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June 25, 2025



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PLUS

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PLO TOURNAMENT
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LIVESTREAMING SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY	JUNE 25	EVENT #53 \$1.5K MILLIONAIRE MAKER
THURSDAY	JUNE 26	EVENT #66 \$50K POKER PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP (DAY 3)
FRIDAY	JUNE 27	EVENT #66 \$50K POKER PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP (DAY 4)
SATURDAY	JUNE 28	EVENT #66 \$50K POKER PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP
SUNDAY	JUNE 29	EVENT #70 \$1K LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP
MONDAY	JUNE 30	EVENT #67 \$300 GLADIATORS OF POKER
TUESDAY	JULY 1	EVENT #74 \$10K POT-LIMIT OMAHA CHAMPIONSHIP

EVENT #81: \$10,000 MAIN EVENT

WEDNESDAY	JULY 2	DAY 1A
THURSDAY	JULY 3	DAY 1B
FRIDAY	JULY 4	DAY 1C
SATURDAY	JULY 5	DAY 1D
SUNDAY	JULY 6	DAY 2ABC
MONDAY	JULY 7	DAY 2D
TUESDAY	JULY 8	DAY 3
WEDNESDAY	JULY 9	DAY 4
THURSDAY	JULY 10	DAY 5
FRIDAY	JULY 11	DAY 6
SATURDAY	JULY 12	DAY 7
SUNDAY	JULY 13	PLAYS DOWN TO 9 PLAYERS
TUESDAY	JULY 15	FINAL TABLE (DAY 1)
WEDNESDAY	JULY 16	FINAL TABLE (DAY 2)

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OF
POKER
♦ ♠ ♥ ♣

30 PGT QUALIFYING EVENTS
HOLD'EM

MAY 30	#7	\$25K HEADS-UP CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 1	#11	\$10K MYSTERY BOUNTY
JUNE 2	#14	\$25K NLH/PLO HIGH ROLLER
JUNE 5	#22	\$25K NLH HIGH ROLLER 6-MAX
JUNE 7	#26	\$25K NLH HIGH ROLLER
JUNE 9	#32	\$50K NLH HIGH ROLLER
JUNE 11	#38	\$100K NLH HIGH ROLLER
JUNE 12	#41	\$10K LIMIT HOLD'EM CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 15	#46	\$250K SUPER HIGH ROLLER
JUNE 26	#72	\$10K SUPER TURBO BOUNTY
JULY 2	#81	\$10K WSOP MAIN EVENT
JULY 9	#88	\$50K NLH HIGH ROLLER
JULY 12	#94	\$10K NLH 6-MAX CHAMPIONSHIP

OMAHA

MAY 31	#9	\$10K OMAHA HI-LO CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 2	#14	\$25K PLO/NLH HIGH ROLLER
JUNE 10	#36	\$10K PLO HI-LO CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 14	#44	\$10K BIG O CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 17	#51	\$25K PLO HIGH ROLLER
JUNE 20	#57	\$50K PLO HIGH ROLLER
JUNE 28	#74	\$10K PLO CHAMPIONSHIP
JULY 1	#79	\$100K PLO HIGH ROLLER

MIXED

JUNE 3	#18	\$10K DEALER'S CHOICE CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 6	#25	\$10K SEVEN-CARD STUD CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 8	#30	\$10K NO-LIMIT 2-7 SINGLE DRAW CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 16	#50	\$10K RAZZ CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 18	#55	\$10K H.O.R.S.E. CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 24	#66	\$50K POKER PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 26	#71	\$10K LIMIT 2-7 TRIPLE DRAW CHAMPIONSHIP
JUNE 30	#77	\$10K SEVEN-CARD STUD HI-LO CHAMPIONSHIP
JULY 2	#82	\$10K 8-GAME MIX CHAMPIONSHIP
JULY 14	#98	\$25K H.O.R.S.E. HIGH ROLLER

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NEWS FROM THE GAMBLING WORLD

NEW JERSEY BILL WOULD ALLOW CASINOS OUTSIDE ATLANTIC CITY

By Sean Chaffin



New Jersey's only brick-and-mortar casinos are in Atlantic City, but that could soon change.

With casinos in Atlantic City experiencing revenue declines over the last few months and increased competition from adjacent states, Garden State legislators are considering a constitutional amendment allowing for casinos in different areas.

Bill SCR130 would allow casinos at Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford and Monmouth Park Racetrack in Oceanport. The racetracks are already home to brick-and-mortar sportsbooks, and Meadowlands is the land-based partner allowing FanDuel to operate an online casino and sportsbook.

The plan comes as the Garden State faces competition from the largest city in the country, and an area home to many Atlantic City casino patrons.

New York will award three down-state casino licenses by the end of the year, negating the need for Northern New Jersey and New York gamblers to make the two-hour trek to Atlantic City.

"This plants a flag to send a message to New York State that if they open a casino in Manhattan, that New Jersey is ready to respond to the competition," said the bill's co-sponsor Sen. Paul Sarlo.

Sen. Vin Gopal, one of the bill's other sponsors, believes it's time to take action if the state plans on keeping its casino industry competitive. Beyond New York, other nearby states have legalized casinos in recent years, including Maryland, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

"The racetracks and casinos continue to be a driving force for the economy in New Jersey, and even more so now that sports betting is legal," Gopal said.

An exact timeline for putting a vote for the amendment onto a ballot isn't included in the language of the bill. To be placed on the ballot, an amendment would require votes by three-fifths of the assembly and state senate. The issue could also be placed before voters if the bill receives a majority of votes in both New Jersey houses in two consecutive years.

Voters rejected a plan for a northern New Jersey casino in 2016.

New Jersey citizens approved a referendum allowing for casinos in Atlantic City in 1974 after nixing a similar effort two years earlier. Legalized gambling in officially went into effect in 1976 with the first property, Resorts International, opening two years later.

The industry thrived in the 1980s as the only location outside Nevada where Americans could legally gamble. By



1987, Atlantic City was the most-visited city in the country with over 20 million visitors annually and became a major competitor for Las Vegas. Increased competition from other states saw the city's gaming industry decline over the last decade. Since 2014, five casinos in Atlantic City have closed, leaving nine active operators in the city.

While the state reported a record \$6.3 billion in gaming revenue for 2024, an increase of 9% from the previous year, more than half of that figure came from the online gaming sector and sports betting operations.

In fact, land-based casino revenue declined 1% in 2024 to a total of \$2.8 billion, a far cry from the \$5.2 billion in brick-and-mortar casino win in 2006 when Atlantic City was the second-largest gambling market. ♠

TEXAS POKER ROOM CATCHES COUNTERFEIT CHIP OPERATION

By Tim Fiorvanti

Fake gaming chips are an idea that seems likelier to come out of a Hollywood heist movie than real life. Still, operators at the Dallas location of the Texas Card House foiled a counterfeit plot in mid-May.

In a post on the Texas Card House Dallas Facebook page, admins indicated that there had been a recent attempt at passing off fake chips at the poker social club's cage.

"We care about your safety and the integrity of our games," the post read. "Recently we've come across some counterfeit chips in the DFW area.

To protect yourself and ensure a fair play experience, please avoid trading or buying chips from individuals."

In comments made to *PokerNews*, a source claimed the counterfeit chips were caught "almost immediately," but that the chips were "highly convincing."

There has been no official word of criminal charges or potential suspects, but Texas Card House is working to press charges against those trying to pass off fake chips.

"TCH is actively working with authorities to prosecute anyone found intentionally trying to pass along counterfeit chips," read the post.



Counterfeit chips aren't a new issue, but luckily for operators, they've become exceedingly rare in recent years.

The most infamous instance occurred in January 2014, when Christian Lusardi was arrested at the Borgata Hotel Casino in Atlantic City for trying to add counterfeit chips into a tournament.

The situation exploded when Harrah's Resort and Casino staff in Atlantic City discovered 2.7 million counterfeit poker chips flushed down the toilet in a hotel room.

Borgata canceled the ongoing \$2 million guarantee event, with 27 players left, and the prize pool was frozen. The ensuing controversy led to a class-action lawsuit from some of the 27 players still in the tournament about a proposed \$19,323 payout and other entrants who claimed to have been defrauded by Lusardi's actions.

The main difference between the cases in Texas and New Jersey is that the cheaters in the Lone Star State were trying to pass off chips redeemable for cash.

Ultimately, Lusardi served time in prison after pleading guilty to trademark counterfeiting charges and criminal mischief. ♠

MISSOURI SPORTS BETTING LAUNCH DELAYED TO DECEMBER

By Sean Chaffin

Missouri's sports betting launch is delayed until Dec. 1 after the gaming commission confirmed that the licensing process is forcing regulators to push back the date.

As was outlined in the referendum passed last November, the new deadline is the last day before the state must allow licensed sportsbooks to accept wagers. The Missouri Gaming Commission is accepting license applications until Sept. 12.

The referendum legalized both retail and online sports betting. Regulators can award up to 19 licenses and 14 online sports betting licenses.

"It's our responsibility to make sure everything is done right," Missouri Gaming Commission Chairman Jan M. Zimmerman told *Sports Betting Dime*. "We would never want to not do our due diligence, not only with sports betting but with anything we do.

"If somebody ended up being licensed because we didn't fully investigate, or missed something in the rulemaking, it wouldn't be right. As disappointing as it may be for some folks that it won't be until Dec. 1, we're going to make sure



it's done right."

Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins rejected emergency rulemaking by the Missouri Gaming Commission that attempted to speed up the process. After that rejection, betting was estimated to go live by the end of September at the latest. The timeline has now been moved back again.

The December launch date has Missouri bettors missing out on much of the NFL and NCAA football seasons. The licensing application period was expected to open in May, with

the deadline for online applications set for July 15. Online applicants must appear before the commission by August, with licenses awarded Aug. 15.

The commission plans to have all retail and sports betting licenses awarded by Sept. 12, several months before the official launch. The tax rate is set at 10% with operators also paying a \$500,000 licensing fee.

While online licensees won't be official until the fall, bet365 and BetMGM should be options for Missouri bettors. BetMGM secured a partnership with Century Casinos and bet365 partnered with the St. Louis Cardinals. ♠

MLB Lifts Ban For Several Deceased Players With Gambling Controversies

By Sean Chaffin

In late May, Major League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred announced a policy decision, removing Pete Rose, “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, and 15 other deceased players from the permanently ineligible list.

The move means Rose and Jackson could now be considered for induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The two players were both involved in sports betting controversies. Rose was found to have violated MLB’s Rule 21, which bars players from betting on the game, and was placed on the ineligible list in 1989.

The change came after Manfred met with Rose’s family when the game’s all-time hits leader passed away in September.

“In my view, once an individual has passed away, the purposes of Rule 21 have been served,” the commissioner noted in a letter to the family’s attorney. “Obviously, a person no longer with us cannot represent a threat to the integrity of the game. Moreover, it is hard to conceive of a penalty that has more deterrent effect than one that lasts a lifetime with no reprieve.”

Rose spent the majority of his career with the Cincinnati Reds and was found by MLB to have bet on games while managing the team. In his 2004 autobiography he finally admitted to betting on the Reds.

“I knew that I broke the letter of the law,” he wrote. “But



I didn’t think that I broke the ‘spirit’ of the law, which was designed to prevent corruption. During the times I gambled as a manager, I never took an unfair advantage. I never bet more or less based on injuries or inside information. I never allowed my wagers to influence my baseball decisions. So in my mind, I wasn’t corrupt. Granted, it was a thin distinction, but it was one that I believed at the time.”

Jackson was also involved in a sports betting-related controversy as part of the 1919 Chicago White Sox team found to have conspired with gamblers to throw that year’s World Series.

For Rose and Jackson to reach the hall, however, they will have to be voted in to be inducted as the institution is not part of MLB. ♠

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Triton Poker Montenegro
\$100K NLH Main Event



Ramin Hajiyeve
3,525,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 68%
After Flop: 78%
After Turn: N/A



Christoph Vogelsang
4,900,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 30%
After Flop: 18%
After Turn: N/A



PREFLOP

With eight players remaining and the blinds at 100,000-200,000 with a 200,000 big blind ante, Ramin Hajiyeve opened to 425,000 from the hijack. Christoph Vogelsang defended his big blind.

FLOP



Vogelsang checked, and Hajiyeve continued for 300,000. Vogelsang raised to 750,000. Hajiyeve three-bet to 1,300,000, and Vogelsang folded.

COMMENTARY:

Ramin Hajiyeve, who has earned five times more than any other Azerbaijani in tournament poker history, found himself on the right side of a flop wagering war with the hooded legend, Christoph Vogelsang. While it may have seemed like some standard preflop action, strictly from a GTO perspective, Vogelsang’s best option would have been to shove the Q-10 suited preflop, especially given that they were two of the shorter stacks in the tournament. We’re going to assume that the German surely knows Hajiyeve better than we do, and the pure EV edge for shoving vs. calling is minimal, so flattening the big blind was a totally fine decision. On the 8-8-4 rainbow flop, Hajiyeve should have checked with nearly 90% of his range, only being heavily incentivized to bet pocket nines, tens, and jacks while having to get creative with A♥ 2♥ and A♥ 3♥ as bluffs. A-4 suited could also be used as a merged bet. Since the percentage of bets is so low, his bets should be pot-sized or larger. However, if Hajiyeve has a small betting strategy, he should do it with virtually his whole range. In Vogelsang’s shoes, he should have a lot of small raises with similar hands like Q-6 to Q-9 suited with a backdoor flush draw, as he would generate folds and could turn a ton of equity, so his raise was the right play. Hajiyeve then hit Vogelsang with a three-bet that’s both genius and a bit of street poker. In fact, it’s a recommended three-bet on the solver at about a 27% frequency. Vogelsang could have decided to call EV-wise, though it’s relatively thin. He ended up making what proved to be a proper laydown, giving Hajiyeve a well-earned pot.

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

NCAA MAY SOON ALLOW COLLEGE ATHLETES TO BET ON PRO SPORTS

By Sean Chaffin

According to a report from *Sports Illustrated*, the NCAA is considering a change in gambling policy that would allow athletes to wager on professional sports.

The Division I Board of Directors has begun working to get rid of the rule barring athletes from sports betting on professional events. However, team members and staff would still be prohibited from betting on college athletics.

Currently, the ban extends to coaches and staff as well as players. But that will change since the Division I Board voted to repeal in April by a 21-1 margin.

Board members told the council to “adopt legislation to deregulate the prohibition on wagering on professional sports” and “directed the NCAA staff to develop concepts for the appropriate committees to consider regarding a safe harbor, limited immunity or reduced penalties for student-athletes who engage in sports wagering but seek help for problem gambling.”

The NCAA began reviewing wagering policies in 2023 and officials with the organization have noted that policing gambling on pro sports has hampered university compliance offices for infractions that usually only incur small penalties.

The possible policy change comes after professional and



college athletes have been involved in wagering-related controversies.

