

Card Player

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JOEY WEISSMAN HOISTS THE POKERGO CUP AFTER HISTORIC RUN

Vegas High Roller Series Dominated By Three Players

PLUS

KRISTEN FOXEN
TOPS WOMEN'S
MONEY LIST WITH
PGT WIN

TOURNAMENT
IRONMAN 'MIAMI'
JOHN CERNUTO
PASSES AWAY

ETHAN 'RAMPAGE'
YAU ON SHOT
TAKING, BUILDING
AN AUDIENCE

DAN STAVILA
TAKES DOWN
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APRIL 16-APRIL 29

TEXAS POKER OPEN MAIN EVENT

\$3,300 BUY-IN

\$2,000,000 PRIZE POOL GUARANTEE

DATE

EVENT

START

APRIL 23	DAY 1A	12 P.M.
APRIL 24	DAY 1B	12 P.M.
APRIL 24	DAY 1C (TURBO)	9 P.M.
APRIL 25	DAY 1D	12 P.M.
APRIL 25	DAY 1E (TURBO)	9 P.M.
APRIL 26	DAY 1F	12 P.M.
APRIL 26	DAY 1G (TURBO)	9 P.M.
APRIL 27	DAY 1H (TURBO)	8 A.M.
APRIL 27	DAY 2	3 P.M.
APRIL 28	FINAL TABLE	3 P.M.

HIGH ROLLERS

ALL ONE DAY EVENTS AND PLAYERS EARN PGT POINTS FOR FINISHING IN THE MONEY

DATE

EVENT

START

APRIL 25	\$5,100 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	6 P.M.
APRIL 26	\$5,100 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	6 P.M.
APRIL 27	\$5,100 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	6 P.M.
APRIL 28	\$5,100 NO-LIMIT HOLD'EM	2 P.M.

SIDE EVENTS

DATE

EVENT

GTD

START

APRIL 16	\$400 MONSTER STACK	\$100K	11 A.M.
APRIL 17-21	\$365 MULTI-FLIGHT NLH	\$150K	VARIOUS
APRIL 22	\$1,100 POT-LIMIT OMAHA	\$100K	12 P.M.
APRIL 28	\$400 NLH PKO BOUNTY	\$15K	12 P.M.
APRIL 29	\$1,100 NLH PKO BOUNTY	--	12 P.M.
APRIL 29	\$300 MONSTER STACK TURBO	\$10K	5 P.M.

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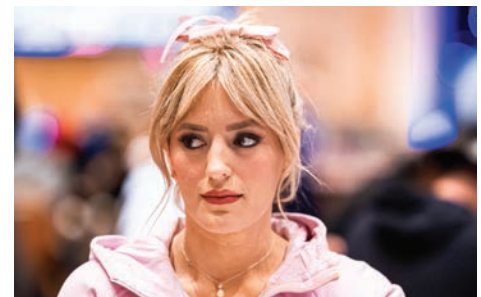
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2025 RUNGOOD POKER SERIES

MISSION RUNGOOD



\$200,000
GUARANTEED WEEKEND OPENER

\$300,000
GUARANTEED MAIN EVENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH

12PM - RUNGOOD WEEKEND OPENER
RING EVENT FLT A
BUY-IN \$400
\$200,000 GTD

6PM - RUNGOOD WEEKEND OPENER
RING EVENT FLT B
BUY-IN \$400
\$200,000 GTD

SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH

12PM - RUNGOOD WEEKEND OPENER
FINAL DAY
LIVE STREAMED ON BESTBETLIVE
1PM - PROGRESSIVE KNOCKOUT
RING EVENT
BUY-IN \$400

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH

12PM - 6 MAX RING EVENT
BUY-IN \$660
3PM - LADIES RING EVENT
BUY-IN \$360
LIVE STREAMED ON BESTBETLIVE

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH

12PM - RUNGOOD WEEKEND OPENER
RING EVENT FLT C
BUY-IN \$400
\$200,000 GTD

6PM - RUNGOOD WEEKEND OPENER
RING EVENT FLT D
BUY-IN \$400
\$200,000 GTD

MONDAY, APRIL 28TH

12PM - MEGA STACK RING EVENT
BUY-IN \$300
3PM - DOUBLE BOARD BOMB POT
NLH/PLO RING EVENT
BUY-IN \$300

THURSDAY, MAY 1ST

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

SUNDAY, MAY 4TH

12PM - RUNGOOD MAIN EVENT
FINAL DAY
LIVE STREAMED ON BESTBETLIVE
1PM - THE BESTBEST 500 RING EVENT
BUY-IN \$500

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH

12PM - RUNGOOD WEEKEND OPENER
RING EVENT FLT E
BUY-IN \$400
\$200,000 GTD

6PM - RUNGOOD WEEKEND OPENER
RING EVENT FLT F
BUY-IN \$400
\$200,000 GTD

TUESDAY, APRIL 29TH

12PM - BIG O/8 RING EVENT
BUY-IN \$300
3PM - RUNGOOD AMBASSADOR
BOUNTY RING EVENT
BUY-IN \$200

SPECIAL GUESTS WILL BE HOLDING BOUNTY
ENVELOPES THAT CONTAIN PRIZES BETWEEN \$1,000
CASH AND RUNGOOD APPAREL STORE CREDIT.

LIVE STREAMED ON BESTBETLIVE

FRIDAY, MAY 2ND

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



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PHIL HELLMUTH CLAIMS HE WILL SKIP WORLD SERIES OF POKER MAIN EVENT

17-Time Bracelet Winner Says Event 'Has Become An Endurance Contest'

By Sean Chaffin

The *World Series of Poker* summer schedule is out, and so is Phil Hellmuth.

The 17-time bracelet winner responded to the schedule announcement by claiming that he would no longer be playing the \$10,000 main event.

Hellmuth won the big one in 1989, cashing for \$755,000 and becoming the youngest ever with the title at just age 24. Now 60 years old, the bracelet GOAT says that the event has simply become an “endurance contest” that favors younger players.

“I truly believe that 80% of the players want changes made to the *WSOP* main event,” he noted. “12-hour days, or longer, for six to seven days in a row is brutal and disproportionately affects older players.”

The 2024 main event was won by 38-year-old Jonathan Tamayo after the action played out over 15 days, including four starting flights, two day 2 flights, and one day off after setting the final table.

Hellmuth has played every main event since 1988, but released a video on Twitter/X detailing why he wouldn't play this year.

“It's just too tough,” he said. “People at home are like, ‘Phil, you can play seven days in a row.’ Yeah, try it. Try getting up and playing noon until midnight seven days in a row.”

“I think that really hurts the older players in a much bigger proportion than the younger players,” he said. “And I'll say this, more great players come and tell me that they blew the main event because they got too tired with 100 left, 50 left, with 30 left. It's turned into an endurance test. I don't think that the *World Series of Poker* main event is measuring skill.”

Despite his decision, Hellmuth still looks fondly on the year's most anticipated tournament.

“It's still my favorite event in the world, don't misunderstand me. I don't want to miss it. But I know that I can't do that. I'm 60 years old. I don't think I could have done it at age 50.”

He said the tournament shouldn't be about “people getting tired and blowing up chips.”

“I hope that in 2026 there are some changes made so that we can restore more skill and less endurance,” he added. “I really hope they make those changes.”

Hellmuth hasn't made the money in the main event since 2015, when he finished 417th. He also narrowly missed out on cashing this year in the *WSOP Paradise* main



event, busting on the money bubble.

A player in his 60's hasn't won the main event since 61-year-old Noel Furlong took down the 1999 tournament. That event only had 393 entries. The oldest main event winners in modern history include 55-year-old Hossein Ensan (2019) and 45-year-old Damian Salas (2020).

As far as participants, 97-year-old Jack Ury still holds the record for being the oldest to play in the main event.

Some players responded in agreement, such as Faraz Jaka and Jen Shahade, who noted that the schedule can be tough on pregnant women and those with injuries and disabilities.

But others felt that adding days off would extend the tournament even more, making it even more difficult for players traveling into town to play.

“The main event structure is great,” Ian Simpson noted. “We want them to stop increasing the rake and general expenses involved in the trip.”

Several players doubt that Hellmuth would really be able to stay away from the tournament at all, with Kevin Martin saying that it would be like Michael Jordan skipping the NBA finals.

“No chance that you skip the main, your FOMO (fear of missing out) will kick in by day 2 when you can still reg...,” Matt Salsberg noted. “Plus you can nap on dinners and get massages. Man up!”

“I miss the 72-hour sessions at Commerce when we would make fun of people quitting after only two days straight,” said David Baker. “Now if you don't get your gym, tan, mani/pedi and 12 hours of beauty rest each day, you can't play.”

Others thought that Hellmuth was choosing side events over the main event simply because he wanted more chances at adding to his record 17 bracelets.

Skipping the main would also do away with Hellmuth's customary main event entrances that have seen him dress as a racecar driver, Roman emperor, war general, circus ring leader, Gandalf, Poseidon, and even Darth Vader.

Perhaps if the Hellmuth doesn't play, his son Phillip will. The two recently took on some high roller events at the PokerGO studio and Phil says his son is becoming a pretty good player.

The elder Hellmuth also recently made news by signing an online poker ambassador deal with Rush Street Interactive. ♠

SPORTS BETTING PROPOSAL FILED IN TEXAS LEGISLATURE

By Sean Chaffin

After Texas Gov. Greg Abbott expressed support for legalizing sports betting, fellow Republican and state Rep. Sam Harless filed a bill that if passed would allow voters to decide the issue.

The proposal calls for Texans to vote on a constitutional amendment, putting sports betting on the ballot this November. House Joint Resolution 134 says it would “legalize wagering in this state on certain sporting events.”

The details of the plan are vague in the two-page resolution. The resolution allows for several entities to offer sports betting, including professional teams, which possibly could mean retail sports betting at stadiums.

Sports betting has been a hot topic in Texas over the last few years as numerous other states around the country have legalized sports wagering. The Texas Sports Betting Alliance (TSBA), made up of gaming companies and backed by professional sports teams like the Dallas Cowboys, Houston Astros, and San Antonio Spurs, welcomed the proposal.

“We appreciate Rep. Harless introducing this constitutional amendment,” TSBA spokeswoman Karina Kling said. “Right now, unregulated sports betting is happening across the state, putting consumers at risk and costing Texas millions in lost tax revenue every year.

“It’s time to let Texans take control and decide if they want a strong, regulatory framework for sports betting — just like the 39 states that have already moved forward.”

In 2023, a sports betting bill passed the house in a 100-43



vote, but failed to get to a vote in the state senate. Lieutenant Gov. Dan Patrick sets the agenda in the state senate and has shown no interest in backing a bill that isn’t supported by a majority of Republicans. If that support isn’t found, Harless’ bill may face a similar fate.

“I might have three or four senators out of 20 Republicans who support it. That’s it,” he told WFAA in November. “They say, ‘Oh, we almost passed it last session.’ You know, they almost passed it with every Democrat voting for it and about one of four Republicans voting for it. We don’t do that in the senate.”

A new study from the University of Houston shows that 60% of residents support Texas sports betting, with 64% of Democrats and 59% of Republicans backing legalization. Another recent study noted that the state could generate more than \$360 million in annual tax revenue while adding over 8,000 jobs. ♠

NEW POKER ROOM OPENS ON VIRGINIA-TENNESSEE BORDER

By Sean Chaffin

At a time when casinos are closing poker rooms, players in south-west Virginia now have a new option. The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Bristol officially opened in November but unveiled its poker room in early February.

The room features 14 tables and will spread a variety of cash games and tournaments.

“We’re excited to bring a first-class poker room to Hard Rock Bristol,” Vice President of Gaming Operations Alan Thompson said. “With a mix of cash games and tournament play, we’re offering something for every poker player, whether they’re local or traveling from afar. We look forward to welcoming guests from across the region and beyond to experience our state-of-the-art venue.”

The poker room is non-smoking and conveniently located next to the casino’s new non-smoking gaming space,

ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere for all players.

Bristol is located on the border with Tennessee and has the potential to bring in players from that state as well. Previously, poker players in the area had to travel about three hours south to Cherokee, North Carolina or east to Danville, Virginia to find live action.

The 620,000-square-foot casino also has 1,500 slot machines, 50 table games, a sportsbook, more than 300 hotel rooms, and a 2,000-plus seat entertainment venue.

Florida’s Seminole Tribe owns the Hard Rock brand and has expanded the company’s casino business across the country over the last decade, including purchasing the Mirage in Las Vegas in 2021. ♠



Super Bowl By The Numbers: Big Betting And Record Ratings

By Sean Chaffin

The Philadelphia Eagles were big winners in the NFL Super Bowl, and so were the nation's sportsbooks. The American Gaming Association (AGA) predicted a record \$1.39 billion wagered in the days leading up to the game and that forecast appears to have come true as the numbers continue to roll in.

The Kansas City Chiefs were about a 1-point favorite and proved to be popular with bettors, as were prop bets on Saquon Barkley and Travis Kelce, both of whom underperformed. Seeing Philadelphia come out on top 40-22, however, erased any risk for books and put plenty of winnings in operators' coffers.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board reported \$22.1 million in net winnings on the game, a record in the state. The win came despite a 20 percent decrease in handle from last year, when the big game took place in Las Vegas and saw \$190 million wagered.

The sportsbook profits were even bigger in New York, where the state gaming commission reported a handle of \$154.9 million. That was down slightly from the year before, but the Eagles win meant a \$47.4 million win for the sportsbooks, which was five times higher than 2024.

New Jersey also cashed in, boasting a handle of \$168.7 million that resulted in a net win of \$25.2 million.

But while sportsbooks cashed in pretty much everywhere, that wasn't the case in Pennsylvania, where bettors parked most of their action on the hometown Eagles.



The state took in a record \$101.5 million overall, an increase of 20.4% over the previous record. However, with nearly 80% of the money on Philadelphia the sportsbooks had to eat a loss of \$6.5 million.

The reverse was true in Kansas, where a sportsbook reported 81% of the bets on the Chiefs.

Online betting geolocation and security firm GeoComply reported a 14% increase in active player accounts across its online sportsbook customers during Super Bowl weekend compared to last year.

Over Super Bowl weekend, GeoComply observed the creation of more than 724,400 new online wagering accounts across its customers in regulated states. Just before halftime and right after the Eagles scored the team's third touchdown of the game, the company recorded a peak of 14,300 geolocation transactions per second (TPS). ♠

GAMBLING IN GEORGIA? BILL LOOKS TO LEGALIZE CASINOS, SPORTS BETTING

By Sean Chaffin

Historically anti-gambling Georgia is one of the few states in the US with no casinos, but some state senators are once again hoping to change that. Senate Resolution 131 would allow Peach State voters to decide on a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow for at least eight casinos in the state, as well as legalized sports betting.

Backers of the bill see the effort as a way to bring bettors into a legalized market and allow the millions of dollars wagered elsewhere to contribute to state coffers.

"Our stubbornness to legalize this wildly popular activity is not only forgoing millions of dollars in tax revenue, but also propping up shady offshore betting sites that have zero protections to prevent minors from gambling, have no problem-betting resources and might not even pay winners," said one of the bill's sponsors, Sen. Brandon Beach.

The move comes after previous failed attempts at gaming legalization in the state in recent years. But a recent poll from the University of Georgia shows that more than 60% of voters support legal sports betting.

The bill would exclude online casinos, and specifies that gambling activities "shall take place at a casino facility owned and operated by an individual or entity that has been



issued a casino gaming license in this state."

If approved, a vote on the issue would be set for November 2026.

Republican Gov. Brian Kemp has stated his neutrality on the issue in the past, but has been seeking ways to boost the state's economy and create jobs.

Last year, lawmakers discussed two separate sports betting proposals committee meetings, but could never agree on where and how much sports betting tax revenue would be allocated to programs. As a result, neither bill was brought to the general floor for a vote. ♠



MARCH 25-APRIL 5

DATE	START TIME	EVENT	BUY-IN	FEE (ON-TIME)	FEE (LATE/REENTRY)	LEVEL LENGTH
3/25	12 PM	POT-LIMIT OMAHA	\$5K	\$100	\$300	30 MINS
3/26	12 PM	PLO PROGRESSIVE BOUNTY (\$1K/\$1K)	\$5K	\$100	\$300	30 MINS
3/27	12 PM	POT-LIMIT OMAHA	\$5K	\$100	\$300	30 MINS
3/28	12 PM	POT-LIMIT OMAHA	\$10K	\$100	\$500	40 MINS
3/29	12 PM	PLO PROGRESSIVE BOUNTY (\$2K/\$2K)	\$10K	\$100	\$500	40 MINS
3/31	12 PM	POT-LIMIT OMAHA	\$10K	\$100	\$500	40 MINS
4/1	12 PM	POT-LIMIT OMAHA	\$15K	\$100	\$700	40 MINS
4/2	12 PM	POT-LIMIT OMAHA MYSTERY BOUNTY (\$5K)	\$15K	\$100	\$700	40 MINS
4/3	12 PM	POT-LIMIT OMAHA	\$15K	\$100	\$700	40 MINS
4/4	12 PM	POT-LIMIT OMAHA CHAMPIONSHIP	\$25K	\$200	\$1,000	45/60 MINS
4/5	12PM	POT-LIMIT OMAHA BOUNTY(DAY 1)	\$5K	\$100	\$300	25 MINS

SATELLITE

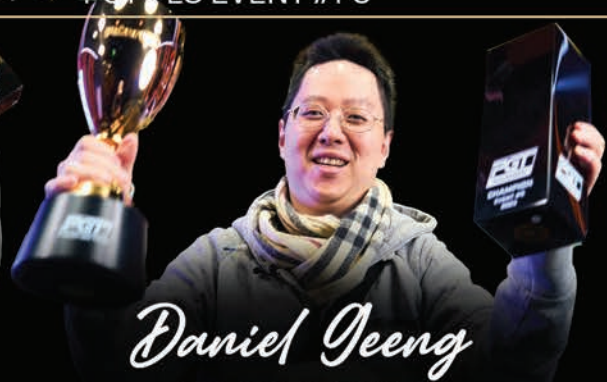
3/24 1 PM \$560 POT-LIMIT OMAHA → PGT PLO EVENT #1-3



Lautano Guerra

774 PGT POINTS

(3 WINS, 3 CASHES, \$967,150 PGT EARNINGS)



Daniel Geeng

481 PGT POINTS

(1 WIN, 4 CASHES, \$703,160 PGT EARNINGS)



Samuli Sipila

749 PGT POINTS

(2 WINS, 4 CASHES, \$776,140 PGT EARNINGS)



Matthew Wantman

453 PGT POINTS

(1 WIN, 6 CASHES, \$434,380 PGT EARNINGS)

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TOURNAMENT IRONMAN 'MIAMI' JOHN CERNUTO PASSES AWAY AT 81

All-Time Tournament Cashes Leader Finishes Just Shy Of 600 For His Career

By Julio Rodriguez



In February, the poker world mourned the loss of “Miami” John Cernuto, poker’s all-time tournament cashes leader, who passed away after a battle with colon cancer.

