

# Card Player

THE POKER AUTHORITY

www.CardPlayer.com

Vol. 37/No. 4  
February 7, 2024

NEARLY

# \$1.5 MILLION

IN GUARANTEED PRIZE POOLS

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 18, 2024

\$1,600 No Limit Hold'em Card Player Poker Tour

EXTRAVAGANZA POKER SERIES  
**DeepStack**

Card Player  
Poker Tour

THE VENETIAN®  
RESORT | LAS VEGAS

EXTRAVAGANZA POKER SERIES

# DeepStack

THE VENETIAN® RESORT

POKER ROOM | LAS VEGAS

**PLUS**

**MATT BERKEY:**  
LEARN TO TREAT POKER  
LIKE INVESTING

•  
•  
•

**DANIEL SMILJKOVIC**  
TAKES DOWN POKERGO  
TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

•  
•  
•

**STUD STRATEGY:**  
BIG PAIRS DON'T  
GROW ON TREES

# FUR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

## WELCOME OFFER

GET OVER 65% OFF YOUR FIRST  
GOLD COIN PURCHASE -  
USE PROMO CODE 'CARDPLAYER'.





GC953,500,000 &  
SC2,130,000 GUARANTEED!  
216 TROPHIES TO WIN!

**JAN 29 – FEB 18**

**PLAY NOW**

GLOBALPOKER.COM/GRIZZLY-GAMES  
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY

VGW Group. Void where prohibited by law. See T&Cs. 18+



# BIG POKER THURSDAYS



It's the New **Must-Play** Day of the Week!

- Over **\$300,000** in added guarantees.
- 15 tournaments now supersized.
- Perfect for all bankroll sizes.



## HERE'S JUST SOME OF THE IMPROVED THURSDAY LINEUP:

\$60K GTD (\$109 buy-in) at 10:15am ET

\$40K GTD (\$55 buy-in) at 10:30am ET

\$150K GTD (\$630 buy-in) at 1:05pm ET

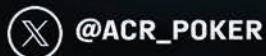
\$100K GTD (\$215 buy-in) at 1:05pm ET

\$15K GTD PKO (\$11 buy-in) at 3:05pm ET

\$5K GTD PKO (\$6.60 buy-in) at 7:05pm ET

USE REFERRAL CODE:  
**CPMAG**

**100%** WELCOME  
BONUS  
UP TO \$2,000



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



**PUBLISHERS**

Barry Shulman | Jeff Shulman

**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER**

Julio Rodriguez

**EDITORIAL**

**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR** Julio Rodriguez

**TOURNAMENT CONTENT MANAGER** Erik Fast

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** Ryan Lucchesi, Craig Tapscott,  
Sean Chaffin

**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@cabeywest.com

**ADVERTISING INFORMATION**

sales@cardplayer.com

**DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION**

distribution@cardplayer.com

**RESULTS**

results@cardplayer.com

**SCHEDULES**

schedules@cardplayer.com

**FOLLOW US**



www.facebook.com/cardplayer



@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.

# RULE THE ROOM.

Resorts World  
LAS VEGAS

Resorts World  
LAS VEGAS

Resorts World  
LAS VEGAS

Resorts World  
LAS VEGAS

## POKER ROOM

Experience the thrill of the game at Resorts World Las Vegas poker room, where high stakes meet luxurious ambiance. With 30 tables, daily tournaments, and a VIP lounge, you'll feel like a high roller from the moment you walk in. Are you ready to go all-in?



 Resorts World  
LAS VEGAS

**14**



**Features**

**14**

David Coleman Takes Down CPPT Venetian Main Event  
By Erik Fast

**17**

Leaderboard: The Venetian Resort Las Vegas Tournament Earnings

**18**

Card Player Poker Tour Returns To Venetian In February 2024  
By Card Player News Team

**News**

**10**

News From The Gambling World  
By Card Player News Team

**Tournaments**

**20**

Daniel Negreanu Shakes Off Rough 2023 At PokerGO Last Chance Series  
By Card Player News Team

**24**

Daniel Smiljkovic Wins 2023 PokerGO Tour Championship For \$500,000  
By Erik Fast

**20**



**24**



**38**

Stud: Big Pairs Don't Grow On Trees  
By Kevin Haney

**Also In This Issue**

**6**

About Us

**44**

Tournament Schedules

**46**

PokerCoaching.com Quiz: Getting Check-Raised On The River  
By Jonathan Little

**Poker Hand Matchups**

**38**

Erik Seidel vs. Daniel Smiljkovic

**40**

Chris Brewer vs. Alex Foxen

**42**

Daniel Smiljkovic vs. Isaac Haxton

**45**

Chance Kornuth vs. Daniel Weinman

**26**

Isaac Haxton Wins 2023 PGT Points Race

**28**

Circuit Results  
By Card Player News Team

**Strategy**

**32**

Matt Berkey: Why Beginners Should Treat Poker Live Investing  
By Craig Tapscott

**35**

Five Multiway Pot Exploits  
By Alex Fitzgerald

**36**

Folding A-K  
By Jonathan Little

**37**

Picking Off A Bluff On The Short Stack  
By Greg Raymer



# PLAY AT LOUISIANA'S LARGEST CASINO RESORT!

Experience an all-new, non-smoking Poker Room with 10 live tables, 6 LCD TVs, and USB charger ports. Join in on the exciting action of live poker tournaments and jackpot games!



*Louisiana's Best Bet!*

1-10 Exit 44-Kinder, LA | 800-584-7263 | [ccrla.com](http://ccrla.com)



Coushatta supports responsible gaming. Call 877-770-7867.  
Coushatta Casino Resort is owned and operated by the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana.

## NEWS FROM THE GAMBLING WORLD

SPORTS BETTING LEGALIZATION EFFORTS  
UNVEILED IN CALIFORNIA

By Sean Chaffin



After numerous failed efforts at legalizing sports betting in California, the Attorney General's office recently unveiled two new proposals that backers hope to get on the November ballot for voters to decide on.

With a population of 39 million, California offers an enticing market for the industry, especially for online and mobile wagering which account for more than 80% of all wagers placed in some legalized states.

Both proposals involve tying wagering to the state's tribal gaming operators, despite those same tribes opposing the plans.

"The entire approach has been an error from the very beginning," California Nations Indian Gaming Association Chair James Siva said in November. "The approach of essentially holding tribes' feet to the fire — you're either going to get on board with this, or we're going to do it — that's never

going to work with us."

Despite those misgivings, Kasey Thompson remains determined to bring sports betting to the Golden State, after beginning to promote his vision in the state in 2023. The longtime gaming industry veteran and founder of *All In* magazine believes the tribes should be a major part of the industry.

*SBC Americas* notes that the first measure would "pave the way for the state to agree gaming compacts with the tribes to legalize online sports wagering statewide, along with in-person sports wagering, roulette, and dice games on tribal lands."

To operate, the state would negotiate compacts with interested tribes, similar to that seen recently in Florida — although that monopoly has faced significant legal opposition and is now under consideration by the Florida Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court has also shown interest in studying the issue in regard to the Constitution's "equal protection" clause.

Plans call for the tribes to send 25% of profits to non-participating tribes and up to 1% to the state. The Attorney General's office noted that the plan would provide "increased state revenues that could reach into the tens of millions of dollars annually, depending on how the measure is implemented and legally interpreted."

This comes at a time when the state is facing a budget shortfall of \$68 billion in 2024-25. The second proposal offers fewer details and allows tribes to provide online wagering on tribal lands. Backers have until April to gather 870,000 signatures to see the initiatives put on the November ballot. Thompson believes the plans could be a financial windfall for tribes.

"People just think, 'This is too good to be true,'" Thompson told *Politico*. "We knew we could make this happen and come up with a solution for the tribes."

So far, tribes have been critical of the initiatives and not being part of the planning process. Some tribal leaders feel they have been dictated to by Thompson and his team, and question his motives.

Whether that matters now will depend on California voters. If an initiative is eventually approved, tribes could then decide whether to move ahead with sports betting or not.

The state has seen some interesting dynamics involving the issue with backers trying to thread a needle involving the tribes, as well as the state's horse racing and card room industries. In 2022, however, voters rejected sports-betting initiatives on the ballot. Gov. Gavin Newsome (D) has expressed opposition to online sports wagering as well. ♠

## DELAWARE HITS THE PAUSE BUTTON ON ONLINE POKER

By Card Player News Team

Online poker players in Delaware are now out of luck – at least for the time being. Rush Street Interactive (RSI) has become the state’s newest online gaming operator, taking over after 888Holdings had been running the market in the state for the last decade.

Players in the First State are now without any options when it comes to playing some cash games and tournaments online. RSI is now offering online slots, table games, and sports betting as part of the company’s launch into the state – but no poker.

Delaware became the first state in the U.S. to launch online gaming in 2013, but with a population of just a bit over 1 million, a thriving poker market wouldn’t be possible without shared liquidity. As a result, 888 pooled players with Nevada and New Jersey via the Multi-State Internet Gaming Agreement as part of the WSOP.com platform. 888 partnered with the state’s horse racing tracks to operate.

Delaware’s iGaming model allows for only one operator and RSI doesn’t offer an online poker product as of now.

That may change at some point. The company acquired

Phil Galfond’s Run It Once Poker in 2022 for \$5.8 million, \$3.3 million in cash and \$2.5 million in stock. Rush Street is believed to be considering entering the U.S. market at some point. That was confirmed by Delaware Lottery officials.

“Rush Street Interactive has announced previously that it is developing a poker platform that they are excited about sharing with players,” Delaware Lottery director Helene Keeley told *Card Player* in August. “The Lottery and RSI are working together towards making poker available to Delaware patrons, though we’re not prepared to discuss a specific timeline at this stage.”

The state has seen some major online gaming revenue gains in recent years. Along with launching online gaming, Delaware gamblers will also welcome mobile sports betting. Wagering officially became legal in 2018 at Delaware’s three casinos, but mobile wagering wasn’t given the green light until 2023.

However, state regulators did not allow 888 to run sports betting last year. The state’s bettors still at least have a bit of the football season left to make a few gridiron parlays and bets on the NFL playoffs. ♠

## NFL CIRCA SURVIVOR CONCLUDES WITH FOUR ENTRIES POCKETING \$2.3 MILLION EACH

By Card Player News Team

The end of the NFL regular season saw major payouts for those involved in Circa Casino’s major sports handicapping contests. That included a record-breaking payout of almost \$9.3 million in the Circa Survivor, which was split among the final four players.

In total, the football weekend’s conclusion produced payouts of \$15.2 million for those involved in various Circa contests. The Las Vegas gaming company’s competitions have become some of the biggest season-long events in the industry.

“When we launched these contests, we knew the prize needed to be one of the most coveted in all of sports betting,” Circa Sports CEO Derek Stevens said. “Every year we’ve upped the ante, and this was the biggest level-up of all. Congratulations to all the winners and we look forward to seeing what the 2024-25 season brings.”

The Circa Survivor offered the largest possible payout among these events. The “last man standing” contest allows players to pick one winner a week during the NFL season without repeating the use of a team. In the end, a four-pack of players finished the season 20-0, each scooping \$2.3 million for their efforts. The prize pool easily smashed the \$8 million guarantee.

The four players, known as ‘IndianaJet,’ ‘JAX JAGS,’ ‘LAJONESER,’ and ‘Circus Master,’ all had to sweat out the finale, but only a little. As it turns out, everyone had already agreed to a deal for \$2 million each, with any winners taking home the extra \$1.3 million on the side.

Two players had the Bengals, and two players had the Raiders. Both teams won, so all four players divided the entire



prize pool evenly.

In the Circa Million V handicapping contest, ‘Saint31’ came out on top for the entire season – grabbing a first-place prize of \$1 million. The competition came down to the wire as ‘Saint31’ and ‘RDLOWN’ were half a point apart at the start of the final regular season game. When Buffalo secured the win over Miami, ‘Saint31’ was awarded the season victory.

The contests crossed over to the world of poker as well. With 13 players left in Circa Survivor, high-stakes pro Sean Perry rejected a chop that would have awarded each player \$400,000 and then see them playing for the remaining \$4 million. The 27-year-old son of poker pro Ralph Perry was the lone holdout, but bowed out shortly after nixing the deal.

In 2022, poker players Jeremy Wien, Jeff Abraham, Mike Buchmiller, and Russell Rosenblum comprised a team that chopped the Circa Survivor contest two ways, cashing for more than \$3 million. ♠

## MARYLAND SENATOR PUSHES FOR ONLINE GAMING, POKER

By Sean Chaffin

Maryland could be the next state to legalize online gaming, including poker, if one state senator has his way. Sen. Ron Watson (D) has plans to introduce a bill when the Maryland legislative session kicks off in 2024.

The move comes as the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency has already been studying the issue in recent months. Watson sees the addition of iGaming as another opportunity to bring in revenue at a time when the state is facing significant budgetary concerns.

“Many view this as an additional revenue stream, currently projected to make between \$30 million to \$40 million,” Watson told *Maryland Matters*. “Here in the state of Maryland, we’re already projecting a \$400 million deficit. We need additional revenues, and we have a lot of bills to pay with respect to our educational goals.”

Maryland already allows bettors in the state to place sports wagers online after launching in November 2022. Companies like FanDuel, Caesars, and DraftKings currently operate in the state.

Watson pushed for iGaming legislation in 2023, but that bill never got out of the Senate Budget and Taxation committee.

He’s already begun circulating the bill among colleagues and some of the details include authorizing up to 12 operators with a \$1 million fee for a four-year license. There would be a 46.5% tax on online gambling, and the state’s six casinos could partner with online operators and form interstate compacts for online poker.

Adding online poker to the Multi-State Internet Gaming Agreement (MSIGA) would offer a chance to boost shared player pools as the Old Line

State has a population of more than 6.1 million.

Adding online gaming has not been met approvingly by some casino workers in the state. Tracy Lingo and Paul Schwab, leaders of the Unite Here union, recently expressed their opposition to Maryland iGaming to the Baltimore Sun.

The group is the largest union of gaming workers in the country and membership includes 100,000 casino workers, who are apparently concerned that online gaming could put jobs in jeopardy.

“In 2008, Maryland voters approved legalizing casino gaming for the promise of good jobs and economic development,” the union noted. “Online gaming will endanger these economic development opportunities at casinos throughout the state, slashing future job creation.” ♠

## ONLINE POKER SITE GGPOKER OUTLINES ‘SUPERUSER’ BREACH

By Sean Chaffin

The term “superuser” came into the lexicon during the cheating scandal surrounding poker sites UltimateBet and Absolute Poker in 2005-07, referring to an online poker account that could see other players’ cards. Some of that controversy returned in December after GGPoker admitted that a player under the name “Moneytaker69” had been banned from the site for a similar scheme.