In February, the Fresno State and University of New Orleans basketball teams both held multiple players out of games as investigations began regarding possible violations of the NCAA gambling policy.

The NCAA has also reported athletes facing increased scrutiny from fans in recent years in regard to performance affecting betting. The organization has pushed states and the federal government to ban prop betting on college athletes. ♠

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Triton Poker Montenegro
\$100K NLH Main Event



Kiat Lee
7,400,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 69%
After Flop: 60%
After Turn: 75%



Fedor Holz
2,300,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 23%
After Flop: 0.3%
After Turn: 0%

PREFLOP

With eight players remaining and the blinds at 100,000-200,000 with a 200,000 big blind ante, Kiat Lee opened to 400,000 from UTG +1. Fedor Holz defended his big blind.

FLOP



Holz checked, and Lee bet 250,000. Holz raised to 525,000 and Lee called.

TURN



Holz bet 500,000, and Lee called.

RIVER



Holz checked, and Lee checked back. Lee won 3,150,000 with two pair, aces and nines.

COMMENTARY:

Fedor Holz arguably made a costly preflop error that saw him lose nearly 60% of his stack and left him with crumbs. Off 10 big blinds against Kiat Lee's UTG+1 range, Holz had a relatively standard fold from the big blind, but instead opted to call. Despite Holz's short stack, Lee should have a tight range coming in as the third-placed stack in early position. Holz had the worst possible offsuit ace and could have folded hands as strong as A-8 offsuit. On the A-9-9 rainbow flop, Lee is usually supposed to bet small with about half of his range - mostly strong aces, his K-9, and his Broadway bluffs, particularly with hearts as they don't have any backdoor qualities. When looking at the hands Holz should have when he raises against an extremely small continuation bet, he raises all of his value and mixes in some bluffs like pocket fives and sixes as well as hands with double backdoors like 8-7 suited, 9-8 suited, and J-10 suited. Fortunately, Lee possessed a powerful ace and was only behind 9-x combos. He made the correct call. The turn was an odd one, as the stack-to-pot ratio was already relatively low at around 67%. Holz probably should have checked his entire range here, as he could have got all of his money in by the river and given Lee a chance to bluff or bet with worse hands. He opted for an unusual sizing that was easy for Lee to call. On the eight river, Holz can't be ahead except against a couple of specific combos. He may have wanted to fold to a shove, even with an extremely low SPR of 28%. Lee could have gone for Holz's remaining stack, but was probably very relieved to see him check the river and quickly tapped the table for the win.

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



PERSSON FILES ETHICS COMPLAINT AGAINST WASHINGTON REGULATORS

By Sean Chaffin

High-stakes poker player and CEO of Maverick Gaming Eric Persson has alleged that gaming regulators in the state of Washington are biased toward tribal casinos.

At a Washington State Gambling Commission meeting on May 8, Persson and other card room operators and workers argued that the industry has been over-regulated while tribal operations have not faced the same degree of scrutiny.

Washington is one of the strictest states in the country regarding gambling. It prohibits all forms of online gambling and is one of the states where sweepstakes casinos are banned. As a result, brick-and-mortar operations receive all of the state's gambling revenue.

One of the card rooms' objections centered around the state's self-exclusion program. Card room representatives argued their properties must enforce the self-exclusion rules, while those players could gamble freely at tribal casinos.

Another speaker alleged that Commissioners Anders Ibsen and Michael Charles may have conflicts of interest. The speaker noted that Ibsen is running for mayor of Tacoma and has accepted campaign funds from tribal gaming groups, which he is in charge of regulating.

"This raises serious concerns about impartiality and fairness," he noted. "Meanwhile, commissioner Charles claims to care about the jobs and livelihoods of card room employees, yet consistently votes against every petition aimed at allowing house-banked card rooms to grow, always siding instead with tribal competitors."

Persson also spoke on the issue at the meeting and echoed similar concerns.

"Commissioner Charles and Ibsen are political appointees who have documented financial interests with tribal nations in our state that are business competitors of Maverick Gaming," he noted. "Their actions are deliberately disadvantageous to real jobs and a regulated business like any other in our home state."

Maverick owns 24 card rooms and casinos in Washington, and Persson announced that he has filed an ethics complaint with the attorney general's office outlining his concerns. He alleged that both commissioners were in violation of the state's "appearance of fairness doctrine" and another state regulation that "bars public officials from activities incompatible with their public duties."

Commissioners resisted some of the criticism. At one point, Vice Chair Sarah Lawson told those in attendance to take their complaints up with the governor.

While he has played cash games for quite some time, Persson gained some notoriety after insulting Phil Hellmuth during their match in the *PokerGO Heads-Up Showdown* in 2022.

He played in numerous live streams from the summer of 2022 until early 2024, and is down \$5.6 million overall, according to HighRollPoker.com. ♠



World Poker Tour Returns To Venetian Las Vegas This Summer

By Erik Fast

The *World Poker Tour* returns to the Las Vegas Strip for the \$4 million guaranteed *WPT Venetian Las Vegas Championship* this summer. The \$5,000 buy-in no-limit hold'em tournament is scheduled for July 11-17 at The Venetian Resort Las Vegas, with the final table action to be livestreamed from the venue's state-of-the-art poker studio.

The Venetian Resort Las Vegas first hosted the *WPT* back in 2019, with Ben Palmer emerging as the inaugural champion. The most recent running was held in 2022, with five-time *World Series of Poker* bracelet winner Robert Mizrachi besting a field of 1,178 entries in the \$5,000 buy-in tournament to earn \$894,100 and his first *WPT* title.

"The Venetian Poker Room has been completely transformed since the last time *WPT* was with us in 2022," said Director of Poker Operations at The Venetian Resort Las Vegas Tommy Larosa. "Our new room, the largest on the Las Vegas Strip, provides players with an elevated experience and adding the *WPT* championship event to the *DeepStack Championship Poker Series* further expands the offering for players this summer."



There were two *WPT* main events hosted at the venue in 2021. Qing Liu secured \$752,880 for outlasting a field of 937 in March, while three-time bracelet winner and two-time *WPT* champion Chad Eveslage was awarded \$910,370 after besting a field of 1,199 in July of that year.

"The Venetian has been home to some incredible *WPT* moments over the years. We are honored to bring the Mike Sexton *WPT* Champions Cup back to such a revered venue," said *WPT* CEO Adam Pliska. ♠

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BROCK WILSON: 'I LIKE MAKING DECISIONS UNDER PRESSURE'

Meet The Middle School Poker Prodigy Turned High Roller

By Sean Chaffin



Brock Wilson found his calling early. It was 2008, and the poker boom had somehow reached his middle school in New York. There was a brief phase where he was fascinated by basketball, followed by guitar lessons, skateboarding, hockey games, and the baseball team, but nothing stuck like poker.

"I kind of never shifted away from it," Wilson said. "It's just remained and it's only gotten stronger. I had a natural ability for it. I had a pretty good feel for the game. I was always okay at math and reasonably intuitive. I had okay emotional intelligence. It was kind of combining those two things. I had a very good feel for how often people will have certain hands, who is more emotionally tied to different sorts of spots, who it pains to get bluffed, who it pains to stack off without a really good hand."

The teenager was tearing through poker strategy books and even managed to get an online poker account. (Now, with Wilson being 30 years old, the statute of limitations on potential underage gambling has likely passed.) He had no problem beating the other kids in his high school, cash-strapped students who would end up handing Wilson their money by the end of most home games.

"A lot of times, kids would come with \$20 and would have to try and make it last the whole night," he recalled. "It's easy to win when the guy doesn't exactly want to bust and have nothing to do for the rest of the night. It was pretty easy just to bet, bet, jam."

Despite the low stakes, Wilson amassed some tidy winnings, saving about \$10,000 by the end of his high school run.

"It definitely made poker a lot of fun," he says. "When you always win, you're going to enjoy the game a lot. It was very nice to have the group of friends that I played with because nobody took it as seriously as I did."

On The Rise

While he doesn't win every time any more, Wilson has certainly shined during his adult poker career, having banked more than \$11 million in live tournament winnings.

He broke through in 2018 with a *WSOP Circuit* ring at Foxwoods for \$65,250. In 2019, another *Circuit* ring came his way, and he secured a life-changing cash in the Bahamas, taking second in the \$25,000 *partypoker MILLIONS* high roller for \$619,536.

A month later, a runner-up showing in a \$25,000 high roller at the Hard Rock in South Florida brought him another \$301,215. That same month he grabbed a win in a \$10,000 tournament at the Bicycle Casino in Los Angeles for \$110,020.

In December of 2020 he came out on top in a \$10,000 event at Wynn for \$124,200 and grabbed another pair of runner-up scores at the PokerGO studio in February and March 2021 for a total of \$356,000. In April, a fourth-place finish in a \$25,500 high roller event yielded \$286,520 and he won a *PGT* event that September for \$189,800. In September 2022, Wilson took third at Hard Rock Tampa in the *World Poker Tour* main event for \$411,678, and less than six months later there was another high roller final table in the Bahamas worth \$261,700.

But his best year on tour came in 2024, highlighted by a

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victory in a \$25,000 *WPT Alpha8* at the Wynn for \$571,400 followed by another in a \$2,200 tournament at the property just two weeks later for \$626,429. Unlike the high rollers that Wilson has gravitated towards in recent years, that tournament featured more than 1,900 entries and is the biggest bullet point on his poker record.

"I've played many years of these large-field tournaments and I just had never broken through," he admitted. "It was rewarding because I felt like I played really well. I had a strategy that I adapted to different players. It felt good that it all came together. That's very hard to replicate. I obviously had more action than I would a larger buy-in. Monetarily, it was my biggest win by far to date. But it felt really good to play against a wide variety of opponents at all ages, all experience levels, and come out on top. I made a few big folds and then a few big calls, and I felt like I zigged and zagged when I needed to."

Staying Disciplined

Originally from Westchester County in New York, Wilson now divides his time between Pennsylvania and Las Vegas. Although he caught the poker bug early, Wilson still stayed in school, graduating from Fordham University with a degree in finance. It's that discipline that keeps him in the game, even though he has been guilty of taking some big shots over the years.

"I put down \$10,000 to play the *PCA* main event thinking, Alright, I have \$15,000 to my name... but I'm going to win a million dollars," he recalled. "That never happened. I busted on day 2 and was devastated. Today I'm not quite the risk taker I was then. I would never do something like that. But when you're young, you should be taking risks. That's what everybody always said."

"If you're a tournament player, you sure as hell shouldn't be playing paycheck to paycheck," he went on to explain. "You'd better be well rolled or backed. Otherwise, you're going to have a lot of periods of not having enough money to live. You have these thoughts in the back of your head because that's the scary thing about poker. When you win a tournament,

you don't know how lucky you got or how much of it was due to skill. There's a constant mental battle of trying to prove to yourself that you're good enough."

But while imposter syndrome is hard to ignore and doubt can creep in, Wilson remains drawn to the game.

"I don't really love the gambling side of it, to be honest," he admitted. "I don't get a super rush from getting big money in and see who's going to win. Other gambling games never appealed to me – I don't really love craps or roulette or just flipping for big, massive money. So, it's not really the gambling side of it, it's more about the competition."

"I like tournament poker specifically because there is a clear winner and loser. There are clear standings of who got what place. I like the psychology and math of poker. I enjoy the probability, having to make decisions under pressure. When it was clutch time, I could usually perform pretty well. Some of my friends were better at certain aspects of sports than me, but when crunch time came, I was usually pretty good at playing at my best."

The Difference Between High Rollers And The Rest Of Us

Since becoming more serious about poker, Wilson has seen his game change. He was super aggressive in those early games, but faced better competition in college, including a pre-bracelet Jonathan Dokler, who was also ultra-aggressive and changed Wilson's mindset.

"I didn't know how to deal with it," Wilson says. "That forced me to go online and learn a little more on how to really play well and not just blindly put money into the pot. When I turned 21, I became a little more prone to folding because live cash is more of a game of playing solid and just getting value. So that made me a little bit nittier in some ways."

More GTO (game theory optimal) studying followed, including solvers. While some pros might see it as homework, Wilson enjoys the studying aspects that come with the game for today's poker pros. He's become friends with some other top crushers in the game such as Stephen Song, Justin Saliba, Adam Hendrix, Michael Rossitto, David Coleman, and Chris



Brewer, but Wilson loves talking about poker with anyone and believes there's always something to learn, even from those who may have different views.

But Wilson attributes his success to time put in at the tables, rather than some innate ability. Those who put in the hours will beat a natural card sense in the long run.

"Even for somebody who studies using solvers... their first few years it would be better to just put their phone down and watch and see the different stuff that people turn up with," he explained. "What really separates a lot of the best players at the high level are that they have a lot of experience and they're constantly learning from their mistakes. There's nothing that special, in my opinion, that a lot of these guys are doing. It's not some special strategy that they have that no one else does at the lower buy-in levels. It's more that they're always catering their strategy specifically to other players. It's a constant game of observation, and then using those observations to maybe plug into a solver."

"Nobody is doing anything that is not learnable. High rollers aren't rocket science. There's just a lot of observation and trial and error. What a lot of the guys have is that they play a lot online, they talk a lot about different ideas. They're always keeping an open mind. I think an open mind is the biggest thing. No one has some perfect strategy that they're blindly implementing against all opponents."

Poker Power Couple

While the Foxens have gotten a lot of attention on the high roller circuit, a new poker power couple has emerged in Wilson and fellow tournament pro Cherish Andrews. Andrews has racked up more than \$3.5 million in cashes in recent years and is already approaching the top 10 of the women's all-time money list.

In April, Andrews took down the \$25,000 high roller at the *Hard Rock Poker Showdown* for \$408,265. The guy who finished third? That was Wilson, who settled for \$313,410. (Andrews reported that he refused to sit on her lap for the winner photo!)

The two met in 2021 at Stoney's, an off-Strip country bar in Las Vegas often frequented by poker pros. Wilson fell pretty quick, and they've been together ever since.

"We've both sort of evolved in poker over this period," he said. "She was just starting to take tournament poker seriously at that time and it's been cool to see her evolution. She's seen my ups and downs too, as 2023 was not the strongest year for me. We both understand [the variance] and are there for each other that way. It's nice to have that support."

The two talk poker regularly, but sometimes his girlfriend prefers other topics.

"I always want to talk about poker, so she definitely balances me a little bit," he said with a laugh. "It actually works really well. We have a lot in common outside poker. We like very similar TV shows. We have similar body clocks, and we have similar interests."

Diversifying His Portfolio

After college, Wilson used his finance degree for a time in commercial real estate lending for Bank of America. He found some similarities in that role gauging risk versus rewards with his current day job. Wilson is also involved in real estate investments with Dokler, who was also nice enough to encourage his college poker buddy to put some of his winnings in Bitcoin.