The longtime grinder with nearly 600 in-the-money finishes, 76 tournament wins, and more than \$6.3 million in earnings, was 81 years old.

Cernuto first learned to play poker with his family around the kitchen table.

“We played seven card stud,” he told *Card Player* back in 2020. “Deuces were wild if mom was dealing, and tens were wild if grandma was dealing. Aunts, uncles, cousins, and parents were all players, and it was fun.”

He continued to play while in college and during his time in the army.

“I was a private on a \$100 a month paycheck, but I collected \$400 a month playing poker for quarters.”

The Jersey City, New Jersey native then moved to South Florida where for a decade he worked as an air traffic controller, which has been named as one of the most mentally stressful careers one could have.

“They called us stress junkies,” he recalled. “We thrived on stress. It was like, ‘bring it on.’ It was part of our DNA. The more planes we had, the busier we were, the more we spit out the clearances, the more we liked it.”

When President Reagan fired the air traffic controllers during their 1981 strike, he turned to poker to pay the bills.

“I learned from friends and the school of hard knocks,” Cernuto said. “I did not have any idea of what I was getting into. There were hustlers and sharks waiting for me.”

He found plenty of action in Las Vegas, where he quickly became known as ‘Miami’ John.

“The origin of the name actually came from a young lady I had met from USC while partying at Sam’s Town Casino,” he recalled. “I was playing at the Stardust and back then we didn’t have cell phones, we were always paged. She didn’t know my last name. I’ll never forget this page that came over the loudspeaker: ‘Line 1 phone call for Miami John Baby Doll.’ I dropped the baby doll, of course, but kept the ‘Miami John.’”

“I decided to use it the day I won my first big event. It was a seven card stud event at the Amarillo Slim’s *Super Bowl of Poker* at Caesars Palace. I entered as ‘Miami John’ and won, going wire-to-wire and only losing two pots. It was like magic, so I kept the name. I didn’t want to tempt fate. I am not a superstitious person, but why rock the boat?”

It was a late start to his poker career. In fact before working as an air traffic controller, Cernuto had taken all sorts of jobs. He played the accordion professionally for a time, and at one point he was hired to repossess NFL legend Larry Csonka’s car. He was actually training to become a police dispatcher when he got an offer to deal cards at the Hilton.

Although he was already 43 years old when he picked up



Cernuto With Phil Hellmuth And Mike Matusow



his first recorded cash, Cernuto caught the tournament bug before most of his fellow competitors.

"I liked the tournaments of old. It's true we only got dollar for dollar [for starting stacks] but we used \$1 chips and we started out 5-10 limits."

He would often take advantage of bonuses awarded to the best player of the series. Since he had no problem playing every event, he was usually in contention.

"I enjoyed a streak of winning one event at almost every venue I attended for nearly two decades."

"Another thing I am also proud of is that there was a period of time where tournaments were trending downward, but myself and a group of about 50 continued to support them while most others were understandably supporting cash games. In a sense, we became the new pioneers of the tournament industry and held it together until it got very fashionable to play tournament poker again. Now, it's big business."

Cernuto entered his first *World Series of Poker* event in 1984, where he would go on to cash 89 times over the years.

"I had a small bankroll at the time and my rule was to play two satellites for each event that I had an interest in. If I won the seat, I played the event, and if I failed, I played cash games."

"My first event I played in at Binion's Horseshoe was a

'non-pro' no-limit hold'em, which was full of pros. (laugh) I was devastated as I hit the dead bubble."

He won the first of his three *WSOP* bracelets in 1996, taking down the \$1,500 stud eight-or-better tournament.

"Winning my first bracelet was surreal," he recalled. "I was a prop player for the LV Hilton poker room and I quit the job because they wanted me to prop a \$15-\$30 stud eight-or-better game. I didn't like the game at the time and I kept losing at it. I had a new appreciation for it after [winning the bracelet]."

Cernuto added another bracelet the next year in the \$2,000 no-limit hold'em event and his third in 2002 in the \$1,500 limit Omaha event. He also won two *WSOP Circuit* rings.

"The first 20 years were all about the money, and all the traveling I got to do," he said. "I played from LA to London to Kiev. I was so fortunate to meet so many wonderful people as I grew in the game."

Although he was proud of his bracelets and his record for the most live tournament cashes, there were a few other accomplishments that stood out during his career.

"At the Bike, I had won four events during the *Legends of Poker* series. At the time only a few had won three tournaments in a single series, but to do four was pretty incredible."



“There was a period of time where tournaments were trending downward, but myself and a group of about 50 continued to support them while most others were understandably supporting cash games. In a sense, we became the new pioneers of the tournament industry and held it together until it got very fashionable to play tournament poker again. Now, it’s big business.”



“I learned from friends and the school of hard knocks. I did not have any idea what I was getting into. There were hustlers and sharks waiting for me.”

“Another one was while playing day 2 of a no-limit event at the Trump Taj Mahal I decided to support the stud event and only played it on 15-minute breaks and the dinner break. After dinner, I had the chip lead in both tournaments. The staff moved the two final tables together and I played them simultaneously and won both.”

The player dubbed ‘The Ironman of Poker’ was determined to keep playing until the end despite his health issues.

“Maintaining longevity in this business is not an easy task,” he said. “If you want to play a long time in this industry, you need to learn from mistakes and not repeat them.”

“Loving the competition is huge when it comes to firing oneself up for each and every tournament. But the biggest factor to maintain longevity is writing and teaching poker to others. Helping others has been inspiring to me, but the constant search for knowledge and learning new strategies has really kept me fresh and curious.”

Even with octogenarian status at last summer’s *WSOP*, Cernuto racked up six cashes, including a third-place finish in the \$1,500 eight-game mix.

Cernuto officially finished his career with 586 cashes, according to the *Card Player* tournament database. That puts him just a couple dozen cashes ahead of Roland Israelashvili and Ari Engel, who is on pace to pass him later this year. (Engel is already averaging one cash every three days in 2025.)

When Cernuto appeared on *Card Player’s* Poker Stories Podcast back in 2022, he predicted that Engel would be the player who would eventually pass him.

“Ari plays a super, super amount of tournaments, and he’s so skilled and so smart that he’s my pick to pass me. I hope he does, just not while I’m alive.”

“Rest in peace to our dear friend,” Engel wrote on Twitter.

“It’s been a personal pleasure of mine to compete with ‘Miami’ John so many times over the past few years. He will be missed.”

Cernuto’s passing may be the spark needed for the Poker Hall of Fame to increase the induction rate from a single entry each year. He was a finalist nominated for the honor for the last two years, but ultimately lost out to high-stakes pros Brian Rast and Patrik Antonius.

“The Hall of Fame needs an overhaul along common-sense lines where a slate of old school guys like Thor Hansen and ‘Miami’ John get in and to accommodate the upcoming influx of young worthy inductees,” Shane Schlegler wrote on Twitter.

WSOP commentator Norman Chad also called for a new trophy to be named in his honor for the series’ best mixed-games player.

“The poker world lost a great guy and great poker player,” said Phil Hellmuth. “He and I played together since 1991. He just had a knack for all of the mixed games, and also came strong in the no-limit hold’em tournaments. Everybody that knew John loved him and would laugh with him. He was a funny, witty guy. Rest in peace, my friend.”

“‘Miami’ John Cernuto made every decision like the scientist he was at heart,” said his good friend and poker student, actor James Woods. “He approached the end of his life with the same ruthless analytical rigor. After surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy, he said enough was enough. He faced his fate with the strength of a true champion. His power derived from the love of his children, his friends, and, yes, the game he enjoyed so dearly. I embrace him with all my heart, with the full measure of gratitude for his counsel, for his undying friendship, and for the many smiles with which he gifted me for years.” ♠

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SHOT TAKING AND GETTING BANNED FROM A CASINO

Ethan 'Rampage' Yau Talks To Table 1 Podcast About Poker Vlogging Adventures

By Art Parmann and Justin Young



Ethan 'Rampage' Yau is one of the biggest names in poker vlogging, with more than 500,000 subscribers and followers on YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram. His videos have racked up more than 90 million views and have documented the highs and lows of the professional gambling world.

From big tournament runs to crazy cash game pots, viewers love how he presents his time at the tables. And Rampage is much more than just a YouTube phenomenon and has some real skins on the wall.

At the tournament tables, Yau has \$3.7 million in earnings, which include winning a *World Series of Poker* bracelet online in 2020 for \$164,494. He also has five *WSOP Circuit* rings and a *Mid-States Poker Tour* championship in 2021 for \$230,379.

He grabbed a *Poker Masters* title in 2022 for \$197,600 and scored a *World Poker Tour* \$25,000 high roller win the same year for \$894,240. More big finishes followed and he was named a

WPT Global ambassador in 2023.

Yau recently appeared on the Table 1 podcast to talk about how he got into the game and started vlogging. He also discussed getting banned from a casino in Rhode Island and what led to his huge high roller win.

Check out some of the highlights below. You can also watch or listen to the entire episode on YouTube, Spotify, Apple, or any podcast app.

Art Parmann: You were playing poker in college a fair bit, right?

Ethan Yau: I just started watching vloggers and then I tried to figure out what they were doing. I was just like, 'Man, poker's come a long way to where this is kind of how people are getting going.'

And then you're like, 'Alright, I watched the video. I got it,' and then you go to the casino.

I actually started making YouTube videos because one, I've always wanted to make content. But two, the other main thing was because I wanted to

just learn.

I didn't have resources and friends that could help me in some way. I had one buddy that introduced me to the game and he was pretty good at the time. He was playing \$2-\$5 in college. I just didn't want to bother him with my infinite questions.

So I vlogged my third session ever because I just wanted to learn from the comment section. I learned that some-



one's going to watch this and they're going to give me feedback and they're going to roast me. I didn't know how good or bad the information was, but it was going to be something that I could take away. So that was actually the whole point – maybe I can learn from the comment section.

Justin Young: Where were you playing? Mainly online?

Ethan Yau: I was playing \$1-\$2 live at MGM Springfield, or Twin River in Rhode Island, which I am now banned from. Maybe I'm unbanned because they have new ownership, but I was banned from there.

Justin Young: Why did you get banned?

Ethan Yau: I kept winning in poker, but I had no money to my name. So, I did a bankroll challenge from \$1,000 to \$10,000. It took me five months to win \$10,000 playing \$1-\$3. The whole point of it was to 'shot take' \$5-\$10 at a \$1,000 buy-in with 10% of my winnings.

Then I dusted two buy-ins in a solid hour and a half. So, I'm tilted. I walk out of there, and [at the end of the video] I call it a shithole, which I still for sure agree with.

Three weeks later, I got a letter in the mail like, 'You are permanently banned. You cannot enter the premises.'

Justin Young: Because you called it a shithole?

Ethan Yau: Probably because I filmed it too, and I didn't have permission.

Art Parmann: Okay, that kind of makes sense. I guess we've got to be careful about what casinos we talk about. We would never get in trouble saying anything about any other casinos. That's definitely never happened. (laughing)

Justin Young: We truly love all casinos.

I saw your first cash was in an online tournament. At this time, you were 22 and just graduated. How did you get to play at WSOP.com for your first bracelet?

Ethan Yau: I was bored during COVID, and tournaments seemed cool. I wanted to stream something different and get the hell out of the house. So, I picked a weekend with the smallest buy-ins and then went to play.

I drove down to New Jersey from Boston to play and the buy-ins were like \$300 to \$500. It was like, 'Okay, I can punt this amount for content.' So, I went and decided to stream the whole



thing and then I ended up cashing a tournament.

Back then I still didn't really have a big circle or any circle at all in poker. I kept very much to myself. I'm not very good with the networking side or talkative side or social side. I was just doing my own thing. I was busy with trying to make videos on YouTube. That was kind of my life. So I just went by myself and I stayed in some Airbnb.

And then I won the tournament.

Art Parmann: Oh, you didn't just cash it?

Justin Young: He cashed one first and then he won the next one for \$164,000.

Ethan Yau: Oh, I didn't know I cashed something before that.

Justin Young: I would forget about my first cash too if my second one was \$164,000. Were you gaining traction before you actually won the tournament? What was your viewership like going into the one that you happened to win?

Ethan Yau: I had like 30,000 sub-

scribers or something at that point. I was trying, but that win certainly helped. It was during COVID, so it was a really good time for me [to gain a following].

Justin Young: A prime streaming time.

Ethan Yau: New Hampshire was one of the first states to allow poker back in, so I just took the opportunity and started vlogging and making content about poker around this niche back when no one was making any poker content. Everyone just wanted to watch videos and stay at home.

I just started posting and playing every day. And the videos picked up steam because no one had anything else to watch besides me. They were forced to watch my videos if they liked poker. Then that parlayed into winning the bracelet online, which helped gain some traction. That was a good day overall.

If you look at the timeline, I won the bracelet. Then the next day I had a video already scheduled, which was my

biggest win at that point in my life. I was playing \$2-\$5 and I won a couple thousand or something.

Justin Young: Your biggest score was a \$25,000 *WPT* [high roller for \$900,000]. Please tell us how you decided to pony up \$25,000?

Ethan Yau: I don't know what happened. I was sunning for sure up until that point in cash and tournaments and stuff. Now I have a more jaded view after the past two years. But back then I was sunning and just taking shots and things were relatively going okay.

I remember I sold 25% on StakeKings, so I was responsible. That was the most I've ever sold. I thought it seemed reasonable to play for \$18,000 or whatever it was.

So I played it. I sold one bullet. That was the only plan. Then I busted in like 30 minutes as I usually do.

There was a dinner break and I was just talking things over with two friends. I was just like, 'Hey guys, I really want to max this one. You guys want some action, like a degenerate friendly sweat?' They both [rejected] me.

Then I was just like, 'Okay, now I want to play even more just to spite

them. Just fuck them, let's go.' So I ponied up 100% of myself to play and ended up sunning the entire thing, which was really cool.

Art Parmann: How was the fallout with the StakeKings people who didn't know it was your second bullet?

Ethan Yau: They all knew it was my second bullet, and I ended up just refunding them anyway, plus doubling their [investment].

Justin Young: That's awesome.

Ethan Yau: That's more money than I know what to do with and I only sold 25% and they supported me and this 'shot take,' so why not? It seemed like a win.

Art Parmann: That is awesome, and a bad precedent to set. Don't expect that to be [the norm.]

Ethan Yau: That is what the Twitter people said for sure.

Justin Young: Do you remember your thought process through that tournament, because that's a huge buy-in. I don't know if it's your biggest up to that date.

Art Parmann: Yeah, what was your bankroll? Tell us all the dirty details before you coughed up the \$25,000?

Ethan Yau: I'm never rolled to play

anything – at all. Just never. If I'm saying \$800,000 from the win is more money than I knew what to do with, then I should not be playing a \$25,000.

Justin Young: When you sit down at the table of something you can't afford to play – and believe me, I'm used to this throughout my career as well – does that kind of stuff just disappear and you just play your game and you're fine? Then it kind of hits you on the bubble, or at night and you wake up kind of scared?

Ethan Yau: It was a really long second day, but it was only a two-day tournament. I knew this was on my schedule and I had a target number. If this \$25,000 got over 100 players, I was like, 'Okay, I'll just hop in.'

I justified it for content, a shot take. Things were going well. I was having a good year. Let's just fire. So there was a lot of anticipation for me leading up to that point.

But then once I bought in and I had the chips, I was like, 'Alright, it's just time to play cards and hopefully I just run good and win some all ins and stuff.' ♠

Follow Yau on Twitter/X and on YouTube @RampagePoker.

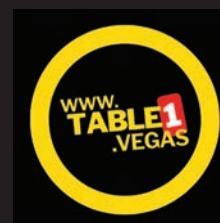
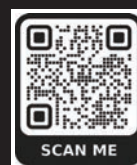


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Watch The Full Episode



JOEY WEISSMAN HOISTS THE POKERGO CUP AFTER HISTORIC RUN

Las Vegas High Roller Series Dominated By Three Players

By Erik Fast



Three cashes, including a win, a runner-up, and a third-place showing. A dominating performance worthy of player of the series honors in almost every high roller series. But it wasn't enough. Neither was three cashes with two wins.

Although he had two formidable opponents challenging him, Joey Weissman captured the *PokerGO Cup* series championship with a historic performance on the felt. The 36-year-old bracelet winner based out of Las Vegas final tabled four of the eight tournaments that made up the festival, recording one win and three runner-up finishes.

Weissman cashed for a total of \$930,600 throughout the series, the most of any player by far. The New York native finished the series with 758 *PokerGO Tour* points, giving him a 190-point final margin of victory. With two final-table finishes during the *PGT Kickoff* festival in January also under his belt, Weissman has claimed the top spot in the season-long *PGT* points race.

As if that wasn't enough, Weissman's success at this festival also propelled him into the top spot in the 2025 *Card Player* Player of the Year race presented by Global Poker. He already has seven total final tables so far in 2025, with 2,477 points and over \$1 million in POY earnings.

Weissman has been around the live tournament scene for 15 years now, with his first recorded score coming back in 2010. The college dropout now has nearly \$8.8 million in earnings to his name with 321 career in-the-money finishes.

The *PokerGO Cup* packed numerous exciting storylines into February, all while paying out a whopping \$9,405,000 in total prize money. The high-stakes series drew 854 cumulative entries inside the PokerGO Studio on the Las Vegas Strip, including a record-setting field of 177 in the kickoff tournament.