After being alerted by members of the poker community, GG said the company recognized unusual game patterns and “abnormal game client packets” involving the player. Additionally, \$29,795 in unfair winnings was confiscated, with tournament winnings to be determined.

“Our technical security team investigated the issue, identified a client-side vulnerability, and fixed what caused these unusual circumstances,” GG noted in a statement.

GG detailed some of the issues related to the security issue. Under certain circumstances related to the “Thumbs Up/Down Table Reaction” feature, ‘Moneytaker69’ could customize his own game client.

This involved a decompilation of the Windows game client, interception of network traffic, and alterations to game packets. GG emphasized that the issue only affected the Windows client and that the player was never able to access servers, server data, or other players’ hole cards. However, the user was able to gain some advantages.

“Through this customized game client, he was able to deduce all-in equity by exploiting a client-side data leak vector,” GG noted. “Through this accumulated data, he could



guess his win probability with reasonable assurance.”

The company has since issued security patches to prevent similar leaks and added ways to detect and prevent players from customizing the game client to their benefit.

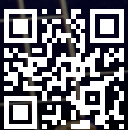
“We sincerely apologize for the incident, which has caused many poker players to worry about the game’s integrity and shaken their trust in GGPoker to provide the best poker experience,” GG said in the statement. “We are actively recruiting to double the size of our technical security team and are enlisting help from renowned security professionals to ensure that online poker is safer than ever.”

The superuser discovery came on the 2+2 Forums in December. A poster alleged suspicious behavior from ‘Moneytaker69,’ using an abnormal win rate, and erratic hand histories to support the claim.

This is the latest move by GG to ban players. In 2020, GG banned some players accused of “bum hunting” and other terms of service violations. ♠

# ROLL THE DICE.

RULE THE WORLD.



 Resorts World<sup>™</sup>  
LAS VEGAS

# DAVID COLEMAN TAKES DOWN CARD PLAYER POKER TOUR VENETIAN MAIN EVENT

By Erik Fast



Tournament players were excited to ring in the new year with The Venetian® *DeepStack Extravaganza*, which kicked off on Christmas day and wrapped up on Jan. 7. The series had 19 events in total with nearly \$1 million in total guarantees, highlighted by the \$400,000 guaranteed \$1,600 no-limit hold'em *Card Player Poker Tour* main event.

David Coleman came into the *CPPT Venetian* main event with more than \$3.6 million in recorded tournament earnings to his name across 152 scores. But the one thing the 30-year-old former online grinder didn't have was a live tournament title. That all changed when he took down the main event to bank \$115,989 and the trophy.

"I've been a pro for nine years and I've been playing for fun for 18 years or so," said Coleman when asked about his background in poker. "This is my first live tournament win ever, so it's a big monkey off my back that I've really been trying to get off and it feels great to get it done."

This was the fifth-largest score for the new Las Vegas resident who made a big splash in 2021 when he managed several deep runs in live high-roller events. Before that, he was more commonly found online playing in his home state of New Jersey.

In addition to the six-figure payday and the coveted title, this win also saw Coleman earn 720 *Card Player* Player of the Year points. As a result, he is currently ranked second in the early 2024 POY standings presented by Global Poker.

The main event played out over the course of four days. The three starting flights drew 457 entries to blow away the \$400,000 guarantee, ending with a final prize pool of \$648,940 that was paid out among the top 59 finishers.

The three starting flights each played down to 12.5 percent of the field, resulting in day 2 starting in the money. Esther Kim was in the lead and Coleman had some work to do in 44th chip position.

Plenty of big names fell as the field was narrowed down to a final table, including Shannon Shorr (58th), Ryan Laplante (55th), 2022 *CPPT Venetian* champion John Riordan (45th), James Romero (37th), Jesse Yaginuma (29th), Ryan Riess (22nd), *WPT Venetian* winner Ben Palmer (20th), *MSPT Venetian* champion Landon Tice (18th), Darren Rabinowitz (15th), Nicholas Pupillo (13th), Alexandre Reard (12th), and Joe Kuether (10th).

Coleman won a big pot just before the final table began, forcing Ivan Ruban out of the hand to approach the top of the

© Erik Fast

Qing Liu



Michael Rossitto



Louis Cheffy



leaderboard. By the time the field was down to nine, he had climbed to third.

Ruban (9th – \$11,764) was the first to fall, running pocket eights into the pocket jacks of Vinh Ho. The Russian poker pro now has more than \$882,000 in lifetime cashes.

Qing Liu soon followed. The 2021 *WPT Venetian* main event winner ran K-Q suited into the A-J suited of Bob Buckenmayer to hit the rail in eighth place (\$14,833).

Liu now has \$2,980,540 in career earnings. More than \$1.6 million of that has come at The Venetian, putting him second on the venue's all-time earnings list behind only Eric Baldwin. (Read more on pg. 17)

Despite eliminating Liu, Buckenmayer was ultimately the next to be knocked out. He got involved in a big pot against Coleman, betting the early streets and then checking the river. Coleman shoved and Buckenmayer called, but could not beat a flopped set of tens. He earned \$19,004 as the seventh-place finisher to bring his career total to more than \$1.5 million.

Coleman looked like he might begin to pull away from the pack after that hand, but soon doubled up Louis Cheffy to lose some of that momentum.

Later, he commented, “Yeah, that’s always tough switching gears, thinking you can kind of have control of the table and then lose the big pots and then you’re stuck being short. It definitely takes experience to be able to switch gears. I know I struggled with that when I first started playing tournaments... the emotion of going from chip leader to short in a quick period of time. But now I think that just my experience really comes in handy in those situations.”

Coleman’s bounce back began when his A-J was fortunate to outrun the pocket queens of Ho in a preflop all-in showdown. Coleman made trip aces by the river to double up.

Esther Kim’s run in this event came to an end in sixth place when her K-10 clashed with the K-Q of the surging Cheffy. Both players paired their kings, but the kickers played in the end and Kim was sent to the rail with \$24,734.

Cheffy went on to knock out Ho, picking up K♣ K♣ against Ho’s Q♠ J♥ and holding to narrow the field to four. Ho earned a career-best \$32,694 for his efforts.

Coleman added to his stack in a big way when his K-4 suited outran the A-4 of Eugene Tung in a battle of the blinds. Coleman hit kings up on the flop and held from there to eliminate Tung in fourth place (\$43,880).

2023 *Wynn Millions* main event winner Michael Rossitto ran pocket deuces into the pocket aces of Cheffy to finish third for \$59,784. The score grew his career earnings to more than \$3.5 million and capped off a six-week stretch at the tables that included a prelim event win at the *WPT World Championship* for \$340,000 and a deep run in the main event for another \$94,000.

With that, Coleman took just over a 2:1 chip lead into heads-up play with Cheffy. It didn’t take long for him to convert that advantage into the title. In the final hand, a A♣ A♠ J♣ flop saw Cheffy fire in a bet. Coleman called and the turn brought the K♠.

Cheffy bet again and Coleman came along. The 2♦ on the river saw Cheffy check. Coleman slid out enough chips to put his opponent at risk and Cheffy couldn’t find a fold with pocket queens. Coleman rolled over A♦ 7♥ for trip aces, securing the pot and the title.

Cheffy earned \$82,666 thanks to a deep run in the tournament. This was the third-largest score yet for the *WSOP Circuit Palm Beach Kennel Club* main event winner from Florida.

#### Final Table Results

Place	Player	Earnings	POY Points
1	David Coleman	\$115,989	720
2	Louis Cheffy	\$82,666	600
3	Michael Rossitto	\$59,784	480
4	Eugene Tung	\$43,880	360
5	Vinh Ho	\$32,694	300
6	Esther Kim	\$24,734	240
7	Bob Buckenmayer	\$19,004	180
8	Qing Liu	\$14,833	120
9	Ivan Ruban	\$11,764	60

### Eric Baldwin Wins His Third Career MSPT Venetian Title

Eric Baldwin is a force to be reckoned with at The Venetian Resort Las Vegas.

The two-time bracelet winner based out of Sin City has more than \$1.6 million in career poker tournament earnings at the venue, placing him in a virtual tie with Qing Liu for the most of any player. Of his 38 career wins, 15 have come at The Venetian.

Baldwin's latest big score saw him defeat a field of 550 entries in the *Mid-States Poker Tour Venetian* event to earn his second *MSPT* title of the year. Baldwin pocketed \$90,692 as the last player standing in the \$1,100 buy-in no-limit hold'em tournament.

Just over a month before this win, Baldwin had taken down another \$1,100 *MSPT Venetian* tournament, outlasting 274 entries for \$55,261. He is now a three-time *MSPT* champion, with all three victories taking place at The Venetian® Resort Las Vegas. His first came back in 2019, which saw him take home \$80,872 after overcoming a 377-entry field.

The top 61 finishers earned a share of the \$530,750 prize pool in this event. After two starting flights, the 550-entry field had been narrowed to the 61 contenders that cashed. With the elimination of Shannon Shorr in 10th place (\$8,823), the final table was set. Baldwin held the lead, with Bogdan Chornyy hot on his heels.

*WPT* champion Ky Nguyen was the first to fall (9th – \$10,933), running pocket sixes into the pocket tens of bracelet winner and *CPPT Venetian* winner Ankush Mandavia. Despite scoring that knockout and a couple of others in the early going, Mandavia was ultimately eliminated in fifth place when his A-8 was unable to outrun the pocket sixes of Baldwin. He earned \$28,688 for his efforts.

Chornyy busted Victorino Torres in fourth place (\$37,604) to take a healthy lead into three-handed play. He then won a flip against bracelet winner Darren Rabinowitz (3rd – \$49,861) to set up a heads-up showdown with



© Mid-States Poker Tour

Baldwin.

Chornyy held more than a 2:1 lead to start, but Baldwin was able to battle his way into the lead. Chornyy shoved with A♥ 2♣ and Baldwin called with K♣ 8♦. The board ran out 8♠ 6♥ 3♠ 10♠ Q♦ to give Baldwin a winning pair of eights, and Chornyy took home \$66,870 as the runner-up.

Other notable winners during the series included Abhisek Banerjee, Sterling Lopez, Vinh Ho, and Richard Kerman in \$600 *EpicStack* events. ♠



© Venetian



## THE VENETIAN® RESORT LAS VEGAS TOURNAMENT EARNINGS

Rank	Player	Venetian Earnings
1	Eric Baldwin	\$1.71 Million
2	Qing Liu	\$1.64 Million
3	Ben Palmer	\$1.38 Million
4	Javier Zarco	\$1.05 Million
5	Chad Eveslage	\$1.02 Million
6	Ali Imsirovic	\$985,000
7	Joe Kuether	\$972,000
8	Pavel Plesuv	\$954,000
9	Robert Mizrachi	\$917,000
10	Tom Marchese	\$914,000

The Venetian® Resort Las Vegas has paid out more than \$583 million in poker tournament prize money over the years, the third-most of any casino in the world. This leaderboard shows the top individual performers at this tournament poker hotspot.

**Eric Baldwin** stands alone at the top, with more than \$1.71 million in career earnings at the venue across 132 recorded in-the-money finishes. Baldwin has won three *Mid-States Poker Tour Venetian* titles, with two in the past couple of months alone (read more on page 16). His two top scores at the venue were a third-place finish in a 2021 *MSPT* \$1,600 event for \$209,194 and a win in a \$2,500 buy-in back in 2009 for \$198,933.

**Qing Liu** is Baldwin's closest competition with \$1.64 million in recorded scores at The Venetian. His biggest payday came when he took down the 2021 *World Poker Tour Venetian* \$5,000 main event for \$752,880. Liu is far from a one-hit-wonder, how-

ever. He has cashed 94 times at the venue, including a win in a \$600 *DeepStack Extravaganza* event just a couple of weeks ahead of his *WPT* victory that earned him \$110,890. Liu's most recent success at the venue was an eighth-place showing in the *Card Player Poker Tour* main event (read more on page 14).

Like Liu, **Ben Palmer** also cashed in the recent *CPPT* main event, finishing 20th for \$5,490. This was his 167th cash at the venue, the most of any player. The 2019 *WPT Venetian* main event champion now has nearly \$1.4 million in lifetime earnings at the venue, good for third place on this leaderboard. His marquee win saw him best 734 entries in a \$3,500 buy-in to walk away with \$431,655.

2017 *CPPT Venetian* main event champion Javier Zarco and 2021 *WPT Venetian* winner Chad Eveslage are the only other players with more than seven figures in tournament scores at the property. ♠

# CARD PLAYER POKER TOUR RETURNS TO VENETIAN IN FEBRUARY 2024

Nearly \$1.5 Million Guaranteed For DeepStack Extravaganza

By Card Player News Team



Get ready for even more stellar prize pools, dynamic competition, and high-stakes poker action at Venetian® Resort Las Vegas, with the 2024 *DeepStack Extravaganza I* set to run from Jan. 29 – Feb. 18. The series features nearly \$1.5 million in guarantees.

At the heart of it all will be the return of the \$400,000 guaranteed *Card Player Poker Tour* \$1,600 buy-in no-limit hold'em main event running from Feb. 15-18.

There are three starting flights on offer from Feb. 15-17, each kicking off at 11 AM. Day 2 players will return at the same time on Feb. 18 to battle it out for the title, the trophy, and the *DeepStack* gold coin.

This will mark the 14th *CPPT Venetian* main event. The first 13 tournaments have seen more than 6,300 entries, with \$20.4 million in prize money paid out along the way. CPPT all-time money leader Jon Turner has two titles at The Venetian, accumulating \$737,858 for his pair of victories.

More than \$580,000,000 in poker prize money has now been awarded at The Venetian Las Vegas all time, according to *Card Player's* database, making it one of the leaders in the world of tournament poker.

The *DeepStack Extravaganza I* will feature several other marquee events in addition to the *CPPT* tournament. The \$200,000 guaranteed \$800 *UltimateStack* runs Feb. 1-4, followed by the \$200,000 guaranteed \$1,100 buy-in *Mid-States Poker Tour Venetian Mystery Bounty Poker Bowl* from Feb. 6-8, while the \$300,000 guaranteed \$1,600 *MSPT Venetian Poker Bowl* is set for Feb. 8-10.

There are 24 open events on the schedule in total (not including satellites), with each sporting a guarantee ranging from \$5,000 to \$400,000 for the *CPPT Venetian* main event.

## 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. The thrills keep coming with action-packed events and luxurious surroundings.

The Venetian continues to be a hot spot for poker. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 a.m., games spread include limit and no-limit hold'em, Omaha eight-or-better, 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, players can compete and indulge all under one roof. As the first and only all-suite resort on the Strip, every player feels like a VIP.