"I was already making okay money on the side, but then [Bitcoin] tripled and quadrupled," he says. "All of a sudden I had enough of the bankroll to say, 'I'm 24, I can take some risks. I'm going to keep in contact with my banking friends and counterparts.' I had nothing holding me down. I was going to go and travel and see what I could do."

When he's not monitoring his investments, Wilson also shares his knowledge of the game with the students over at [PokerCoaching.com](https://www.pokercoaching.com).


"I always wanted to try and be the best in whatever thing I'm putting my mind to."

Today, Wilson says he's really not into cryptocurrency and doesn't even really understand it. But that boost gave him a start as a poker pro, and allowed him to withstand some of the growing pains that come with your first few years on the circuit.

Looking ahead, Wilson has no specific goals in mind. He simply enjoys playing and wants to keep making the right decisions to stay in the game. He loves the lifestyle and freedom playing professionally brings him.

"I just want to be able to do this for the rest of my life," he explained. "That was a big goal of mine – to make enough that I can justify doing this and I don't have to go and get a real job. At this point, I've definitely achieved enough that that is not a concern of mine. I have enough confidence in myself that I think I'm good."

"I want to play \$25k, \$50k, and \$100k events, and be a winning player. I think that's what is really important to me. I want to be consistently making deep runs, final tables, and winning in big fields. I want to be a good, well-rounded player who can compete at all levels." ♠



“Nobody is doing anything that is not learnable. High rollers aren’t rocket science. There’s just a lot of observation and trial and error. I think an open mind is the biggest thing. No one has some perfect strategy that they’re blindly implementing against all opponents.”



Top Tournament Scores

July 2024	Wynn Summer Classic	\$2,200 NLH	1st	\$626,429
Nov. 2019	partypoker MILLIONS Bahamas	\$25,000 NLH	2nd	\$619,536
June 2024	Wynn Summer Classic	\$25,000 NLH	1st	\$571,400
Feb. 2022	PGT PokerGO Cup	\$50,000 NLH	2nd	\$416,000
Sept. 2022	WPT Hard Rock Tampa	\$3,500 NLH	3rd	\$411,678
Sept. 2024	PGT Poker Masters	\$15,000 NLH	1st	\$330,600
April 2025	WPT Hard Rock Hollywood	\$25,000 NLH	3rd	\$313,410
Dec. 2019	WPT Hard Rock & Roll Open	\$25,000 NLH	2nd	\$301,215
April 2021	WPT Hard Rock Showdown	\$25,000 NLH	4th	\$286,520

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PRESTON MCEWEN: DON'T CALL HIM OFFBEAT!

Circuit Crusher Goes From Stage Riser To Rising Star

By Paul Oresteen



Poker is a haven for offbeat personalities that don't quite fit into other parts of society. A glance at history shows that Stuey Ungar and Mike Caro found success as misfits in an unfit world. Preston McEwen might be the next generation's offbeat, wayward success story – part rock star, part clutch finisher and one hell of a snazzy dresser.

McEwen is hard to miss in a poker room – he stands 6'3", with long, curly hair worthy of a shampoo commercial. Before professional poker, McEwen was a professional musician. He toured the country playing drums for a rock act and then the trio Ghost Town Blues Band, opening for national acts, and gaining decent radio play while headlining weekend festivals.

The Memphis, Tennessee native's journey to the top of the mid-stakes tournament scene wasn't easy. There were thousands of bar gigs just to break even, sleeping on his in-law's couch for months, and a stretch driving for Uber.

I caught up with McEwen near his hometown in Tunica, Mississippi, where the *WSOP Circuit* was hosting a series. Where else would he be? McEwen has won eight *Circuit* rings overall and is one of the more feared regulars on the tour. He has racked up \$2.4 million in tournaments overall.

Living Out Of A Suitcase

Of course, being on tour is nothing new for McEwen. "Being a touring musician had its highs and lows,"

McEwen said of his time behind the kit. "The dopamine rush of being deep in a big tournament is the only thing that compares to playing in front of 20,000 people."

"It was just fucking awesome, man," he continued. "We headlined the Montreal Jazz Festival, it was crazy. We landed and somebody was waiting on us at the airport with our name on a sign. Canadians will treat you like royalty."

While McEwen focused on drumming as an adult, he also took piano lessons as a kid and picked up the guitar in his teens as a fan of punk music.

"I'm one of eight siblings and my mom made us all take piano lessons, but we're not a musical family," he said.

"My parents split up when I was 12 and I got really into Green Day and Blink-182 and loved the tone of the drums," said McEwen. "I begged my mom for a drum kit for Christmas and then just started playing in bands."

For 18 years, music dominated his life. He played in a couple of touring bands, and spent time as both the frontman and the backbeat, but as he got older, he wanted different things from life. For all the highs he experienced cranking out fills for sold-out crowds, there were also plenty of lows playing to the occasional half-empty bar somewhere on the road.

"We'd make enough to get us to the next gig, and then hit the big festivals on the weekends. But the worst gigs were casinos," he added laughing.

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"I actually used to play poker here [at Horseshoe Tunica] while also playing a gig across the casino," said McEwen. "I'd calculate that I'd blind out 45 minutes at a time, so I needed to build a stack quickly so I could run back and forth between the band and the poker room."

"It was soul sucking," he recalled. "I'd be playing to people that just lost all their money in the pits, clicking 25-cent spins at the bar and not even looking up at us – just dead eyes."

Starting Over From Scratch

McEwen's run as a touring musician ended in 2017.

"I quit my band to go back and finish my audio production degree," he said. "I was just grinding, playing and making only \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year playing music. I felt like I never had more than \$2,000 to my name at a time."

McEwen and his wife had a toddler with another on the way and didn't see much of a future in Memphis. His wife's family took them in while he went to school in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and worked at night.

"We moved in with them while we were figuring things out," he said. "I really wasn't sure what I was going to do with my life. It was a real turning point at 29."

McEwen mostly played cash games because of his band commitments, but while on winter break in 2018, he shot down to Biloxi for the *Million Dollar Heater* at the Beau Rivage.

"I played one tournament, on one buy-in, and got 7th place out of 3,000 runners for \$18,000," he said. "I didn't really understand what kind of bankroll you needed to play poker, but my wife was supportive of me taking a shot."

He ripped off 18 cashes for \$80,000 in his first year.

One of his professors was a poker fan and let him do projects on the road. Although he was still getting A's in his classes, McEwen saw the writing on the chalkboard and knew poker was his path. He ultimately dropped out to focus on the game, but the move proved to be premature.

"It wasn't really enough to travel, make a living, and support a family," said McEwen. "I built the roll for the first few months and then six months later it was dusted. I was broke when our second baby came and driving for Uber to make ends meet. It was 12 hours a day, six days a week. The day after my youngest was born, I was back on the road driving."

McEwen's voice tightened and his posture changed as he told the next part of the story.

"I had a passenger for a five-minute ride – maybe worth \$7 to me. She asked about my day, and I said, 'Yeah, just had a baby yesterday.' Then she asked how much I'd make that day."

McEwen broke eye contact and looked up as he recalled the generous woman, holding back a wave of emotion.

"She went in the house and gave me a \$120 tip and told me to go home and see my baby."

"Do you still remember her name?" I asked.

He nodded and mostly whispered, "I remember her house."

The Spin Up

The McEwens were living lean with two kids scrunched in at his in-laws' house in 2018. After a long shift one day, he logged into his Ignition account where he had \$11 in his account.

Throwing caution to the wind, he bought into an \$11 tournament and shipped it for \$1,700. The next morning, he had a familiar conversation with his wife and decided



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he wouldn't drive for the next week. Instead, he played online.

"I spun it up to \$5,000 and then I asked her if I could take half down to Tunica," McEwen said. "She's always been so supportive and said go for it. I'm the luckiest man there is, she met me when I was a broke musician."

"I get down there, hop in a \$1-\$3 game and put in a 35-hour session to win another \$3,000," he said. "I immediately got in a turbo event with no sleep and won it for another \$3,000. Then I hopped into the main event and won that for \$35,000. I was done driving for good after that."

Nearly 300 cashes later, McEwen hasn't looked back. But what's mind-blowing about his results is that more than one-third of those cashes are final table runs, and a whopping 10% of his cashes are wins.

The dude's a finisher, which caught the attention of RunGood Poker and earned him a spot as a brand ambassador. He has proven to be a good hire, winning eight *RunGood Poker Series* titles overall.

His eight *WSOP Circuit* rings are tied for 26th all-time, all of them coming since 2022. His biggest score is the \$183,563 he picked up for a *Circuit* main event title in Tunica in 2023, followed by a third-place finish at Harrah's Cherokee in 2024 for \$175,713. He also took down the monster stack at Cherokee in 2023 for \$133,830, and has a pair of six-figure scores from deep runs in both the *WPT World Championship* and *WSOP* main event.

Moving Forward

McEwen has attacked the poker circuit like a young, hungry band out to prove a point and sell a million records. He's worked and traveled so hard over the last five years because, like most dreamers, he's got an end-game plan.

"My kids are eight and six and I know when they hit their teens, they're not going to want to hang out with mom and dad anymore," said McEwen. "I have a two-year plan in poker to make as much as possible and then semi-retire – at least for a few years."

"I want to do as much as I can until Daddy's not cool anymore, so that's why I'm grinding so hard," he said. "I've gotten so close a couple of times in big events where I would have that nest egg. That's my goal – two years." ♠

“I used to play poker while also playing a gig across the casino. I’d calculate that I’d blind out 45 minutes at a time, so I needed to build a stack quickly so I could run back and forth between the band and the poker room.”



TRITON MONTENEGRO CONTINUES TOUR'S RECORD-BREAKING STREAK

Multiple Milestones Set In May High Roller Series

By Erik Fast



The *Triton Poker* series has awarded more than \$1.4 billion in prize money since the prestigious high-stakes tour debuted in 2019. The latest stop ran from May 13-27 at the Maestral Resort & Casino in Montenegro, with 15 high roller tournaments awarding a combined \$106.5 million in total payouts.

Several new milestones were set along the way during the two-week series along the Adriatic coast, with exciting new champions making their breakthroughs and *Triton* regulars adding to their expansive trident trophy collections.

Xuan Liu Becomes First Female Triton Champion

It didn't take long for this series to kick into high gear. The first event on the schedule resulted in **Xuan Liu's** historic victory. The Canadian topped a 155-entry field in the \$25,000 *WPT Global Slam* en route to becoming the first woman champion in the tour's history.

The WPT Global ambassador was only slated to play this one WPT-branded event and made her one shot at Triton glory count as she overcame a stacked final table for a career-best \$860,000.

"Obviously, this is beyond my wildest dreams," said Liu. "I know I really can't hang [with these players] on a day-to-day basis, but this is what the beauty of poker is all about... anybody can get lucky on any given day."

While Liu was humble about her victory in this event, she is hardly a newcomer on the circuit. The Canadian's previous top score was a \$600,000 windfall for a fourth-place showing in the *PokerStars Caribbean Adventure* main event back in 2012. The 39-year-old now has more than \$3.1

million in lifetime earnings.

Liu was not the only female player to run deep in this tournament, though. There were two other women to cash, including Sosia Jiang who picked up \$46,500 as the 20th-place finisher, and Kristen Foxen who placed fourth for \$325,000.

Foxen was not yet done adding to her lead atop the women's all-time money list, though. The five-time *World Series of Poker* bracelet winner went on to make two more final tables during the series for another \$394,000 in combined scores, bringing her career haul past the \$12 million mark in the process.

Alex Foxen And Nacho Barbero Stay Hot

While Kristen Foxen was running deep in one \$25,000 buy-in, her husband **Alex Foxen** was busy closing out the win in the second \$25,000 event on the schedule. The red-hot tournament crusher secured his third *Triton* title after besting a field of 130 entries.

The 34-year-old American poker pro took home \$755,000 for his third overall victory of the year. He went on to cash five times during the series, including a third-place finish in a \$25,000 pot-limit Omaha event for \$251,000.

He has made a total of 10 final tables in 2025, and is now situated near the very top of the 2025 *Card Player* Player of the Year race standings, a place he is quite familiar with. Foxen has finished no worse than ninth in the POY standings since 2018.

Argentina's **Jose 'Nacho' Barbero** finished third in the tournament won by Foxen, earning \$341,000 for his podi-

um showing. Just one day later, he outlasted a field of 147 entries in the \$30,000 no-limit event, picking up his third career *Triton* victory and \$1,025,000. He backed this win up with three more cashes, bringing his haul for the series to more than \$1.7 million.

A week before his win in event no. 3, Barbero had placed seventh in a €25,000 tournament at the *European Poker Tour Monte Carlo* festival for another \$222,723. His high roller spree in May has put him alongside Foxen in the upper echelons of the POY rankings.

Less than seven years removed from making his first live tournament cash in a \$210 buy-in event, **Jesse Lonis** emerged victorious in the \$40,000 mystery bounty event, earning \$619,000 and a staggering \$800,000 from 12 pulls at the bounty pool.

The two-time *WSOP* bracelet winner was not yet done adding to his pile of cash and rapidly expanding collection of tournament hardware, though. More on that later. Although Lonis had the most chances at the big bounty prizes, the top check for \$400,000 went to 2022 *WSOP* main event champion Espen Jorstad, who finished 12th for \$45,500 but made the most of his single draw.

Barak Wisbrod finished runner-up, banking \$422,000 and adding another \$330,000 in bounties. The Israeli pro made four final tables overall, cashing for a total of nearly \$1.3 million.

Kiat Lee finished in second place in his first-ever *Triton* Poker event in Cyprus in 2022. After four more runner-up finishes, Lee finally found the winner's circle with his 33rd cash on the tour. That win came in the final event of the 2025 *Triton Poker Jeju* festival in March of 2025.

It only took five more cashes for Lee to nab his second title on the tour, taking down the \$30,000 turbo no-limit event, navigating his way through a field of 71 entries for the top prize of \$586,000 in the fast-paced single-day event.

Lee would later finish third in the no-limit hold'em main event of this stop for a career-high \$1.8 million payday.

Seth Davies had 36 cashes, 16 final tables, and more than \$8.5 million in prior earnings in *Triton* tournaments. The one accomplishment on the tour that had eluded the 36-year-old American poker pro, however, was a title.

But finally, more than six years removed from his first cash at the 2019 *Triton Jeju* stop, Davies broke through to hoist his first trident trophy. He bested the field of 143 entries in the \$50,000 no-limit event, earning \$1,490,741 and the hardware.

Incredibly, this would not end up being the largest payday of the festival for Davies. A few days after this win, he finished second in the \$200,000 *Triton Invitational* to secure a career-best payday of \$4,190,000 to surpass his previous high score of \$3,206,000 earned in last year's *Super High Roller Bowl*. The former baseball standout now has \$40 million in career tournament earnings, with \$13.6 million of that coming since just last August.