Weissman And Moncek Go Round-For-Round

The first two events of the series featured an unprecedented occurrence for the *PGT*: the same two players made it down to heads-up in back-to-back events.

A total of 177 entries were made in the \$5,000 event, a new record for the largest field in a *PGT* owned and operated no-limit hold'em tournament held inside the PokerGO Studio. The strong turnout resulted in a prize pool of \$885,000.

While 27 players ultimately earned a share, the largest chunk was awarded to eventual champion **Michael Moncek**. The two-time bracelet winner, known as 'Texas Mike,'

© PokerGO - Alicia Skillman/Enrique Malfavon



Michael Moncek



Joey Weissman



Adam Hendrix



Eric Blair

walked away with \$185,850 for the win after defeating none other than Weissman heads-up.

Event no. 2, the first of four consecutive \$10,000 buy-in tournaments on the slate, drew 118 entries. Once again, Weissman and Moncek squared off for the title. But this time, Weissman landed the knockout punch to nab the trophy and \$295,000.

Moncek ended up recording one more cash, placing third in event no. 5 to bring his total earnings for the series to \$483,750. He concluded the festival with the third-most rankings points of any player.

Hendrix, Blair, And Aido Triumph Over Valentine's Day Weekend

Roses are red, violets are blue. **Adam Hendrix** had air, but his big bluff got through.

Hendrix was able to get a multi-street bluff by his heads-up opponent Harvey Castro in event no. 3, taking down a huge pot that helped him close out the win on Valentine's Day. The bluff saw him shove the river with king high, eventually forcing his opponent off of two pair.

The Alaskan poker pro closed out the victory from there, besting a field of 129 entries to earn \$316,050. This was the fourth-largest score of Hendrix's career, increasing his lifetime haul to \$8.2 million.

While Weissman decided to skip event no. 3 for some much-needed rest, he got right back to his winning ways in the following tournament. The 98-entry field was whittled down to Weissman and **Eric Blair**, with the latter contender coming out on top to earn \$254,800.

Weissman added \$161,700 to his totals with this second runner-up showing of the series. Like Weissman, Blair was not yet done racking up big scores at this series.

Sergio Aido's first cash of 2025 was a big one. The Spanish poker pro defeated a field of 100 entries in event no. 5, pocketing \$255,000 for the win in the final \$10,000 buy-in no-limit hold'em event of the series.

Aido now has nearly \$21.9 million in career tournament earnings, with 11 recorded titles and 190 in-the-money fin-

ishes. The bracelet winner was one of 15 players to make the money in this event, which had a nice round prize pool of \$1,000,000.

Shannon Shorr, who won two *PGT Last Chance* titles in January, finished second for his third final table of the year. The score shot him up the rankings to sixth place on the POY leaderboard.

Blair Outdoes Himself With Second Victory

Eric Blair has been around the live tournament poker scene for nearly two decades, with 325 career cashes totaling more than \$3.4 million accrued along the way. More than 17 years after recording his first cash, the longtime grinder managed to string together his two largest scores ever in the span of a few days.

Blair's win in event no. 4 was a new personal best of \$254,800. That record was short lived, though, as Blair came out on top of a field of 87 entries in event no. 6, which was the first of two \$15,000 buy-in events at this festival. This second victory, which came just three days after his first, included an even larger top prize of \$352,350.

Blair now sits in 15th place in the POY standings thanks to these two victories and a fourth-place showing in a *PGT Kickoff* event. He has also climbed to third place in the *PGT* rankings thanks to his strong start to 2025.

Keith Lehr finished second in this event for \$228,375. The two-time bracelet winner managed four cashes throughout the series, with his 283 points and \$352,275 in cumulative cashes placing him sixth in the final standings.

Michael Berk took third for \$163,125. Berk also managed four cashes, along with Lehr, Weissman, and Sam Laskowitz.

The fourth cash of the series was particularly stressful for Laskowitz, whose wife went into labor on the money bubble, forcing him to abandon his stack. He ended up blinding out in eighth place for a nice payday, however.

Foxen Takes Top Spot On Women's Money List With Win

Kristen Foxen is now the highest-earning female tournament poker player in history. The 38-year-old Canadian



surpassed longtime women's money list leader Vanessa Selbst thanks to her win in the penultimate event of the series, which came with \$348,300 in prize money.

With \$11,077,811 in career earnings, Foxen now has a \$178,784 lead over Selbst, who has not cashed in a poker tournament in nearly five years. The former poker pro announced her retirement from full-time play in 2018, and has since transitioned into a career in the financial sector.

Foxen already held a key poker record, with her five *World Series of Poker* gold bracelets being the most of any female player. Last year Foxen also nearly became the first woman to make the main event final table since Barbara Enright placed fifth in 1995, but ultimately was eliminated in 13th place for a career-best payday of \$600,000.

A total of 86 entries were made in this \$15,000 buy-in no-limit hold'em event, making for a \$1,290,000 prize pool. The top 13 finishers cashed, including a return to the final table for Sergio Aido who took fifth place.

Poker Hall of Famer Erik Seidel took a bad beat to bust in fourth. He had previously finished third in event no. 2.

Bracelet winner Patrick Leonard earned \$225,750 as the runner-up, growing his recorded earnings to more than \$4.7 million. This near win came just shy of a month after he earned his first *PGT* title by taking down event no. 2 of the *PGT Kickoff* series. The British poker pro has already cashed five times this year, all in *PGT* tournaments. With 1,307 POY points, he is now ranked 20th in the overall standings and fourth on the *PGT* leaderboard.

Zaki Defeats Weissman Heads-Up In \$25,000 Finale

The \$25,000 finale drew 59 total entries, resulting in a prize pool of \$1,475,000 that was paid out among the top nine finishers. **Justin Zaki** was the last man standing, banking \$417,000.

This was the third-largest score of the Florida poker pro's career. He now has more than \$6.5 million in lifetime earnings after this triumph.

PokerGO Cup Standings

Rank	Player	Points	Titles	Cashes	Winnings
1	Joey Weissman	758	1	4	\$930,600
2	Eric Blair	568	2	3	\$645,850
3	Michael Moncek	484	1	3	\$483,750
4	Kristen Foxen	332	1	3	\$401,300
5	Sergio Aido	327	1	2	\$345,300
6	Adam Hendrix	316	1	1	\$316,050
7	Keith Lehr	283	0	4	\$352,275
7	Justin Zaki	283	1	1	\$417,000
9	Patrick Leonard	244	0	3	\$288,550
10	Michael Berk	224	0	4	\$288,500

Once again, it was Weissman heads-up for the title. Although he started the final match with a slight chip disadvantage, Weissman was able to take the lead and at one point had Zaki on the ropes and facing elimination. Zaki four-bet shoved with A-10, only to run into Weissman's pocket tens.

The turn gave Zaki a Broadway straight, however, and Weissman was left with just a few big blinds, which were

dusted off a couple of hands later. It was a similar beat to the one he experienced back in the first event, when Moncek's A-10 cracked his pocket queens heads-up. (He also lost a coinflip heads-up to Blair.)

The \$350,000 runner-up payout was the second-largest of his career, trailing only the \$684,609 he earned for taking down a \$2,500 no-limit hold'em event at the 2012 *WSOP*. ♠

PokerGO Cup - Aria PokerGO Studio - Las Vegas, NV

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$5,100 NLH Feb. 11-12 Entries: 177 Prizepool: \$885,000	1 Michael Moncek	\$185,850 (624)
	2 Joey Weissman	\$123,900 (520)
	3 Cherish Andrews	\$88,500 (416)
	4 Michael Brinkenhoff	\$66,375 (312)
	5 Stephen Song	\$53,100 (260)
	6 Danny Ayman Qutami	\$44,250 (208)
	7 Eric Baldwin	\$35,400 (156)
	8 Keith Lehr	\$35,400 (104)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,100 NLH Feb. 12-13 Entries: 118 Prizepool: \$1,180,000	1 Joey Weissman	\$295,000 (600)
	2 Michael Moncek	\$182,900 (500)
	3 Erik Seidel	\$129,800 (400)
	4 Andrew Moreno	\$100,300 (300)
	5 Sam Laskowitz	\$76,700 (250)
	6 Andrew Lichtenberger	\$59,000 (200)
	7 Anthony Hu	\$47,200 (150)
	8 Manuel Fritz	\$47,200 (100)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,100 NLH Feb. 13-14 Entries: 129 Prizepool: \$1,290,000	1 Adam Hendrix	\$316,050 (660)
	2 Harvey Castro	\$193,500 (550)
	3 Joao Simao	\$141,900 (440)
	4 Manuel Fritz	\$103,200 (330)
	5 Daniel Sepiol	\$77,400 (275)
	6 Cherish Andrews	\$64,500 (220)
	7 Landon Tice	\$51,600 (165)
	8 Jim Collopy	\$51,600 (110)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,100 NLH Feb. 14-15 Entries: 98 Prizepool: \$980,000	1 Eric Blair	\$254,800 (540)
	2 Joey Weissman	\$161,700 (450)
	3 Justin Saliba	\$117,600 (360)
	4 Darren Elias	\$88,200 (270)
	5 Aram Zobian	\$68,600 (225)
	6 Justin Sternberg	\$49,000 (180)
	7 Patrick Leonard	\$39,200 (135)
	8 John Riordan	\$39,200 (90)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$10,100 NLH Feb. 15-17 Entries: 100 Prizepool: \$1,000,000	1 Sergio Aido	\$255,000 (600)
	2 Shannon Shorr	\$165,000 (500)
	3 Michael Moncek	\$115,000 (400)
	4 Nick Schulman	\$90,000 (300)
	5 Nicholas Seward	\$65,000 (250)
	6 Brandon Wilson	\$50,000 (200)
	7 Shaneil Stokes	\$40,000 (150)
	8 Richard Green	\$40,000 (100)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$15,100 NLH Feb. 17-18 Entries: 87 Prizepool: \$1,305,000	1 Eric Blair	\$352,350 (576)
	2 Keith Lehr	\$228,375 (480)
	3 Michael Berk	\$163,125 (384)
	4 Christian Roberts	\$117,450 (288)
	5 Matthew McEwan	\$91,350 (240)
	6 Nick Schulman	\$65,250 (192)
	7 Matthew Wantman	\$52,200 (144)
	8 Brandon Wittmeyer	\$52,200 (96)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$15,100 NLH Feb. 18-19 Entries: 86 Prizepool: \$1,290,000	1 Kristen Foxen	\$348,300 (576)
	2 Patrick Leonard	\$225,750 (480)
	3 Farid Jattin	\$161,250 (384)
	4 Erik Seidel	\$116,100 (288)
	5 Sergio Aido	\$90,300 (240)
	6 David Peters	\$64,500 (192)
	7 Eric Wasserson	\$51,600 (144)
	8 Sam Laskowitz	\$51,600 (96)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$25,200 NLH Feb. 19-20 Entries: 59 Prizepool: \$1,475,000	1 Justin Zaki	\$417,000 (420)
	2 Joey Weissman	\$350,000 (350)
	3 Clemen Deng	\$206,500 (280)
	4 Sam Soverel	\$147,500 (210)
	5 Christian Roberts	\$110,625 (175)
	6 Michael Berk	\$81,125 (140)
	7 Jesse Lonis	\$59,000 (105)
	8 Keith Lehr	\$59,000 (70)

2025 WORLD SERIES OF POKER SCHEDULE UNVEILED

56th Annual Summer Series Features 100 Gold Bracelet Events

By Erik Fast



The wait for the 2025 *World Series of Poker* schedule is finally over, as event organizers have released the full list of events for the 56th annual summer series. This year, there are 100 gold bracelets up for grabs between May 27 and July 16 at the Horseshoe and Paris on the Las Vegas Strip.

"We had hoped to continue to break records last year, and we did – the *WSOP* main event was bigger than ever," said *WSOP* Chief Executive Officer Ty Stewart. "In 2025, the *WSOP* schedule is better again, with something for everyone who loves the game. There's nothing like summer in Las Vegas and we're ready to welcome players to the biggest and best *WSOP* of all time!"

This will be the first *WSOP* under the new ownership of NSUS Group Inc., which also owns GGPoker. Caesars Entertainment sold the rights for a reported \$500 million just a couple of weeks after the conclusion of last year's festival.

While ownership is new, many previous executives and staff remain heading into this year, including Stewart, Chief Operating Officer Gregory Chochon, and Communications manager Erik Eidissen.

This year's series kicks off with the \$1,000 *Mystery Millions*, a bounty event with a \$1 million top prize up for grabs. That event gets underway at noon on May 27.

The festival will conclude with the final day of the 2025 *WSOP* \$10,000 no-limit hold'em main event, which begins with the first of four starting days on July 2 and will wrap up on July 16. (Although not everybody is happy about the main event structure. See pg. 12)

The 2024 *WSOP* main event was the largest in the storied history of the legendary tournament. A turnout of 10,112 entries resulted in a massive \$94,041,600 prize pool, with 38-year-old poker pro Jonathan Tamayo earning \$10 million and his first bracelet as the champion.

PokerGO is again the exclusive live broadcast provider for the series, with a full streaming schedule to be announced in the coming months.

Several New Events For 2025

There are plenty of exciting new offerings on this year's slate. One of the more novel events of 2025 is the *Battle of the Ages*, a \$1,000 buy-in event (June 22) which splits the field into two age groups for the tournament's two starting flights. Day 1A will consist of players that are all at least 50 years old, while day 1B will require players to be between 21 and 49.

This year will also see the first \$25,000 pot-limit Omaha and no-limit hold'em mixed high roller bracelet event ever held. This same format has run in the past, but at a much lower price point. Now, the PLO/NLH hybrid has stepped up to the big leagues.

That will not be the only new high-stakes PLO offering on the schedule, though. A \$100,000 buy-in PLO event will kick off on July 1, setting a new record for the largest buy-in bracelet event ever contested exclusively in the popular four-card game.

The T.O.R.S.E mixed game format is also making its debut in 2025. The tweak on the popular H.O.R.S.E format substitutes triple draw deuce-to-seven lowball for limit hold'em. Don't worry H.O.R.S.E. fans, there are still three events fea-



IF A PLAYER WERE SOMEHOW CAPABLE OF FIRING A SINGLE BULLET IN ALL 100 BRACELET EVENTS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO POST TOTAL BUY-INS OF \$1,095,465.

turing the tried and true mix on the schedule, with buy-ins of \$1,500 (June 11), \$10,000 (June 18), and \$25,000 (July 14).

Also new for the 56th annual *WSOP* is the name of the tournament formally known as the *Casino Employees* event. Starting in 2025, the \$500 buy-in no-limit hold'em event that has long been held on the first day of the series will be called the *Industry Employees* event.

What About Online Bracelets?

The *WSOP* first introduced online events in 2015, with Anthony Spinella writing his name in the history books as the first champion of a bracelet event that was primarily contested on the internet. (That tournament played down to the final six online before convening live and in-person to decide a champion.)

In the decade that has followed, the online offerings that accompanied the swelling live schedule continued to expand. In 2024, there were 30 online events for players situated in New Jersey, Michigan, and Nevada, with another seven for Pennsylvania players.

At the time of the initial schedule announcement, no refer-

ence was made to any online bracelet events during the summer festivities. This does not necessarily mean that there won't be any, however. Stay tuned to *Card Player* for any updates on potential *WSOP* online bracelet schedule information that might be released in the near future.

Something For Every Player

The 2025 *WSOP* of course features a wide variety of games and formats. It also runs the gamut when it comes to the buy-in price points offered.

The lowest buy-in event, the *Gladiators of Poker* tournament, clocks in at just \$300, but has a \$3 million guarantee. That tournament kicks off June 25.

On the other end of the spectrum, the \$250,000 buy-in high roller event is also returning this year. Last year Santhosh Suvarna came out on top of the 75-entry field to earn a staggering \$5.4 million payday.