Located in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, The Venetian Resort features top-notch accommodations, exquisite restaurants, world-class entertainment, and shopping. Globally-inspired cuisine is crafted by celebrity chefs, including Thomas Keller, Wolfgang Puck, Lorena Garcia, Buddy 'Cake Boss' Valastro, Tetsuya Wakuda, and Eyal Shani.

The latest venue, The Palazzo® High-Limit Gaming Lounge, offers over 15,000 square feet devoted to a luxurious slots and table games experience with a dedicated cage and an opulent private bar. Whether you love poker for the fun or the exciting stakes of competition, the *DeepStack Extravaganza Poker Series* is a must on every player's list.

For more information and to book your stay, visit [VenetianLasVegas.com](http://VenetianLasVegas.com). Players can get a special suite rate by calling 877.444.3777 and referencing group code JPOKR22. Terms and conditions apply and are subject to availability. ♠



Event	Date	Days	Buy-In
\$400 No-Limit Hold'em \$100K GTD*	Jan 29	3	\$400
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Bounty \$5K GTD	Jan 29	1	\$200
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Bounty \$5K GTD	Jan 30	1	\$200
\$400 No-Limit Hold'em Epic Bounty \$20K GTD	Jan 31	1	\$400
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Bounty \$5K GTD	Jan 31	1	\$200
\$800 No-Limit Hold'em UltimateStack \$200K GTD*	Feb 01	4	\$800
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Bounty \$5K GTD	Feb 01	1	\$200
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Bounty \$5K GTD	Feb 02	1	\$200
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Bounty \$5K GTD	Feb 03	1	\$200
January Freeroll Tournament	Feb 04	1	\$0
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Survivor \$5K GTD	Feb 04	1	\$200
\$500 No-Limit Hold'em EpicStack \$25K GTD	Feb 05	1	\$500
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Survivor \$5K GTD	Feb 05	1	\$200
\$1,100 MSPT Mystery Bounty Poker Bowl \$200K GTD*	Feb 06	3	\$1,100
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Survivor \$5K GTD	Feb 06	1	\$200
\$1,600 MSPT Poker Bowl \$300K GTD*	Feb 08	3	\$1,600
\$1,100 No-Limit Hold'em Monster Bounty \$75K GTD	Feb 10	1	\$1,100
\$600 No-Limit Hold'em Seniors \$30K GTD	Feb 12	1	\$600
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Bounty \$5K GTD	Feb 12	1	\$200
\$400 No-Limit Hold'em Epic Bounty \$20K GTD	Feb 13	1	\$400
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Survivor \$5K GTD	Feb 13	1	\$200
\$500 No-Limit Hold'em EpicStack \$25K GTD	Feb 14	1	\$500
\$1,600 Card Player Poker Tour Main Event \$400K GTD*	Feb 15	4	\$1,600
\$500 No-Limit Hold'em Epic Bounty \$25K GTD	Feb 18	1	\$500
\$200 No-Limit Hold'em Bounty \$5K GTD	Feb 18	1	\$200

# DANIEL NEGREANU SHAKES OFF ROUGH 2023 AT POKERGO TOUR LAST CHANCE SERIES

Artur Martirosian Wins Twice While  
Sam Laskowitz And Dylan DeStefano Earn Dream Seats

By Card Player News Team



One would be hard-pressed to find a more concise and fitting description for a tournament festival than the aptly named *PokerGO Tour Last Chance* series. The six-event series at the PokerGO studio at Aria Las Vegas well and truly was the final opportunity for players to try to win their way into the season-ending \$1 million *PGT Championship* freeroll, and more than a few players took advantage.

The schedule consisted entirely of \$10,500 buy-in no-limit tournaments that offered contenders a chance to either earn enough points to make the top 40 in the final *PGT* points standings, or be among the top two finishers in the series points race who had not yet qualified for the final two Dream Seats into the *PGT Championship*.

Those Dream Seats ultimately went to Sam Laskowitz and Dylan Destefano, who finished second and third respectively on the series leaderboard after each scoring a win and multiple cashes. The red-hot Artur Martirosian, who won two of the six events offered, accrued the most points of any player, but had already won enough points to qualify with his 32nd-place finish in the final standings.

## Negreanu Kicks Off New Year Strong After A Rough 2023 Outing

**Daniel Negreanu** is seventh on poker's all-time money list, with more than \$50.9 million in lifetime earnings to his name, but even legends of the game can have down years. The six-time bracelet winner and two-time *WPT* champion released a YouTube video early in the new year detailing his results for 2023. According to Negreanu, he lost \$2,228,174 on the felt across the 12-month span.

The 2022 *Super High Roller Bowl* champion went on to say that he plans on playing less frequently, with the goal essentially being 'quality over quantity' when it comes to his 2024 schedule.

The 49-year-old poker pro got off to a fast start by taking down event no. 1 at the *PGT Last Chance* series. He overcame a field of 91 entries, defeating a final table that included Nick Schulman (8th), Isaac Haxton (7th), David Peters (6th), Justin Bonomo (4th), and Masashi Oya (3rd).

Negreanu beat Daniel Smiljkovic heads-up in dramatic fashion to secure the title and the top prize of \$218,400.

The final hand of the event saw Negreanu limp in from the button with A♦ K♥. Smiljkovic checked his option



with  $J\heartsuit 2\heartsuit$  and hit trips with the  $J\heartsuit J\clubsuit 10\heartsuit$  flop. He check-raised the continuation bet, and Negreanu stuck around to see a  $4\clubsuit$  turn.

Smiljkovic sized up with a nearly pot-sized bet, and Negreanu moved all-in. Smiljkovic called for his tournament life, and was looking good to scoop the pot worth 80 percent of the chips in play. Negreanu could only win the hand with a queen on the river. The  $Q\heartsuit$  fit the bill, filling his straight to earn him the pot and the title.

Smiljkovic earned \$150,150 as the runner-up. He went on to record two more in-the-money finishes during the festival and secured a spot in the *PGT Championship* thanks to a final ranking of 16th. Although the German bracelet winner had to endure a bad beat for this title, he would ultimately have the last laugh in the *PGT Championship*, (which you can read about on pg. 24.)

#### Artur Martirosian Captures Two PGT Last Chance Titles

While Negreanu had a down year on the live circuit in 2023, **Artur Martirosian** had his best yet, with 16 final-table finishes, two big wins, and more than \$8.3 million in POY earnings for the year.

Martirosian secured his spot in the *PGT Championship* thanks to an impressive run during the middle of this *PGT Last Chance* series. He topped a field of 88 entries in event no. 2 to earn \$211,200. Two days later he finished ninth in event no. 4 for another \$31,200, and then he rounded out his series with a second victory, outlasting 79 entries in event no. 5 for another \$197,500.

All told, he cashed for \$439,900 while accruing 440 *PGT* points, enough to move him into 32nd in the final rankings.

The Russian poker pro is also now an early leader in the 2024 *Card Player* Player of the Year race thanks to his strong performance at this festival, having already accrued 900 points. Martirosian now has more than \$15.7 million in recorded earnings to his name, with more than half of that coming since the start of 2023.

His recent hot streak began with two major final tables

at the 2023 *PokerStars Caribbean Adventure* for more than \$1.5 million, and then added another \$1.8 million combined after seven final tables at *Triton Vietnam* and *EPT Monte Carlo*. In the summer he finished second in the *WSOP* \$250,000 high roller for \$3.3 million, and then won a bracelet in the *WSOP Online* series in September for another \$425,000.

He ended up with three titles in the span of a month, having also won a bracelet in the \$800 *Flip&Go* event at the inaugural *WSOP Paradise* series in the Bahamas. In that span he also made a deep run in the *WPT World Championship* main event, banking \$1,207,000 for a sixth-place finish. He ended the year in 11th place in the POY standings.

#### Dream Seat Qualifiers Sam Laskowitz and Dylan DeStefano Score Wins

Event no. 3 drew a field of 82 entries, creating a prize pool of \$820,000. The final 12 players made the money, earning at least \$16,400.

After finishing seventh in event no. 1, Issac Haxton continued his assault on the high roller community with a second-place showing for \$139,400. This score helped Haxton lock up the top spot on the standings heading into the *PGT Championship*, with four wins and 14 cashes for more than \$7.2 million in *PGT*-qualified events. (More on the *PGT* 2023 rankings next issue.)

In the end, the title went to **Sam Laskowitz**, who banked \$205,000 for the win. The American pro has been on a bit of a tear, winning the *NAPT Resorts World* \$5,000 event in November for \$180,850 and taking second in the *Wynn Fall Classic* mystery bounty for another \$133,820 in October.

The fourth event of the series attracted 78 entries to battle for the \$780,000 prize pool. Laskowitz followed up his win with another final table, taking seventh for \$39,000.

Masashi Oya, Ren Lin, and Jim Collopy were all

Sam Laskowitz



Dylan DeStefano



Nick Schulman



making their second cash of the series. Collopy's third-place finish for \$101,400 was just enough to see him move into 40th place in the *PGT* rankings as the race winded down, but he would ultimately get passed at the last moment to finish just outside on the bubble for the *PGT Championship*.

The heads-up showdown featured American pros Joey Weissman and **Dylan DeStefano**. DeStefano was able to get the best of the bracelet winner, dragging the final pot for the \$195,000 first-place prize. Weissman settled for \$132,600 as the runner-up.

DeStefano finished fifth in event no. 5 as well, bringing his total haul for the series to \$275,800 and 276 points. As previously mentioned, this ended up being good for third place in the series leaderboard, earning him one of the two Dream Seats awarded during the festival.

Laskowitz, who also finished fifth in event no. 6, locked up the other Dream Seat with \$307,200 in earnings and 307 points during the festival.

### Nick Schulman Takes Down The Final Event

The final tournament of the series came down to **Nick Schulman** and Chino Rheem, two players who had performed well all week long, and who were sitting on similar chip stacks. One was a four-time bracelet winner with \$18 million in tournament earnings. The other was a three-time *WPT* champion with \$15 million in cashes of his own. The heads-up match could go either way.

In the end, with the clock showing 2 a.m., the two friends decided to let fate decide, chopping the prize money based on stack sizes and flipping for the title. It ended up taking six flips, actually, with the short stack getting the better of it on the first five shuffles. Ultimately it was Schulman who got to drag the last pot, earning the trophy and the \$161,500 payout he negotiated for.

Schulman cashed in four of the six series events, accruing \$249,000 along the way. Despite officially finishing runner-up, Rheem earned more money with a payout of \$170,300. This was his third cash of the series, having finished ninth in event no. 2, and sixth in event no. 5 for a total of \$252,900. Both players had already locked up a seat in the season-ending *PGT Championship*, having finished in the top 40 players on the year-long leaderboard.

The \$10,000 buy-in tournament drew a field of 79 players, creating an overall prize pool of \$790,000. The final 12 made the money, earning at least \$15,800. Among them was Kristen Foxen, who like Schulman, made her fourth cash of the series taking home a total of \$111,100 minus her buy-ins. Her husband, Alex Foxen, also made the money, cashing in fourth place for the second consecutive day for \$79,000.

Stephen Chidwick finished sixth, capping off another productive week for the British poker star. Chidwick had previously finished fourth in event no. 2 and third in event no. 5, giving him a total of \$238,100 in earnings. He now has \$56.5 million in career cashes, good for fourth on the all-time money list. ♠



© PokerGO/Antonio Abrego



**PokerGO Tour Last Chance – Aria – Las Vegas, NV**

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,500 NLH Jan. 2 Entries: 91 Prizepool: \$910,000	1 Daniel Negreanu	\$218,400 (540)
	2 Daniel Smiljkovic	\$150,150 (450)
	3 Masashi Oya	\$113,750 (360)
	4 Justin Bonomo	\$91,000 (270)
	5 Jonathan Cohen	\$72,800 (225)
	6 David Peters	\$54,600 (180)
	7 Isaac Haxton	\$45,500 (135)
	8 Nick Schulman	\$36,400 (90)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,500 NLH Jan. 5 Entries: 78 Prizepool: \$780,000	1 Dylan Destefano	\$195,000 (420)
	2 Joey Weissman	\$132,600 (350)
	3 Jim Collopy	\$101,400 (280)
	4 Ren Lin	\$78,000 (210)
	5 Aram Oganyan	\$62,400 (175)
	6 Masashi Oya	\$46,800 (140)
	7 Sam Laskowitz	\$39,000 (105)
	8 Erik Seidel	\$31,200 (70)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,500 NLH Jan. 3 Entries: 88 Prizepool: \$880,000	1 Artur Martirosian	\$211,200 (480)
	2 Michael Jozoff	\$145,200 (400)
	3 Vitalijs Zavorotnijs	\$110,000 (320)
	4 Stephen Chidwick	\$88,000 (240)
	5 Victoria Livshitz	\$70,400 (200)
	6 Kristen Foxen	\$52,800 (160)
	7 Daniel Smiljkovic	\$44,000 (120)
	8 Andrew Lichtenberger	\$35,200 (80)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,500 NLH Jan. 6 Entries: 79 Prizepool: \$790,000	1 Artur Martirosian	\$197,500 (420)
	2 Sam Soverel	\$134,300 (350)
	3 Stephen Chidwick	\$102,700 (280)
	4 Alex Foxen	\$79,000 (210)
	5 Dylan Destefano	\$63,200 (175)
	6 Chino Rheem	\$47,400 (140)
	7 Dylan Linde	\$39,500 (105)
	8 Arthur Morris	\$31,600 (70)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,500 NLH Jan. 4 Entries: 82 Prizepool: \$820,000	1 Sam Laskowitz	\$205,000 (480)
	2 Isaac Haxton	\$139,400 (400)
	3 Seth Davies	\$106,600 (320)
	4 Dylan Linde	\$82,000 (240)
	5 Aram Zorian	\$65,600 (200)
	6 David Peters	\$49,200 (160)
	7 Jonathan Little	\$36,900 (120)
	8 Chris Brewer	\$36,900 (80)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,500 NLH Jan. 7 Entries: 79 Prizepool: \$790,000	1 Nick Schulman	\$161,500 (420)
	2 Chino Rheem	\$170,300 (350)
	3 Arthur Morris	\$102,700 (280)
	4 Alex Foxen	\$79,000 (210)
	5 Sam Laskowitz	\$63,200 (175)
	6 Stephen Chidwick	\$47,400 (140)
	7 Maxx Coleman	\$39,500 (105)
	8 Sam Soverel	\$31,600 (70)

© PokerGO/Antonio Abrego

# DANIEL SMILJKOVIC WINS 2023 POKERGO TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP FOR \$500,000

German Poker Pro Outlasts Arden Cho In Season-Ending \$1 Million Freeroll

By Erik Fast



The *PokerGO Tour* has completed its third season, which saw more than \$352.4 million in total prize money paid out across 132 events. The 2023 season concluded with the second-annual *PGT Championship* freeroll featuring the top 40 *PGT* point earners across the season and 14 Dream Seat winners. The prestigious event sported a \$1 million prize pool, doubling the \$500,000 that was awarded in last year's winner-take-all debut.

