60 Minutes

**DEC
19**

\$1,900

12:00pm - 10:00pm
Every 60 Minutes

**DEC
23**

\$2,300

12:00pm - 12:00am
Every 60 Minutes
JAX - OP - St. Aug *



*Players can win the high hand giveaways on the 21st, 22nd, & 23rd at any of the three bestbet locations.

bestbetjax.com | 904.646.0001 | 201 Monument Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32225 | bestbet: experience the best.

MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE/CANCEL THIS PROMOTION AT ANY TIME.