Aleksa Pavicevic Banks \$6.2 Million

Given that Davies earned more than \$4 million as the runner-up, one can imagine just how big the \$200,000 buy-in invitational event was this year. The nosebleed-stakes tournament attracted a record turnout of 133 entries, building a staggering \$26.6 million prize pool and featured an interesting format that required each pro to be invited by a corresponding amateur player, with the field initially split in two along that dividing line for day 1.

The largest share of that money was ultimately awarded





to **Aleksa Pavicevic**. The 29-year-old Montenegrin real estate and hospitality professional outlasted a field of poker's top professionals and experienced high-rolling amateurs to capture the title and a massive \$6,180,000.

This was Pavicevic's first live tournament title and his largest poker payday by leaps and bounds. Before this, his top recorded cash was a \$17,000 score for an 871st-place showing in the 2019 *WSOP* main event. Now, he is a *Triton* champion.

Pavicevic survived a brutal preflop cooler, cracking the aces of Javid Ismayilov with kings to take a massive lead into heads-up play with Davies. Despite a game showing from Davies, Pavicevic was eventually able to close out the win and hoist the trophy.

Jesse Lonis Makes It A Double

Jesse Lonis cannot be stopped this spring. The 29-year-old American poker pro has cashed for more than \$7.3 million across 14 in-the-money finishes since the start of March, including a dozen final-table finishes and five titles. The Little Falls, New York native was particularly hot during his extended European trip this May, which yielded more than \$6.3 million in cashes alone.

The largest triumph saw Lonis defeat a field of 180 entries

in the \$100,000 no-limit hold'em main event to capture his third *Triton* title. The victory came with a new career-high score of \$3,446,298 for the current Las Vegas resident, growing his lifetime earnings to more than \$22.1 million.

"It's emotional, I'm trying to hold the tears back," Lonis told *Triton* staff after closing out the momentous victory. "I wanted to come out here and perform. I'm away from my family for a long time and I told them I was going to make it worthwhile."

Lonis ended up cashing in five of the 15 events offered, with those scores accounting for \$5.6 million of his \$8.4 million in total *Triton* earnings. Prior to his huge run in Montenegro, Lonis made three final tables and won one title at the *EPT Monte Carlo* series. Before that, he took down two titles and made five more final tables in events around Las Vegas in March and April.

Lonis squared off heads-up against the reigning champion of this event in Mikalai Vaskaboinikau. The Belarusian walked away with more than \$2.9 million after a valiant run at a title defense after taking down the \$125,000 main event at this stop in 2024 for more than \$4.7 million. Vaskaboinikau also had a \$1.5 million score last November at *Triton Monte Carlo*.

More Big Winners

Interspersed among a trio of six-figure buy-ins at the business-end of the no-limit hold'em segment of the schedule was a pair of \$50,000 buy-in offerings. The first was won by Lithuania's

Dominykas Mikolaitis, who outlasted a field of 100 entries to earn \$1,258,000 and his first trident trophy.

The second of this pair of \$50,000 events saw Austria's **Matthias Eibinger** probe why he just might be the end boss of high-stakes turbo poker tournaments. The 32-year-old poker pro captured his fourth career *Triton* title by topping the field of 51 entries in the turbo bounty quattro to earn \$531,000 along with \$360,000 in bounty payouts.

Three of Eibinger's four *Triton* triumphs have now come in the fast-paced format, having also taken down a pair of turbo events in the spring and fall Cyprus stops back in 2022. This victory made Eibinger just the ninth player in the tour's history to have won four or more titles.

His lone non-turbo victory saw him take down the 2023 *Triton Monte Carlo* \$125,000 main event for nearly \$3.5 million. Eibinger also finished fifth in the \$150,000 no-limit event to add \$1,195,000 to his tally. He now boasts career earnings in excess of \$26 million.

Make It A Dozen For Triton Titles King

That \$150,000 drew a field of 108 entries to create a \$16,200,000 prize pool. In the end, the champion was none other than **Jason Koon**, the player who already held the record for the most titles in *Triton* history.

Jason Koon



Koon with Tollerene and Davies



The 39-year-old American poker pro was also awarded \$3,393,656, the second-largest score of his illustrious career, along with his record-extending 11th trophy. That gave him a six-win lead over the nearest competition, which is a four-way tie between five-time *Triton* champions Phil Ivey, Mikita Badziakouski, Bryn Kenney, and Danny Tang. (pg. 33)

"I'm just at a point in my life now where I'm very comfortable in myself," said Koon. "I have an incredible life outside poker, and what that allows me to do is sit down and feel free and play my best. At this final table, I think I did a good job of executing and I played to the best of my abilities."

This win was made all the more special for Koon given that the final heads-up match for the title pitted him against his longtime friend, Ben Tollerene.

"I got heads up with my best pal and mentor, my inspiration to be standing here. About 12 years ago, whenever I first saw an elite poker player, what it took for them to be great, it was through Ben," said Koon. "Honestly, I never thought at that time I would have the ability to be standing here."

While Koon is running away with the *Triton* title race, it had been a while since his last victory on tour. His tenth win came all the way back in November of 2023, when he took down a \$25,000 pot-limit Omaha event in Monte Carlo. It was his sixth title of that year.

While he had to wait nearly two years between his 10th and 11th wins, it was only a matter of a few days until he grew his total to a dozen. Just three days after his big no-limit win, Koon took down the \$30,000 pot-limit Omaha turbo bounty for a \$305,176 first-place prize and an additional \$80,000 in bounty payouts.

As a result, he further cemented his hold on second place on the *Triton* all-time earnings list, with \$33,600,784 accrued across 62 cashes. Only Bryn Kenney, with \$48,218,135, has more.

Following an ICM chop heads-up, Koon defeated Seth Davies heads-up to secure the title, bringing Davies' similarly successful performance in Montenegro to a close. He cashed four times during the festival for more than \$6 million in total earnings, with one win and two runner-up performances.

Ben Tollerene Headlines PLO Winners

Koon's 12th win came on the final day of the festival,

playing out alongside the final table of the \$100,000 pot-limit Omaha main event. That tournament was won by Koon's heads-up opponent from the \$150,000 event, **Ben Tollerene**. This victory saw him join the three-time *Triton* winner's club in style, topping a field of 93 entries to secure the hardware and the massive \$2,390,000 first-place prize.

The score broke the record for the largest top payout for a PLO tournament, outstripping the \$2,340,000 Sergio Martinez Gonzalez earned as the champion of this same event at the *Triton Jeju* stop earlier this year.

Tollerene had five cashes during this festival, with three final-table showings. With this latest multi-million-dollar windfall factored in, the 38-year-old American poker pro now boasts over \$29 million in lifetime tournament earnings, with more than \$6.2 million of that won during this stop in Montenegro.

In the end, Tollerene faced off against a fellow high-stakes online player in Hungary's Laszlo Bujtas. Tollerene came out on top in the battle of 'ben86' and 'omaha4rollz,' while Bujtas picked up a career-best live score of \$1,645,000 as the runner-up.

Artur Martirosian took third place for \$1,080,000. The two-time *Triton* winner had quite the festival despite not coming away with a title. He cashed for nearly \$2.7 million across nine in-the-money finishes, including two podium showings.

Daniel Dvoress took fifth for \$702,000, and also accumulated over \$2 million during his run in Montenegro, cashing seven times including a runner-up showing in the kickoff event won by Liu.

The \$25,000 six-max PLO event was won by Thailand's **Punnat Punsri**, who overcame a field of 84 entries to lock up his fourth *Triton* title and the top prize of \$550,000. The 32-year-old poker pro from Bangkok now boasts more than \$24.5 million in career tournament earnings, giving him a massive \$20 million lead over second-ranked Kannapong Thanarattrakul on the Thai all-time money list.

Punsri became the 10th player to have won four or more titles on this prestigious high-stakes tour. This was his first in PLO, with his previous victories being in the 2022 *Triton Cyprus* \$100,000 main event, the 2024 *Triton Jeju* \$50,000 no-limit, and the 2025 *Triton Jeju* \$125,000 no-limit. More than 80% of his career earnings have come from his 28 in-the-money finishes at *Triton* stops.

TOURNAMENTS



British PLO specialist **Richard Gryko** captured the final title of the series, outlasting a field of 62 entries in the \$50,000 six-max affair for his first trident and \$884,000. This was the largest live tournament score yet for the *World Series of Poker* bracelet winner, who now has more than \$3.9 million in recorded scores to his name.

Martin Dam finished as the runner-up, just a few days after achieving the same finishing spot in the \$25,000 version of the same event that was won by Punsri. The two scores saw the Danish player take home more than \$1 million in combined earnings.

With the completion of this stop in Montenegro, *Triton* heads on a summer hiatus before returning in the fall in Jeju. ♠

Triton High Roller Series - Maestral Resort & Casino - Sveti Stefan, Montenegro

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$25,000 WPT Global Slam May 13-15 Entries: 155 Prizepool: \$3,875,000	1 Xuan Liu	\$860,000 (1,008)
	2 Daniel Dvoress	\$579,000 (840)
	3 David Peters	\$398,000 (672)
	4 Kristen Foxen	\$325,000 (504)
	5 Tom Fuchs	\$259,000 (420)
	6 Mike Watson	\$199,000 (336)
	7 Yu Zhang	\$144,500 (252)
	8 Paulius Plausinaitis	\$105,000 (168)
	9 Theodore McQuilkin	\$86,500 (84)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$25,000 NLH May 14-15 Entries: 130 Prizepool: \$3,250,000	1 Alex Foxen	\$755,000 (924)
	2 Artur Martirosian	\$512,000 (770)
	3 Nacho Barbero	\$341,000 (616)
	4 Jesse Lonis	\$280,000 (462)
	5 Barak Wisbrod	\$224,000 (385)
	6 Michael Soyza	\$174,000 (308)
	7 Raul Manzanares Lozano	\$129,000 (231)
	8 Webster Lim	\$94,000 (154)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$30,000 NLH May 15-16 Entries: 147 Prizepool: \$4,410,000	1 Nacho Barbero	\$1,025,000 (1,008)
	2 Adrian Mateos	\$694,000 (840)
	3 Stephen Chidwick	\$463,000 (672)
	4 Linus Loeliger	\$379,000 (504)
	5 Kristen Foxen	\$304,000 (420)
	6 Tobias Schwecht	\$235,000 (336)
	7 Barak Wisbrod	\$175,000 (252)
	8 Thomas Santerne	\$128,000 (168)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$40,000 Mystery Bounty May 16-17 Entries: 129 Prizepool: \$5,160,000	1 Jesse Lonis	\$619,000 +\$800,000 (924)
	2 Barak Wisbrod	\$422,000 +\$330,000 (770)
	3 Nick Petrangelo	\$278,000 +\$200,000 (616)
	4 Danny Tang	\$229,000 +\$280,000 (462)
	5 Dominykas Mikolaitis	\$184,000 +\$140,000 (385)
	6 Daniel Dvoress	\$145,000 +\$120,000 (308)
	7 Jamil Wakil	\$108,000 +\$40,000 (231)



Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$50,000 NLH May 17-18 Entries: 143 Prizepool: \$7,150,000	1 Seth Davies	\$1,490,741 (1,224)
	2 Danilo Velasevic	\$1,298,259 (1,020)
	3 Jules Dickerson	\$751,000 (816)
	4 Joao Simao	\$615,000 (612)
	5 Mikita Badziakouski	\$493,000 (510)
	6 Fedor Holz	\$382,000 (408)
	7 Matthew Belcher	\$283,000 (306)
	8 Poseidon Ho	\$208,000 (204)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$30,000 NLH May 18 Entries: 71 Prizepool: \$2,130,000	1 Wai Kiat Lee	\$586,000 (588)
	2 Stanley Tang	\$416,000 (490)
	3 Punnat Punsri	\$272,000 (392)
	4 Thomas Santerne	\$210,000 (294)
	5 Alexander Zubov	\$166,000 (245)
	6 Michael Soyza	\$130,000 (196)
	7 Aleksejs Ponakovs	\$103,000 (147)
	8 Maksim Shornikau	\$80,000 (98)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$200,000 Invitational May 19-21 Entries: 133 Prizepool: \$26,600,000	1 Aleksa Pavicevic	\$6,180,000
	2 Seth Davies	\$4,190,000
	3 Javid Ismayilov	\$2,793,000
	4 Eric Wasserson	\$2,287,000
	5 Taylor von Kriegenbergh	\$1,835,000
	6 Maher Nourira	\$1,423,000
	7 Ramin Hajiyev	\$1,053,000
	8 Joni Jouhkimainen	\$774,000
	9 Thomas Santerne	\$617,000

TOURNAMENTS

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$50,000 NLH May 20-21 Entries: 100 Prizepool: \$5,000,000	1 Dominykas Mikolaitis	\$1,258,000 (1,020)
	2 Alex Kulev	\$850,000 (850)
	3 David Peters	\$552,000 (680)
	4 Jesse Lonis	\$457,000 (510)
	5 Poseidon Ho	\$368,000 (425)
	6 Danilo Velasevic	\$291,000 (340)
	7 Benjamin Tollerene	\$222,000 (255)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$100,000 NLH May 21-23 Entries: 180 Prizepool: \$18,000,000	1 Jesse Lonis	\$3,446,298 (1,680)
	2 Mikalai Vaskaboinikau	\$2,927,702 (1,400)
	3 Wai Kiat Lee	\$1,807,000 (1,120)
	4 Christoph Vogelsang	\$1,463,000 (840)
	5 Ramin Hajiyev	\$1,159,000 (700)
	6 Stephen Chidwick	\$879,000 (560)
	7 Santhosh Suvarna	\$643,000 (420)
	8 Fedor Holz	\$470,000 (280)
	9 Artur Martirosian	\$389,000 (140)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$50,000 NLH Turbo Bounty Quattro May 22 Entries: 51 Prizepool: \$1,770,000	1 Matthias Eibinger	\$531,000+\$360,000 (510)
	2 Ye Wang	\$384,000+\$180,000 (425)
	3 Daniel Dvoress	\$248,000+\$120,000 (340)
	4 Jamil Wakil	\$188,000+\$60,000 (255)
	5 Talal Shakerchi	\$145,000 (213)
	6 Eelis Parssinen	\$113,000+\$60,000 (170)
	7 Kristen Foxen	\$90,000 (128)
	8 Ren Lin	\$71,000 (85)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$150,000 NLH May 23-25 Entries: 108 Prizepool: \$16,200,000	1 Jason Koon	\$3,393,656 (1,200)
	2 Ben Tollerene	\$3,473,344 (1,000)
	3 Wayne Heung	\$1,790,000 (800)
	4 Phil Ivey	\$1,482,000 (600)
	5 Matthias Eibinger	\$1,195,000 (500)
	6 Eelis Parssinen	\$943,000 (400)
	7 Wiktor Malinowski	\$721,000 (300)
	8 Christoph Vogelsang	\$543,000 (200)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$25,000 PLO May 24-25 Entries: 84 Prizepool: \$2,100,000	1 Punnat Punsri	\$550,000 (672)
	2 Martin Dam	\$380,000 (560)
	3 Alex Foxen	\$251,000 (448)
	4 Dirk Gerritse	\$201,000 (336)
	5 Isaac Haxton	\$161,000 (280)
	6 Sean Rafael	\$125,000 (224)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$100,000 PLO May 25-26 Entries: 93 Prizepool: \$9,300,000	1 Ben Tollerene	\$2,390,000 (1,080)
	2 Laszlo Bujtas	\$1,645,000 (900)
	3 Artur Martirosian	\$1,080,000 (720)
	4 Daniel Cates	\$875,000 (540)
	5 Daniel Dvoress	\$702,000 (450)
	6 Sean Rafael	\$549,000 (360)
	7 Phil Ivey	\$433,000 (270)
	8 Wai Yong	\$330,000 (180)
	9 Samuli Sipila	\$242,000 (90)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$50,000 PLO May 26-27 Entries: 92 Prizepool: \$3,100,000	1 Richard Gryko	\$884,000 (918)
	2 Martin Dam	\$626,000 (765)
	3 Danny Tang	\$410,000 (612)
	4 Eelis Parssinen	\$310,000 (459)
	5 Klemens Roiter	\$245,000 (383)
	6 Dirk Gerritse	\$190,000 (306)