Of the 100 events on the schedule, 49 cost \$1,500 or less to enter, while 30 cost \$10,000 or more to play. Narrowing down to just high rollers (buy-ins of \$25,000 or more) cuts the number to 13, with three six-figure buy-in events. ♠

Schedule

Event	Tournament	Start Date	Days
1	\$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em Mystery Millions Bounty	5/27	7
2	\$500 No-Limit Hold'em Industry Employees	5/27	2
3	\$5,000 No-Limit Hold'em Eight Max	5/28	4
4	\$1,500 Omaha 8/OB Eight Max	5/28	3
5	\$5,000 Pot-Limit Omaha Eight Max	5/29	3
6	\$1,500 Seven Card Stud	5/29	3
7	\$25,000 No-Limit Hold'em Heads-Up (64 max)	5/30	3
8	\$1,500 Dealers Choice Six Max	5/30	3

TOURNAMENTS

9	\$10,000 Omaha 8/OB Eight Max	5/31	4
10	\$600 No-Limit Hold'em Deepstack	6/1	2
11	\$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Mystery Bounty Eight Max	6/1	3
12	\$1,500 No-Limit 2-7 Lowball Draw Seven Max	6/1	3
13	\$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em Six Max	6/2	3
14	\$25,000 Pot-Limit Omaha / No-Limit Hold'em Eight Max	6/2	3
15	\$1,500 Mixed Omaha Seven Max	6/2	3
16	\$600 Pot-Limit Omaha Deepstack Eight Max	6/3	2
17	\$2,000 No-Limit Hold'em	6/3	3
18	\$10,000 Dealers Choice Six Max	6/3	3
19	\$500 No-Limit Hold'em Colossus	6/4	6
20	\$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em Shootout	6/4	3
21	\$1,500 Pot-Limit Omaha 8/OB Eight Max	6/4	3
22	\$25,000 No-Limit Hold'em Six Max	6/5	3
23	\$1,500 Badugi	6/5	3
24	\$1,500 Pot-Limit Omaha Double Board Bomb Pot Eight Max	6/6	3
25	\$10,000 Seven Card Stud	6/6	3
26	\$25,000 No-Limit Hold'em Eight Max	6/7	3
27	\$1,500 Big O	6/7	3
28	\$600 No-Limit Hold'em / Pot-Limit Omaha Eight Max	6/8	2
29	\$2,500 No-Limit Hold'em	6/8	3
30	\$10,000 No-Limit 2-7 Lowball Draw Seven Max	6/8	3
31	\$800 No-Limit Hold'em Deepstack Eight Max	6/9	2
32	\$50,000 No-Limit Hold'em Eight Max	6/9	3
33	\$1,500 Limit Hold'em Eight Max	6/9	3
34	\$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em Super Turbo Bounty	6/10	1
35	\$3,000 No-Limit Hold'em Freezeout	6/10	3
36	\$10,000 Pot-Limit Omaha 8/OB Eight Max	6/10	3
37	\$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack	6/11	8
38	\$100,000 No-Limit Hold'em	6/11	3
39	\$1,500 H.O.R.S.E.	6/11	3
40	\$5,000 No-Limit Hold'em Seniors	6/12	4
41	\$10,000 Limit Hold'em Eight Max	6/12	3
42	\$1,000 Pot-Limit Omaha Eight Max	6/13	2
43	\$1,500 Razz	6/13	3
44	\$10,000 Big O	6/14	3
45	\$500 No-Limit Hold'em Salute to Warriors	6/15	3
46	\$250,000 No-Limit Hold'em	6/15	3
47	\$2,500 Mixed Omaha Eight Max	6/15	3
48	\$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em Seniors	6/16	6
49	\$3,000 No-Limit Hold'em Six Max	6/16	2
50	\$10,000 Razz	6/16	3
51	\$25,000 Pot-Limit Omaha Eight Max	6/17	4
52	\$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em Freezeout	6/17	3
53	\$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em Millionaire Maker	6/18	8
54	\$1,500 Pot-Limit Omaha Eight Max	6/18	3

TOURNAMENTS

55	\$10,000 H.O.R.S.E.	6/18	4
56	\$2,500 Mixed Triple Draw Lowball	6/19	3
57	\$50,000 Pot-Limit Omaha	6/20	3
58	\$3,000 Nine-Game Mix Seven Max	6/21	3
59	\$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em Battle of the Ages	6/22	2
60	\$3,000 Limit Hold'em Six Max	6/22	3
61	\$500 No-Limit Hold'em Freezeout	6/23	2
62	\$5,000 No-Limit Hold'em Six Max	6/23	4
63	\$1,500 Limit 2-7 Lowball Triple Draw Six Max	6/23	3
64	\$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em Super Seniors	6/24	4
65	\$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em Tag Team	6/24	3
66	\$50,000 Poker Players Championship Seven Max	6/24	5
67	\$300 No-Limit Hold'em Gladiators of Poker	6/25	6
68	\$3,000 No-Limit Hold'em	6/25	4
69	\$1,500 Seven Card Stud 8/OB	6/25	3
70	\$10,000/\$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em Ladies	6/26	4
71	\$10,000 Limit 2-7 Lowball Triple Draw Six Max	6/26	3
72	\$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Super Turbo Bounty Eight Max	6/27	1
73	\$1,500 Eight-Game Mix Six Max	6/27	3
74	\$10,000 Pot-Limit Omaha Eight Max	6/28	4
75	\$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em Freezeout	6/29	4
76	\$2,500 Mixed Big Bet Event Six Max	6/29	3
77	\$10,000 Seven Card Stud 8/OB	6/30	3
78	\$600 No-Limit Hold'em Deepstack	7/1	4
79	\$100,000 Pot-Limit Omaha	7/1	3
80	\$800 No-Limit Hold'em	7/2	3
81	\$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Main Event	7/2	14
82	\$10,000 Eight-Game Mix Six Max	7/2	3
83	\$2,500 No-Limit Hold'em Freezeout	7/3	3
84	\$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em	7/4	2
85	\$600 No-Limit Hold'em Ultra Stack	7/6	5
86	\$1,000 Pot-Limit Omaha Mystery Bounty	7/8	4
87	\$5,000 No-Limit Hold'em Super Turbo Bounty	7/8	1
88	\$50,000 No-Limit Hold'em Eight Max	7/9	3
89	\$3,000 No-Limit Hold'em	7/9	5
90	\$777 No-Limit Hold'em Seven Max	7/10	6
91	\$1,500 Pot-Limit Omaha Six Max	7/10	3
92	\$1,979 No-Limit Hold'em Poker Hall of Fame Bounty	7/11	2
93	\$3,000 T.O.R.S.E.	7/11	3
94	\$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Six Max	7/12	3
95	\$800 No-Limit Hold'em Deepstack	7/13	2
96	\$3,000 Pot-Limit Omaha Six Max	7/13	3
97	\$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em	7/14	3
98	\$25,000 H.O.R.S.E.	7/14	3
99	\$5,000 No-Limit Hold'em Eight Max	7/15	2
100	\$1,000 No-Limit Hold'em Super Turbo	7/16	1

DAN STAVILA RIDES ONE-OUTER STRAIGHT FLUSH TO CARD PLAYER POKER TOUR VENETIAN TITLE

Moldovan Defeats 588 Entries In \$1 Million Guaranteed Event

By Erik Fast



The final table of the 2025 *Card Player Poker Tour Venetian* \$1,000,000 guaranteed \$1,600 no-limit hold'em main event was full of several wild hands and plenty of rollercoaster run-outs, including a pot that saw Dan Stavila hit a one-outer to make a straight flush for an early knockout.

Stavila went on to close out the title, earning \$167,067 as the champion. The Moldovan poker pro was the last player standing from a field of 588 total entries in the tournament.

This was the second-largest career payday for Stavila, trailing only the \$205,520 he was awarded for a runner-up showing in the 2024 *WPT Montreal* main event. This victory grew his lifetime earnings to nearly \$1 million.

The triumph also came with 840 *Card Player* Player of the Year points. This was Stavila's third final table of the year. With 922 total points, he now sits in 40th place in the 2025 *Card Player POY* race standings presented by Global Poker.

This event featured three starting flights from Feb. 12-14 inside the Venetian Poker Room. The 588-entry turnout resulted in an overlay for the players of over \$160,000 in this \$1 million guaranteed tournament.

The final 75 made the money by moving on to day 2, with plenty of notables among those that cashed such as five-time bracelet winner and three-time *WPT* champion Anthony Zinno (41st), bracelet winner Nicholas Pupillo (31st), *WPT* champion James Romero (25th), bracelet winner and *WPT* champion Ryan Tosoc (22nd), three-time bracelet winner Nipun Java (18th), Darren Rabinowitz (15th), bracelet winner Mitchell Halverson (14th), Michael Rossitto (11th), and bracelet winner Francis Anderson (8th).

The final table of this tournament was one part of a double-header of \$1,000,000 guaranteed events that helped launch

Venetian Poker Live from inside the venue's new Poker Studio, with production and distribution by PokerGO.

The final day began with six contenders remaining and Stavila atop the chip counts. The first knockout saw short stack Paul Lozano Martin get all-in with A♥ 7♥ trailing the A♠ J♠ of bracelet winner Ryan Laplante. The board came down J♦ 9♣ 8♥ 9♠ 3♦ and Lozano Martin was sent home with \$36,561 for his efforts. The Spanish player now has more than \$920,000 in recorded cashes to his name.

Another big hand arose shortly after that, with Cody Wiegmann turning a set of eights against the top pair of Stavila. Wiegmann's hefty bet on the end went uncalled, but he still took down a sizable pot to close the gap between him and the top of the counts.

Stavila briefly fell out of the lead but managed to pick up back-to-back pots without showdown holding premium starting cards to move back in front. He then scored a knockout in dramatic fashion, hitting the previously mentioned one-outer on the river to eliminate two-time bracelet winner Evan Sandberg.

Stavila raised to 225,000 from the under the gun with A♠ 10♣ and Sandberg defended his big blind with Q♣ 3♣. The flop came down 8♣ 7♣ 6♣ and Sandberg checked with his flopped queen-high flush. Stavila bet enough to put Sandberg all-in. Sandberg quickly called off his remaining five big blinds. The turn brought the 8♠, making Sandberg a 98 percent favorite to win the hand with one card to come. The 9♣ rolled off on the end, giving Stavila a straight flush and the pot.

Sandberg was eliminated in fifth place, taking home \$48,232 after that brutal beat. He now has nearly \$2 million in recorded earnings after this, his 150th in-the-money finish.



Cody Wiegmann

The big hands kept on coming. Roughly ten minutes after Sandberg was sent packing, Laplante and Wiegmann got embroiled in a battle of the blinds. Wiegmann had opened to a larger sizing with $A\heartsuit J\clubsuit$ from the small blind. Laplante then three-bet with pocket queens from the big blind. Wiegmann four-bet shoved and Laplante called with the covering stack. The $A\heartsuit 6\clubsuit 6\heartsuit 10\spadesuit K\clubsuit$ runout saw Wiegmann double into the chip lead while Laplante was left with just a few big blinds.

Laplante got all-in with Q-J facing the pocket eights of Wiegmann. An eight-high flop seemed to be the end, but Laplante caught running cards to make a queen-high straight, nailing a three-outer on the river to get a bit of breathing room.

Despite that exciting runout, Laplante was ultimately the next to fall. He committed most of his stack preflop with $K\clubsuit J\heartsuit$ and then got his remaining chips in with top pair on a $K\heartsuit 10\heartsuit 3\heartsuit$ flop. Stavila called the flop shove of less than a full big blind with $A\clubsuit 4\heartsuit$. The turn was the $A\heartsuit$ to give Stavila a flush and a lock on the hand. The $9\heartsuit$ on the end narrowed the field to three. Laplante earned \$64,499 to grow his lifetime earnings to nearly \$4.1 million.

Stavila remained in front after the first hour of three-handed play, but gave up a bit of his lead when Wiegmann pulled off a multi-street bluff that concluded with a river shove holding air. Victor Shih managed to chop after getting all-in with A-5

trailing the A-10 of Stavila, but soon ran pocket sixes into pocket jacks to find himself at risk once again.

Stavila's larger pair held up through a $5\spadesuit 3\clubsuit 2\heartsuit 5\clubsuit 7\heartsuit$ board to eliminate Shih in third place (\$87,416). This was the largest score yet for Shih, growing his career earnings to more than \$535,000.

Heads-up play began with Stavila holding roughly a 2:1 chip advantage over Wiegmann. That lead was narrowed a bit before the fittingly wild final hand of the tournament was dealt.

Wiegmann limped in with $5\clubsuit 3\heartsuit$ from the button and Stavila checked his option with $K\heartsuit J\clubsuit$ from the big blind. The flop came down $Q\heartsuit 4\heartsuit 2\heartsuit$ and Stavila checked. Wiegmann bet with his open-ended straight draw and

Stavila called.

The turn brought the $A\spadesuit$ to give Wiegmann the wheel. Stavila checked and Wiegmann bet with his straight. Stavila check-called with his gutshot and the river brought the $10\heartsuit$, giving him Broadway. He checked and Wiegmann fired a nearly pot-sized bet. Stavila thought it over for a while before moving all in. Wiegmann quickly called and was shown the cooler.

Wiegmann walked away with a career-best payday of \$120,054 as the runner-up. He now has more than \$900,000 in total cashes.

Player	Payout (POV)
1 Dan Stavila	\$167,067 (840)
2 Cody Wiegmann	\$120,054 (700)
3 Victor Shih	\$87,416 (560)
4 Ryan Laplante	\$64,499 (420)
5 Evan Sandberg	\$48,232 (350)
6 Paul Lozano Martin	\$36,561 (280)
7 Jordan Westmorland	\$28,098 (210)
8 Francis Anderson	\$21,898 (140)
9 Zachary Donovan	\$17,310 (70)

GERMAN OUTLASTS FIELD OF 7,000 IN CZECH REPUBLIC

By Erik Fast

A massive field of 7,007 entries turned out for the *Italian Poker Sport Rozvadov* €380 buy-in tournament at King's Resort Rozvadov in the Czech Republic, blowing away the event's €1.5 million guarantee to create a final prize pool of €2,263,261, which equated to nearly \$2.4 million when converted into USD.

The impressive turnout was the largest field for any poker tournament ever held at the venue, which has been the host site of the *World Series of Poker Europe* since 2017.

The tournament ran from Jan. 24 through Feb. 4, with an extra day needed thanks to the overwhelming attendance. When the dust finally settled, it was Germany's Johann Schamne who emerged victorious with the title and the top prize of \$230,204.

This was far and away the largest live tournament score yet for Schamne, with this being more than nine times bigger than his previous highest payday of \$45,238 that he secured with a win in a CHF 1,650 buy-in at Casino Baden all the way back in 2011.

Schamne now has more than \$400,000 in recorded earnings to his name, with all of his success coming in events around Europe.

The top four finishers cut an ICM deal that redistributed the prize money. Romania's Alexandru Moraru ultimately finished second for \$174,044, while Schamne's countryman Robert Ashelm rounded out the top three with \$156,364. Fourth-place finisher Marko Bajic cashed for \$135,564.



The top 886 finishers made the money in this event, with five figures or more for the final 22.

Player	Payout
1 Johann Schamne	\$230,204
2 Alexandru Silviu Moraru	\$174,044
3 Robert Ashelm	\$156,364
4 Marko Bajic	\$135,564
5 Anonymous	NA
6 Mario Boos	\$65,364
7 Michael Adam	\$52,884
8 Daniel Wurzinger	\$43,524
9 Timour Kotidis	\$25,480

© Kings Resort

MALLORY KLAUS TRIUMPHS AT TEXAS CARD HOUSE

By Erik Fast

The *Trailblazer Poker Tour* \$1,000,000 guaranteed \$800 no-limit hold'em event at Texas Card House in Dallas drew a massive field of 1,943 entries, resulting in a final prize pool of \$1,360,100.

The largest share of that money was ultimately awarded to Oklahoma City resident Mallory Klaus, who walked away with the trophy and \$211,745 as the champion.

Klaus also secured 540 *Card Player* Player of the Year points for the win, enough to move her inside the top 150 in the 2025 POY race standings presented by Global Poker.

When the final table began, Klaus was the short stack. Bracelet winner and *World Poker Tour* champion Craig Varnell was among the early knockouts on the final day, with his Q-J unable to hold against the Q-10 suited of Sebastien Guinand. He earned \$25,629 for his eighth-place finish.

Klaus fared better against Guinand when her pocket aces held against A♣ J♣. Neither player connected with the board and Guinand was sent packing in fifth place for \$55,760.

Zak Baron busted Scot Fahrenbruch in fourth for \$74,700 to enter three-handed play with the chip lead. Klaus then eliminated Elan Lepovic, who shoved with middle pair of tens on the flop only to run into pocket kings. Lepovic earned



\$100,685, while Klaus climbed into a virtual tie with Baron going into heads-up play.

The final two battled it out for a couple of hours, with Klaus having established a big lead by the time the final hand arrived. Baron shoved his last six big blinds with Q♥ 7♠ from the button and Klaus called with J♦ 9♠. The board ran out K♣ 5♠ 4♣ J♥ 5♦ and Klaus made jacks and fives to lock up the pot and the title. Baron was awarded \$146,080 as the runner-up.

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Mallory Klaus	\$211,745 (540)
2 Zak Baron	\$146,080 (450)
3 Elan Lepovic	\$100,685 (360)
4 Scot Fahrenbruch	\$74,700 (270)
5 Sebastien Guinand	\$55,760 (225)
6 Will Pengelly	\$42,340 (180)
7 Evan Burrow	\$32,480 (135)
8 Craig Varnell	\$25,629 (90)
9 Jared Ward	\$20,115 (45)

© TCH

STRAIGHT FLUSH GIVES MAURICE HAWKINS 17TH CIRCUIT RING

By Erik Fast

Maurice Hawkins won his 17th *World Series of Poker Circuit* gold ring in style, dragging the final pot of the *WSOP Circuit Harrah's Pompano Beach \$400 40/40/40 Grand Master* no-limit hold'em event with a nine-high straight flush in hearts.

Hawkins now sits in second place on the all-time *WSOPC* rings leaderboard, trailing only 18-time winner Ari Engel. This latest win put Hawkins one victory ahead of Daniel Lowery with 16 rings. Joshua Reichard with 15 and Valentin Vornicu with 13 round out the tour's top five.

This latest win came in a unique event that featured 40,000 in starting chips and 40-minute levels throughout, while requiring entrants to be at least 40 years of age to play. Hawkins, who is 45 years old, earned \$16,137 as the champion.

Hawkins first took down a *WSOP Circuit* event back in the final month of 2008. Since then, he has managed to win multiple rings in a single calendar year four separate times (2009, 2016, 2017, 2019). Five of his 17 rings have come in *WSOPC* main events.

All told, Hawkins has cashed for just shy of \$6 million in his tournament career, with roughly half of that



total coming from his 166 cashes in *WSOPC* events. His \$2.9 million in circuit earnings remains the highest mark of any *WSOPC* player, with Daniel Lowery's \$1.85 million being the next-largest total.

Hawkins has now cashed eight times and made four final tables in 2025, with this being his first win of the year.

Bracelet winner and four-time ring winner David Moses also made the final table, finishing in eighth place.

Player	Payout
1 Maurice Hawkins	\$16,137
2 Brian Stone	\$10,448
3 Robert Aleksivich	\$6,973
4 Theo Lawson	\$4,803
5 Renato Paiva	\$3,418
6 Jaroslaw Osinski	\$2,516
7 Richard Head	\$1,917
8 David Moses	\$1,515
9 Patrick Biancone	\$1,243

ART PEACOCK SCORES BIG WIN ON 66TH BIRTHDAY

By Ryan Lucchesi

Art Peacock has nine poker tournament titles under his belt, with his latest coming on his 66th birthday. Peacock secured his first *WSOP Circuit* gold ring in February at Harrah's Pompano Beach in Florida, coming out on top in the stop's main event to walk away with \$230,794. This was the second-largest score on his poker résumé, bringing his earnings to more than \$1.6 million.

The \$1,700 tournament drew a large field of 914 entries over three starting flights, resulting in a final prize pool of \$1,384,710 that easily covers the \$1 million guarantee. The top 101 players all took home at least \$4,227 in prize money.