The top prize of \$500,000 this year was ultimately awarded to German poker pro Daniel Smiljkovic. This was the fourth-largest recorded score for the bracelet winner from Filderstadt, who now has more than \$6 million in career cashes to his name after this latest victory.

Smiljkovic had to withstand an impressive display from actress Arden Cho, who came into the day with the shortest stack but seemed like she might run away with it at one point during the final day. Smilkovic was eventually able to turn the tide, overcoming a big chip deficit during heads-up play to capture the title.

2023 was Smiljkovic's best year yet on the live scene. The longtime online grinder's three largest scores all came last year, including a third-place finish in a \$100,000 *Triton Poker* event in Vietnam for \$1,450,000 and a third-place showing in the massive \$25,000 *GGMillion\$* high roller at the *WSOP Paradise* festival for nearly \$1.2 million.

With seven *PGT* cashes totaling more than \$2.6 million

in earnings, Smiljkovic ended the season in 16th place. He helped secure his spot in this freeroll event with three cashes during the *PGT Last Chance* festival. (Read more on pg. 20)

The *PGT Championship* played out over the course of two days inside the *PokerGO Studio* at ARIA Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. The \$1 million prize pool was allocated to the top six finishers, with day 1 seeing the 54-player field narrowed down to the money.

As one might expect, plenty of the biggest names in the game fell along the way, including 17-time bracelet winner Phil Hellmuth, 10-time bracelet winner Erik Seidel, six-time bracelet winner Daniel Negreanu, four-time bracelet winner Nick Schulman, and many more.

The final table began with Smiljkovic in the lead, having 42 percent of the chips in play to start. It didn't take long for a big hand to arise. Just a few minutes into the day, a three-way all-in saw Artur Martirosian's pocket queens square off against A-K for both Smiljkovic and four-time *WPT* champion Darren Elias.

A king-high flop was bad news for Martirosian, but a river queen saw him make a set to win the main pot and surge into second place on the leaderboard. Smiljkovic remained out in front despite taking a loss in the hand. Elias, who ended 2023 in 30th place in the *PGT* standings, earned \$40,000 as the sixth-place finisher. His lifetime

Arden Cho



earnings now sit at \$13.1 million.

Five-handed play continued for a couple of hours before the next elimination took place. In that span, young German poker pro Leon Sturm had battled his way into the lead, while Martirosian had fallen to the short stack. Martirosian's A-K was flipping against pocket fives for Sturm. An ace on the flop tipped the scales in Martirosian's favor, but a five on the turn left the Russian drawing dead.

He took home \$60,000 as the fifth-place finisher, adding to a week that already saw him nab two trophies in the *PGT Last Chance* series. He finished the season as the 32nd-ranked contender in the *PGT* race.

Daniel Weinman came into this event with only one qualified score. It just so happened to be a win in the largest tournament of the year in the *WSOP* main event. Weinman topped the largest turnout ever for the big dance, besting 10,043 entries to earn \$12.1 million and 2,300 *PGT* points.

That ended up being good for fourth place in the final standings, earning the former poker pro a seat in this freeroll. He turned the opportunity into \$80,000 with a fourth-place finish after making a hero call against Smiljkovic's turned trips.

This was only the third cash recorded by Weinman since his career-defining win this summer. He returned to his job at RF Poker working on RFID table technology for poker broadcasts and has not been playing many tournaments during the second half of the year, although he did find the time for a runner-up finish in a *WSOP Circuit* main event at Harrah's Cherokee in North Carolina.

The next big hand was between Sturm, who had overtaken the lead by then, and Cho, who had climbed into second chip position thanks to some well-time moves during short-handed play. Cho then took the lead when Sturm attempted a triple-barrel bluff against her bottom two pair.

Sturm never recovered and soon found himself eliminated by Smiljkovic. Sturm earned \$120,000 as the third-place finisher and increased his recorded earnings to nearly \$5.9 million. More than \$5.2 of that has been earned since the start of 2023.

Heads-up play began with Cho holding a 5:2 chip lead that she extended before Smiljkovic won a race with A-K against pocket nines to give himself some breathing room.

Cho was able to pull back out in front as the match con-

tinued, winning a big pot with top pair that turned into a backdoored nut flush to extend her lead to nearly 4:1. But Smiljkovic bounced back yet again, with A-5 besting Cho's A-2 after all the chips went in the middle.

The decisive pot of the match began with him limping with  $Q\clubsuit 10\clubsuit$  on the button. Cho, who had Smiljkovic covered by just shy of two big blinds, checked with  $J\heartsuit 4\heartsuit$  and the flop came down  $J\clubsuit 9\clubsuit 8\spadesuit$ , giving Smiljkovic the nut straight. Cho check-called a bet with her top pair and the turn brought the  $5\spadesuit$ .

Cho checked and Smiljkovic bet again. Cho check-raised all-in and Smiljkovic quickly called off his chips. The  $9\diamondsuit$  was a mere formality as Cho was drawing dead on the turn. It didn't take long to close out the win from there.

Cho earned a career-high payday of \$200,000 as the runner-up. The actress is best known for her work on television shows like *Teen Wolf*, *Partner Track*, and the upcoming live-action version of *Avatar: The Last Airbender*.

The cash-game aficionado based in Los Angeles now has \$375,000 in tournament earnings. This deep run supplanted her previous top score of \$71,400 earned for a 55th-place showing in the 2022 *WPT World Championship*.

Cho was one of the Dream Seat winners who participated in this event, representing sponsor Eat Mezcla. Of the 14 qualifiers, she was the only one to make the money.

Other Dream Seat winners included Albert Hart, Julio Clavell, and Steve Kearney, who got in via a drawing for PokerGO annual subscription holders. PokerGO also held a social media contest won by Caleb Hancock. Ian Steinman and Ryan Bell earned seats via a sponsored promotion by GTO Wizard, while Jeff Lennon qualified through the *RunGood Poker Series*. ♠

#### Final Table Results

Place	Player	Payout
1	Daniel Smiljkovic	\$500,000
2	Arden Cho	\$200,000
3	Leon Sturm	\$120,000
4	Daniel Weinman	\$80,000
5	Artur Martirosian	\$60,000
6	Darren Elias	\$40,000

# ISAAC HAXTON WINS 2023 PGT POINTS RACE



Isaac Haxton fell just a couple of spots shy of the money in the *PGT Championship*, finishing eighth, but he ended the season atop the *PGT* standings, with 2,847 total points and more than \$7.2 million earned across 14 cashes. The 38-year-old also secured four *PGT* titles, including winning the *Super High Roller VIII* for \$2,760,000 and his first bracelet in a \$25,000 event at the *WSOP*.

Haxton nearly won two *SHRB* titles, but ultimately fell just short with a runner-up showing in the first-ever pot-limit Omaha version of the nosebleed-stakes tournament.

The Ivy League-educated high roller now has \$49 million in career tournament earnings, good for eighth on the all-time money list. For topping the leaderboard and becoming *PGT* Player of the Year, Haxton was awarded a \$50,000 bonus.

Chris Brewer finished second with two qualifying titles and 24 cashes for more than \$7.4 million. 2022 *PGT* points-race winner Stephen Chidwick placed third. ♠

Rank	Player	Points	Wins	Cashes	Winnings
1	Isaac Haxton	2,847	4	14	\$7,243,295
2	Chris Brewer	2,490	2	24	\$7,411,126
3	Stephen Chidwick	2,402	2	18	\$3,935,653
4	Daniel Weinman	2,300	1	1	\$12,100,000
5	Alex Foxen	2,103	1	23	\$2,753,924
6	Ren Lin	1,987	1	23	\$2,934,340
7	Sam Soverel	1,954	2	25	\$2,280,987
8	Nick Schulman	1,709	3	22	\$2,530,419
9	Steven Jones	1,700	0	1	\$6,500,000
10	Jeremy Ausmus	1,695	0	20	\$2,437,553
11	Erik Seidel	1,505	1	12	\$2,495,941
12	Adam Walton	1,500	0	1	\$4,000,000
13	Cary Katz	1,441	1	15	\$2,965,303
14	Jan-Peter Jachtmann	1,420	0	2	\$3,020,110
15	Jesse Lonis	1,385	2	11	\$2,886,377
16	Daniel Smiljkovic	1,366	0	6	\$2,143,876
17	Daniel Negreanu	1,335	1	25	\$1,549,629
18	Alex Kulev	1,333	1	4	\$3,802,478
19	Chance Kornuth	1,321	0	7	\$3,071,620
20	Isaac Kempton	1,304	4	14	\$1,619,986
21	Phil Hellmuth	1,304	2	9	\$1,415,899
22	Leon Sturm	1,304	1	7	\$3,023,766
23	Sean Winter	1,301	1	19	\$1,704,091
24	Ruslan Prydryk	1,300	0	1	\$2,400,000
25	Chino Rheem	1,281	2	17	\$1,549,693
26	Adrian Mateos	1,262	1	11	\$2,399,355
27	Max Neugebauer	1,250	1	1	\$1,601,435
28	Dean Hutchison	1,250	0	1	\$1,850,000
29	Lou Garza	1,246	1	2	\$1,354,832
30	Darren Elias	1,244	2	10	\$1,602,200
31	Masashi Oya	1,240	1	14	\$3,757,719
32	Artur Martirosyan	1,218	2	7	\$3,955,038
33	Josh Arieh	1,201	2	12	\$1,647,991
34	Alexandre Reard	1,200	1	1	\$1,057,663
35	Toby Lewis	1,200	0	1	\$1,425,000
36	Juan Maceiras	1,200	0	1	\$1,125,000
37	Arthur Morris	1,183	1	9	\$1,183,418
38	Orpen Kisacikoglu	1,165	2	9	\$1,845,208
39	Jason Koon	1,162	0	7	\$3,278,449
40	Maxx Coleman	1,137	1	20	\$1,366,916

RUNGOOD POKER SERIES

# DESTINATION RUNGOOD

MAPPED BY **pokerGO**



201 Monument Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32225  
(904) 646-0001 bestbetjax.com

**\$100,000**  
GUARANTEED SERIES OPENER

**\$300,000**  
GUARANTEED MAIN EVENT

## THURSDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>

- 12PM SERIES OPENER RING EVENT #1 FLT 1 BUY-IN \$400  
**\$100,000 GTD**
- 6PM SERIES OPENER RING EVENT #1 FLT 2 BUY-IN \$400  
**\$100,000 GTD**

## FRIDAY, MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>

- 12PM SERIES OPENER RING EVENT #1 FLT 3 BUY-IN \$400  
**\$100,000 GTD**
- 6PM SERIES OPENER RING EVENT #1 FLT 4 BUY-IN \$400  
**\$100,000 GTD**

## SATURDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>

- 12PM SERIES OPENER RING EVENT #1 FLT 5 BUY-IN \$400  
**\$100,000 GTD**
- 6PM SERIES OPENER RING EVENT #1 FLT 6 BUY-IN \$400  
**\$100,000 GTD**

## SUNDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>

- 12PM SERIES OPENER DAY 2 \*LIVE STREAMED ON BESTBETLIVE
- 1PM PROGRESSIVE KNOCKOUT RING EVENT #2 BUY-IN \$400

## MONDAY, MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>

- 12PM ONE DAY NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM RING EVENT #3 BUY-IN \$300
- 3PM LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM RING EVENT #4 BUY-IN \$360  
\*LIVE STREAMED ON BESTBETLIVE

## TUESDAY, MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>

- 12PM BIG O RING EVENT #5 BUY-IN \$300
- 3PM AMBASSADOR BOUNTY HOLD'EM RING EVENT #6 BUY-IN \$200  
\*LIVE STREAMED ON BESTBETLIVE

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>

- 12PM SIX-MAX NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM RING EVENT #7 BUY-IN \$660
- 3PM H.E.R.O.S. RING EVENT #8 BUY-IN \$300

## THURSDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>

- 12PM MAIN EVENT 1A BUY-IN \$1,200  
**\$300,000 GTD**

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>

- 12PM MAIN EVENT 1B BUY-IN \$1,200  
**\$300,000 GTD**

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>

- 12PM MAIN EVENT 1C BUY-IN \$1,200  
**\$300,000 GTD**

## SUNDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>

- 12PM MAIN EVENT DAY 2 BUY-IN \$500  
\*LIVE STREAMED ON BESTBETLIVE
- 1PM THE BESTBET 500 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM RING EVENT #9 BUY-IN \$500

GAMBLING PROBLEM? CALL 1-800-GAMBLER

For more information visit  
[www.RunGood.com](http://www.RunGood.com)



Management reserves the right to alter or cancel promotion / tournament at any time.

# CIRCUIT RESULTS

All payouts in USD.