Event	Player	Payout (POY)
\$30,000 PLO Turbo Bounty May 27 Entries: 72 Prizepool: \$1,530,000	Jason Koon	\$305,176+\$80,000 (588)
	2 Seth Davies	\$296,824+\$40,000 (490)
	3 Gergo Nagy	\$141,000+\$80,000 (392)
	4 Jonas Kronwitter	\$107,000+\$80,000 (294)
	5 Andrew Leathem	\$83,000 (245)
	6 Nacho Barbero	\$64,000 (196)
	7 Artur Martirosian	\$52,000+\$120,000 (147)
	8 Santhosh Suvarna	\$41,000 (98)



TRITON POKER TITLES



Rank	Player	Titles	Cashes	Tour Earnings
1	Jason Koon	12	62	\$33,600,784
2	Bryn Kenney	5	19	\$48,218,135
3	Mikita Badziakouski	5	45	\$27,893,117
4	Danny Tang	5	51	\$20,878,104
5	Phil Ivey	5	42	\$17,330,904
6	Fedor Holz	4	32	\$21,242,037
7	Punnat Punsri	4	29	\$20,832,455
8	Matthias Eibinger	4	25	\$14,058,569
9	Mike Watson	4	39	\$13,666,683
10	Wai Kin Yong	4	25	\$13,397,151

There are now 46 players with multiple *Triton Poker* titles to their name, with several stars from the prestigious high-stakes tour adding to their haul with big wins at the recently completed stop in Montenegro. While there are 29 two-time champions, only 17 high-rolling stars currently boast three or more *Triton* victories, and just 10 have earned at least four trident trophies.

Towering over all others on this leaderboard is **Jason Koon** with 12 wins. Koon added to his already sizable advantage over the field by taking down both the \$150,000 buy-in no-limit hold'em event and the \$30,000 pot-limit Omaha turbo bounty quattro event at this latest festival. Koon is so far ahead that you could cut his win total in half and the American would still have one more title than any other player in the tour's history.

Bryn Kenney, the tour's all-time money leader with \$48.2 million, is part of the four-way tie for second on this leaderboard, joining Mikita Badziakouski, Danny Tang, and Phil Ivey

with five *Triton* triumphs. Kenney didn't play following his big March series in Jeju, but the other three players all made final tables in Montenegro, with Ivey cashing for more than \$2 million overall.

Thai poker pro **Punnat Punsri** is now part of the five-way pileup at four titles thanks to his win in a \$25,000 pot-limit Omaha event. Of the four-time champions, Punsri has the second-most earnings with \$20.7 million, trailing only the \$21.2 million of fellow four-timer Fedor Holz.

Punsri joined that group just a few days after **Matthias Eibinger** had reached the same title count. The Austrian has one main event win on the tour under his belt, with his three other victories all coming in turbo tournaments.

Sitting just outside the top 10 with three wins each are Mario Mosbock, Tan Xuan, Lim Chin Wei, as well as newcomers Alex Foxen, Ben Tollerene, Nacho Barbero, and Jesse Lonis, who all found the winner's circle in Montenegro. ♠

KEVIN LI CAPTURES FIRST BRACELET OF 2025

By Erik Fast



Canada's Kevin Li earned his seat in the 2025 *World Series of Poker Tournament of Champions* by taking down a \$600 no-limit hold'em and pot-limit Omaha mix event at the *WSOP International Circuit Deerfoot Casino* stop last August. The 23-year-old Calgary native parlayed that victory into a \$200,000 payday and his first *WSOP* gold bracelet as the last player standing from a field of 485 contenders.

"It's insane, I never would have thought this was even possible or something that I would ever do," Li told *Poker*. *Org*. "Poker wasn't necessarily my main game plan. I graduated with a degree in software, and I didn't expect to have all this time to come travel and play these events. It is a really big honor to get to be able to come here and show off my skills."

This annual event ran from May 15-17 at Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, California. The \$1 million freeroll required a *WSOP* gold bracelet or *WSOP Circuit* gold ring win during the past year in order to participate. A total of 1,169 players were eligible, with roughly 42 percent of that total turning up to compete.

Li came into the final day in eighth chip position among the last nine. Reigning *World Poker Tour World Championship* winner Scott Stewart was the first to hit the rail. The eight-time *Circuit* ring winner lost a huge flip with pocket queens against the A♥ K♥ of Shawn Rice. Stewart was a huge favorite heading into the river with a board of J♦ 7♣ 4♥ Q♠, but the 10♠ on the end gave Rice Broadway and the knockout. Stewart settled for \$16,100 as the ninth-place finisher.

Kevin Lemmer (8th – \$21,000) and Yang Xu (7th – \$28,000) soon joined Stewart on the rail. Nine-time ring winner Maxwell Young's (6th – \$37,000) run came to an end when his top pair, top kicker clashed with the flopped two pair of Donald Ciaglo.

Li was the short stack to start five-handed play,

but found a crucial double through Karapet Galstyan to give himself some breathing room. Galstyan was left short after his A-8 suited lost to Li's K-9 in a preflop showdown, and soon was eliminated in fifth place for \$50,000.

2023 *WPT World Championship* winner and 2024 *WSOP* \$1,500 shoot-out champion Daniel Sepiol soon got involved in a preflop clash with Li, who had opened with A♣ J♥ from the cutoff. Sepiol three-bet shoved for 18 big blinds from the small blind with A♠ 10♣ and Li called. The board ran out K♣ 9♠ 8♣ Q♣ 10♠, and Li made a straight to score the knockout. Sepiol grew

his career earnings to \$9.5 million thanks to the \$70,000 payout he secured as the fourth-place finisher.

Li's surge continued when Ciaglo shoved from the button for 38 big blinds with A♣ 6♦. Li made the easy call with aces from the small blind and held to take the lead going into heads-up play with Rice. Ciaglo earned \$100,000 for his podium showing.

The final battle for the bracelet lasted roughly an hour and a half. Li had extended his lead to nearly 3:1 before the last shuffle. Rice raised on the button with K♦ 4♠ and Li three-bet holding K♠ Q♥. Rice jammed and Li made the call having him dominated. The A♠ A♦ 5♦ J♣ 7♦ runoff improved neither player, and Li's high cards earned him the pot and the title.

Rice walked away with \$140,000 as the runner-up, the second-largest score of his career. The Texas resident now sports nearly \$1.7 million in lifetime cashes after this deep run. His top payday remains the \$213,000 he earned for a runner-up finish in a \$2,000 no-limit hold'em event back at the 2004 *WSOP*. Although he has yet to win a bracelet, he did pick up his first *Circuit* ring at Choctaw earlier this year. ♠

Player	Payout
1 Kevin Li	\$200,000
2 Shawn Rice	\$140,000
3 Donald Ciaglo	\$100,000
4 Daniel Sepiol	\$70,000
5 Karapet Galstyan	\$50,000
6 Maxwell Young	\$37,000
7 Yang Xu	\$28,000
8 Kevin Lemmer	\$21,000
9 Scott Stewart	\$16,100

STEPHEN SONG CRUSHES THE LORD IN SOUTH KOREA

By Erik Fast

Stephen Song seized the spotlight at *The Lord Poker Tournament Jeju* festival in South Korea, cashing for \$970,000 across three final table finishes, winning two titles along the way.

The American poker pro's biggest triumph of the festival saw him defeat a field of 191 entries in the \$15,000 buy-in no-limit hold'em main event, which ran from May 16-18 at the Jeju Shinhwa World Resort. The event failed to surpass its \$3 million guarantee, resulting in an overlay for those who cashed.

Song was awarded \$750,000 as the eventual champion, the second-largest score yet for the 29-year-old. This trails only the \$1.4 million he banked as the champion of the 2024 *European Poker Tour Barcelona* main event last fall and it narrowly edged out the \$712,650 he secured as the champion of the inaugural *World Poker Tour Prime Championship* in 2022. The *World Series of Poker* bracelet winner now boasts nearly \$10.2 million in career earnings.

Notables that joined Song at the final table in that tournament included Danish short-deck crusher Martin Nielsen (4th - \$220,000) and German high roller Marius Gierse (3rd - \$320,000). Song took a massive lead into heads-up play with James Mendoza after busting Gierse. Mendoza put up a game effort to battle back into the match, but was soon sent to the rail as the runner-up with a \$450,000 consolation prize.

Before taking down the main event, Song had finished seventh in a \$500 buy-in tournament that drew 505 entries, earning \$16,000 for his efforts.

The day after winning the big dance, Song entered the \$20,000 buy-in high roller and made it to the final day with the chip lead. The Connecticut native was able to convert his big stack into the title once again, hoisting his second trophy of the series just two days after his first. Song pocketed another \$204,000 as the last player standing from a field of 32 entries.

Mendoza also joined him in putting up impressive back-to-back showings, following his second-place finish up with a run to the final four. He added another \$75,000 to his career haul in this high-stakes event. Taylor Black took third for \$101,000, while Calvin Lee negotiated a chop for \$200,000. ♠



\$500 NLH

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Weizheng Zhong	\$120,000 (420)
2 Xuecong Wu	\$65,000 (350)
3 William Jia	\$47,000 (280)
4 Fangzhou Zhu	\$36,300 (210)
5 Yiyu Zhou	\$28,000 (175)
6 Jiaming Zhao	\$21,000 (140)
7 Stephen Song	\$16,000 (105)

\$15,000 NLH

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Stephen Song	\$750,000 (1,008)
2 James Mendoza	\$450,000 (840)
3 Marius Gierse	\$320,000 (672)
4 Martin Nielsen	\$220,000 (504)
5 Patrik Demus	\$170,000 (420)
6 Ivan Zhang	\$130,000 (336)
7 Huawei Lin	\$100,000 (252)
8 Jiaming Zhao	\$76,000 (168)
9 Haitao Lei	\$62,000 (84)

\$20,000 NLH

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Stephen Song	\$204,000 (288)
2 Calvin Lee	\$200,000 (240)
3 Taylor Black	\$101,000 (192)
4 James Mendoza	\$75,000 (144)
5 Lei Yu	\$60,000 (120)

CHRIS MONEYMAKER WINS MAIN EVENT ON HIS NAMESAKE TOUR

By Erik Fast

Poker Hall of Famer Chris Moneymaker added to his legendary story by taking down a \$1,100 buy-in no-limit hold'em main event on the poker tour named in his honor.

He defeated a field of 424 entries that turned out in May to the latest *Moneymaker Tour* main event at Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach, Florida, to hoist the championship trophy.

The 2003 *World Series of Poker* main event champion earned \$83,042, giving him more than \$8.1 million in career earnings. Moneymaker's largest cash remains the \$2.5 million he earned for taking down the big dance at the series more than two decades ago.

Founded in 2023 with its first stop at Palm Beach Kennel Club, the *Moneymaker Tour* recently saw its namesake capture his second title on the circuit. Just weeks before this main event victory, Moneymaker won a \$300 mixed Omaha event for \$5,195 at the same venue.

His recent win saw him secure the lion's share of the \$411,280 prize pool, which easily surpassed the \$250,000 guarantee. Moneymaker had some tough competition down the stretch, including two-time bracelet winner Loni Hui who finished fourth for \$25,253.

She ran A-J into the A-K of Chad Summers to hit the rail. Summers soon followed, with his A-J unable to hold against the K-6 of Moneymaker in a battle of the blinds. Summers



earned \$37,463 for his podium showing.

That left Moneymaker heads-up with Jason Wandling holding roughly a 5:2 chip lead. The two clashed for a while, but a preflop cooler brought the showdown to an end. Moneymaker's pocket kings held against pocket jacks to send Wandling to the rail with \$58,245. ♠

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Chris Moneymaker	\$83,042 (720)
2 Jason Wandling	\$58,245 (600)
3 Chad Summers	\$37,463 (480)
4 Loni Hui	\$25,253 (360)
5 Luis Capella	\$19,412 (300)
6 Manelic Minaya	\$16,122 (240)
7 Andrew Difeo	\$13,502 (180)

© Moneymaker Tour

COREY WICK TRIUMPHS IN MICHIGAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

By Ryan Lucchesi

Corey Wick won his first *Major Series of Poker: The Tour* title by taking down the *MSPT Michigan State Poker Championship* hosted at FireKeepers Casino in Battle Creek. He topped over 3,000 opponents for \$397,587, which makes up the majority of the nearly half million in career tournament earnings for the Wisconsin resident.

The \$1,110 tournament built a total prize pool to \$2,947,300, nearly tripling the \$1 million guarantee. The 344 players that moved on from the three starting flights all made the money, locking up at least \$2,209 in prize money for their efforts.

The last day began with all those who cashed still in contention and continued until a champion was decided. The final table didn't start until after 11 p.m. local time, and Wick was second in chips when cards got into the air.

MSPT regular D.J. Buckley fell in seventh place to take his career earnings on the tour to more than half a million. Sung Kim was out next in sixth place, while *WSOP Circuit* ring winner Jose Montes hit the rail in fifth place.

Wick was able to find back-to-back double-ups and scored his first knockout at the final table when he eliminated Ryan Brown in fourth place. He then busted Travis McCullough in third place to take a 3:1 chip advantage against Ryan Eamon.