Peacock held the chip lead when the final day began and was well in front even as the early action saw Mike Chiappetta (seventh), Bulat Khusainov (sixth), and Gary Susswein (fifth) all eliminated by other players. Peacock scored his first knockout with Ricardo Eyzaguirre in fourth place.

Two formidable opponents remained, including *WPT* champion Darryll Fish and Florida tournament crusher Raminder Singh, but it was Peacock's day. He took out Singh when both players made a full house, giving him a nearly 3:1 chip advantage for the final match.

Fish fought hard to comeback and doubled up three times, but it wasn't meant to be. The last of the chips went into the middle on a flop reading 9♥ 7♦ 4♥ with Fish holding J♦ 9♦, and Peacock had him covered with 7♥ 6♥ in the hole. The turn and river fell J♥ A♥ to give Peacock the flush and the win.



Fish booked \$153,860 for the runner-up finish, putting him above \$5.7 million for his career.

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Arthur Peacock	\$230,794 (912)
2 Darryll Fish	\$153,860 (760)
3 Raminder Singh	\$106,906 (608)
4 Ricardo Eyzaguirre	\$75,583 (456)
5 Gary Susswein	\$54,391 (380)
6 Bulat Khusainov	\$39,851 (304)
7 Mike Chiappetta	\$29,738 (228)
8 Juan Ford Castro	\$22,610 (152)
9 Carlos Bermudez	\$17,520 (76)

ANTHONY SCARBOROUGH TAKES DOWN MSPT VENETIAN POKER BOWL

By Erik Fast

The Venetian Poker Room unveiled the state-of-the-art Venetian Poker Live studio on Feb. 10 on the Las Vegas Strip. The debut broadcast featured the final table of the *Mid-States Poker Tour Venetian Poker Bowl* \$1,000,000 guaranteed \$1,600 event.

The tournament attracted 892 entries to surpass the guarantee by \$271,100. In the end, South Dakota's Anthony Scarborough came away with the trophy and the top prize of \$152,243.

This was the first recorded live tournament title for Scarborough and the second-largest payday of his poker career. It trails only his fourth-place finish in the 2023 WSOP \$777 *Lucky Sevens* event for \$168,777.

Scarborough was awarded 912 *Card Player* Player of the Year points for the win. Less than a week later he added another \$70,892 and 608 POY points with a third-place finish in the *MSPT Ohio Poker State Championship*, which was won by Renmei Liu. With 1,520 total points, Scarborough now sits in ninth place on the POY leaderboard.

The top 99 finishers cashed in this event, with payouts starting at \$3,457. The final four hashed out a deal to redis-



tribute the remaining prize money, locking up at least \$105,000 for all remaining contenders while leaving \$40,000 and the trophy to play for.

The largest guaranteed share was set aside for Dan Heimiller, who was eliminated in fourth place earning the \$136,124 he negotiated for. Rick Green was the next to fall in third place and walked away with \$123,936 per the deal. Alex Kim walked away with \$105,000

for his runner-up showing.

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Anthony Scarborough	\$152,243 (912)
2 Alex Kim	\$105,000 (760)
3 Rick Green	\$123,936 (608)
4 Dan Heimiller	\$136,124 (456)
5 Michael Ung	\$61,821 (380)
6 Kfir Nahum	\$47,932 (304)
7 Stanley Weng	\$37,554 (228)
8 Daniel Sepiol	\$29,734 (152)
9 Brian Meadows	\$23,796 (76)

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CIRCUIT RESULTS

Alfredo Vaz Reed



Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Costa Rica Festival Sheraton Hotel San Jose, Costa Rica	1 Alfredo Vaz Reed	\$55,000 (420)
	2 Jarkko Suokas	\$34,000 (350)
	3 Sherry Anderson	\$24,200 (280)
	4 James Mordue	\$18,700 (210)
	5 Luis Arceyut	\$14,700 (175)
\$550 NLH Jan. 29-Feb. 3 \$100,000 GTD Entries: 599 Prizepool: \$284,525	6 Jari Hurri	\$11,500 (140)
	7 Diego Fernandez	\$8,500 (105)
	8 Peter Johnson	\$5,800 (70)
	9 Kjetil Hanstvedt	\$4,605 (35)

Scott Heiligman



Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Tampa Winter Open	1 Scott Heiligman	\$127,020 (720)
	2 Ryan Hogan	\$84,520 (600)
	3 Gabriel Fuller	\$62,230 (480)
	4 Sandro Vianna	\$46,280 (360)
Seminole Hard Rock Tampa, FL \$1,700 NLH Jan. 30-Feb. 3 \$300,000 GTD Entries: 425 Prizepool: \$637,500	5 John Kamis	\$34,770 (300)
	6 William Diaz	\$26,380 (240)
	7 Stephen Dees	\$20,220 (180)
	8 Rusty Wadsworth	\$15,640 (120)
	9 Dan Clemente	\$12,220 (60)

Lyndon Webster



Event	Player	Payout (POV)
World Cup of Cards	1 Lyndon Webster	\$84,700 (840)
	2 Anderson Frank-Graham	\$59,850 (700)
	3 Andrew Forrest	\$38,920 (560)
C\$1,150 NLH Jan. 30-Feb. 2 C\$400,000 GTD Entries: 657 Prizepool: \$459,243	4 Jikai Zhang	\$28,000 (420)
	5 Matthew Wilkins	\$21,490 (350)
	6 Kathy Sawers	\$17,255 (280)
	7 Callum Roque	\$14,280 (210)
	8 Gabriel Desrochers-Tasse	\$11,480 (140)
	9 Yiquan Zhong	\$8,680 (70)

Woody Christy



Event	Player	Payout (POV)
DeepStack	1 Woody Christy	\$51,141 (360)
	2 Richard Green	\$37,209 (300)
	3 Steven Merwin	\$26,938 (240)
Venetian Las Vegas, NV \$800 NLH Jan. 30-Feb. 2 \$200,000 GTD Entries: 408 Prizepool: \$281,520	4 Jon Gisler	\$19,789 (180)
	5 Jeremy Felicetti	\$14,755 (150)
	6 Adam Walton	\$11,169 (120)
	7 Tobias Gagern	\$8,585 (90)
	8 Ryan Leng	\$6,702 (60)
	9 Jordyn Miller	\$5,315 (30)

All payouts in USD.

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TOURNAMENTS

Landon Tice



© Venetian

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
DeepStack	1 Landon Tice	\$51,163 (480)
Venetian Las Vegas, NV	2 Baurzhan Akimov	\$41,000 (400)
	3 Calvin Anderson	\$41,000 (320)
	4 Peter Hengsakul	\$22,451 (240)
	5 Tyler Patterson	\$16,752 (200)
\$1,100 NLH Feb. 8 \$200,000 GTD Entries: 308 Prizepool: \$298,760	6 Gary Fisher	\$12,726 (160)
	7 Calais Campbell	\$9,847 (120)
	8 Elvin Simpson	\$7,763 (80)
	9 Chun Law	\$6,237 (40)

Frankie Zeta



© PokerOrg

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Mid-Atlantic Poker Open	1 Frankie Zeta	\$145,706 (600)
Live! Casino Hanover, MD	2 Semsettin Ilyas	\$97,125 (500)
	3 Brandon Hall	\$71,275 (400)
	4 Joseph Crowley	\$53,970 (300)
	5 Austin Remmel	\$39,870 (250)
\$2,200 NLH Jan. 31-Feb. 3 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 367 Prizepool: \$718,586	6 Aaron Pinson	\$30,400 (200)
	7 Valentin Lita	\$23,470 (150)
	8 Alan Gendelman	\$18,370 (100)
	9 Maclaren Chatham	\$14,570 (50)

Jessie Bryant



© WSOP

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
WSOP Circuit	1 Jessie Bryant	\$144,962 (720)
Horseshoe Robinsonville, MS	2 Dylan Lemery	\$96,983 (600)
	3 Donald Voyles	\$66,100 (480)
	4 Mark Kehrees	\$46,043 (360)
	5 Mickey Munlin	\$32,762 (300)
\$1,700 NLH Jan. 31-Feb. 3 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 487 Prizepool: \$737,805	6 William McBrayer	\$23,825 (240)
	7 Antonio Torpoco	\$17,716 (180)
	8 Justin Grider	\$13,476 (120)
	9 David Cook	\$10,493 (60)

Tom Orpaz



© Smart Poker Tour

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Smart Poker Tour	1 Tom Orpaz	\$43,725
Monte Casino Sofia, Bulgaria	2 Ian Bradley	\$43,725
	3 Dimitar Danchev	\$23,320
	4 Boris Angelov	\$15,900
	5 Stoyan Obreshkov	\$11,342
BGN 10,000 NLH Feb. 4 BGN 100,000 GTD Entries: 28 Prizepool: \$138,012		

TOURNAMENTS

Yuliyen Nikolaev Kolev



© Smart Poker Tour

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Smart Poker Tour	1 Yuliyen Nikolaev Kolev	\$58,300 (456)
Monte Casino Sofia, Bulgaria	2 Anonymous	NA
	3 Radoslav Stoyanov	\$24,910 (304)
	4 Ivaylo Eftimov	\$17,861 (228)
BGN 2,000 NLH Feb. 5-9 BGN 400,000 GTD Entries: 294 Prizepool: \$279,947	5 Valeri Savov	\$13,780 (190)
	6 Apostolos Kofidis	\$11,395 (152)
	7 Paul Carr	\$9,275 (114)
	8 Darius Neagoe	\$7,685 (76)
	9 Georgi Mektupchiyan	\$6,625 (38)

Scott Heiser



© PokerOrg

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Potomac Winter Open	1 Scott Heiser	\$127,910 (540)
	2 Zhe Niu	\$122,599 (450)
MGM National Harbor Oxon Hill, MD	3 Dennis Backhaus	\$110,168 (360)
	4 Trent Wilt	\$56,968 (270)
	5 Liubomyr Melnyk	\$42,720 (225)
\$600 NLH Feb. 5-9 \$1,000,000 GTD Entries: 2,092 Prizepool: \$1,056,460	6 Lawrence Whyte	\$34,410 (180)
	7 James Chavanarojrit	\$28,057 (135)
	8 Jimmy Born	\$21,734 (90)
	9 Ryan McPherson	\$16,658 (45)

Antoine Labat



© GUKPT

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
GUKPT	1 Antoine Labat	\$61,790 (240)
	2 Leo Worthington-Leese	\$40,257 (200)
	3 Arian Hassankashani	\$26,309 (160)
	4 Paul Clements	\$18,535 (120)
	5 Endrit Geci	\$13,747 (100)
£1,650 NLH Feb. 5-6 £100,000 GTD Entries: 111 Prizepool: \$199,308	6 Jamie Dwan	\$9,967 (80)
	7 Andrew Hulme	\$7,371 (60)
	8 Dean Lyall	\$6,187 (40)
	9 Lazar Dedyov	\$5,582 (20)

Jun Du



© GUKPT

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
GUKPT	1 Jun Du	\$106,722 (720)
	2 Anonymous	NA
Grosvenor Manchester, United Kingdom	3 David Ledden	\$58,048 (480)
	4 Andrew Hulme	\$42,890 (360)
	5 Andreas Olympios	\$31,727 (300)
£1,650 NLH Feb. 6-9 £250,000 GTD Entries: 437 Prizepool: \$572,831	6 Andrew Bak	\$23,449 (240)
	7 Brendan Mcmanus	\$17,438 (180)
	8 Jewel Miah	\$13,129 (120)
	9 Jake Stone	\$10,156 (60)

TOURNAMENTS



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Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Manila Classic	1 Tobias Schwecht	\$206,446 (480)
	2 Ricky Huang	\$146,744 (400)
	3 Charlie Chiu	\$96,084 (320)
Crowne Plaza Manila Quezon City, Philippines	4 Scott Margereson	\$73,933 (240)
	5 John Matsuda	\$58,548 (200)
	6 Anonymous	NA
PHP 600,000 NLH Feb. 9-10	7 William Teoh	\$36,023 (120)
PHP 20,000,000 GTD Entries: 81 Prizepool: \$750,633	8 Punnat Punsri	\$28,152 (80)
	9 Victor Dai	\$21,386 (40)



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Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Manila Classic	1 Zhen Chen	\$73,569 (240)
	2 Anonymous	NA
Crowne Plaza Manila Quezon City, Philippines	3 Emilien Pitavy	\$33,864 (160)
	4 Florencio Campomanes	\$25,687 (120)
	5 Park Yu Cheung	\$19,856 (100)
PHP 300,000 NLH Feb. 11 Entries: 53 Prizepool: \$233,539	6 Jack Maskill	\$15,181 (80)
	7 Tomoki Terashima	\$12,257 (60)



© bestbet Jacksonville

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Manila Classic	1 Ivan Govorov	\$188,185 (960)
	2 Samuel Mullur	\$110,619 (800)
	3 Dylan Foster	\$77,809 (640)
Crowne Plaza Manila Quezon City, Philippines	4 Or Yaqgov Nezer	\$58,310 (480)
	5 Alexander Ugay	\$44,676 (400)
	6 Dmitrii Belikov	\$33,031 (320)
PHP 60,000 NLH Feb. 9-15	7 Jie Zhang	\$25,177 (240)
PHP 60,000,000 GTD Entries: 1,202 Prizepool: \$1,062,775	8 Adalsteinn Karlsson	\$17,935 (160)
	9 Hirota Iwamoto	\$13,923 (80)



© WSOP

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
Manila Classic	1 Yohei Kitazato	\$91,130 (396)
	2 Leon Sturm	\$61,608 (330)
	3 Benjamin Jacobs	\$40,035 (264)
Crowne Plaza Manila Quezon City, Philippines	4 Emilien Pitavy	\$33,150 (198)
	5 John Matsuda	\$26,741 (165)
	6 Nopparut Piyatassakorn	\$21,097 (132)
PHP 200,000 NLH Feb. 15-16	7 Adalsteinn Karlsson	\$16,133 (99)
PHP 15,000,000 GTD Entries: 127 Prizepool: \$362,365	8 Vlada Stojanovic	\$12,138 (66)
	9 Seungmook Jung	\$9,061 (33)

TOURNAMENTS

Trace Henderson



© WSOP

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
WSOP Circuit Harrah's Cherokee, NC \$400 NLH Feb. 13-16 \$1,000,000 GTD Entries: 4,354 Prizepool: \$1,436,820	1 Trace Henderson	\$147,134 (528)
	2 River Lucas	\$98,103 (440)
	3 David Childs	\$71,636 (352)
	4 Stephen Krieger	\$52,905 (264)
	5 Zekri Qovanaj	\$39,521 (220)
	6 Steven McQuin	\$29,866 (176)
	7 Joseph Molitor	\$24,631 (132)
	8 James Tinney	\$17,668 (88)
	9 Johnny Tang	\$13,835 (44)

Mario Lopez



© WSOP

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
WSOP Circuit Graton Rohnert Park, CA \$400 NLH KO Feb. 13-16 \$250,000 GTD Entries: 1,260 Prizepool: \$252,000	1 Mario Lopez	\$36,265 (384)
	2 Anne Bui	\$24,246 (320)
	3 Arpit Bhardwaj	\$17,559 (256)
	4 Robert Mather	\$12,819 (192)
	5 Valentin Antoine	\$9,475 (160)
	6 La Sengphet	\$7,090 (128)
	7 Sanjeev Sisodiya	\$5,372 (96)
	8 Sung Choi	\$4,120 (64)
	9 Gregg Rothberg	\$3,200 (32)

Renmei Liu



© MSPT

Event	Player	Payout (POV)
Ohio Poker Championship Jack Casino Cleveland, OH \$1,110 NLH Feb. 13-16 \$500,000 GTD Entries: 824 Prizepool: \$797,780	1 Renmei Liu	\$156,414 (912)
	2 Michael Valore	\$96,234 (760)
	3 Anthony Scarborough	\$70,892 (608)
	4 Sean Troha	\$52,928 (456)
	5 Daniel Finley	\$40,097 (380)
	6 Tim Fleenor	\$30,474 (304)
	7 Brian Springman	\$23,256 (228)
	8 Joseph Distasio	\$18,444 (152)
	9 Nick Barile	\$14,435 (76)

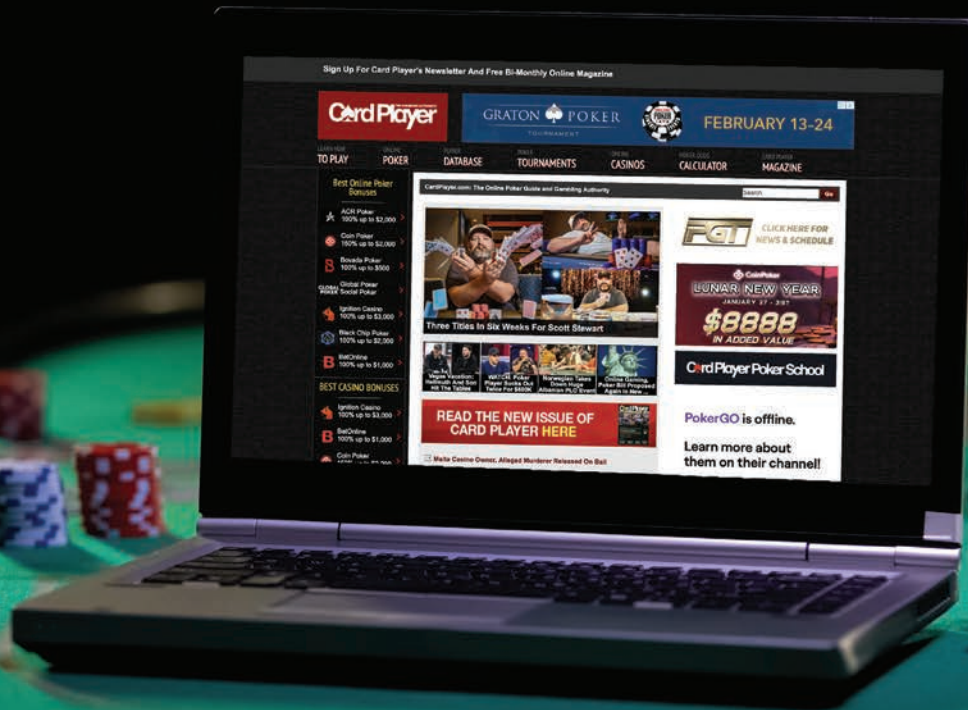
Erik Rozhynskyi



© WPT

Event	Player	Payout
WPT NagaWorld Phnom Penh, Cambodia \$3,000 NLH KO Feb. 13-14 Entries: 177 Prizepool: \$472,148	1 Erik Rozhynskyi	\$76,000 (468)
	2 Aaron Lim	\$51,000 (390)
	3 Kevin Ewald	\$30,000 (312)
	4 Yiannis Liperis	\$19,500 (234)
	5 Ngoc Le	\$14,500 (195)
	6 Petar Manic	\$12,000 (156)
	7 Remy Murcia	\$10,517 (117)
	8 Thomas Boivin	\$9,130 (78)
	9 Artem Vezhenkov	\$7,750 (39)

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WOMEN'S ALL-TIME MONEY LIST (TOURNAMENT EARNINGS)



Rank	Player	Wins	Cashes	Prize Money
1	Kristen Foxen	15	251	\$11,077,811
2	Vanessa Selbst	14	88	\$10,899,027
3	Kathy Liebert	24	514	\$7,129,540
4	Liv Boeree	4	96	\$6,501,275
5	Maria Ho	5	201	\$4,735,229
6	Sosia Jiang	1	41	\$4,524,101
7	Joanne 'J.J.' Liu	30	389	\$4,030,662
8	Loni Hui	12	236	\$3,948,591
9	Maria Lampropulos	5	136	\$3,635,302
10	Annette Obrestad	13	100	\$3,633,693

With her win in the \$15,000 buy-in event at the *PokerGO Cup* for \$348,300, **Kristen Foxen** not only surpassed \$11 million in career earnings, but she also overtook the top spot on the women's all-time money list.