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Grand Final Festival	1 Dmitriy Sych	\$94,523 (912)
	2 Anonymous	NA
Sochi Casino Sochi, Russia	3 Zoran Marich	\$60,445 (608)
	4 Vyacheslav Golovchenko	\$50,320 (456)
R105,000 NLH Dec. 24-29 Entries: 759 Prizepool: \$771,073	5 Damir Gabdullin	\$47,971 (380)
	6 Igor Abelmanov	\$24,232 (304)
	7 Aslan Esenkulov	\$19,219 (228)
	8 Vladimir Polukarov	\$15,465 (152)
	9 Konstantin Generalov	\$12,532 (76)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Grand Final Festival	1 Ivan Tukmachev	\$91,638 (360)
	2 Anonymous	NA
Sochi Casino Sochi, Russia	3 Gor Musinayn	\$45,942 (240)
	4 Stefan Prostorov	\$33,734 (180)
R350,000 NLH 8-Max Dec. 26-28 Entries: 104 Prizepool: \$365,086	5 Vyacheslav Golovchenko	\$24,417 (150)
	6 Vladislav Ivanov	\$18,634 (120)
	7 Andrey Chernokoz	\$14,780 (90)
	8 Roman Revkov	\$11,889 (60)



© WSOP

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit	1 Michael Bahls	\$75,978 (480)
	2 Mark Martin	\$26,957 (400)
Choctaw Durant, OK	3 Shoumian Xue	\$34,352 (320)
	4 James Donnelly	\$25,476 (240)
\$500 NLH Jan. 4-7 \$200,000 GTD Entries: 1,121 Prizepool: \$382,837	5 Rodney Spriggs	\$19,158 (200)
	6 Simon Webster	\$14,611 (160)
	7 Joshua Brower	\$11,303 (120)
	8 Dakota Martindale	\$8,871 (80)
	9 Bradley Kieffer	\$7,066 (40)



© Seminole Hard Rock

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Fun in the Sun	1 Robert Georato	\$43,865 (312)
	2 Mike Chiappetta	\$29,350 (260)
Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood, FL	3 Gary Gelman	\$17,310 (208)
	4 Yury Parad	\$10,530 (156)
\$1,100 NLH Dec. 29-30 \$100,000 GTD Entries: 174 Prizepool: \$168,780	5 Girish Reknar	\$8,125 (130)
	6 Juan Gelez	\$6,735 (104)
	7 Maria Curta	\$5,825 (78)
	8 Jose Chapui	\$5,105 (52)
	9 Joseph Levitt	\$4,440 (26)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Fun in the Sun	1 Scott Baumstein	\$35,405 (336)
	2 Sergio Giha	\$23,600 (280)
Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood, FL	3 Pavel Matveev	\$15,800 (224)
	4 Steven Bennett	\$11,170 (168)
\$400 NLH Dec. 26-27 \$100,000 GTD Entries: 546 Prizepool: \$182,910	5 Diane Linke	\$8,575 (140)
	6 Nikolaos Paraschos	\$7,080 (112)
	7 Jason Rocha	\$5,880 (84)
	8 Brett Feldman	\$4,685 (56)
	9 Steven Karp	\$3,515 (28)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
DeepStack	1 Eric Baldwin	\$90,692 (840)
	2 Bogdan Chorny	\$66,870 (700)
Venetian Las Vegas, NV	3 Darren Rabinowitz	\$49,861 (560)
	4 Victorino Torres	\$37,604 (420)
\$1,100 NLH Dec. 28-30 \$300,000 GTD Entries: 550 Prizepool: \$530,750	5 Ankush Mandavia	\$28,688 (350)
	6 Dung Ho	\$22,142 (280)
	7 Bill Croft	\$17,293 (210)
	8 Luke Wasikowski	\$13,667 (140)
	9 Ky Nguyen	\$10,933 (70)

# TOURNAMENTS

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Winter Poker Series	1 Chengcheng Fan	\$22,890 (420)
	2 Mark Raudenbush	\$20,030 (350)
Gardens Casino Hawaiian Gardens, CA	3 Bryan Saltzman	\$19,820 (280)
	4 Tanner Cohen	\$15,330 (210)
	5 Noe Mata	\$13,690 (175)
\$500 NLH KO Dec. 30 \$100,000 GTD Entries: 563 Prizepool: \$168,900	6 Ronald Martinez	\$12,880 (140)
	7 Michael Danley	\$4,750 (105)
	8 Junlong Wu	\$4,150 (70)
	9 William Shiraev	\$3,600 (35)



Sean An and Jhaynier Daniels

© Gardens Casino

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Winter Poker Series	1 Jhaynier Daniels	\$42,430 (360)
	2 Sean An	\$35,800 (300)
Gardens Casino Hawaiian Gardens, CA	3 Bryan Kawanami	\$17,690 (240)
	4 Maksim Samsonov	\$12,020 (180)
	5 Bardya Pourbolourchian	\$9,200 (150)
\$500 NLH Jan. 1 \$100,000 GTD Entries: 448 Prizepool: \$194,880	6 Yoshiaki Kojima	\$7,070 (120)
	7 Douglas Smith	\$5,670 (90)
	8 Thu Nugyen	\$4,950 (60)
	9 Paul Lui	\$4,310 (30)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Christmas Poker Week	1 Richard Eklind	\$37,125 (312)
	2 John Nyman	\$24,225 (260)
Casino Cosmopol Gothenburg, Sweden	3 Anton Jagborn	\$17,285 (208)
	4 Andreas Bendej	\$13,118 (156)
	5 Mani Rezaie	\$9,979 (130)
SKr 11,000 NLH Dec. 27-30 Entries: 166 Prizepool: \$164,838	6 Johan Vallgren	\$7,742 (104)
	7 Stian Krav	\$6,148 (78)
	8 Salko Seferovic	\$4,910 (52)



Raminder Singh

© Palm Beach Kennel Club

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
January Guarantee	1 Raminder Singh	\$35,595
	2 Shamica Lamar	\$31,578
Palm Beach Kennel Club West Palm Beach, FL	3 Donald Sala	\$17,848
	4 Niall Costigan	\$13,105
	5 Joaquin Perez	\$10,008
\$300 NLH Jan. 4-7 \$100,000 GTD Entries: 844 Prizepool: \$215,220	6 Tom Kaylor	\$7,978
	7 Matthew Yankowski	\$6,607
	8 Dyanna Lopez	\$5,260
	9 Adam Koppel	\$3,949

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
New Year's Bang	1 Alec Czitrom	\$110,175 (432)
	2 Dave Sheehan	\$74,500 (360)
Texas Card House Dallas, TX	3 Colbey Madewell	\$51,500 (288)
	4 Eric Chang	\$35,600 (216)
	5 Walter Rutledge	\$25,100 (180)
\$400 NLH Dec. 28-Jan. 1 \$300,000 GTD Entries: 1,955 Prizepool: \$609,325	6 Almog Biton	\$17,300 (144)
	7 Kiran Suresh	\$11,900 (108)
	8 David Fuller	\$8,400 (72)
	9 Felix Sanchez	\$6,400 (36)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
St. Augustine Championship	1 Brian James	\$17,143 (192)
	2 James Brown	\$11,428 (160)
bestbet St. Augustine, FL	3 Anthony Coleman	\$8,393 (128)
	4 Edith Oakes	\$6,241 (96)
	5 David Diloreto	\$4,698 (80)
\$300 NLH Dec. 30 \$30,000 GTD Entries: 334 Prizepool: \$81,830	6 Joshua Hannah	\$3,582 (64)
	7 Barry Brooks	\$2,766 (48)
	8 Jonathan Villarreal	\$2,163 (32)
	9 Mario Harper	\$1,714 (16)

# TOURNAMENTS

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Mega Stack Event	1 Jeremy Drewery	\$24,535 (240)
	2 Eric Edwards	\$24,535 (200)
Seminole Hard Rock Tampa, FL	3 Clyde Maliauka	\$13,300 (160)
	4 Gabriel Fuller	\$9,360 (120)
	5 Nathan Helmick	\$6,840 (100)
\$1,100 NLH Dec. 30-31 \$50,000 GTD Entries: 104 Prizepool: \$99,840	6 Anthony Koutsos	\$5,200 (80)
	7 Zachary Wells	\$4,110 (60)
	8 Joseph Piambino	\$3,400 (40)
	9 Matthew Leecy	\$2,940 (20)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Winter Meltdown	1 Srikanth Gundela	\$29,619 (336)
	2 Thomas Harter	\$28,549 (280)
Turning Stone Verona, NY	3 Russel Dizier	\$26,288 (224)
	4 Chris Damick	\$23,824 (168)
\$460 NLH Jan. 5-7 \$100,000 GTD Entries: 665 Prizepool: \$266,000	5 Jason Nablo	\$23,335 (140)
	6 Ga Song	\$17,588 (112)
	7 Arthur Demmerley	\$15,266 (84)
	8 Mitchell Gasiorowski	\$6,517 (56)
	9 William Darling	\$5,320 (28)



© Irish Poker Tour

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
One Day Event	1 Christopher Mills	\$28,451 (300)
	2 William Winterbom	\$25,402 (250)
Seminole Hard Rock Tampa, FL	3 Edward Gibbs	\$20,577 (200)
	4 Steven Kaslov	\$12,410 (150)
\$500 NLH Jan. 6 \$100,000 GTD Entries: 380 Prizepool: \$163,400	5 Jordan Lowery	\$9,290 (125)
	6 Fabian Foster	\$7,050 (100)
	7 William Deckard	\$5,420 (75)
	8 Hussein Assaf	\$4,220 (50)
	9 Nathan Helmick	\$3,330 (25)



© Thunder Valley

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Galway Poker Festival	1 Derek Baker	\$91,015 (456)
	2 Denis Brosnahan	\$57,770 (380)
	3 Tomas Geleziunas	\$39,240 (304)
Galmont Hotel Galway, Ireland	4 Cathal Shine	\$29,430 (228)
	5 Shean Lai	\$23,408 (190)
€600 NLH Jan. 4-7 €300,000 GTD Entries: 833 Prizepool: \$474,099	6 John Hanaphy	\$19,075 (152)
	7 Ivan Tononi	\$16,350 (114)
	8 Marc MacDonnell	\$13,625 (76)
	9 Robert Fairhurst	\$10,900 (38)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
WSOP Circuit	1 Gyula Karasz	\$28,474 (216)
	2 Sokratis Linaras	\$20,245 (180)
Kings Casino Rozvadov, Czech Republic	3 Cedric Roche	\$13,254 (144)
	4 Roei Hertz	\$10,200 (108)
	5 Georgi Dangel	\$8,077 (90)
€1,100 PLO Jan. 5 €100,000 GTD Entries: 91 Prizepool: \$103,550	6 Damian Koczewski	\$6,317 (72)
	7 Sasha Liu	\$4,970 (54)
	8 Andreas Froehli	\$3,884 (36)
	9 Diana Volcovschi	\$2,952 (18)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Champagne Series	1 Daniel McGee	\$51,037 (420)
	2 Stuart Tuvey	\$48,531 (350)
Thunder Valley Lincoln, CA	3 Daniel Hatch	\$34,327 (280)
	4 Michael Parkinson	\$19,595 (210)
\$600 NLH Jan. 6-8 \$200,000 GTD Entries: 643 Prizepool: \$337,475	5 Cornel Cimpan	\$15,040 (175)
	6 John Kenner	\$12,535 (140)
	7 Greg Pincombe	\$10,440 (105)
	8 Ed Miller	\$8,355 (70)
	9 Jason Mayer	\$6,275 (35)

# POKERGO PODCAST

*DONNIE PETERS & TIM DUCKWORTH*



THE **POKERGO PODCAST** IS THE HOME FOR THE BEST CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE LATEST HAPPENINGS IN THE WORLD OF POKER.

HOSTED BY **DONNIE PETERS** AND **TIM DUCKWORTH**, YOU WILL HEAR ABOUT EVERYTHING GOING ON WITH THE PGT, THE GLOBAL TOURNAMENT SCENE, HIGH-STAKES CASH GAMES, INDUSTRY NEWS, AND MUCH MORE. THE HOSTS ALSO SPEAK TO THE LATEST TOURNAMENT WINNERS AND NOTABLE POKER PERSONALITIES, INCLUDING **DANIEL NEGREANU, PHIL HELLMUTH, JASON KOON, SHAUN DEEB**, AND MORE OF YOUR FAVORITE POKER PLAYERS.



SCAN TO LISTEN

AVAILABLE ON YOUR FAVORITE STREAMING  
PLATFORMS. VISIT [PGT.COM/PODCAST](http://PGT.COM/PODCAST)  
OR SCAN TO LISTEN.



Google Play



# MATT BERKEY: HIGH-STAKES PRO EXPLAINS WHY BEGINNERS SHOULD TREAT POKER LIKE INVESTING

By Craig Tapscott



High-stakes regular Matt Berkey, the founder of the popular *Solve for Why* training site, doesn't need much of an introduction. The Pennsylvania native has been playing in the highest stakes games in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and on various live streams for over a decade.

Berkey's profile got even bigger after launching a daily podcast show called *Only Friends*. The gregarious circle of rabid poker freaks, geeks, and special guests was inspired by Berkey's love for sports fanatics' roundtables airing weekly across ESPN and FOX Sports, and as a result it has gained a considerable audience on YouTube, Spotify, and other podcast platforms.

The show won last year's Global Poker Award for best podcast with its cast of characters, hosted by Berkey and featuring Melissa Schubert, Landon Tice, Conrad Simpson, and others.

Never one to shy away from a dispute or controversy, the 41-year-old has always been a vocal advocate for challenging poker's norms to elevate

the conversation to the next level and has been quick to point out those that are not serving the players and the community ethically.

Last spring, when his poker academy *Solve for Why* was challenged by high-stakes reg Nikhil "Nik Airball" Arcot, Berkey defended his honor with a mano-a-mano heads-up battle that resulted in a satisfying million-dollar uptick to his bankroll.

Berkey recently took time away from the daily poker grind, the podcast, and his New Year fitness challenge to talk to *Card Player* about how beginning players can get over the initial hump and find their way in poker.

**Craig Tapscott:** What is one of the main leaks you see players have after years of working with private students and interacting with your training academy at *Solve for Why*?

**Matt Berkey:** The first thing that comes to mind is that many players struggle with bet sizing at different points in a hand, from start to finish. The main problem is they don't have a baseline from which to start. They usually don't know what size to

choose, and it will just be haphazard and random.

It's essential to have a good, strong foundation and understand why you're betting to begin with. That will often lead you to choose the proper sizing for that spot.

That being said, it's always tricky to distill a game like no-limit hold'em down to a handful of areas that people struggle with in a specific way, but I'll try.

**CT:** Okay, what are the most common leaks across the board?

**MB:** The players deep within the early learning phases will mostly struggle with the guidelines. And I'm using guidelines as a very generic term. In the sense that most of us come to the game intuitively, we try to just feel our way through, as far as where the thresholds are.

Let's think about it like basic investment strategies. You know you want to fire a lot of money into an opportunity where you expect a high return, and you want to be very conservative or not invest in situations where you expect no return.



© WPT



© PokerGO



© WPT

And I don't think poker is much different. The issue is that people aren't very educated in these tactics. What you're asked to do when you're playing a game this deep is make a bunch of investment decisions over and over, hand after hand, etc. Are they prepared enough to mechanically execute these decisions?

Beginners suffer most within the guidelines for range construction. They don't know what to open from what position, they don't know where to three-bet from what position, and the lazy choices often become the most common choice. These choices usually include limping preflop instead of raising, calling preflop instead of three-

betting, etc.

**CT:** That sounds like a pretty weak approach to the game, but most of us started there.

**MB:** It is. Essentially, most players new to the game will gravitate towards passive play, because it is less of an investment, and they're hedging their bets. Secondly, they have no concept of what particular hands are worth, and bet sizing is all over the place from preflop to post-flop to the river. Beginners are just often going to have massive sizing tells.

**CT:** Such as?

**MB:** The lazy version is that they bet big with a good hand and small with a bad hand or check too much with all the hands in between. Mechanically, those will be the two largest areas, range construction, and bet sizing, that I think beginners will make the most errors.

**CT:** What should beginners be hyper-focused on to get up to speed quickly?

**MB:** An understanding of equity, how it's derived, how it's divided, and how it is exchanged within the rules of the game. And that's really what, at a math level, this game distills down to.

When they're beginning, most people are entirely unaware of equity as a concept. As they become more experienced, they see equity as just the raw number of how often your hand improves, which isn't really correct either.

The most accurate definition of equity is how much pot share your hand currently holds. In other words, how often will your hand hold up at showdown. Sometimes, that requires improving, but other times, you just have the best hand in that moment.