The last hand of the tournament arrived just before 3 a.m. when Eamon got all in with K♠ 9♠. Wick called with A♣ 3♠, and the board came down 10♥ 8♥ 3♦ 3♥ Q♦ to



give him the title with trip threes. Eamon earned \$244,462 as the runner-up, growing his career haul to more than \$400,000. ♠

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Corey Wick	\$397,587 (1,200)
2 Ryan Eamon	\$244,462 (1,000)
3 Travis McCullough	\$182,448 (800)
4 Ryan Brown	\$142,248 (600)
5 Jose Montes	\$108,085 (500)
6 Sung Kim	\$85,408 (400)
7 Daniel Buckley	\$65,381 (300)
8 Oliwer Sankiewicz	\$50,656 (200)
9 Dale Kirgis	\$41,820 (100)

© MSPT

ART PAPAZYAN TAKES DOWN WSOP CIRCUIT COMMERCE

By Ryan Lucchesi

Art Papazyan won the *WSOP Circuit* main event hosted at Commerce Casino in May, banking a score of \$341,830. This victory grew his career earnings to nearly \$1.8 million.

The two-time *World Poker Tour* champion from Los Angeles now has a gold ring to add to his trophy collection after topping a talented field in his own backyard. This was his third-largest score yet, trailing only his pair of *WPT* triumphs.

The \$1,700 buy-in tournament drew 1,554 runners, growing the total prize pool to \$2,354,310 to easily surpass the \$2 million guarantee. The top 187 players all cashed for at least \$3,465.

Papazyan held the chip lead when cards got into the air at the final table, and he expanded his advantage by eliminating Paul Hizer in ninth place. His next elimination sent poker boom star Phil Laak packing in sixth place. Rising high-stakes newcomer Noel Rodriguez soon followed.

Papazyan also busted Adam Swan in third to take a slight lead into the final match against Luis Concha.

Concha was grinded down, and even scored a much-needed double up to stay alive, but it wasn't long before he was all in and at risk again. Papazyan four-bet shoved preflop, and Concha was in a good spot with pocket tens ahead of pocket fours.

But the final board came down $Q\clubsuit 6\clubsuit 6\diamondsuit 4\heartsuit 7\spadesuit$ to give Papazyan the full house and the victory. Concha took home



\$232,038 for the runner-up finish, which increased his career earnings to nearly \$500,000. The Los Angeles player won his first *Circuit* ring at last November's Commerce stop in a \$600 PLO event. ♠

Player	Payout (POY)
1 Artur Papazyan	\$341,830 (1,080)
2 Luis Concha	\$232,038 (900)
3 Adam Swan	\$167,412 (720)
4 Nick Shkolnik	\$122,215 (540)
5 Noel Rodriguez	\$90,290 (450)
6 Phil Laak	\$67,514 (360)
7 David Avina	\$51,103 (270)
8 Yen Dang	\$39,162 (180)
9 Paul Hizer	\$30,389 (90)

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Pot-Limit Omaha Tournament Strategy With Daniel Negreanu, Josh Arieh, Ben Lamb, Jesse Lonis, And Joey Ingram

By Craig Tapscott



Looking for pot-limit Omaha tournament tips? This group of poker pros includes some of the winningest PLO tournament players of all time, combining for more than \$13 million in cashes, as well as five bracelets in the discipline.

Card Player: What is your advice for cash game players just dipping their toes into PLO tournament events?

Daniel Negreanu: While playing PLO tournaments, you have to really make a mental note of the stack sizes, especially early on when everyone is deep.

My best advice is to play a little more cautiously preflop in some spots. You don't want to telegraph your hand when you reraise preflop with aces, especially when there are a lot of chips behind. That's mainly because you're giving away a lot.

When it's later in the tournament, and you only have 25 to 30 big blinds, it's fine. You know, you just get it in there. But it's best to be a little trickier when deep stacked; that's kind of important.

A lot of players will say things like, 'Oh man, I took a terrible beat. I had a hundred big blinds and two aces in PLO, and I lost to a guy with Q-9-6-4.'

I have to add, 'who was 44 percent.' You know what I mean? You have to understand when you're getting it in preflop, you're never getting it in better than two-to-one. It's a post-flop game. I always tell players to focus on making good decisions post-flop.

Card Player: Can you share some PLO bubble strategies that beginners may not be aware of?

Daniel Negreanu: The thing about PLO, especially around the bubbles, is that the equities run so close. Every hand is pretty close in equity, which allows the chip leader to open up any four cards. And most of the time when he's doing that, he's just fine.

What it does is force the short stacks to say things like, 'My God, I can't get it in really good.' But if I have 12 big blinds, and there are guys with three and four big blinds at a final table or a bubble, ICM, all those variables factor in.

[Medium stacks] have to play extremely conservatively, because you have the dynamic where the chip leader can open up super wide, and the short stacks are handcuffed.

The strategy is quite simple in that regard, right? If you keep that in mind when you're the big stack and can take advantage of the dynamic, you want to be the hammer, not the anvil on the bubbles.

Card Player: Any pointers for new players?

Josh Arieh: One of the basic pointers for PLO tournaments is to understand the stage of the tournament that you're in at any given moment. And also, to know that the blinds that you have are worth way more than you realize.

For example, when you're at 10 or 15 blinds, you can still maneuver and do things at the table. Don't be afraid to limp. It's not like it is in no-limit. If you're not raising coming in the pot during a no-limit tournament, you're losing money, whereas in PLO, you can limp.

One thing I've noticed is that many



players overvalue aces in PLO. Aces are valuable, but tough to play. Be cautious and avoid becoming too attached to them.

Card Player: What's one of the fastest ways to expand your PLO knowledge?

Ben Lamb: I spent a lot of time years ago discussing the game with my friend Chance Kornuth. We spent a lot of time under the same roof and learning the game together. At that time, there were no solvers or training software. We both watched videos and read books.

One of the best ways to learn the game is by discussing why I made a particular decision at any point during a hand. I learned a lot during that period, especially with someone as sharp as Chance. That's still the best advice. Find someone you can discuss the game with.

Card Player: What are some of the leaks you see players have the most often?

Ben Lamb: People still tend to overplay aces a bit, but anyone who has studied has primarily addressed that issue by now.

I think no-limit players coming to PLO overvalue many hands more than they should, not just aces. They overvalue a hand like two weak pair, or they have a shot at a nine-high flush, things like that. They have a little bit of everything in their hand, but nothing is really very good.

In tournaments, I think many beginning players tend not to real-

ize how much tighter you need to play when you're short-stacked. And inversely, and more importantly, how much looser you can play when you have chips.

When you have a big stack, you need to put pressure on people and try to maintain that large stack. That's changed a bit over the last few years with the ante being added, though. It's a change for the better because now you have to battle for your blinds a bit more. I don't think people are doing that as much as they should, depending on their stack size.

Card Player: What advice do you share with players just dipping their toes into PLO MTTs?

Jesse Lonis: I believe many PLO players come from a cash game PLO background. Because of that experience, they don't realize you can't just sit there and play quality hands and play solid poker as you mostly can during a cash game. In PLO tournaments, your goal is to get every single chip.

During certain stages of the tournament, it is essential to open more hands than people are accustomed to doing. Because during their whole PLO experiences in cash games, they're used to only playing a certain range.

Players need to understand and be able to open any four cards, as there are numerous bubbles in PLO tournaments, not just the money bubble.

Every stage is kind of a bubble. You've got to learn when to be aggressive and when to sit back. There are also times when you really have to over-

fold hands, even when you normally wouldn't. It's an entirely different game than cash, and you have to be able to adjust to that.

Card Player: What are some of the major leaks you see pretty often during tournaments?

Jesse Lonis: I don't think players adjust enough at the right times; also, you can be the complete opposite of standard play, depending on the stage of the tournament.

I always suggest to players to have fun during a PLO tournament. Also, be aware that final tables are such an ICM battle. That's something players need to learn.

Card Player: Biggest difference between cash game PLO and tournaments?

Jesse Lonis: That's where all the money is made when you get to the end. That's when you have to know how to play small ball at certain times and give yourself a chance to ladder. It all depends on your stack size.

If you're in the middle of the field, you want to wait for the short stacks to bust before you play most any type of hand.

If you have a big stack, you have to be able to realize when there's a very short stack where you can open almost any hand. I don't think people do that enough, from my experience.

Card Player: What advice do you have for those who want to take a shot at PLO tournaments?

Joe Ingram: One of the biggest adjustments when transitioning from

© PokerGO / WPT



Daniel Negreanu had a dream run to capture the 2024 WSOP Poker Players Championship and a seventh bracelet. The GGPoker ambassador has \$55 million in tournament earnings, more than \$2 million of which has come in PLO. Watch the two-time WSOP POY's vlogs on YouTube or follow on Twitter/X @RealKidPoker.

Josh Arie is a proud member of Team Lucky and owner of the staking site PokerStake, previously known as PocketFives. The six-time WSOP bracelet winner and 2021 WSOP Player of the Year has \$3 million in PLO cashes and \$14 million overall. Follow the Atlanta pro on Twitter/X @JoshuaArie.

Ben Lamb has made two WSOP main event final tables, and was the 2011 WSOP Player of the Year. The high-stakes cash game regular and co-founder of Yeet crypto casino has \$4.1 million in PLO tournament earnings, with \$17 million cashed in total. Follow the Tulsa native on Twitter/X @BenbaLamb.

Jesse Lonis is on fire, having dominated the recent Triton Montenegro series to climb to the top of the overall Player of the Year race. The New York native has already racked up \$21 million in cashes, with \$3.8 million of that coming in PLO tournaments. He also won the \$50,000 PLO high roller at the WSOP in 2023. Follow on Twitter/X @JesseLonis.

Joey Ingram is a popular poker content creator and media personality. Although the Chicago native doesn't have the tournament results of the other players listed here, he's a long-time PLO cash game player. The Venetian Poker Room and GTO Wizard ambassador can be found on YouTube or Twitter/X @JoeIngram1.

PLO cash to tournaments is learning to fold beautiful hands that you'd never let go of in a cash game.

Once stacks start shrinking, especially in that 10 to 40 big blind range, you can't just pot every hand. Whether to pot, limp, or min-raise becomes a much bigger consideration. That's been a weakness of mine in the past, so I've spent a lot of time refining my opening ranges at shorter stack sizes.

Card Player: What are you primarily focusing on during the early stages of a PLO tournament?

Joe Ingram: Hands that realize equity immediately become a lot more valuable as stacks get shorter. The pretty rundowns that look great deep just don't perform well short-stacked and

can get you in trouble.

Early on, you'll usually find a lot of weaker players at the table, so I focus on getting into pots with them and building a stack when I have position and an edge.

Another key thing I've learned is to avoid over-defending marginal hands in the big blind. That's one of the classic traps that gets people in trouble.

Once you get deep, understanding ICM becomes critical. A lot of cash game players have no clue how it works, but it drastically affects how wide you can open, when to be the aggressor, and how tight you need to defend. Mastering that transition can be the difference between bubbling a final table and making a real run. ♠

THE 10 FACES OF TILT

By Alex Fitzgerald

Tilt is every poker player's worst enemy, sneaking into your game when emotions run high and decisions get clouded. From frustration after a bad beat to overconfidence during a hot streak, tilt can take on many forms, each capable of derailing your session.

In this article, I'll break down the 10 most common types of tilt, how they affect your game, and - most importantly - how you can stay calm and regain control. Mastering these mental challenges is the key to becoming a more disciplined, consistent, and successful player.

Bad Beat Tilt

This is the most obvious form of tilt, so we won't spend much time on it. We've all done it. We take a bad beat and we're infuriated. We're done with playing disciplined poker, because it never does us any good anyway. So, we



swing for the fences. It rarely works.

Winner's Tilt

I had one year when I was super young where I hit every flop I needed. It got to my head. Soon, whenever I

wanted to take a flop, I did so, implied odds be damned. Anytime I wanted to try a hero call or a huge bluff, I did so.

As you can imagine, at a certain point reality came crashing down, and I had to learn how to play actual poker again. But it was a great lesson.

You'll see a lot of people at any table who are going through this tilt cycle, sometimes for years at a time. Tournament poker with its variance is excellent at producing players on winner's tilt who think they can't be touched.

Entitlement Tilt

Nits are especially prone to this kind of tilt. They believe they deserve results because they're playing disciplined poker, unlike all the other heathens they play with. However, what they're truly doing is waiting for a premium pair that they can never fold post-flop, so everyone tries to crack their hand.

Tightening Tilt

I really shouldn't tell you this, but this is how I tilt. When I take a bad beat or a bad run of cards, I want to take my ball and go home. I get tired of trying to engage with people who are holding over me. I prefer to wait for a premium flop and go from there.

This isn't a normal type of tilt. Most people won't fold away their chips in any poker game. At some point, they will get desperate. But some people just get disinterested for whatever reason.

"They Can't Have It Every Time!"

This is a version of entitlement tilt, but it can happen to players who are not nits. People who expect to play their

cards every few minutes will get pissed when they're suddenly at a table full of aggressive players who push them out of pots regularly.

Two hours in they will say to themselves, "They can't have it every time!" They'll start justifying ridiculous calls and bluffs they would never normally do.

I've been in \$10,000 tournaments where working class people have gone into a rage four hours in because they had to suffer the indignity of sitting in a chair. They blew away all their chips to finally find out if these players were bullying them. They didn't like what they found.

Accumulated Tilt

When someone believes they uniquely run worse than everyone else, they can experience accumulated tilt. Every missed flush draw will be evidence they have been dealt a rotten hand in life, and every huge hand will be discounted with, "Well, I didn't get paid off, did I? That doesn't even begin to make up for all the bad beats I've had."

Life Tilt

None of us are immune to this. When you go through a break-up, divorce, business closure, job loss, or whatever it is then emotions can run high.

However, a lot of people use these disasters as excuses. "Oh, everything is meaningless now. I'm just going to go into the cardroom and gamble, because my life couldn't get any worse."

Boredom Tilt

This is extremely common. People show up to a major tournament prepared to play their best poker, fold for an hour and a half, and then decide they've had enough of that shit. They start calling with goofball hands hoping to

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hit flops. They start calling down too much in the hopes of forcing something good to happen.

Fatigue Tilt

A cousin of boredom is fatigue. Many players get tired during a long session and start playing weird hands to keep themselves awake. It doesn't end well.

End Of Session Tilt

You know what makes me a solid cash game player? I can leave a session down \$71.

Most people can't do that. It takes time to drive to the cardroom. They have to explain to their spouse why they're going to be out again. There's money involved.

After all of this, people don't want to go home a slight winner or small loser. They want to justify the session. They go for a home run late at night to justify all the time they spent playing. How do you think that normally works out?

How To Remove Your Tilt

Did you recognize your tilt styles from this article?

Good. Admitting to the problem is half of the process. You can now recognize what is messing with you and make adjustments.

I can't tell you how to beat your tilt in a couple of paragraphs. It took me over a decade to get a handle on mine. If this is a serious problem, you should hire a mental coach.

However, I can give you some tips.

Get some friends to call you out. Get halfway decent sleep. Eat to manage your energy levels. Never stop mov-

ing. Get some sun. Work on your game.