The score was the fourth-biggest payday of the 38-year-old Canadian poker pro's career. Foxen's largest cash came last year when she placed 13th in the largest *World Series of Poker* main event ever held to earn \$600,000. The five-time bracelet winner has 251 recorded in-the-money finishes overall, including 29 six-figure scores. Foxen now sits in 140th place on the overall all-time money list.

Vanessa Selbst slipped to second on this leaderboard as a result of Foxen's latest victory. Such was her dominance in the early 2010s high roller circuit that she had maintained her place atop this list for years despite officially retiring as a pro back in 2018.

Selbst has \$10.9 million in career scores, including three bracelet wins and two seven-figure triumphs. The 40-year-old's biggest score saw her best a field of 764 entries in the 2010 *Partouche Poker Tour* main event for more than \$1.8 million. (The Yale Law graduate also took down a \$1 million winner-take-all made-for-TV invitational event which doesn't count for this list.)

Kathy Liebert sits in third place on this list with more than \$7.1 million in lifetime cashes. The 57-year-old bracelet winner has 514

recorded in-the-money finishes, including a win in the first-ever *Party Poker Million* back in 2002. It was the first of only four limit hold'em tournaments in history with a \$1 million or more first-place prize. (Berj Kacherian finished second for \$93,600!) Liebert also has six *World Poker Tour* final tables.

British poker pro turned podcast host **Liv Boeree** is the only other female player to surpass \$5 million in recorded earnings. The bracelet winner and 2010 *European Poker Tour San Remo* champion recently finished fourth in the *WSOP Paradise* super main event for \$2,800,000, which set a new record as the highest tournament payout ever earned by a woman. Before that score, that honor belonged to Wenling Gao, who banked \$2,748,605 as the runner-up in the 2020 *WSOP Online* main event.

Rounding out the top five is **Maria Ho** with \$4,735,229. A big chunk of Ho's tournament success has come at the *WSOP*, with more than half of her 201 career cashes coming in bracelet events.

She has two podium finishes among those scores, including a third-place showing in the 2023 *WSOP Paradise* mystery millions for \$200,000 and a runner-up finish in a 2011 \$5,000 no-limit hold'em for \$540,020. She also took down the \$25,000 high roller at the 2019 L.A. Poker Classic for another \$276,690. Ho has also been the last woman standing in the *WSOP* main event three different times (2007, 2014, and 2020). ♠

2025 Card Player Player of the Year

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Rank	Player	Points	Titles	Final Tables	Earnings
1	Joey Weissman	2,477	1	7	\$1,053,700
2	Cody Stanford	1,887	4	5	\$417,170
3	Brandon Wilson	1,750	2	4	\$936,800
4	Spencer Champlin	1,728	1	2	\$582,500
5	Ryan Hogan	1,720	0	3	\$406,270
6	Shannon Shorr	1,700	2	3	\$752,500
7	Kristen Foxen	1,666	2	3	\$733,475
8	Michael Moncek	1,524	1	3	\$483,750
9	Anthony Scarborough	1,520	1	2	\$223,135
10	Ryan Leng	1,500	1	3	\$128,209
11	Michael Berk	1,450	1	4	\$598,860
12	Martins Adeniyi	1,440	1	1	\$512,600
13	Nick Schulman	1,412	1	4	\$513,900
14	Joao Simao	1,390	0	3	\$517,125
15	Eric Blair	1,380	2	3	\$660,700
16	Umberto Ruggeri	1,368	1	1	\$377,500
16	Joseph Neiman	1,368	1	1	\$406,791
18	Nguyen Le	1,340	0	2	\$480,500
19	Umut Ozturk	1,320	0	2	\$203,032
20	Patrick Leonard	1,307	1	5	\$435,950
21	Zachary Fischer	1,290	1	5	\$111,777
22	Justin Tsui	1,240	1	2	\$287,109
23	Raminder Singh	1,200	0	3	\$144,116
24	Clemen Deng	1,192	0	2	\$440,382
25	Tom Vogelsang	1,188	1	2	\$413,870
26	Landon Tice	1,145	1	3	\$287,213
27	Mihai Niste	1,140	0	1	\$251,000
28	Timothy Thorp	1,110	1	2	\$245,501
29	Manish Ralh	1,080	1	1	\$215,711
29	William Oertling	1,080	1	1	\$216,888

FINAL TABLE TAKEDOWN: DISCIPLINE AND HERO CALLS WITH KASEY LYN MILLS

By Craig Tapscott



Dallas-based poker pro Kasey Lyn Mills has burst onto the tournament scene, picking up three *World Series of Poker Circuit* rings at Choctaw Casino in Durant, Oklahoma in the span of just one year.

The *WSOP Circuit* regular has nine final tables on the tour overall, plus a deep run in the inaugural *World Poker Tour Voyage Championship*.

Card Player recently caught up with the Poker Now ambassador and commentator to break down a couple key hands from her latest victory.

Hand No. 1: Embracing Discipline Under Pressure
Players Remaining: 17

Craig Tapscott: Can you talk about your latest *WSOP Circuit* win, which came in a \$400 six-max no-limit event?

Kasey Lyn Mills: With the field dwindling from 45 players to just a few, I felt confident—until the dynamics shifted. As the final two tables merged, I hit a cold streak that tested both my discipline and resolve.

Up until this point, I had accumulated chips throughout the tournament with little resistance. My aggressive strategy worked well until about two tables left in the tournament. That's when I encountered the first real pushback. With the blinds going up, I suddenly faced a series of three-bet jams from competent opponents who weren't afraid to counter my aggression.

CT: Please give us a few examples.

KLM: Within two orbits, while holding a comfortable chip lead, I had opened K-Q offsuit, A-7 suited, and A-10 offsuit in standard spots. My opponents responded with a three-bet jam each time for 21, 15, and 22 big blinds, respectively.

© Eric Builer



Calling would have jeopardized a significant portion of my stack. Some players might be worried they are getting picked on or think they will be perceived as weak, but it is important to continue playing the solid, aggressive strategy that got you there.

My strategy paid off, and I was able to battle down to a heads-up battle with a small chip disadvantage of 1,200,000 to 1,800,000.

Sometimes, the most important hand is the one you don't play.

CT: Agreed. What were a few of the hard lessons you learned before recognizing that it's sometimes best to wait for a better spot?

KLM: Since I come from a cash game background, I've had to learn some tough lessons about stack preservation, especially when it comes to the [late stages of tournaments].

The very thing that can consistently get you a big stack will also send you to the rail if you can't shift gears. I've had several bustouts where I had built a great stack and made one big mistake by either overplaying a hand or not over folding a hand in a spot where my opponent is not capable of a big bluff deep in a tournament.

This comes down to understanding the shifting dynamics of tournament poker, and it takes experience to learn. Many players think ICM (Independent Chip Model) is only important on bubbles and final tables. It is actually important much earlier in the tournament, and you must be cautious when you decide to put chips in the middle.

CT: What were the ICM implications given you came in as the big stack?

KLM: ICM is used to estimate a player's tournament equity (expected value in real money) based on their stack size relative to others. It becomes especially crucial in final table or bubble situations, where chip values are not linear — meaning that having twice as many chips does not mean you have twice as much equity due to payout structures.

The simplest example I would like to give is that in Chip

EV (cash game poker), you would take a 51 percent edge all day and make a living on it, but in tournament poker, you will likely need a higher edge to make the risk worth it as chips gained are not as valuable as chips lost. It is important to understand risk premium to know how much equity you need for the breakeven threshold.

As the big stack you want to adjust to increase aggression against medium stacks. Medium stacks feel trapped by ICM, as they don't want to risk busting before the short stacks. You can frequently three-bet light and steal pots without having to show strong hands.

You also want to be selective in calling all-ins. Even if you have a solid hand, calling off against another big stack can be risky. Losing a huge pot can drop you from the dominant position to a middling stack, hurting your final payout potential.

Make sure to pressure short stacks wisely. Short stacks often wait for a pay jump and fold more often, however, don't overextend against a short stack when they shove, as their range will likely be stronger than usual.

It is also important to stay fluid as we can easily go from chip leader to medium or short stack. Adjusting logically instead of emotionally on the fly will help you ride the waves of tournament poker.

Hand No. 2: A Heads-Up Hero Call Players Remaining: 2

CT: You had a slight disadvantage heads-up, but were still sitting on nearly 50 big blinds.

KLM: In this deep-stacked heads-up match, I had been mostly opening on the button. I had a good feel for my opponent and closed his chip lead to almost even stacks for the big hand that would propel me to victory.

I wanted to play lots of hands from the button, and even though I had primarily been raising, I decided to limp in this hand.



Mills limped from the button holding 8♣ 5♦, and the Villain checked.

CT: What kind of read did you have on the Villain at the final table?

KLM: Having played with this opponent for a while, I had a solid read on his tendencies. I believed he had very few traps in his range, and I could discount most A-X hands, pocket pairs, and some K-X holdings.

Flop: A♠ 8♦ 3♠

Villain checked.

KLM: My opponent checked, and given my read and the board texture, I opted to check back with middle pair.

Turn: 7♥

Villain checked.

KLM: My opponent checked again, and now I decided to go for value as I figured I was always ahead and could get value from worse pairs and draws.

Mills bet 80,000, and Villain raised to 320,000.

CT: What did you make of this raise?

KLM: I took some time to think. Given my earlier assumption about his range, I felt he still had very little aces and other traps. For these reasons and based on how he played thus far, I did not think his line made much sense. From my experience, this tends to weigh more towards bluffs, so I decided to make the call.

Mills called.

River: 2♣

Villain bet 450,000.

KLM: Without hesitation, he quickly led for 450,000,

which was most of my remaining stack. At this moment, I had to put the entire hand together.

I had already discounted most of his A-x holdings. I blocked straights with my five. The flush draw missed, which meant my lack of a spade in hand didn't block his potential bluffs.

Given my turn call and how the board ran out, I believed even his strong value hands wouldn't always want to bet big here on the river.

Considering all these factors, I concluded he was too weighted toward bluffs. Still, making this call with just a weak pair of eights for most of my stack was daunting. If I was wrong, I'd be left with only 10 big blinds.

Mills called. Villain said they had queen high and mucked. Mills won the 1,800,000 pot.

KLM: In the end, I decided to go with my read and flicked in the call. My opponent barely whispered, "queen high." I tabled my hand, scooped the huge pot, and the momentum was unstoppable from there. A few hands later I felt him.

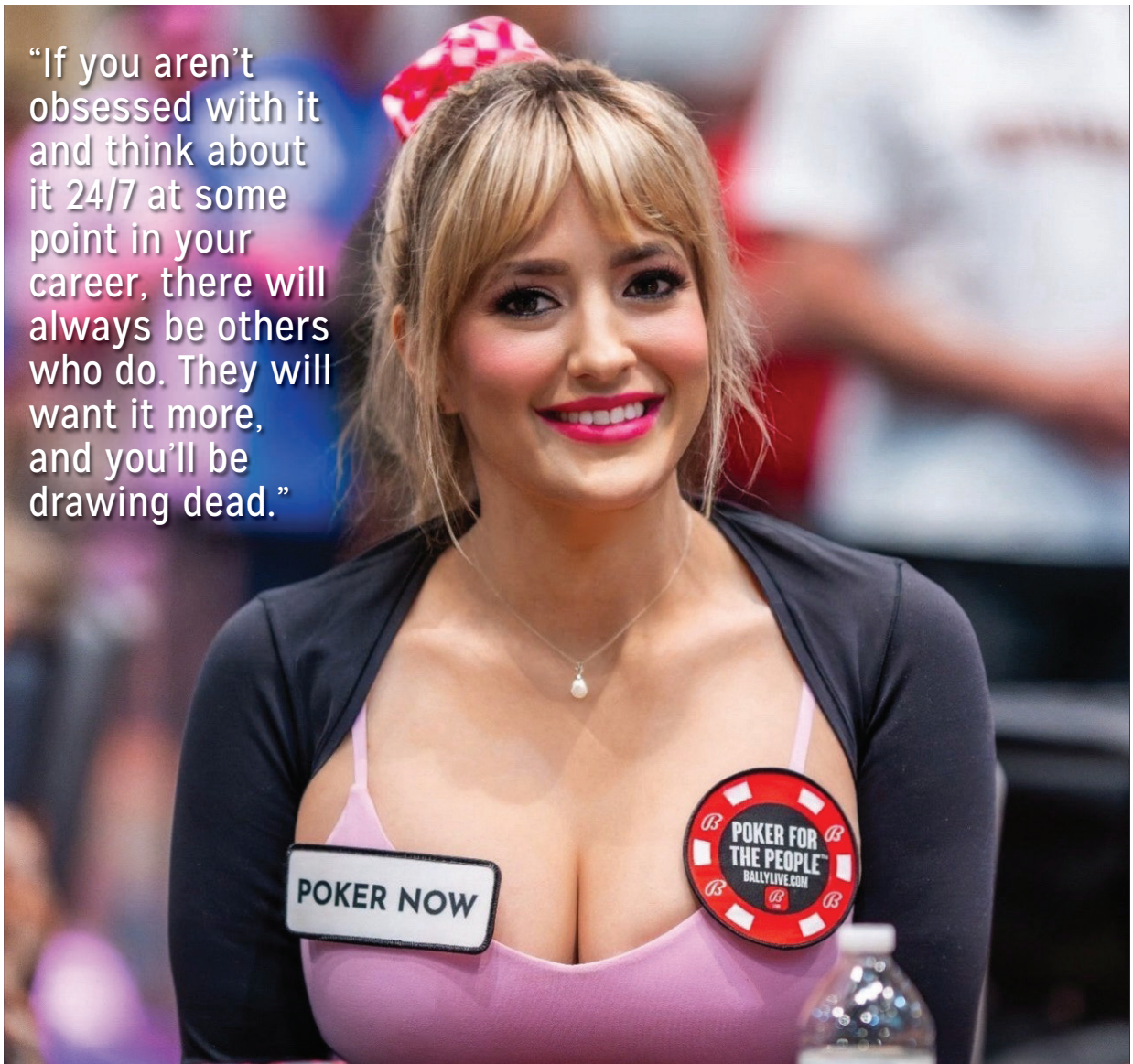
CT: Great call. That had to feel great!

KLM: Thanks. Ultimately, my tournament victory wasn't defined by one spectacular hand but by a series of disciplined decisions—the folds when the odds were against me and a calculated hero call when the moment demanded it.

CT: Your game has grown tremendously over the last few years, and the results show your hard work.

KLM: When it comes to improving at poker, I think the most important factor is that you have to love the game. If you aren't obsessed with it and think about it 24/7 at some

“If you aren’t obsessed with it and think about it 24/7 at some point in your career, there will always be others who do. They will want it more, and you’ll be drawing dead.”



point in your career, there will always be others who do. They will want it more, and you’ll be drawing dead.

Talking about the game with other strong players is probably the best way to improve, as you can get ideas about the game, and they can point out flaws in your logic that you may not otherwise recognize.

Many players only talk about the big pots they play when doing hand reviews, but it is usually the small, common spots that cause the biggest hits to your win rate. You likely do something every day that you don’t realize is a flawed way of thinking.

CT: What do you notice when watching players at the table?

KLM: This is another aspect of live poker that many people do not value highly enough, including many top online players. Most players stay on their phones too often and miss a lot of crucial information. Tournaments can be long days, and we are all guilty of going on our phones and checking out mentally, but the more you can stay present, the more information you can pick up.

Some simple examples will be if you see players yet to act behind you, showing their action ahead of time, such as

getting their cards ready to fold. If you are in the cutoff and see the button about to fold, you can now consider raising a wider range.

Some specific things I will be on the lookout for are eye movements and reactions. Do they flinch when looking at the board when the turn gets revealed? Do they look away, blank stare, look at their chip stack? It is important to get a baseline for each player and add that to our bank for strategic decision-making.

I also consider breathing and pulse tells along with other body language. There are dozens of clues the body wants to give away, and many players aren’t aware that they need to do a better job concealing them.

It is also important not to be overconfident with a single read as different tells can mean different things depending on the player. I like to get a baseline with showdown evidence to confirm my reads and will continue to adjust them as new evidence presents itself.

Kasey Lyn Mills is available as a host for events, poker commentating, and marketing/brand promotion at AboveTheFelt.com. Find her on Twitter/X and Instagram @PokerMammaa. ♠

FAILING TO FOLD ACES

By Jonathan Little

Deep in a \$1,500 buy-in tournament, blinds at 6,000-12,000, everyone folded to the hijack, a generally straightforward recreational player, who raised to 28,000 out of his 800,000 stack. I was sitting with 900,000 and looked down at the beautiful $A\heartsuit A\clubsuit$ in the cutoff.