For example, many players start to make grave errors when they have the nut flush draw. They assume that they only have 38% equity because that's how often they make a flush, forgetting that when they make a pair of aces, it may be good, or even their ace high may be good. This means their hand is closer to 60% equity against the range of hands their opponent could hold! I think understating equity is the entry point to tackling these other surface issues.

**CT:** What are some of the problems that arise when you begin to share these concepts with students?

**MB:** One of the most significant errors that occurs from a teaching standpoint is you try to put a Band-Aid on the simple fixes: the range construc-

© PokerGO



tion, bet sizing, and the passive play or too loose play, whatever the case may be. So, my challenge has been to create a mechanic that students can follow.

You show them a chart or a one-size bet strategy and share with them that you will only raise this “X” amount pre flop. You’re only going to raise or fold, no more limping. You’re only going to three-bet specific hand ranges from these positions, etc.

You reel them in mechanically and give them a definitive reason as to why these mechanics are sound. Then, as they grow, they learn how to deviate from that.

**CT:** It’s very much based on the equity and the return on investment—more than I may have ever realized.

**MB:** Yes. At the end of the day, it’s the equity that determines how much money we can freely put into a pot.

**CT:** What happens when a player suffers a big downswing and starts to blame their game when it’s simply variance.

**MB:** That’s when the mental aspect of their game needs to be the strongest. It’s so important in the scheme of things. It’s one of those things where most players stick a pin in it until they get good enough at poker to address it. But the truth is, it’s something that everybody probably should be working on to some degree all the time. The mental game helps you understand these more significant concepts in many ways.

**CT:** How so?

**MB:** When you have a solid mental game, you become calmer when you lose a flip. You become a lot more present whenever somebody sucks out on you on the river. You recognize that and understand it’s just an outcome that happens.

We like to throw around a lot of platitudes, such as, ‘It’s all about the

long run, or that’s supposed to happen sometimes, or 20% of the time your aces get cracked by kings.’ We do that to soothe an emotional response to a player who doesn’t have that much of a clue about what’s going on.

**CT:** I have seen many players freak out over a bad beat or a downswing, mainly because they have invested so much into evaluating themselves as a ‘great’ player, which may or may not be accurate.

**MB:** The mental game breaks down because there’s a lack of information there. Fear and emotion fill that void when information and knowledge are absent.

It’s best to start early in your career by understanding your mental development in the game. You work on the little things and then understand the more extensive and profound concepts. These become keystones in your game, and as you begin to beat certain levels, you’ll be pretty far ahead of most players.

**CT:** You recently posted your ROI graph for last year.

**MB:** I did. I played 1,200 hours last year and made about 75% of my bottom line in the first 400 hours. The following 800 hours of the year were pretty much break-even. I had a bunch of ups and downs, but if you look at hour 401 compared to hour 1201, I made no money. So, you have to be able to come to grips with the fact it’s just variance.

**CT:** How best does a somewhat beginning player walk away from reading this article and adapt the information you shared to improve their game and climb the stakes?

**MB:** Players are just calibrating their game for the environment that they’re in, from low stakes all the way up. And when it comes to what to study, they should adjust as they learn and grow.

You have to learn to examine different situations or spots. It takes being willing to be exploratory and not just taking everything at face value. But the truth is, even if you took everything at face value, it doesn’t replicate your actual environment when you’re beginning. But eventually, it’s still going to embed in you a lot of powerful principles that you can always defer back to as you come up through the stakes.

**CT:** So, it’s like a funnel as you progress up the stakes, getting narrower as you rise?

**MB:** The lowest stakes will be the ones that are the most wide open. And then it will funnel towards some of the more challenging games you’re going to play where everybody is pretty experienced and studied, and then eventually, it will open back up again. So maybe it’s more like an hourglass, because there’s a lot in common with private high stakes and the lowest stakes entry points.

**CT:** What do you mean?

**MB:** Private high-stakes games are the lowest entry point for rich people, and you start to see that chaotic environment where there’s a lot of multi-way pots. People at that level of wealth don’t respect money, and they certainly don’t give a crap about hand ranges. They’re just playing any two when they feel like it. The bottom line is a lot of emotion is driving their decisions.

So now, as the studied pro who’s come full circle, you have to draw back on your experiences as to how to proceed in the hands dealt to you in those games. It’s very similar to when you were just first starting as a newbie, and many players at the lowest stakes will also play any two cards in those games.

**You can follow Berkey on Twitter/X @berkey11, watch the Only Friends Podcast on YouTube, and learn from him and other top pros at SolveForWhy.io. ♠**

# Five Multiway Pot Exploits

By Alex Fitzgerald

Multiway pots can feel so goofy. Someone has to have something, right? Is my top pair even worth anything?

If you're looking for ways to exploit your opponents in multiway pots, you've come to the right place. Let's discuss five exploits you can use today to make more money on the felt.

## 1. Big Bets Versus Stations

This took me the longest time to figure out, but many recreational players don't actually look at the size of the flop bet unless it's enormous.

They play too many hands preflop precisely because it gets them hot and bothered when they do connect with a flop. They're not going to connect with the flop and then fold to the first bet. That will cause them an existential crisis. "Why am I even playing this hand if I'm just going to fold to the flop bet?"

To take advantage of this tendency, you should bet larger on coordinated boards when you've flopped a huge hand. Your opponents with pairs and draws are unlikely to go anywhere.

This is great news for you. When your opponents call any bet on the flop, they're likely to be surprised by how big the pot is on the turn. "Whoa," they think. "I can't fold now. Look how much money is out there!"

Now, if you bet half the size of the pot, the bet doesn't look that large in relation to the pot size, but it's a huge bet in relation to their stack because you inflated the pot early in the hand. If you get them to call on the turn due to "pot odds," don't be shocked if they call off everything on the river.

## 2. Folding Single Pairs To A Raise

I was playing a low-stakes tournament one time in a smalltown cardroom. I raised preflop with A-Q offsuit and got multiple callers. The board came A-10-4 with two clubs. I didn't have a club in my hand.

I bet out when the action came to me. It folded around to Terry. Terry then raised to around the size of the pot. Terry was a dad in his 40s. He played for fun and normally didn't attract much attention.

What does it mean when a player isn't noticeable? It means they're not bluffing enough. Bluffs are exciting. Bluffs are noticeable. If you play day in and day out with the same guy and never notice a thing, that means he's doing nothing flashy. He has a hand pretty much every time he plays a pot.

In this case, Terry was not raising a combo draw. I'd never seen him do that. He wasn't raising with A-J offsuit, either. He would just call with that hand. His range was exactly a set of tens, a set of fours, or top two pair.

I folded when the action got back to me. This is a highly-exploitative fold, which means it can be dangerous. You can't exploit others without becoming exploitable yourself. However, in this instance, when you're playing against an average guy in a small cardroom, it's unlikely he changed his entire style just to exploit you in one specific hand. He most likely has the goods.

If you look for spots like this, you'll find them constantly. There's not many people who can bluff raise in a multiway



pot. Most people are too paranoid that somebody has already flopped something.

## 3. Calling Down Less

On that same note, let's pretend you flop top pair with a mediocre kicker. You check in a multiway pot to the original raiser. They decline to bet, so it gets checked to the player who is in position. They take a shot at the pot. You call.

The turn is a blank. You check. The villain fires again. You call. The river is another blank. You check. The villain moves all-in.

What should you generally do in this situation?

Many recreational players hem and haw here thinking they have a major 50/50 decision, but in most instances the answer is cut and dried. It's a fold.

Sometimes, the player in position will take a shot at the pot when checked to in position in a multiway pot. However, most people won't triple barrel bluff.

In multiway pots, most people make a subconscious assumption that somebody has something. That means it's unlikely that they're willing to fire into multiple people with nothing. Even if they're willing to try firing one bet, they're more likely to believe you have something once you call, because in general someone does have something in a multiway pot.

On occasion, someone will go balls to the wall and triple barrel bluff in a multiway pot, but most people don't operate like that. They usually have the hand when they're willing to commit tons of chips to a multiway pot.

## 4. Betting Small With A Mediocre Draw

Another fun exploitative play you can do is to bet small with a draw. In multiway pots, a bunch of your opponents will be afraid to raise you with one pair.

Why are they afraid to do this? They're worried about reopening the action. Nothing makes a player feel dumber than raising a decent hand and then getting blasted off of it. They think to themselves, "damn it! Why didn't I just call?! I could have seen the turn card AND kept the pot small!"

You can take advantage of this by whipping out a small flop bet the second it's on you. I've had this play work to great effect live. People assume that I didn't understand how big the pot was. They don't think I capped my range by betting too small on a coordinated board. They instead think I could still have all of my strongest combinations. Because of this, they call more, allowing me to set the price and see a cheap turn card.

## 5. Raising Top Pair Versus A Small Bet

On a similar note, you shouldn't fall for this same play when someone does it to you.

If you have top pair with a decent kicker multiway and someone bets small, don't let them get cheap turn cards. Raise your top pair for value and start charging!

The vast majority of the time they will just call you. If they do raise you again on the flop, they've usually just given away that they flopped a set. You don't have to overcommit there. You can often get away for the minimum. ♠



Alexander Fitzgerald is a professional poker player and bestselling author who currently lives in Denver, Colorado. He is a WPT and EPT final tablist. He has WCOOP and SCOOP wins online. His most recent win was the \$250,000 Guaranteed on America's Cardroom.

He currently enjoys blasting bums away in Ignition tournaments while he listens to death metal. Free training packages of his are provided to new newsletter subscribers who sign up for free at [www.pokerheadrush.com](http://www.pokerheadrush.com)

# FOLDING A-K

By Jonathan Little

There are many reasonable ways to approach playing A-K. Some players play it aggressively every time, consistently raising and re-raising. Others take the cautious route, calling and then checking when they fail to improve to at least top pair, top kicker.

Instead of playing it the same way every time, you should make a point to actively pay attention to your opponent's tendencies in order to play A-K (and every other hand) in the most profitable manner.

To illustrate this concept, let's take a look at a hand I was recently told about in the comments of one of my YouTube videos.

**With blinds at 100-200 with a 200 big blind ante, the player in the lojack seat raised to 500 out of his 8,000 effective stack. Everyone folded around to our Hero in the small blind who called with A♠ K♣.**

While calling is certainly better than folding, three-betting to 1,800 is usually ideal in order to get money in the pot with what is usually the best hand. If you elect to just call with A-K preflop, it is important to note that you are not "slow playing," hoping to automatically check-raise on any flop for value. Instead, you are playing a decently strong hand cautiously, opting to see if you flop a premium hand before investing significant money.

**The big blind folded and the flop came Q♥ 8♥ 8♣. Hero checked, the lojack bet 600 into the 1,400 pot, and Hero called.**

This is an excellent spot to check with the intention of calling any reasonable bet. It may feel a bit dicey to call from out of position with only ace-high, but it is important to realize that your A-K beats all draws and all bluffs.

Of course, you could easily be crushed by a hand like A-Q or 8-7, but A-K is simply too strong to fold due to the large number of hands that failed to connect with this flop.

**The turn was the 6♥. Hero checked, the lojack bet 1,200 into the 2,600 pot.**

When the turn completes one of the obvious draws, it is usually time to surrender when you lose to many of the completed draws as well as many flopped made hands. Notice that Hero could easily have all flushes plus some trips and top pairs in their range, meaning this hand is essentially one of the worst hands Hero could have at the moment (perhaps J-10, J-9, and 10-9 are the absolute worst).

When you face a bet with one of the worst hands in your range, folding is the prudent play.

**Hero folded and conceded the pot.**

Some players think that check-raise bluffing the turn is a good play, hoping to make lojack fold all hands worse



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](http://PokerCoaching.com/CardPlayer)

than trips, but it is too likely that they have one of those premium hands, especially if they play intelligently and will check behind on the turn with marginal made hands such as top pair.

When most competent players bet the turn when the obvious draws complete, they usually have either a strong made hand that can withstand additional pressure or a draw. Against that range, check-raising has little merit with a hand that stands to be in terrible shape when called.

While it is never fun to fold a premium pre flop hand after the flop, you must understand that A-K is a marginal bluff catcher at best when it fails to connect with the board. Sometimes you just have to get out of the way.

When you join the Card Player Poker School (it's free), you'll get:

- Free Downloadable Preflop Charts
- GTO Preflop Charts
- Video Classes
- Interactive Hand Quizzes
- Free Course: The 25 Biggest Leaks and How to Fix Them
- Free Course: Five-Day Preflop Challenge
- Free Training Every Week ♠



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](http://PokerCoaching.com/cardplayer).

# PICKING OFF A BLUFF ON THE SHORT STACK

By Greg Raymer



We were nearing the end of day 1b at the 2019 *World Series of Poker Circuit* main event at the Tulsa Hard Rock. The blinds were at 1,500-3,000 with a 500 ante, and I had a below average stack of 56,000.

In the hijack, I looked down at  $A\spadesuit 6\clubsuit$  and open-raised to 6,300. I was called only by the button, a tough player who had about 75,000.

We saw a flop of  $J\diamondsuit J\clubsuit 6\diamondsuit$ , and I bet 6,500. The button called, and we both checked the  $9\diamondsuit$  on the turn. The river was the  $Q\heartsuit$ . I checked, and then called the button's half-pot bet of 16,000, winning against his  $A\heartsuit 5\heartsuit$ .

Let's break it down!

Preflop, my play is pretty standard. It is folded to me in late position, I have an ace, and I make my standard preflop raise.

But since I have a very weak ace, it would not be wrong to fold and wait for something better. This is primarily true because I am such a short stack. Even if I play this hand well post-flop, I could still lose a huge portion of my stack. However, if I were a larger stack, it would almost certainly be a mistake to fold preflop.

Now, I get called by the last player I want action from, the button. He is a strong player, with position, so it is unlikely I can win a big pot unless I cold-deck him. And he will be able to steal a lot of pots from me when we both miss, given his position and skill.

However, I catch a great flop for my hand. Not only do I pair my kicker, but two jacks means it is highly unlikely he also hit the flop. I am either well ahead of him, and he has six outs or less, or I am way behind if he has a jack or a pair of sevens or higher.

Often the way ahead, way behind theory suggests you should check-and-call as the best way to lose the least and win the most (by inducing bluffs). However, here I am the preflop raiser, and my basic strategy is to always continuation

bet against just one caller.

Given that he is unlikely to be ahead, will often fold now, and most turn cards will look dangerous to me, I decide betting is better than checking. If I check this flop, and he bets, it would be much too tight for me to fold. Moreover, since I am inducing bluffs with my flop check, it also means that I should probably call him down all the way almost no matter what the runout.