You're never going to rise to the occasion. You're going to fall to the level of your training. If you truly want to beat tilt, you have to work on your game harder than anyone. You have to study and do hand quizzes nonstop. You want to know what your move is in any situation. That way, if you sleep terrible or get heated, you'll remember what you're supposed to do.

If you can make yourself do what has to be done regardless of the situation you're in, then you will become a champion.

Conclusion

Tilt is an inevitable part of poker, but it doesn't have to control your game. By recognizing your specific tilt tendencies and taking proactive steps to address them, you can turn these moments of frustration into opportunities for growth.

Remember, the best players aren't the ones who never tilt — they're the ones who know how to manage it and keep their focus sharp. Stay disciplined, keep working on your mental game, and tilt will no longer stand between you and success at the table. ♠



Alexander Fitzgerald is a professional poker player and bestselling author who lives in Denver, Colorado. He is a WPT and EPT final tablist with numerous online tournament wins. Free training packages of his are available to new newsletter subscribers who sign up for free at

www.pokerheadrush.com.



STOP BEING SO STICKY!

By Jonathan Little

I was recently told about a hand from a \$1-\$3 live, no-limit cash game that illustrates a few mistakes many recreational poker players make on a regular basis.

A player in third position limped with a \$450 effective stack at a nine-handed table, as did our Hero in the cutoff with K♠ J♥.

Our Hero told me that he limped with K-J instead of raising because he thought the initial limper had a tight range and likely had him dominated. If that is the case, K-J should be easily folded.

If you are somewhat confident your opponent has a premium range, you should not get involved with hands that are easily dominated, such as A-8 and K-J.

An unknown player on the button raised to \$15. The initial limper called.

At this point, Hero has to put in \$12 more into a pot that will be \$49 (minus the rake) after he calls. It is reasonable to think Hero will realize about 25% equity, so calling is probably fine (assuming he does not think he is horribly dominated).

That said, Hero is certain to find himself in difficult post-flop situations, especially when he flops a pair and faces a bet on all three streets. So again, folding is likely best.

Hero instead called. The flop came Q♣ 9♦ 2♠. The initial limper and Hero checked to the preflop raiser, who bet \$25 into the \$49 pot. The initial limper folded.



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Hero again has an easy fold. A gutshot on a board with a flush draw is nothing to be proud of. If the opponent bet smaller, perhaps \$18 or less, calling (or raising) may become reasonable due to the excellent pot odds. But against larger bets, folding is almost certainly the best play because in order to bet into two opponents, the bettor must have something reasonable, like a decent pair or draw.

Hero instead called. The turn was the 3♠ and Hero led for \$40 into the \$99 pot.

I actually don't mind Hero's decision to bluff some portion of the time (even though his specific hand is not an excellent bluffing candidate). When you check-call the flop, (also referred to as floating) you should actively look for spots to take away the pot on the turn, either by leading or check-raising.

Given stacks are still quite deep and there is now a flush available, I would have check-folded, but check-raising may be fine if Hero expects the opponent to continue bluffing with many of his unpaired hands, or if he thinks the opponent will fold strong hands like A-A. I would have been more patient when choosing my bluff spot, waiting for hands containing one club, giving me some additional outs when I happen to get called.

The opponent called. The river was the 10♥, giving Hero a straight. Hero bet \$75 into the \$179 pot and his opponent raised all-in for \$370 total.

At this point, Hero has to call \$295 more into a pot that will be \$919 after Hero calls, meaning he needs to win about 30% of the time or more to justify calling.

While a straight is quite high up the hand ranking chart, I would be surprised if a generic player in a \$1-\$3 game is bluffing all-in anywhere near 30% of the time. Hero also

does not have any clubs in his hand, making it a bit more likely for the opponent to have a flush (including the probable nut flush).

If the opponent was known to bluff in spots like these where Hero could easily have a flush, then calling may make sense, but against almost everyone, Hero has an easy fold. When you represent extreme strength by leading on a scary turn and then continue betting on the river, if you get raised, you can be confident that you are against the flush the vast majority of the time.

Hero called and lost to the nuts, A♠ 5♣. As Hero told me, he got what he deserved.

If you want to avoid making the most common mistakes I see my students make, I put together a course called The 25 Biggest Leaks and How to Fix Them. This course is completely free inside *Card Player* Poker School!

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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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Punt Of The Day: Two Pair In Paris

By Sam Greenwood



Even the best players in the world make mistakes. Join Sam Greenwood as he breaks down and analyzes hands played from the high roller circuit on his Punt Of The Day Substack.

Paris. The City of Light! I arrived just after Valentine's

Day, and it felt like a movie. The hotel and casino were connected to a mall with a very good grocery store, so I only ended up going outside twice during the two weeks I was there.

My first two POTDs were about putting too much money in the pot with a bad hand. This time, I mixed it up and put too much money in the pot with a good hand. At least my mistakes are balanced!

Since this hand happened two years ago, I had to estimate stack sizes and exact bet sizes, but don't worry - the mistakes I made were robust enough that they're still mistakes at both 20 and 100 big blinds.

Event: 2023 EPT Paris €25,000 High Roller

The Hand

Registration has just closed in this single-day tournament, and I'm sitting on 135,000 up from my original 100,000 starting stack. The blinds are 2,000-5,000 with a 5,000 big blind ante.

It folds around to Thomas Muhlocker who raises to 10,000 off of a 125,000 stack in the cutoff. I defend 7♦ 3♦ in the big blind.

Flop: 10♠ 7♥ 3♣ (Pot: 27,000)

I check, and Thomas checks behind.

© PokerStars / Eloy Cabacas

Hi, my name is Sam Greenwood.

I've played millions of hands of poker and cashed for millions of dollars in tournaments, but I've also made millions of mistakes along the way.

Every day on my Substack I am going to revisit the blunders I've made, walk you through what I was thinking in the hand, and explain why I was unable to execute to the best of my abilities. My hope is that you'll gain some insights from my punts and we can all learn something together.

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Turn: 5♥ (Pot: 27,000)

I bet 30,000, and Thomas calls.

River: Q♦ (Pot: 87,000)

I shove for Thomas's last 85,000, and he folds.

What Was I Thinking?

I have a suited hand that pure defends preflop, and 10-high boards never get leads from the big blind. Even though this hand took place two years ago, I can easily remember what I was thinking at the time.

'I have two pair, and he checked the flop, so I'm going to keep betting until I'm all-in.'

A good heuristic in all forms of no-limit hold'em is that if you are in the big blind and the preflop raiser checks back the flop, you play aggressively on most turns, especially with good hands. The preflop raiser often has a middle-of-range hand that can bluff catch, but isn't necessarily interested in value betting. So, you force them to put money in the pot.

It's not hard to find bluffs as the big blind, either. I have a wide array of flush draws, two-card straight draws, and one-card straight draws that can semi-bluff on the turn. The Q♦ river is not great for my range, as overcards usually aren't good for the big blind. But with only a pot-sized bet left to play for, I'm still allowed to continue value betting two pair-plus and happily shove for value.

What Did I Get Wrong?

I aced the difficult preflop and flop nodes with my expert play. On the turn, I got the shape of my strategy correct in that I bet a lot and my most common sizes are on the larger end.

The errors I made were in hand selection. Thomas's flop check-back range does have a lot of middle of range hands. (One of the more common middle of range hands that checks back the flop and calls a turn bet is a 7-x. Another

lower-frequency hand, but still present, is 3-x. When I have 7-3 I'm blocking around 5% of his turn calling range.)

I thought I would be betting the turn for value, but also protection. What I failed to realize was that my hand needs very little protection. Sure, there are bad rivers for my hand, such as a 4, 5, 6, 10, or a heart. That's almost half the deck.

But hands that aren't drawing dead vs. two pair rarely fold the turn. There is value in charging those hands, but checking two pair is more likely to let a hand that is drawing dead catch up or bluff than it is to let a hand that would fold to a bet suck out on me, because he has a lot more unpaired no-draw hands like A-K high or K♥6♦.

Types Of Errors I Made

Defaulting to a lazy play

Underestimating how much equity I had

Grade

Shoveling money in the pot with a hand that is good enough to stack off can never be that costly a mistake and is often a strong exploit vs loose-passive players. It's not a costly play, but slow-playing flopped bottom two is an easy mechanic to internalize, and one I could have figured out if I were playing my A-game.

I'll give this one a B-. ♠



Sam Greenwood is one of the winningest tournament poker players ever and is third on Canada's all-time money list, having cashed for \$42 million and counting in high roller events all over the world. The former stock trader-turned-champion has played millions of poker hands and is breaking them down street by street on his Punt Of The Day Substack. You can reach out to the Run It Once coach on Twitter/X for private coaching @SamGreenwoodRIO.

TAKE ADVANTAGE WHEN A RUNOUT HURTS THEIR RANGE

By Mark Mazmanian

I was playing in a \$20-\$40 mix game at Wynn recently where an interesting hand came up in Big O8.

The structure of this game is identical to fixed-limit Omaha eight-or-better (O8), with the only change being that each player is dealt five cards instead of four. Because of that extra hole card, it makes qualifying lows a bit more common since players have more cards in their hand to counteract duplications.

Additionally, the average hand strength is a bit stronger than is typical in traditional limit O8 since players will have on average more powerful holdings. This brings me to a recent hand I played with an experienced opponent who has multiple millions in tournament cashes.

I was on the button as we played seven-handed, and the second player to act limped in. I looked down at a rather mediocre holding of Q-J-J-10-7, and assessed the situation.

The limper was an unimposing player who figured to have a wide range that could contain anything from weak A-2 or A-3 combinations to a big pair. Also, though my holding was weak, it did have the advantage that if it were to connect strongly with the board, it would tend to be on boards which I likely scoop. (Any time a player makes a set with pairs 9-9 through K-K in O8, it is far less likely to be split since it guarantees a high card on the board).

Additionally, there was \$20 from the limp, and \$20 and \$10 in the blinds, so the pot had \$50 and was laying me a decent price of 2.5:1. Given that and my positional advantage for the rest of the hand, I elected to call.

The small blind completed, and the tournament crusher in the big blind unfortunately raised. Everyone called, and we took the flop four ways. It came down 9-8-8 with two hearts giving me a wrap.

This was a tricky flop since my hand did have some value with the nut straight draw, but it was extremely dangerous since the board was already paired and also contains a flush draw which I don't have. Of course, my best card would be a Jack giving me the nut boat, but I make a straight with a 6, 7, 10 or Queen as well. As such I have 12 straight outs (three of which also complete a flush), and two outs to boat. If nobody were to have an 8, I would only have 11 outs to a hand that would have some real power to it.

Also noteworthy, if a player did have an 8, my straight cards would be in the same neighborhood making it a bit more likely for them to have improved to a boat, since people prefer to play hands with connected rundowns.

So, I was curious what would happen next.

All three players in front of me checked, and none of them seemed too impressed with their holdings. As such,



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I bet \$20 when it got to me. The small blind folded, big blind called, and the other limper folded now making the pot \$200.

The turn was the K♥ completing the flush on board. The big blind again checked.

Although it's bad for me that the heart draw completed, being a King, it at least guaranteed there will be no low which is better for my range than my opponent who raised preflop out of the big blind. He probably never has an 8 as

played, and will only have a hand worth continuing when he makes a flush on the turn.

I comprised his range as a blend of flushes, overpairs, backdoor low draws, and perhaps some straight draws such as 7-6 or 6-5. Given all of that, if I bet again he is likely only continuing when he has a flush, and will probably fold all other holdings.

Since the bet is \$40 and the pot is \$200, I am getting 5:1 on the play making it well profitable if my read on the situation is correct.

I elected to fire, and my opponent disappointedly tabled A-A-2-3-x with the naked A♥ as he mucked.

It felt good to see a hand hit the muck that I would have only been 36% to win against, and those spots can be found in limit poker by assessing ranges and board textures accurately. ♠



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 maztasticl or by email at markmaz17@hotmail.com.

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MAKE POKER TROPHIES GREAT AGAIN

By Blaise Bourgeois



Patrick Truong



Emmanuelle Czerwinski

In May, Patrick Truong took down the first event of the recent Venetian *DeepStack Championship* series, banking \$30,825. It was a solid score for the Texas poker player, putting him over \$2 million in career earnings, but it was his trophy that got the attention of the poker world, not his cash.

The Venetian had decided to make a change with their winner prize, swapping out the golden lion statue for a more-streamlined, lion-silhouetted prize.

"Oh no, what happened to Simba?" asked poker pro Elvis Toomas, followed by more than a dozen players echoing the sentiment.

As it turns out, tournament poker players *really* like their trophies, and they weren't shy about voicing their opinions about what is one of the most sought-after, non-monetary prizes in the game.

Do Poker Trophies Matter?

As Venetian Poker ambassador Jamie Kerstetter mentioned in March, she had been looking forward to earning a coveted lion trophy at the Las Vegas room.

"My friend and I lost heads-up with a big chip lead in the Venetian ladies tag team event last month," she said. "We were totally happy with second until we saw there were two of the shiny, gaudy lion trophies for the winners, and now I'm on tilt for the rest of my life!"

This is coming from a woman who has finished runner-up for a *WSOP* bracelet *twice*!

Switching up a trophy design may not seem like a big deal to some, but in the poker world, where money talks, it could be the difference between a player buying into a tournament or finding an alternative venue to play.

In a recent online poll, I asked 10,000 social media followers: "Have you decided to enter a poker tournament you otherwise may have skipped, SPECIFICALLY because they

were giving away a trophy or physical award to the winner?"

Over 60% of participants said that they have.

Someone who knows a thing or two about trophies is Benny Glaser. Glaser is a six-time bracelet winner and a 26-time *COOP* winner, the most of all time. (*COOPS* are made up of *Spring/World Championship Of Online Poker* events.) When asked about the importance of physical hardware and whether he's more motivated to play if there's a trophy on the line, the man with \$9 million in career earnings admitted it was a factor.

"Honestly, I do enjoy a nice trophy. I probably am somewhat more inclined to play something with a nice trophy for the winner," Glaser said. "In a way, it's something to look at and be proud of. A trophy shelf can showcase a history of success. At some point, I tried to collect various trophies for fun, such as the Vegas hotel trophies. I also think that, for recreational players in particular, it's something that's coveted and sought after. I know a lot of recreational friends of mine who want one."

Personally, I have seven trophies on my shelf to go along with a *WSOP Circuit* ring. I also have a coin from the Golden Nugget, commemorating a win during last summer's *Grand Poker Series*. While I pocketed more money from my *GPS* win than a couple of those trophies, I hold the trophy wins in much higher regard. The coin can collect dust.

I Mean, It's One Trophy, Michael. What Could It Cost? \$10?

For those individuals who can appreciate the *Arrested Development* reference, I congratulate you on your good taste in television.

No, a trophy doesn't cost \$10. But it's likely that the commemorative coin you won from a poker tournament probably cost around that much, especially given they are ordered in bulk.