While I would almost always three-bet with aces in this spot, both the button and small blind were quite aggressive. They made it clear that they were going to either win the tournament or go broke trying. Due to their maniacal tendencies, calling became a viable option. If one of them happened to three-bet, I would likely just call, opting to give them a chance to bluff off their stack post-flop.

I called, as did the small blind and big blind. That is not ideal!

The flop came $K\spadesuit 6\diamondsuit 5\heartsuit$. The blinds checked to the hijack, who bet 75,000 into the 128,000 pot.

Both calling and raising have merit. Calling keeps my range wide while also keeping all my opponents in with their marginal made hands and semi-bluffs. Raising forces the junky semi-bluffs to fold, as well as marginal made hands that are drawing thin.

While raising to perhaps 175,000 may be best, calling sidesteps the rare situation where one of the blinds raises and the hijack continues (in which case I would make a disciplined fold).

I called and the blinds folded. The turn was the $2\heartsuit$ and my opponent bet 225,000 into the 275,000 pot.

As on the flop, both raising and calling are viable options. The main problem with raising is that it may force the opponent to make a big fold with top pair. The main problem with calling is that it allows my opponent to see the river with his draws (if there are any in his range).

In general, I tend to call when playing against someone who may think K-Q or K-J is good if I call but will fold if I raise (which occasionally is the case deep in a tournament).

I called. The river was the $9\spadesuit$. My opponent went all-in for 472,000 into the 728,000 pot.

At this point, I was unsure if my opponent would go all-in with K-Q and K-J, as well as if he would bluff with his busted flush draws. He may just be a tight, straightforward player who is only betting K-K, 6-6, 5-5, and A-K for value. If that is the case, he has nine combinations of sets and six combinations of A-K, allowing me to call due to the pot odds.

I have the best hand $6/15 = 40\%$ of the time but I only need to win $472/(472+472+728) = 28\%$ (not accounting for the payout implications) to profit.

However, if he does not bet with A-K, then clearly, I have an easy fold. If he has any bluffs at all (such as busted flush draws), my call becomes mandatory. However, he may also have some combinations of 8-7 suited in his range, adding to his nut hand combinations.

This is a dicey spot, but my read at the time was that my opponent would not bluff enough and would also not



overvalue top pair. So, I should fold. Instead, my good pot odds as well as the fact that my hand was drastically under-represented controlled my action.

I called and lost to $K\diamondsuit K\clubsuit$, for top set.

While I was destined to double up my opponent if I played this hand in any other way, the exact way I played it actually gave me the chance to make an epic laydown, but I failed to do so. What a bummer!

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- Free Course: The 25 Biggest Leaks And How To Fix Them ♠



Jonathan Little is a two-time WPT winner and the 2024 PokerGO Cup champion with nearly \$9 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.



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Ranges: The Right Play May Show Itself

By Mark Mazmanian

I recently played in a good \$20-\$40 Omaha eight-or-better game at the Wynn, which also included a half kill. (If a player scoops, the next hand is played at \$30-\$60 and the winner would post an additional blind known as the kill. The kill has last action preflop unless they're directly facing a raise.)

In this particular hand, I was in the cutoff and the kill was posted in the hijack. The small blind and blind remained at \$10 and \$20 respectively, but it would cost \$30 to call. I peeled my cards dealt and looked at a playable but speculative holding of $A\clubsuit 9\heartsuit 8\heartsuit 3\spadesuit$.

A loose player limped in in middle position in front of the kill, and I contemplated my options. The advantage to raising would be to put pressure on the blinds to prevent them from entering, and would also

increase the existing pot size in a spot where between the random dealt kill and passive limper, I figured to be overall ahead.

On the downside, it would limit the range of hands I could have. I would have a wider combination of almost any four playable cards (examples including everything from 10-5-4-2, K-Q-J-9, and weak A-2 and A-3 combinations.)

If I did choose to raise, the hand I actually held would be closer to the bottom of my range in this spot as it didn't have particularly strong high potential and only had A-3-8 going towards the low. This would mean that I am behind any A-2, and I also lack backup protection in the event of pairing the ace or the three. All things considered, I elected to limp in.

The small blind was a longtime pro who regularly plays in games

ranging from \$20-\$40 to \$80-\$160. He generally leans towards aggressive tendencies and lines in the hands he plays, and this was no exception as he came in for a raise.

At this point, I was glad I chose to limp since it exposed the power of his hand by letting him raise, and I would not have liked the position I would have been in if I raised my weaker holding and allowed him to three-bet which could potentially have forced folds from the big blind, kill, and maybe even the limper.

As played, the loose, splashy player in the big blind called, the limper called, the kill folded, and we took the flop four ways with two bets and the dead kill, a pot totaling \$270.

The flop came Q-9-5 with two spades. The small blind fired \$30, the big blind folded, and the limper called. Now I had a choice to call and



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peel, or fold.

Given I had a pair and a backdoor low draw, and the current pot was \$330 with a \$30 bet laying me 11:1, my predisposition was to calling and taking a card off.

Additionally, I attempted an assessment of every player's range in this spot. Since the small blind raised multiway out of position, I figured him to have a very strong preflop hand with a range generally consisting of A-2-3-x, A-2-wheel, A-2-wheel-paint, A-A-x-x, and other such combinations.

Given the flop texture, I figured his hand generally missed this board, and that his most likely connection to this specific flop would be if he now has a spade draw. Obviously, he could have a holding like A-2-Q-Q or A♠ J♠ 10x 2x that hit the flop rather hard, but I thought that would be the minority of his possible holdings.

The limper figured to have a mixed bag range containing some low card and high card combinations, and I also determined from his flop call that he didn't think his hand warranted a raise while facing a bet from a player that most likely missed the

flop. So I pegged his range as light as well.

All things considered, I put in the call and the pot was now \$360.

Turn came a red 10 and the small blind bet \$60. As he bet, the limper looked slightly displeased and took a moment before he mucked his hand. The most likely holding my opponent could have that still has a piece of this board would be a spade draw, and if I was going to have a reasonable chance of winning this pot I would have to represent a turned straight and raise now.

I would also have to follow through with a bet on any non-spade river if I took this line since his most likely range is very likely to fold to a river bet when missed, and he would also often hold one or maybe two pair combinations which would beat me at showdown.

Executing the two-street play would require a raise to \$120 here and a potential \$60 bet on the river, so the total I could be risking would be \$180. The pot was at \$420 and laying me about 2.33:1 odds on the move, so it would need to be successful only around 31% of the time to

turn a profit.

I announced raise and put in the two bets, and my opponent thought for about five seconds before folding his hand. I instantly felt good about the line I took and my read on the situation, and tried to assess what his most likely holding actually was.

My best guess was A-A possibly with the naked A♠ which he figured would be worth betting but did not have enough strength to compete against my raise, and thus wasn't worth seeing a river. By reading the range and situation appropriately, it allowed me to steal a pot which my hand had no business winning on pure strength. These spots come up from time to time in eight-or-better if we pay attention when hand ranges make them available.♠



Mark Mazmanian has been a mixed-game specialist for more than two decades playing in games all over the country. The Las Vegas resident can be

reached on IG at [maztastic](https://www.instagram.com/maztastic/) or by email at markmaz17@hotmail.com.

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Card Player Poker Tour Venetian
\$1,600 No-Limit Hold'em



Victor Shih
5,980,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 79%
After Flop: 97%
After Turn: 82%



Ryan Laplante
1,810,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 18%
After Flop: 3%
After Turn: 18%

PREFLOP

With six players remaining and blinds of 40,000-80,000 with a big blind ante of 80,000, Victor Shih raised to 160,000 from under the gun. Ryan Laplante called from the big blind.

FLOP



Laplante checked, and Shih bet 90,000. Laplante called.

TURN



Laplante bet 160,000, and Shih called.

RIVER



Laplante bet 200,000, and Shih called.

COMMENTARY:

Ryan Laplante entered the final table of the 2025 Card Player Poker Tour Venetian main event in third chip position, but got off to a fast start to challenge for the lead. The *World Series of Poker* bracelet winner's surge began with then-chip leader Victor Shih raising with pocket fives as the first to act preflop. Laplante defended his big blind with another small pocket pair and the duo saw a king-high rainbow flop. Laplante checked to Shih, who made a small continuation bet of just over a single big blind after having improved to middle set. Laplante came along with his threes, which could still plausibly be best, as Shih should be continuation betting with plenty of unimproved high-card holdings. The turn brought a four to give Laplante a sneaky open-ended straight draw. He opted to lead small and Shih just called with his set of fives. The river brought the A♠, completing Laplante's wheel. If Shih had been pot-controlling with top pair or a pocket pair below the king on the flop, he'd likely be inclined to check back were Laplante to knuckle it over to him. Perhaps with that type of opposition in mind, Laplante fired another smallish blocker-bet sizing, wagering 200,000 into the pot of 940,000. After just a brief moment of consideration, Shih made the call and was shown the best hand. Shih remained in a virtual tie for the lead after the hand, while Laplante put some crucial distance between himself and the short stacks. He soon knocked out the shortest among them, Paul Lozano Martin, to further chip up while narrowing the field to five. That momentum came to an abrupt halt when Laplante's pocket queens were cracked by the A-J of Cody Wiegmann in a crucial preflop clash.

NOTE: WINNING PERCENTAGES DO NOT INCLUDE TIES. ODDS PROVIDED BY [CARDPLAYER.COM/POKER-TOOLS/ODDS-CALCULATOR/TEXAS-HOLD'EM](https://www.cardplayer.com/poker-tools/odds-calculator/texas-holdem)

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THE EASY FIX FOR POKER'S ULTIMATE ENDURANCE TEST

By Julio Rodriguez

Tournament officials were undoubtedly eager to release the schedule for the 56th annual *World Series of Poker* (pg. 30), and players were just as eager to receive it, excited to make their plans for the summer festival.

Then Phil Hellmuth went and threw a wet blanket over the entire thing.

Hellmuth has his reasons, and even makes some valid arguments (pg. 12), but it's not a good look for the bracelet GOAT to tell an already-aging poker population that not only are senior players dead money in the main event, but so is an old Hall of Famer.

"12-hour days, or longer, for six to seven days in a row is brutal and disproportionately affects older players," Hellmuth pointed out.

"It's still my favorite event in the world, don't misunderstand me. I don't want to miss it. But I know that I can't do [it]. I'm 60 years old. I don't think I could have done it at age 50."

Although it's not as dramatic as threatening to burn down a building, it is a surprise move for someone who has built his poker identity around the *WSOP* brand and even historically late and over-the-top main event entrances.

"We try to make decisions in the collective best interests of the entire field," *WSOP* Executive Director Ty Stewart said to Poker.org. "Recreational players are a huge part of the main event, and many have practical considerations like vacation



TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Card Player Poker Tour Venetian
\$1,600 No-Limit Hold'em



Cody Wiegmann
2,330,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 67%
After Flop: 11%
After Turn: 91%



Dan Stavila
5,645,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 32%
After Flop: 89%
After Turn: 9%



PREFLOP

With five players remaining and blinds of 50,000-100,000 with a big blind ante of 100,000, Cody Wiegmann raised to 225,000 from under the gun. Dan Stavila called from the big blind.



Stavila checked, and Wiegmann bet 150,000. Stavila called.



Stavila bet 180,000. Wiegmann raised to 540,000, and Stavila called. Stavila folded.



Stavila checked, and Wiegmann bet 1,100,000.

COMMENTARY:

This final table featured several big showdowns between Dan Stavila and Cody Wiegmann, who eventually squared off heads-up for the title. This early clash took place while the event was still five-handed. Wiegmann kicked off the action with a raise with pocket eights from UTG, which forced folds around to Stavila in the big blind. He called with Q-4 suited and flopped top pair to take the lead. He opted to check to the preflop aggressor and Wiegmann fired a c-bet of 1.5 big blinds. Stavila check-called his top pair with the likely aim of under-representing his hand while controlling the size of the pot. The turn saw Wiegmann spike a set of eights. Stavila broke from the previous flow of play, leading for a small 20-percent pot bet. Wiegmann raised for value, making it 3x Stavila's initial sizing. Stavila likely wasn't too concerned about Wiegmann having made a straight with 9-6, as he had raised from UTG preflop. Two pair also seemed unlikely given the preflop action, and Stavila held a key blocker to top set. That left the middle sets as the most likely value candidates for Wiegmann, who might just call this turn lead with any overpairs and strong top pairs like A-Q. Wiegmann could also be bluffing, of course. Perhaps with something like A-K. Stavila made the call and the river brought the 10♥. Stavila checked and Wiegmann went for a value bet of 55 percent pot on the end. Stavila mulled over his options for a while before finding the fold with his weaker top pair, preserving nearly a quarter of his remaining chips with the laydown.

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days, time away from family and cost of travel.”

WSOP staff were reportedly made aware of Hellmuth’s decision back in December, informing them during the *WSOP Paradise* festival in the Bahamas about his intention to skip the tournament.

“We’ve been unwilling to compromise on the value and traditions of the event with 120-minute levels and an ultra-deep structure,” Stewart continued. “We feel playing five levels per day with the opportunity for multiple days off is a happy medium for a tournament that’s already 15 days.”

Hellmuth’s decision to sit out triggered a public relations crisis big enough to warrant a one-hour phone call from Daniel Negreanu, who is a former board member of the Players Advisory Council and is an ambassador for new owner and online poker site GGPoker.

The 50-year-old ‘Kid Poker’ commiserated with Hellmuth, but disagreed that changes should be made.

“The *WSOP* main event is special because of its long-standing consistency as a \$10,000 buy-in, a freezeout, and with two-hour levels. All three of those things have been in place for over 50 years now.”

Age Is Just A Number, And So Is 10,112

The first ever *WSOP* in 1970 was determined by a vote. Poker lore says that everyone voted for themselves, and then reluctantly agreed on Johnny Moss the second time around. That may have been the last time that the *WSOP* winner accurately determined the best player in the world, although arguments could be made for Doyle Brunson and Stu Ungar.

“I don’t think that the *World Series of Poker* main event is measuring skill [anymore],” Hellmuth reasons.

He is both right and wrong. We would all agree that the

main event winner is never the best player in the world, but there’s no denying that the cream always rises to the top.

It just has to. The structure is too deep for the vast majority of amateur players to survive. Hellmuth says that older players have trouble avoiding a big blow up, but that’s also the case with recreational players. When the blind levels are long, there are more opportunities for mistakes.

A faster structure would only increase variance and make it easier for amateurs to win. But if you try telling a bucket-list main event player that it’s in their best interest to speed things up, or even register late, they’ll tell you to get bent. Dead money didn’t go all the way to Las Vegas to spew \$10,000 in a few hands. They want more play - every second of those two-hour levels.

So, if the levels aren’t changing, how about the buy-in? Those with an inflation calculator are quick to point out that back in 1970, \$10,000 was worth about \$82,000 in today’s dollars. (No wonder there were only seven players!)

The reverse is also true. This year’s schedule includes a \$300 buy-in event. That same \$300 would be worth just \$36 in 1970. Can you imagine them handing out a bracelet to someone who won a \$36 tournament?

Raising the buy-in would definitely reduce the number of players and shorten the event, but it would be a different tournament, a main event in name only. Also, there are plenty of high rollers already on the 2025 schedule, including a buy-in of \$250,000.

The biggest culprit for the main event’s now two-week duration is starting stacks. Back in the day, players got dollar for dollar on their buy-ins. For a \$10,000 entry, you got 10,000 in starting chips. During the poker boom the stacks doubled, and

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Card Player Poker Tour Venetian \$1,600 No-Limit Hold’em



Dan Stavila
5,400,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 43%



Cody Wiegmann
6,075,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 56%



PREFLOP

With four players remaining and blinds of 60,000-120,000 with a big blind ante of 120,000, Dan Stavila raised to 240,000 from the cutoff. Cody Wiegmann three-bet to 660,000 from the button. Stavila four-bet to 1,240,000, and Wiegmann folded.

COMMENTARY:

This hand took place with four players remaining. Ryan Laplante was the clear short stack at just shy of 10 big blinds, while the other three contenders all sat with at least 40 big blinds. This stack dynamic likely played a big factor in the decision making of the two chip leaders, who squared off in a preflop cutoff-vs-button raising war in this pot. Stavila opened the action with a min-raise off of a 47-big blind stack holding K-8 suited. Wiegmann, who was top dog at the time with 51 big blinds, looked down at A-5 and cut out a three bet, opting for a 2.75x sizing. Stavila is likely to open fairly wide from his position with the short stack in the small blind and the ICM-handcuffed middle stack in the big blind. Wiegmann might have thought that Stavila could be hesitant to get involved in a big pot without a strong holding given how short Laplante was. Stavila seemed to suss that potential line of thinking out, though. He responded to Wiegmann’s aggression with an even smaller (1.9x) four bet. “I would be curious to know what Wiegmann thinks of the timing there, because it was a pretty quick four bet, and we’ve seen some longer, drawn-out thought processes from Stavila,” said *Venetian Poker Live* commentator Donnie Peters. “Does he read into this as, ‘He just kind of decided that he’s snap four-betting me, given the dynamics of the situation, with kind of anything,’ or is he just so strong that he is four-betting fast?” Wiegmann did seem dubious of the move, but after a minute or so in the tank, opted to fold and move on to the next hand. Both players remained inside the top two after this mini game of chicken. Laplante bowed out less than half an hour later, finishing fourth for \$64,499.

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then tripled.

Today, players start the tournament with 60,000. That resulted in more than 600 million in play for last year's record-setting field of 10,112. Is it any surprise the tournament lasted 15 days?

You could cut the starting stacks back to 50,000, which would theoretically reduce the tournament length by an average of about 17%. That would shave off two entire days, or allow for shorter playing sessions overall, but good luck going backward with the players. (In fact, there have been some calling for 100,000 stacks in the main event which would push the tournament to three weeks!)

The Fix

Since neither side seems willing to budge, I offer a solution inspired by the late 'Miami' John Cernuto, who personified the tournament ironman (pg. 16), but who like Doyle Brunson also found it difficult to play in the main event during his later years.