Thus, I prefer to bet here, as it will give him a chance to fold all hands that he feels are beat, such as  $K-Q$ ,  $9-8$ , and the like. He doesn't know those hands have six outs, or that he has bluff equity against my hand.

If he has a jack, we are screwed, and can only hope to figure it out quickly and limit the damage. If he has an overpair to our sixes, we are

drawing thin, and have to get lucky. Also, if he has diamonds, he won't fold now, but at least we can make him pay for the turn card.

Unfortunately, he calls our flop bet. This is bad news, as it usually means we are beat, or he has a lot of outs (such as having  $K\diamondsuit Q\diamondsuit$ , or  $A\diamondsuit 4\diamondsuit$ , etc.). It could also mean he is floating and is calling without a pair or a draw, and planning on bluffing the turn or river.

When the diamond comes on the turn, a check is almost certainly our best choice. Betting now would just turn our two pair into a bluff. And if we did bluff, what better hands will he ever fold? He is not going to fold trip jacks or a flush, and while it is possible, he usually won't fold two pair hands such as 7-7 and above.

As such, betting here only gets him to fold worse hands (which is not horrible, as almost all those hands have significant equity). When we are behind, we are either getting called and putting more chips into a pot we are probably going to lose, or we are getting raised, and probably folding. Whereas if we check, we can call for the same price as making a bet, and see the river card.

This keeps us in for a lucky six on the river, and also wins more if he is bluffing. Plus, if we believe we are probably beat, we can fold to this bet, even though it might be a bluff. Sometimes, you are just going to get bluffed. The only way to avoid getting bluffed is to never fold, which makes us into the stereotypical losing player, the calling station.

Fortunately, he checks behind on the turn. The  $Q\heartsuit$  on the river is not a perfect card, as it could have connected with several different hands in his range, such as  $A\diamondsuit Q\clubsuit$  or  $K\spadesuit Q\diamondsuit$ . However, against most of his range this card does not change anything at all. If we had the best hand on the turn, we likely still have the best hand. And if we were beat, on the flop or turn, we are still beat. Betting this river creates little value, as we rarely expect to get called by a worse hand, and

rarely expect to get a better hand to fold. Checking is clearly the best choice.

Now, our tough opponent bets this river. For the most part, he either hit the flop hard and has been trapping, turned the flush and was trapping, is value-betting a better jacks-up hand, or is bluffing at this river.

If he were a weak player, he would almost never be betting here with just a queen. Most weak players would be thrilled to have hit top pair, and would not be betting for value on such a board where straights, flushes, and full houses are possible. However, a strong player might correctly put me on just the hand I have, an underpair to the jacks, and bet a queen (or other two pair hand) for value.

As such, he does have a variety of value hands in his range, not just trips or better. Still, there are many potential bluffs in his range, and since he bet about half-pot, we are getting 3:1 on the call. It certainly seems like we should win here more than 25% of the time, so calling is the best choice. If this opponent were tight and never bluffs, or if you spotted a very reliable tell, only then would folding be a reasonable choice.

Have fun, and play smart! ♠



Greg Raymer is the 2004 WSOP world champion, winner of numerous major titles, and has more than \$7 million in earnings. He is the author of "FossilMan's Winning Tournament Strategies," available from D&B Publishing, Amazon, and other retailers. He is sponsored by Blue Shark

Optics, YouStake, and ShareMyPair. To contact Greg please tweet at him using @FossilMan or go to [www.FossilManPoker.com](http://www.FossilManPoker.com).

## STUD: BIG PAIRS DON'T GROW ON TREES

By Kevin Haney

Big pairs are your bread-and-butter holdings in Stud High and generally defined as tens through aces. It's always relative, though. On one board, a pair of nines might be an overwhelming favorite to be the best holding, and in another hand, a pair of queens may need to hit the muck when two big hands are going to war.

However, on a random deal they are typically the stronger hands out, and we should often play them as such, unless circumstances develop that may indicate otherwise.

### Third Street Guidelines

Big pairs play better heads-up, therefore we should tend to play them in a straight-forward aggressive manner for value and to also limit the field. As discussed in past articles, we shouldn't always have a big pair when putting in action with a big card showing, however, most of our opponents tend to get obstinate regardless of what they think we have.

When I was newer to the game, having many big cards behind me was a big cause of concern, and there were times where I would limp or even outright fold a split pair of tens or jacks on scary boards. But after crunching the math, I learned that this was probably a mistake.

## TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2023 PGT Championship  
\$1,000,000 Freeroll No-Limit Hold'em



Erik Seidel  
83,000



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 64%  
After Flop: 53%  
After Turn: 82%



Daniel Smiljkovic  
126,500



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 35%  
After Flop: 47%  
After Turn: 18%

### PREFLOP

With 30 players remaining, a six-handed table, and blinds of 2,500-5,000 with a big blind ante of 5,000, Erik Seidel raised to 10,000 from the button. Daniel Smiljkovic called from the big blind.



Smiljkovic checked, and Seidel bet 5,000. Smiljkovic called.



Both players checked.



Smiljkovic moved all-in, and Seidel called for 68,000.

### COMMENTARY:

Day 1 of the PGT Championship saw Daniel Smiljkovic put several of his opponents in the blender with huge overbets on the turn and river. In this particular hand, he unleashed a 1.8x pot shove on the end as a bluff to try to force ten-time bracelet winner Erik Seidel off of his hand. While there were eventually fireworks on the river, the hand began relatively quietly. Seidel min-raised from the button with K-8 and Smiljkovic defended his big blind with 4-3. He flopped an open-ended straight draw and check-called a single big blind from Seidel, who had not yet connected. The turn brought a king to improve Seidel to top pair. He checked behind, likely hoping to keep some bluffs in his opponent's range while controlling the size of the pot and disguising the strength of his hand. Smiljkovic ended up with the third nut low after the river. With no showdown value to speak of, he elected to brute force his way to victory. His overbetting range should consist of a mix of bluffs, like this particular instance, as well as his strongest value hands. With an under-repped top pair and a key straight blocker in the 8♣, Seidel made the call after roughly two minutes of consideration. He grew his stack to nearly 35 big blinds thanks to the big call, while Smiljkovic fell below eight big blinds. The German poker pro was far from finished in this event, though, as he soon mounted a comeback that would see him enter the final table as the chip leader.

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

# THE VENETIAN® RESORT

POKER ROOM | LAS VEGAS

NEARLY  
**\$1.5 MILLION**  
IN GUARANTEED PRIZE POOLS

**JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 18, 2024**



EXTRAVAGANZA POKER SERIES

# DeepStack

VIEW COMPLETE SCHEDULE AT [VENETIANLASVEGAS.COM/DEEPSTACK](https://www.venetianlasvegas.com/deepstack)  
AND FIND US ON X @VENETIANPOKER AND FACEBOOK AT  
[FACEBOOK.COM/VENETIANPOKERROOM](https://www.facebook.com/venetianpokerroom) TO FOLLOW ALL THE ACTION.

The Venetian Resort Las Vegas management reserves all rights. Must be 21+. Call 1.800.GAMBLER if you have a Gambling Problem.

The Venetian® and other trademarks are used under license.

## “Big pairs play better heads-up, therefore we should tend to play them in a straight-forward aggressive manner for value and to also limit the field.”

For example, let's assume that we are first to act at a six-handed table in a high-ante game where we are dealt (J♦ 6♠) J♥ and the table upcards read as follows:

2♠ (bring-in), HERO, A♣, K♠, Q♥, 8♦

In this scenario each big card has an approximate 14% chance of having a better starting hand. For obvious reasons, the deuce and eight are a much lesser threat with each only having rolled-up trips or a better wired pair around 1.27% of the time.

The probability of having the best current is approximately:  $(.86) \times (.86) \times (.86) \times (.9873) \times (.9873) = 62\%$

In a high-ante structure this is seemingly too much hand to fold even if in some hands we are potentially setting ourselves up for getting outplayed and/or being subjected to some reverse implied odds situations.

If we get re-raised by one of the big cards, we should fold our split jacks with a weak kicker, and aggressive players might do so with holdings such as three flushes or smaller wired pairs. And our particular holding also doesn't perform that well when the pot goes off multi-way.

Older material on stud often advocates limping in these spots to see what happens; however, these limps often get met

with a raise more often than if we had just completed the bet ourselves. Thus, it's probably worth completing the bet to limit the field, and also gain more clarity on where we stand.

If we complete the bet and just get called we should proceed carefully, but it's likely that we have the best hand. Especially since the particular ordering of the cards indicates that none of the higher cards left to act need be overly concerned with those remaining.

For example, if the ace folds, a pair of kings doesn't have much to fear about the queen behind him. The situation is slightly different if the queen was up first and cold-calls as he might be worried about having both an ace and a king behind him. Many players will re-raise a pair of queens anyway, but there are definitely some that may fear putting in this action with scare cards left to act.

Big pairs don't perform that great multi-way, thus if many players are already in the pot, we can often still play, but should typically refrain from putting more money into a situation that can quickly go south. For example, if a ten opens and is called by an eight and a jack, we should just simply follow along and flat a pair of kings and see what develops on future streets.

# TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2023 PGT Championship  
\$1,000,000 Freeroll No-Limit Hold'em



**Chris Brewer**  
177,000



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 56%  
After Flop: 86%  
After Turn: 93%



**Alex Foxen**  
149,000



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 43%  
After Flop: 14%  
After Turn: 7%

### PREFLOP

With around 20 players remaining, a seven-handed table, and blinds of 5,000-10,000 with a big blind ante of 10,000, Chris Brewer limped in from the small blind. Alex Foxen checked his option in the big blind.



Brewer checked, and Foxen bet 10,000. Brewer check-raised to 35,000, and Foxen called.



Both players checked.



Brewer checked, and Foxen bet 93,000. Brewer called.

### COMMENTARY:

This hand features a battle of the blinds between two of the top high-stakes tournament performers of 2023. Chris Brewer, who finished second in the *PokerGO Tour* season-long standings, kicked things off with a limp. Fifth-ranked PGT contender Alex Foxen checked his option and then took a stab for a single big blind with his gutshot straight draw after being checked to. Brewer, who had hit top pair and held a key straight blocker as his kicker, unleashed a check-raise to 3.5 big blinds. Foxen made the call and the turn completed the rainbow with a deuce. Brewer pumped the brakes a bit with a check after receiving a call of his check raise. This approach not only helps control the size of the pot a bit but also helps to keep in some of Foxen's weaker holdings moving forward. Foxen checked behind and the river put four cards to a low straight on board. Brewer checked a second time and Foxen, with no showdown value to speak of, elected to bet all but 1,000 of his remaining 94,000 stack, maximizing his fold equity while giving him (an admittedly slim, but non-zero) chance to try to spin up a stack again if his bluff is picked off. Brewer wasted little time in calling off the majority of his stack with top pair, seemingly expecting Foxen to have sufficient bluffs in his range to make the move profitable. Brewer chipped up to over 32 big blinds, while Foxen was left with 1/10th of one big blind. He was eliminated a few minutes later. Neither Brewer nor Foxen ultimately cashed in this event.

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



# HOME TO THE LARGEST SUBSCRIPTION-BASED POKER STREAMING SERVICE IN THE WORLD!

WATCH 125+ DAYS OF LIVE POKER BROADCASTS EACH YEAR, INCLUDING THE WORLD SERIES OF POKER, SUPER HIGH ROLLER BOWL, POKER MASTERS, HIGH STAKES DUEL, AND MORE!

GET 24/7 ON-DEMAND ACCESS TO THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF SHOWS INCLUDING EVERY SEASON OF HIGH STAKES POKER!



USE PROMO CODE **CARDPLAYER** FOR \$20 OFF YOUR FIRST YEAR OF A NEW ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

PROMO CODE MAY BE APPLIED TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING SUBSCRIPTION IF IT IS YOUR FIRST ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION. ONLY VALID USING A CREDIT CARD ON POKERGO.COM. PLEASE CONTACT SUPPORT@POKERGO.COM TO UPGRADE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

SIGN UP NOW AT **POKERGO.COM** OR THROUGH THE POKERGO APP



@POKERGO

## Later Street Concepts

Suppose we open a pair of kings from late position and get called by a 7♥. On fourth street we are going to be betting most of the time unless our opponent gets a card such as the 6♥ that coordinates nicely on his board.

In this occurrence we should check, as our opponent might have picked up a strong draw against which we are usually an underdog. In addition, it looks like we were possibly on a steal, thus our opponent will often bet the street for us regardless of what he has.

We must also exercise extreme caution when our opponent pairs his door card right away as it is one of the most costly errors that a beginning player can make.

Suppose that a nine limps in and you complete the bet with an ace up and another ace in the hole. The nine pairs his door card and comes out with a double bet (where this is still allowed). If you have not improved and are up against trips you only have around 10% equity. Obviously, that is a situation to avoid, but we are also an underdog to two pair and are not a huge favorite against a pair and a three-card drawing hand:

(5♠ 5♣) 9♠ 9♥ - 55% Equity versus Aces  
 (10♠ J♣) 9♠ 9♥ - 40% Equity versus Aces  
 (5♠ 2♠) 9♠ 9♥ - 40% Equity versus Aces

To consider calling down you need at least one of the following to be true:

You have improved to at least two pair, preferably both of which are greater than nines

You can account for at least one other nine

You have a good read that your opponent would not have limp-called with a pair of nines

It's rare to be certain that your opponent would not have limp-called with a pair as it takes time to develop this specific read and they might have only done so this time because they were afraid of several big cards behind them. Some players will often limp-call with a pair of nines, while others would never play in that fashion.

We can't be afraid of folding the best hand here, it's definitely frustrating but our opponent just happened to catch a lucky card that should win him the pot. Don't reward this passive play by committing a lot of chips with the overall worst of it. However, if he doesn't pair his door card until sixth street, we are usually forced to continue on due to the size of the pot.

The pots get big in stud and we should see showdown with our big pairs more than not. This also applies to our opponents therefore we shouldn't always be fearful of betting an unimproved pair of aces on the river against a likely pair of kings. If he has you beat so be it, but big pairs don't grow on trees and we should always seek maximum value with them. ♠



Kevin Haney is a former actuary but left the corporate job to focus on his passions for poker and fitness. The certified personal trainer owned a gym in New Jersey, but has since moved to Las Vegas. He started playing the game back in 2003, and particularly enjoys taking new players interested in mixed games under his wing and quickly making them proficient in all variants. Learn more or just say hello with an email to [haneyk612@gmail.com](mailto:haneyk612@gmail.com).

# TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2023 PGT Championship

\$1,000,000 Freeroll No-Limit Hold'em



Daniel Smiljkovic  
1,614,000



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 40%  
After Flop: 19%  
After Turn: 5%



Isaac Haxton  
494,000



Winning Percentage  
Before Flop: 60%  
After Flop: 81%  
After Turn: 95%

## PREFLOP

With 14 players remaining, a seven-handed table, and blinds of 6,000-12,000 with a big blind ante of 12,000, Daniel Smiljkovic raised to 24,000 from the button. Isaac Haxton called from the big blind.



Haxton checked, and Smiljkovic bet 40,000. Haxton called.



Both players checked.



Haxton checked, and Smiljkovic bet 200,000. Haxton called.

## COMMENTARY:

Daniel Smiljkovic got grand-slam value in this hand via a big overbet on the river. His ability to get paid off by top competition when he has a strong hand is dependent on balancing these huge value bets with equally huge bluffs. Smiljkovic laid the groundwork throughout this event, and likely in many other previous tournaments. An example of just such a bluff by him can be found in the hand matchup featured on page 38. This time around, he kicked off the action by min-raising on the button. PGT Player of the Year Isaac Haxton called from the big blind with A-5 suited and flopped top pair. He checked from out of position and Smiljkovic fired 40,000 into 66,000 with his middle pair. Haxton check-called and the turn brought a third diamond. Haxton checked again after improving to two pair and Smiljkovic checked behind. The river brought another king, giving Smiljkovic trips. Haxton checked to Smiljkovic, who considered his situation a bit before sliding out two 20-chip stacks of 5,000 chips for an overbet of 200,000, or nearly 1.4 times the size of the pot. "This is what makes him so deadly, is that he can do it with nothing, and he can do it with these sorts of holdings... pure value," noted *PokerGO* commentator and bracelet winner Brent Hanks. Haxton made the call for nearly half of his remaining stack and was shown the bad news. He slid to just over 18 big blinds, while Smiljkovic's stack surpassed 160 big blinds.

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

# RULE THE ROOM.

## TABLESIDE FOOD DELIVERY

Get ready to up your game at the Resorts World Las Vegas Poker Room with our newest feature! You can now enjoy your favorite dishes from the top-rated restaurants within the resort, without ever leaving your seat. Our food delivery service allows you to order and savor a variety of culinary delights, delivered directly to your table.



# SCHEDULES

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

<b>JANUARY</b>	Jan. 29-Feb. 18	Card Player Poker Tour	Venetian Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Feb. 1-12	WSOP Circuit Pompano Beach	Harrah's ■ Pompano Beach, FL
	Feb. 15-26	WSOP Circuit North Carolina	Harrah's ■ Cherokee, NC
	Feb. 19	President's Day Tournament	Ocean's 11 Casino ■ Oceanside, CA
	Feb. 19-March 31	DeepStack Showdown	Venetian Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Feb. 25-29	Mixed Game Festival VII	Resorts World ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Feb. 28-March 8	PGT Mixed Games	Aria PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Feb. 29-March 11	WSOP Circuit Chicago	Horseshoe Casino ■ Hammond, IN
<b>MARCH</b>	March 7-26	WPT Rolling Thunder	Thunder Valley Casino & Resort ■ Lincoln, CA
	March 7-18	WSOP Circuit Tulsa	Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ■ Catoosa, OK
	March 14-24	RGPS Jacksonville	bestbet ■ Jacksonville, FL
	March 14-25	WSOP Circuit New York	Turning Stone Casino & Resort ■ Verona, NY
	March 20-29	PGT PLO Series	Aria PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	March 21-April 1	WSOP Circuit Las Vegas	Horseshoe Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
<b>APRIL</b>	April 3-23	WPT SHR Poker Showdown	Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ■ Hollywood, FL
	April 4-14	Seven Clans of Poker Series	Coushatta Casino & Resort ■ Kinder, LA
	April 4-15	WSOP Circuit Chicago	Grand Victoria Casino ■ Elgin, IL
	April 8-17	U.S. Poker Open	Aria PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	April 17-May 6	WPT Choctaw	Choctaw Casino & Resort ■ Durant, OK
	April 18-29	WSOP Circuit Mississippi	Horseshoe Casino & Hotel ■ Robinsonville, MS
<b>MAY</b>	May 2-13	WSOP Circuit North Carolina	Harrah's ■ Cherokee, NC
	May 9-20	WSOP Circuit Southern Indiana	Caesars ■ Elizabeth, IN
	May 28-July 17	World Series of Poker	Horseshoe Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV

**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 **MIX**-Mixed Games **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

### GRATON - ROHNERT PARK

#### MONDAY

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

#### TUESDAY

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$135

#### WEDNESDAY

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

#### THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$200 KO \$25

#### FRIDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$200 KO \$25

#### SATURDAY

10:00 a.m. MIX, \$300

#### SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$250 KO \$100

### OCEAN'S ELEVEN - OCEANSIDE

#### MONDAY-THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$95 AO \$5

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$95 AO \$5

#### FRIDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$95 AO \$5

#### SATURDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$190 AO \$10

#### SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$140 AO \$10

### 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

## FLORIDA

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$100  
**THURSDAY**  
 7:00 p.m. NLH, \$100  
**SATURDAY**  
 7:00 p.m. NLH, \$100  
**SUNDAY**  
 12:00 p.m. NLH, \$60

## BESTBET - ST. AUGUSTINE

**MONDAY**  
 12:00 p.m. NLH, \$60  
 7:00 p.m. NLH, \$100  
**TUESDAY**  
 12:00 p.m. NLH, \$60  
**WEDNESDAY**  
 7:00 p.m. NLH, \$100  
**THURSDAY**  
 12:00 p.m. NLH, \$60  
**FRIDAY**  
 12:00 p.m. NLH, \$100  
 7:00 p.m. NLH, \$160  
**SATURDAY**  
 12:00 p.m. NLH, \$100  
 7:00 p.m. NLH, \$100  
**SUNDAY**  
 7:00 p.m. NLH, \$100

6:00 p.m. NLH, \$200 (\$4K Guarantee)

## RESORTS WORLD - LAS VEGAS

**DAILY**  
 12:05 p.m. NLH, \$200 (\$5K Guarantee)  
 7:05 p.m. NLH, \$160 (\$3K Guarantee)

## WYNN - LAS VEGAS

**MONDAY-THURSDAY**  
 12:00 p.m. NLH, \$200 (\$10K Guarantee)  
 5:00 p.m. NLH, \$160 (\$10K Guarantee)  
**FRIDAY**  
 12:00 p.m. NLH, \$240 RB \$200 AO \$100 (\$40K Guarantee)  
 5:00 p.m. NLH, \$160 (\$10K Guarantee)  
**SATURDAY**  
 12:00 p.m. NLH, \$300 (\$30K Guarantee)  
 5:00 p.m. NLH, \$160 (\$10K Guarantee)  
**SUNDAY**  
 12:00 p.m. NLH, \$240 RB \$200 AO \$100 (\$40K Guarantee)  
 5:00 p.m. NLH, \$160 (\$10K Guarantee)

## LOUISIANA

### COUSHATTA - KINDER

**FRIDAY**  
 6:00 p.m. NLH, \$200

## NEVADA

### BELLAGIO - LAS VEGAS

**SUNDAY**  
 11:00 a.m. NLH, \$200 (\$4K Guarantee)

## OREGON

### WILDHORSE - PENDLETON

**TUESDAY**  
 6:30 p.m. NLH, \$70  
**THURSDAY**  
 6:30 p.m. NLH, \$70  
**FRIDAY**  
 6:30 p.m. NLH, \$125  
**SATURDAY**  
 1:00 p.m. NLH, \$125  
**SUNDAY**  
 1:00 p.m. NLH, \$70

# TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2023 PGT Championship  
 \$1,000,000 Freeroll No-Limit Hold'em



Chance Kornuth  
 558,000



Winning Percentage  
 Before Flop: 64%  
 After Flop: 15%  
 After Turn: 11%



Daniel Weinman  
 1,070,000



Winning Percentage  
 Before Flop: 22%  
 After Flop: 83%  
 After Turn: 82%

## PREFLOP

With 13 players remaining and blinds of 6,000-12,000 with a big blind ante of 12,000, Chance Kornuth raised to 24,000 from the cutoff. Daniel Weinman called from the big blind.

FLOP



Weinman checked, and Kornuth bet 22,000. Weinman called.

TURN



Both players checked.

RIVER



Weinman bet 18,000. Kornuth raised to 120,000, and Weinman called.

## COMMENTARY:

This hand features Daniel Weinman displaying some of the instincts that helped him win the largest *World Series of Poker* main event ever held last year. He defended his big blind with K-6 facing a min-raise from three-time bracelet winner Chance Kornuth, who held K-9 suited. Weinman hit bottom pair on an ace-high flop to take the lead and check-called Kornuth's third-pot continuation bet. The turn brought a second ace and Weinman checked again. Kornuth checked behind and the river brought the 4♥. Weinman might have been wary of facing a large sizing from Kornuth. In an apparent attempt to stave off such an approach, he made a blocker bet of 18,000. An undeterred Kornuth responded with a raise to 120,000, looking to force some folds from just the type of weaker two pair that Weinman held in this instance. The rest of the field had left the tournament area for one of the scheduled breaks as this hand played out, leaving just the two contenders and the dealer seated at the table. Weinman spent over a minute mulling over the situation before he made the call, chipping up to 48 big blinds after the hand. Kornuth ended up falling a few spots shy of the money in this event, while Weinman finished fourth for \$80,000. The two-time bracelet winner now has nearly \$16.2 million in career earnings to his name.

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

# GETTING CHECK-RAISED ON THE RIVER

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](http://PokerCoaching.com/CardPlayer).



You are eight-handed in a \$1,000 buy-in live poker tournament. With a stack of 650,000 at 7,500-15,000 in first position, you look down at A♥ A♦ and raise to 30,000. Only a loose, aggressive player (LAG) in the big blind calls. The flop comes 9♣ 7♠ 3♦ and the big blind checks.

**Question 1:** Should you check, bet 20,000, bet 40,000, or bet 80,000?

**Answer:** This flop is excellent for your opponent's range. You could check and induce them to bluff on many turns, but given the big blind's range connectivity, it is better to bet and get money in the pot immediately. Bet a reasonable size, but avoid betting too big because it may cause your opponent to fold their marginal hands.

You bet 40,000 and your opponent calls. The turn is the 7♦ and your opponent leads for 40,000.

**Question 2:** Should you fold, call, raise to 100,000, or go all-in?

**Answer:** By leading, your opponent is essentially saying they have a premium made hand like three-of-a-kind or a draw. Some opponents may alternatively lead with their entire range because they have way more trips in their range than you do. With pocket aces, you do not need to raise because your hand is decently protected against the various draws because they cannot improve to one pair to win (such as when 10-8 hits a 10 on the river).

GTO play prefers raising top pair and worse overpairs that are vulnerable to getting outdrawn, such as 10-10 and A-9. As an added bonus, when draws get there on the river, by calling the turn, you prevent yourself from getting stacked.

You call. The river is the 10♥ and your opponent checks.

**Question 3:** Should you check, bet 75,000, bet 150,000, or bet 225,000?

**Answer:** Assessing your opponent's checking range, they likely have a ten or nine. If they had a seven, they would usually bet due to the fear of missing value when you check it back.

While they could have some full houses and trips, your hand is strong enough to value bet. A common trait amongst LAGs is that they do not like folding top pair on the river. Targeting paired tens and nines, bet 225,000 and expect to get called most of the time.

You bet 225,000. Your opponent thinks for 30 seconds, then min-raises to 450,000.

**Question 4:** Should you fold, call, or go all-in?

**Answer:** Against a LAG, your opponent may put you on an overpair and be trying to bluff you off of it. The hands your opponent would most likely turn into a bluff are paired tens and nines because they block full houses.

If you suspect your opponent sees you as a calling station and is attempting to extract value with a boat, you should consider folding. However, being offered amazing pot odds, your opponent only has to be bluffing one out of five times for calling to be profitable. Of course, if your opponent rarely or never bluffs in this spot, make the easy fold, but because your opponent is a LAG, make the crying call and hope to be shown a bluff.

You call your opponent's check-raise and they flip over 8♠ 8♥. By correctly assessing your opponent's playstyle, you navigated some tricky spots and extracted a ton of value. ♠

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



# PRESIDENT'S DAY

**NO LIMIT HOLD'EM  
TOURNAMENT**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH AT 10:00AM**

**\$430 BUY-IN + \$50 ENTRY  
\$20 OPTIONAL STAFF ADD-ON**

**VISIT [WWW.OCEANS11.COM](http://WWW.OCEANS11.COM) FOR DETAILS**

**760-439-6988 121 BROOKS STREET OCEANSIDE CA 92054 [WWW.OCEANS11.COM](http://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

# PLUG YOUR LEAKS. **FOR FREE.**



**NEW + FREE**

## **Card Player** Poker School

### **FREE DOWNLOADABLE CHARTS**

100BB Exploitative Preflop Charts  
6-Max Implementable GTO Preflop Charts  
4-Max Implementable GTO Preflop Charts  
100BB Heads-Up GTO Preflop Charts  
75BB Implementable GTO Preflop Charts  
40BB Implementable GTO Preflop Charts  
25BB Implementable GTO Preflop Charts  
15BB Implementable GTO Preflop Charts  
Spin & Go & Short Stacked HU GTO Charts

### **FREE GTO PREFLOP CHARTS**

20BB GTO Tournament Preflop Charts  
100BB GTO Cash Game Preflop Charts

### **FREE CLASSES**

Deep-Stacked Fundamentals  
Overbetting In Deep Stacked Cash Games  
WSOP Circuit Win Review with Jonathan Little  
How to Study and 'Memorize' Preflop Ranges  
Analysis of Live Tournament Hands  
Exploiting Recreational Players Deep Stacked  
How to Make The Most of a Small Bankroll  
GGPoker SuperMillion\$ 1st Place Review  
\$2/\$5 Live Cash Game Hand Review  
\$1K NL Hand History Review

### **FREE DOWNLOADABLE E-BOOKS**

Strategies For Beating Small Stakes Tournaments  
Strategies For Beating Small Stakes Cash Games

### **FREE INTERACTIVE HAND QUIZZES**

WSOP \$10,000 Main Event Day 1  
WSOP \$3,000 6max - Playing In Position 3bet Pot  
\$525 WSOPc Online: Playing a Mid Pair in Position  
\$320 WSOPc 6MAX MTT: Exploitive Multiway Spot  
Playing Cautiously - \$5,000 Tournament  
3-Bet Pot \$5,000 Tournament  
Bellagio \$10,000 5-Diamond  
Wynn \$1,600  
\$2/\$5 NL  
\$2/\$5 NL

### **FREE COURSES**

Master The Fundamentals  
The 25 Biggest Leaks and How to Fix Them  
5 Day Preflop Challenge

[CardPlayer.PokerCoaching.com/free](http://CardPlayer.PokerCoaching.com/free)