As it turns out, a good-to-great trophy will usually set the casino back between \$150-\$300, depending on the size and design. Take the iconic Remington trophy that the Commerce Casino awards at its *L.A. Poker Classic* series, for instance. The bronze cowboy is widely considered to be among the most wanted by trophy hunters, and according to an inside source used to be less than a few hundred dollars each.

With significantly larger buy-ins for high rollers, the *PokerGO Tour* invests a substantial amount of money into the quality of its trophies, which can cost between \$600 and \$1,100, and it only goes up from there for their bigger events.

When properties go all out, the players definitely notice. The *Asian Poker Tour* has a lion of its own that actually won the fan-based GPI award for best trophy. I have no idea how much the events cost, whether the rake is good, or how well-run their events are, but these trophies are a fantastic marketing tool to successfully attract players like me from all around the world to play.

And it's not always a trophy. Yes, the *WSOP* gives out bracelets and rings (and one year, watches!) but other casinos have gone the non-traditional route as well. At Playground Poker in Montreal, the winner of their *WPT* main event is given a championship belt that is more suited for the wrestling ring than a poker table. At the Hard Rock locations in Hollywood and Tampa, tournament winners might even get to go home with a guitar.

So why don't more venues invest in their trophies?

Honestly, I don't have a good answer for you other than that casinos and poker tours are shortsighted when it comes to upfront costs. Oftentimes, they operate the poker room

on thin margins, dealing with pressure from other departments, while having to get these expenses approved by executives up top who know little to nothing about the game.

But the evidence is there. There is a significant upside to investing more money in better trophies. A unique trophy design almost always leads to more media attention and a higher number of entries, which equates to more rake and a better tournament.

And the risk is negligible. Even if a casino were to invest \$1,000 into a trophy for a \$1,100 tournament with a 12% rake, you only need eight additional players to cover the cost. I can tell you, with extreme confidence, that far more than eight players will show up for that tournament than if it had no trophy at all.

I played poker all over Brazil for two years, and the tournament rake was often 20% or more. They have gotten away with it partially because they have created such an intense lifelong trophy war between players. Even tournaments I played, which cost \$30 to enter, had trophies not just for first, but also for second and third place. The players will show up!

Trophies can be primary vehicles for attracting more entries and increasing visibility for your brand. Not only just in the short term, but they sit on trophy shelves and appear in photos forever—lifelong positive brand exposure for you and lifelong positive memories for that lucky player. ♠



Blaise Bourgeois is a WSOP Circuit ring winner, poker journalist, and contributing columnist for *Card Player*. Find him on Twitter/X @BlaiseBourgeois.

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Triton Poker Montenegro
\$100K NLH Main Event



Jesse Lonis
11,600,000

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 65%
After Flop: 40%
After Turn: 32%



Christoph Vogelsang
7,500,000 Chips



Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 35%
After Flop: 60%
After Turn: 68%



PREFLOP

With five players remaining and blinds at 150,000-300,000 with a 300,000 big blind ante, Jesse Lonis raised to 900,000 from the small blind. Christoph Vogelsang called from the big blind.

FLOP



Lonis continued for 850,000, and Vogelsang called.

TURN



Both players checked.

RIVER



Lonis bet 2,400,000 and Vogelsang called. Lonis won 8,600,000 with a pair of kings.

COMMENTARY:

Lonis has never been one to use solvers, only vibes. He's a throwback, old-school gambler. His decision to raise K-6 suited preflop from the small blind is fine EV-wise, though in theory he should probably limp in most of the time. Vogelsang was always going to call the large majority of his suited combos in the big blind five-handed. On the flop, Lonis picked up a gutter and a backdoor flush draw with an overcard, plenty enough equity to proceed comfortably with any action. GTO-wise, the solver prefers a check as king-high could already be the best hand, you can improve, and comfortably call against a bet. Vogelsang, with second pair, had an easy call. The turn card was much better for Vogelsang's range, so Lonis made an appropriate check. Hands in Vogelsang's range, like 8-6, 8-7, 9-6, 8-5, and more, would have improved. However, when Vogelsang checked back, it took virtually all of his hands that were two pair or better out of his range. The king on the river slammed Lonis, giving him a strong top pair against Vogelsang's pretty capped range. Realistically, all Lonis would have had some concern over would have been Vogelsang's rivered two pairs, or bigger kings, which Lonis blocked. Therefore, Lonis had a very confident river bet and gave Vogelsang a very difficult decision whether to hero call or not. He would have had to rely mostly on his experience with Lonis, as the EV of such a decision is extremely close to zero. At the end of the day, it was a judgment call, which ended up being incorrect.

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MAY	May 19-July 31	DeepStack Championship Poker Series	Venetian Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	May 21-July 14	Summer Classic	Wynn ■ Las Vegas, NV
	May 23-July 6	Summer Poker Festival	MGM Grand ■ Las Vegas, NV
	May 23-July 13	Summer Open Series	Orleans Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	May 27-July 2	Grand Poker Series	Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	May 27-July 16	World Series of Poker	Horseshoe Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	May 28-July 13	Poker Classic	Aria Resort & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
JUNE	June 5-July 14	Summer Series	Resorts World ■ Las Vegas, NV
	June 15-July 7	Aria High Roller Series	Aria PokerGO Studio ■ Las Vegas, NV
	June 20-29	Women In Poker Summer Festival	South Point Hotel & Casino ■ Las Vegas, NV
	June 23-29	San Diego Summer Classic	Ocean's Eleven Casino ■ Oceanside, CA
	June 29	Greater Orange Park Open	bestbet ■ Orange Park, FL
JULY	July 29-Aug. 12	Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open	Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ■ Hollywood, FL
AUGUST	Aug. 20-24	Summer Poker Round Up	Wildhorse Resort Casino ■ Pendleton, OR
SEPTEMBER	Sept. 17-Oct. 8	World Series of Poker Europe	Kings Casino ■ Rozvadov, Czech Republic
	Sept. 18-28	Card Player Poker Tour	The Reserve Poker Club ■ Toledo, OH
	Sept. 25-Oct. 14	Trailblazer Poker Tour	Texas Card House ■ Dallas & Las Colinas, TX

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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FRIDAY

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SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

FLORIDA

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MONDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

BESTBET - ORANGE PARK

TUESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

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MONDAY

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

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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

1:00 p.m. NLH, \$125

SUNDAY

1:00 p.m. NLH, \$70

TOURNAMENT HAND MATCHUP

2025 Triton Poker Montenegro
\$100K NLH Main Event



Kiat Lee
23,000,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 56%
After Flop: 99.9%
After Turn: 100%



Mikalai
Vaskaboinikau
14,600,000 Chips

Winning Percentage
Before Flop: 43%
After Flop: 0.1%
After Turn: 0%



PREFLOP

With three players remaining and the blinds at 300,000-600,000 with a 600,000 big blind ante, Kiat Lee limped from the small blind and Mikalai Vaskaboinikau checked.

FLOP



Lee bet 600,000 and Vaskaboinikau raised to 1,500,000. Lee three-bet to 2,400,000 and Vaskaboinikau called.

TURN



Lee checked and Vaskaboinikau bet 2,000,000. Lee called.

RIVER



Lee checked and Vaskaboinikau checked. Lee won 10,600,000 with three of a kind, kings.

COMMENTARY:

This hand transpired as the final three players, including eventual champion Jesse Lonis, played relatively short-stacked towards the end of the day. At the end, there were fewer than 45 big blinds on the table. Naturally, there were very few flops, and this hand proved to be a huge momentum shifter towards Kiat Lee. Preflop, Lee limped in with K-3 offsuit. Given that he was the far-and-away chip leader, he should have been raising much more from the small blind to put ICM pressure on Vaskaboinikau, as Lonis only had about 12 big blinds at the time. On the K-K-6 flop, Lee could play a strategy where he limps his entire range and has some 2x pot overbets, or he can bet one big blind with over half of his range. He opted to go for the one big blind bet. Vaskaboinikau, meanwhile, shouldn't have raised in this spot given his range is at such a disadvantage. He is virtually dead against a single king, and he should be heavily incentivized to keep pots small. Lee happened to have a king and was aware of his overall advantage, opting to min-click three-bet for another 900,000 out of Vaskaboinikau. The turn was a blank, and Lee managed to squeeze out another 2,000,000 chips from Vaskaboinikau. The Belarusian called, despite drawing dead. The river was another blank, and given that Lee had a three kicker, it made sense for him to go into check-calling mode. Fortunately, he didn't have to make a tough decision as Vaskaboinikau checked back, giving Lee the pot.

NOTE: WINNING PERCENTAGES DO NOT INCLUDE TIES. ODDS PROVIDED BY [CARDPLAYER.COM/POKER-TOOLS/ODDS-CALCULATOR/TEXAS-HOLDEM](http://CardPlayer.com/poker-tools/odds-calculator/texas-holdem)



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.

Felted - 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.

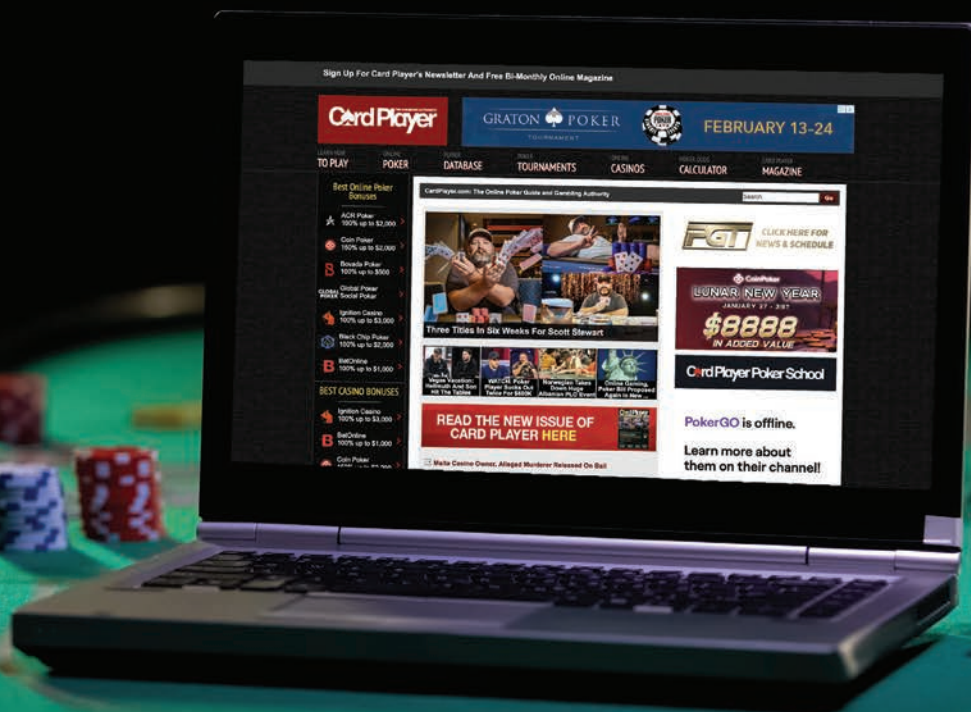
Wheel - A five-high straight.



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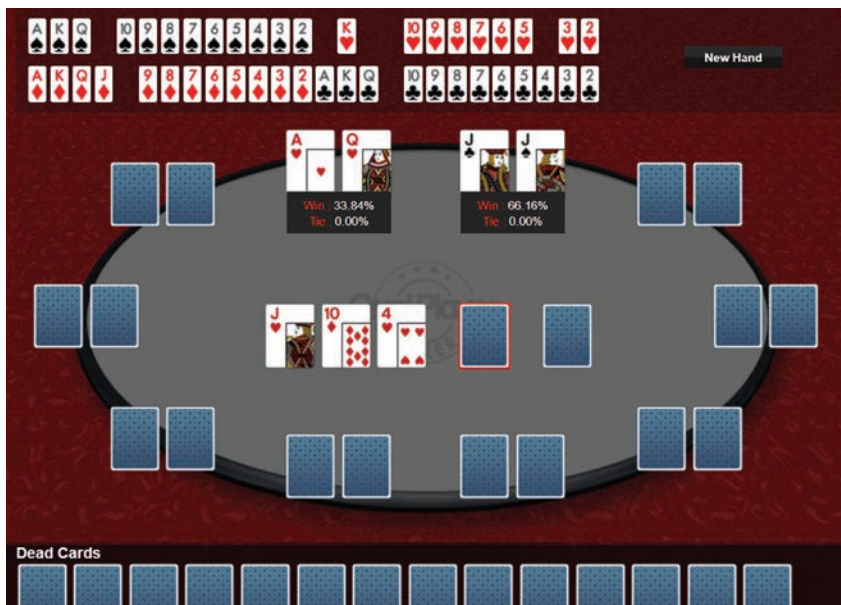
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CALCULATING ODDS

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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You are eight-handed in a \$10,000 tournament, and have 65,000 at 150-300. The under-the-gun player raises to 600 and you are next to act with Q♦ J♦.

Question 1: Should you fold, call, reraise to 1,800, reraise to 3,000?

Answer: Q-J suited can either three-bet or call. As you expect to get four-bet less often, three-betting becomes best. If you expect to rarely get three-bet if you call, calling becomes best.

You call, and the big blind calls as well. The flop comes 9♦ 5♣ 4♠ and UTG checks.

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

Answer: Multi-way, you should be less inclined to bluff when checked to compared to when the pot is heads-up. That

said, Q♦ J♦ is an excellent hand to bet in this spot because if you improve to top pair, you are usually ahead, and numerous turns give you a strong draw that can continue bluffing. You can also keep bluffing on an ace or king because most players will fold their ace-highs and king-highs to a flop bet, giving you even more bluffing opportunities.

Of course, if you bet and get raised, you can simply fold. Your Q♦ J♦ is essentially a low-equity bluff that has a lot of ways to improve.

When you bet multi-way, you don't want to go too large because your opponents will be checking some strong hands if they are good, and your goal is to fold out marginal hands, which a small bet will do.

You bet 1,000 and the big blind folds. The initial raiser calls. The turn is the 2♠ and UTG checks.

Question 3: Should you check, bet 1,000, bet 2,000, or bet 4,000?

Answer: This turn card is not great because you failed to improve your equity and your opponent's marginal made hands are still decently strong. So, you should not expect your opponent to fold too often on the turn.

Of course, if you instead turned some sort of draw, you would definitely continue betting.

You check, and the river is the J♣. Your opponent checks.

Question 4: Should you check, bet 1,000, bet 2,000, or bet 4,000?

Answer: Your hand is now good enough to value bet, even though you could still have the worst hand if your opponent slow played a premium pair. However, there are plenty of worse hands your opponent can call a bet with.

In general, you want to use a large bet size with your best hand, so is this one of your best hands? If you consider your range, it is. You should also consider if your opponent will call a large bet with numerous worse made hands, like 10-10 and 10-9. If your opponent will, betting large is best. If they will not, then use a smaller size.

You bet 4,000 and your opponent calls with A♠ 9♥.



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