"I can't go 10 days," Cernuto admitted back in 2022. "But it's not the 10 days that kills me. It's the 40 days prior."

In 2003, there were 36 events. That number has tripled to 100 live events and more to be announced online.

There's no sign that the WSOP is willing to reduce the amount of tournaments they are offering any time soon, so why not just move the main event to the beginning of the series?

It seems like a win for everyone involved. Those who are main event purists still get their two-week tournament, while those who are concerned about their endurance get to rest up during the month of May to prepare for battle.

How much nicer would it be to celebrate the eventual main event winner sometime in the middle of the series when everyone is still in town and in a (relatively) good mood? It would

also take the sting out of busting the main event, knowing that there were still four to five more weeks of bracelet opportunities left to go.

Another Record?

The WSOP main event has broken records for entries the last three years, but will Hellmuth's declaration break the streak? It's no secret that the poker population is aging, and there are undoubtedly some players who will take his comments to heart and decide the tournament isn't for them anymore either.

However, the jury is still out on whether Hellmuth will even stick with his own plan. Some have even begun to place side bets on if the 17-time bracelet winner will relent and show up for a last-minute grand entrance.

Regardless of what the senior population decides to do, I believe we are headed for a slight decline in the main event. Numerous reports have indicated that some international travelers are more likely to avoid the U.S. during the Trump administration due to tariffs, boycotts, and increased scrutiny at the border for those from certain countries. Although the U.S. economy is expected to continue to grow, how inflation affects the poker community is yet to be determined.

I don't think the 2025 champion will care much, though. \$10 million is still a nice payday whether you beat a record field or just a really, really big one, especially if you still have your whole life ahead of you to spend it. ♠



Julio Rodriguez is the Publisher and Editor-In-Chief for Card Player Media, having started with the company as a live tournament reporter at the 2006 WSOP. Originally from Miami, Florida, he now lives in Las Vegas with his wife and daughter.

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Card Player Poker Tour Venetian
\$1,600 No-Limit Hold'em



Dan Stavila
9,250,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 57%
After Flop: 75%
After Turn: 86%



Cody Wiegmann
4,175,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 43%
After Flop: 22%
After Turn: 14%

PREFLOP

With three players remaining and blinds of 100,000-200,000 with a big blind ante of 200,000, Dan Stavila raised to 600,000 from the small blind. Cody Wiegmann called from the big blind.

FLOP



Stavila checked, and Wiegmann bet 350,000. Stavila called.

TURN



Stavila checked, and Wiegmann bet 700,000. Stavila called.

RIVER



Stavila checked. Wiegmann moved all in for 2,300,000, and Stavila folded.

COMMENTARY:

While Dan Stavila came out on top in a war of aggression (pg. 57), this hand saw Cody Wiegmann unleash a multi-street assault that escalated to the point of a bluff shove on the river. Stavila raised from the small blind with Q-4 suited, going with a 3x sizing. Wiegmann came along with J-10 from the big blind and whiffed the flop completely. Stavila flopped bottom pair with backdoor flush possibilities and opted to check from out of position. Wiegmann seized the opening and fired an initial bluff of 1.75 big blinds. Stavila check-called and the turn paired the middle card from the flop while putting two hearts on board. Stavila checked a second time and Wiegmann's second barrel was of the one-third-pot variety. Stavila made the call and the pot ballooned to 3,500,000 while Wiegmann was left with just 2,300,000. The 9♠ saw another Stavila check. Wiegmann went into the tank for roughly a minute before pushing in his remaining chips to put Stavila to the test. The shove represented nearly a third of Stavila's remaining stack. After two minutes of contemplation, Stavila passed up the hero call opportunity and folded the winner. He had come into the hand with a big chip lead, and while he remained atop the chip counts, Wiegmann was now within nine big blinds. Stavila went on to win this tournament in the end, earning \$167,067 while Wiegmann cashed for \$120,054 as the runner-up.

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



How Old Was Each World Series Of Poker Main Event Champion?

Year	Entries	Player	Age	Year	Entries	Player	Age
1970	7	Johnny Moss	62	1997	312	Stu Ungar	43
1971	6	Johnny Moss	63	1998	350	Scotty Nguyen	35
1972	8	Amarillo Slim Preston	43	1999	393	Noel Furlong	61
1973	13	Puggy Pearson	44	2000	512	Chris Ferguson	37
1974	16	Johnny Moss	66	2001	613	Carlos Mortensen	29
1975	21	Sailor Roberts	44	2002	631	Robert Varkonyi	40
1976	22	Doyle Brunson	42	2003	839	Chris Moneymaker	27
1977	34	Doyle Brunson	43	2004	2,576	Greg Raymer	39
1978	42	Bobby Baldwin	28	2005	5,619	Joe Hachem	39
1979	54	Hal Fowler	52	2006	8,773	Jamie Gold	36
1980	73	Stu Ungar	26	2007	6,358	Jerry Yang	39
1981	75	Stu Ungar	27	2008	6,844	Peter Eastgate	22
1982	104	Jack Straus	51	2009	6,494	Joe Cada	21
1983	108	Tom McEvoy	38	2010	7,319	Jonathan Duhamel	23
1984	132	Jack Keller	41	2011	6,865	Pius Heinz	22
1985	140	Bill Smith	51	2012	6,598	Greg Merson	24
1986	141	Berry Johnston	50	2013	6,352	Ryan Riess	23
1987	152	Johnny Chan	30	2014	6,683	Martin Jacobson	27
1988	167	Johnny Chan	31	2015	6,420	Joe McKeehen	24
1989	178	Phil Hellmuth	24	2016	6,737	Qui Nguyen	39
1990	194	Mansour Matloubi	37	2017	7,221	Scott Blumstein	25
1991	215	Brad Daugherty	39	2018	7,874	John Cynn	33
1992	201	Hamid Dastmalchi	39	2019	8,569	Hossein Ensan	55
1993	231	Jim Bechtel	41	2020	1,379	Damian Salas	45
1994	268	Russ Hamilton	46	2021	6,650	Koray Aldemir	31
1995	273	Dan Harrington	49	2022	8,663	Espen Jorstad	34
1996	295	Huck Seed	27	2023	10,043	Daniel Weinman	35
				2024	10,112	Jonathan Tamayo	38

*Ages from w50p.com

SCHEDULES

FOR COMPLETE TOURNAMENT RESULTS AND LISTINGS, VISIT CARDPLAYER.COM

FEBRUARY	Feb. 17-March 23	Wynn Millions	Wynn ■ Las Vegas, NV
	Feb. 24-March 30	DeepStack Showdown	Venetian Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
MARCH	March 13-24	WSOP Circuit - New York	Turning Stone Casino & Resort ■ Verona, NY
	March 19-April 8	WPT Seminole Hard Rock Poker Showdown	Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ■ Hollywood, FL
	March 20-31	WSOP Circuit - Las Vegas	Horseshoe Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	March 22	St. AC Tournament	bestbet ■ St. Augustine, FL
	March 25-April 5	PGT PLO Series	Aria PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
APRIL	March 31-May 18	DeepStack Extravaganza II	Venetian Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	April 2-13	Seven Clans Spring Poker Series	Coushatta Casino & Resort ■ Kinder, LA
	April 3-13	Spring Poker Round Up	Wildhorse Resort Casino ■ Pendleton, OR
	April 3-14	WSOP Circuit - Illinois	Grand Victoria Casino ■ Elgin, IL
	April 7-13	San Diego Spring Classic	Ocean's Eleven Casino ■ Oceanside, CA
	April 8-17	U.S. Poker Open	Aria PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	April 16-29	PGT Texas Poker Open	Champions Club Texas ■ Houston, TX
	April 16-May 5	WPT Choctaw	Choctaw Casino Resort ■ Durant, OK
	April 17-28	WSOP Circuit - Tunica	Horseshoe Casino & Hotel ■ Robinsonville, MS
	April 24-May 4	Mission Rungood - Florida	bestbet ■ Jacksonville, FL
MAY	May 1-12	WSOP Circuit - North Carolina	Harrah's ■ Cherokee, NC
	May 1-12	Mission Rungood - Bay Area	Graton Resort & Casino ■ Rohnert Park, CA
	May 8-19	WSOP Circuit - Southern Indiana	Caesars ■ Elizaeth, IN
	May 27-July 16	World Series of Poker	Horseshoe Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV

AO-Add On **B**-Bonus **BIG O**-5 Card PLO 8/OB **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

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WEDNESDAY

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7:00 p.m. NLH, \$120 AO \$5 KO \$25

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$95 AO \$5
7:00 p.m. NLH, \$95 AO \$5

FRIDAY

10:00 a.m. NLH, \$123 AO \$7

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

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WEDNESDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

BESTBET - ORANGE PARK

TUESDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$160

SATURDAY

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

7:00 p.m. NLH, \$200

SUNDAY

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

OREGON

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TUESDAY

6:30 p.m. NLH, \$70

THURSDAY

6:30 p.m. NLH, \$70

FRIDAY

6:30 p.m. NLH, \$125

SATURDAY

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Action Card - A card that causes an increase in betting.

Air - A bad hand with little to no value.

Angle (Shooting) - An unethical play used to gain information or an advantage.

Backdoor - A draw needing two streets to complete.

Balance - Playing different hands in the same way so opponents can't read you.

Bankroll - The amount of money you have to play poker with.

Barrel - A continuation bet followed by a bet on the turn and/or river.

Blocker - Holding one of your opponent's outs.

Bluff Catcher - A weak hand that can only beat a bluff.

Bounty - A prize earned for a knockout in a tournament.

Brick - A blank card that is unlikely to have helped.

Broadway - A straight to the ace.

Bubble - The time period right before a tournament reaches the money.

Burn - A card that is removed by the dealer to prevent cheating.

Calling Station - A loose, passive player who rarely folds.

Chip Race - Coloring up the smallest chips in circulation during a tournament.

Chop - A split of the pot.

Coin Flip - A situation where the odds for each player are roughly 50/50.

Collusion - Working with another player to cheat.

Continuation Bet - When the preflop aggressor makes another bet on the flop.

Crying Call - A call from a player who does not believe his hand is best.

Dead Money - A player with no chance of winning. Also, extra money in the pot.

Donk Bet - An early position bet by a player who was not the aggressor in the previous betting round.

Drawing Dead - When your hand can no longer win.

Drawing Live - When your hand is behind but can still draw out.

Effective Stack - The smallest stack among two players in a heads-up pot.

Eight-Or-Better - A qualifier common in high-low split games.

Equity - The mathematical expected value of your hand.

Expected Value - The weighted average of what you should profit in the long run.

Family Pot - When every player at the table sees the flop or fourth street.

Feltd - To lose all your chips, such that there are none left on the felt.

Float - To call with a weak hand with the intention of bluffing later.

Freeroll - A tournament with no buy-in, or a tournament stake with no makeup.

GTO - Game Theory Optimal play aiming for an unexploitable strategy.

Gutshot - An inside straight draw.

Hero Call - Calling with a relatively weak hand when you suspect a bluff.

Hollywood - Exaggerating and overacting to sell strength or weakness.

Horse - A player financially backed by someone else.

ICM - The Independent Chip Model assigns monetary value to tournament chips.

Implied Odds - The additional chips you expect to win if your draw improves.

Juice - Rake, or the fee collected by the house or casino.

Kill - A button that temporarily increases the stakes of the game.

LAG - A loose, aggressive player.

Limp - To enter a pot by calling the minimum bet rather than raise.

Muck - To fold.

Nit - A rock, who rarely takes risks or gives action, and only plays premium cards.

Nuts - The best possible hand on a given board.

Open - To bet first.

Orbit - A full rotation of the blinds at the table.

Overbet - To make a bet that is more than the current size of the pot.

Overcall - To call a bet after others have already called.

Paint - A face card jack, queen, or king.

Pat - A hand that no longer needs any more draws.

Polarized - When a player's range is split between either very strong hands or air.

Quarter - To win 1/4 or 3/4 of a pot by tying a hand in a high-low split game.

Rabbit Hunt - To look at future cards after folding and the hand is complete.

Railbird - Someone who hangs out on the sidelines of a poker room.

Rainbow - Three or four cards of different suits.

Range - The possible starting hands a player might have given their action.

Ratholing - Going south or sneaking your chips off the table during the game.

Scoop - To win both halves of the pot in a high-low split game.

Semi-Bluff - To bluff with a drawing hand that could improve to the best hand.

Slowroll - To delay or avoid showing when you have the best hand.

Snow - Holding on to bad cards in draw poker in order to bluff.

Straddle - A voluntary bet placed before the deal to increase pot size and incentivize action.

TAG - A tight, aggressive player.

Tell - A detectable change in a player's behavior that gives away the strength of their hand.

Tilt - Frustration or anger that leads to poor play.

Variance - The statistical measure of how results differ from expectation.

VPIP - The percentage of hands voluntarily played preflop.

Wet Board - A dynamic board with many several possible draws.

Wheel - A five-high straight.



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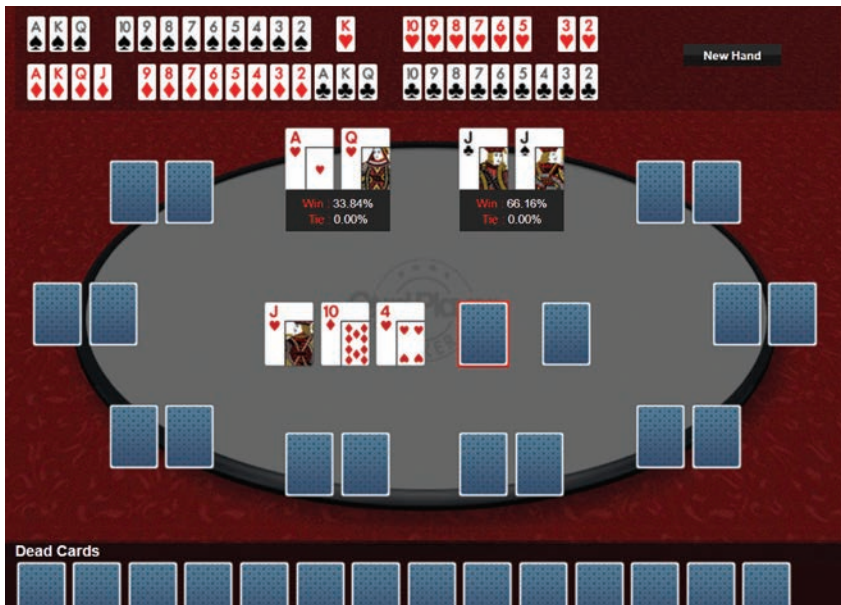
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CALCULATING ODDS

Outs	Situation	After The Flop	After The Turn
21	Straight And Flush Draw, With Two Overcards	70%	45%
20		68%	43%
19		65%	41%
18	Straight And Flush Draw, With One Overcard	62%	39%
17		60%	37%
16		57%	35%
15	Straight And Flush Draw	54%	33%
14		51%	30%
13	Flush Draw With Gutshot	48%	28%
12	Flush Draw With One Overcard	45%	26%
11	Straight Draw With One Overcard	42%	24%
10		38%	22%
9	Flush Draw	35%	20%
8	Straight Draw	32%	17%
7		28%	15%
6	Two Live Overcards	24%	13%
5		20%	11%
4	Gutshot Straight Draw	17%	9%
3	Need To Pair Kicker	13%	7%
2	Pocket Pair Needs To Make A Set	8%	4%
1	Set Needs To Make Quads	4%	2%

HAND MATCHUPS

Situation	Example	Odds	Percent
Higher Pair vs. Lower Pair	J♠ J♣ vs. 7♥ 7♦	4.09-1	80.3% vs. 19.7%
Pair vs. Two Over Cards	7♠ 7♣ vs. A♥ J♦	1.23-1	55.1% vs. 44.9%
Pair vs. Two Under Cards	Q♠ Q♣ vs. 9♥ 7♦	4.77-1	82.7% vs. 17.3%
Pair vs. One Overcard	J♠ J♣ vs. A♥ 7♦	2.50-1	71.4% vs. 28.6%
Two Higher Cards vs. Two Lower Cards	Q♠ J♣ vs. 6♥ 5♦	1.70-1	62.9% vs. 37.1%

*Approximate Percentages



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GETTING VALUE FROM A FLUSH

By Jonathan Little

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



You are eight-handed in a \$5,000 buy-in tournament, and you have 50,000 at blinds of 500-1,000. You are on the button with A♥ 5♥ and raise to 2,300. Only the big blind calls, and the flop comes down J♥ 9♥ 2♦. The big blind checks.

Question 1: Should you check, bet 1,500, bet 3,000, or bet 5,000?

Answer: While this flop is very dynamic, it connects so well with your range to the point that you should bet it almost every time using a small size due to your range advantage. If the flop was instead 7♥ 6♥ 2♦, you should check behind somewhat more often, but even then, your nut flush draw would much prefer to bet.

You bet 1,500 and the big blind calls. The turn is the 2♥ and the big blind checks.

Question 2: Should you check, bet 3,500, bet 7,000, or bet 12,500?

Answer: Even though full houses are possible, you should be thrilled to put money in the pot. So, how much should you bet?

The larger you can reasonably bet on the turn, the larger you can bet on the river. For that reason, you should size up, probably to 7,000. If you bet even larger, your opponent will start to fold 9-X and hands like K♥ Qx, which you really want to keep in the pot.

You bet 7,000 and the big blind calls. The river is the 10♦ and your opponent checks.

Question 3: Should you check, bet 13,000, bet 31,000, or go all-in?

Answer: Even though your opponent could have a full house, you should not be too worried about that. You have the best hand almost every time and want to extract value. So, which size is ideal?

In general, when you have the effective nuts and it is possible for your opponent to have a strong, but second-best hand, a large size is ideal. If your opponent has two pair (not counting the pair on the board), they are going to call any bet. They also will not fold a flush or straight. So, choose a large size.

Perhaps if you think your opponent will fold to an all-in but will call a bit less than all-in, the slightly smaller size becomes ideal as an exploit.

You bet 31,000 and the big blind calls. You show your hand and they muck, giving you a huge pot. ♠



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